

Progress on the Prairie

***2016 Beef Improvement Federation
Annual Meeting & Symposium***



**June 14 - 17, 2016
Hilton Garden Inn
Manhattan, Kansas**



K-STATE
Research and Extension

www.BeefImprovement.org

K-STATE Research and Extension

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June 1, 2016

Welcome to 'Progress on the Prairie'!

On behalf of Kansas State Research and Extension and the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 48th Beef Improvement Federation Annual Meeting and Research Symposium. We hope that you'll enjoy your time in the beautiful Flint Hills of Kansas and here in Manhattan, home to the K-State Wildcats!

This year's meeting is titled 'Progress on the Prairie.' The general sessions are designed to highlight some of the significant genetic improvements beef cattle producers have made over time and to help envision the future of the beef value chain. The speaker line-up features industry leaders and experts that will help us understand the changing beef consumer landscape here in the US and internationally. Recognizing the importance of the cow-calf sector in managing the landscape and building beef, speakers will highlight our current production capacity and needed improvements to ensure producer profitability and sustainability while satisfying consumers around the world.

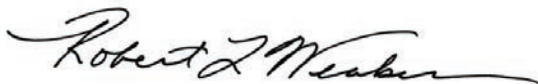
Afternoon break-out sessions feature speakers covering a vast range of beef genetics topics including new genomics and genetic evaluation tools, improving feed efficiency, documenting the value of genomic testing and exploring genetic susceptibility to respiratory disease and heat stress.

Young producers should be sure to attend the young producer symposium on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 14. The session is designed to help young producers build, maintain and use their professional network, keep a healthy ranch work/family balance and design business plans that enable them to start a business or return to a family farm or ranch.

Sponsorship has played a substantial role in making this meeting possible. Please take a moment to thank representatives of these businesses and trade groups for their support of BIF. We truly appreciate their ongoing investment.

Please don't hesitate to contact one of the K-State hosts if we can be of assistance to you during your stay in Manhattan. We are delighted you are here! We hope you enjoy the meeting and social events, learn a lot, and engage your friends and colleagues in lively discussion about the genetic improvement of beef cattle!

Kind regards,



Robert L. Weaber, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Cow-calf Extension Specialist

Kansas State University, County Extension
Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S.
Department of Agriculture Cooperating.

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Schedule of Events

All events at the headquarters hotel unless noted.

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

- 7 a.m. BIF Board Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. - noon International Genetic Solutions Cattlemen's Seminar
(pre-conference event, no registration required)
- Noon - 5 p.m. Registration opens, Hilton Garden Inn conference center foyer
- 1 - 4:30 p.m. Young Producers Symposium and Reception
Getting the most out of a meeting: building, maintaining and using your professional network
Dr. Michael Johll and Jeff Sleichter, Suther Feeds
Balancing ranch and family: keys to success
Debbie Lyons-Blythe, Blythe Angus, White City, KS
Growing a new or expanding a family business to make a place for YOU! Tips and strategies that have helped build businesses for these ranchers
C.J. Blew, Chairman, MKC Cooperative, and rancher/farmer, Castleton, Kansas
Spencer Jones, Flint Hills Heifer Development/ Jones Family Angus, Wamego, Kansas
Toby Jordan, Waukaru Polled Shorthorns, Rensselaer, Indiana
Matt Perrier, Dalebanks Angus, Eureka, Kansas
Don Schiefelbein, Schiefelbein Farms, Kimball, Minnesota
- 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Registration, Weber Hall main west foyer
- 6:30 p.m. Opening Dinner and Social, K-State Campus, Weber Arena
Shuttle buses depart Hilton Garden Inn east entrance at 6 p.m.; Last bus returns at 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

- 6:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Registration, Hilton Garden Inn conference center foyer
- 7 - 8:30 a.m. Conference Breakfast, hotel foyer
- 8 a.m. Opening Comments, Kansas Welcome
- 9:45 - 11:45 a.m. Accompanying Persons Guided Tour of Flint Hills Discovery Center
(walk to tour location [1 block] depart as group from hotel lobby)

General Session I: Opportunities for the Beef Value Chain: Can We Become More Efficient and More Profitable?
Moderator: Mr. Dave Weaber, VP of EMI Analytics, Beef, Express Markets, Inc.

- 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. What will the North American beef market look like 20 years from now: opportunities for domestic and international growth
Dr. Glynn Tonsor/Dr. Ted Schroeder, Kansas State University
- 8:45 - 9:15 a.m. Beef as a consumer driven food business: Changing perspectives from cattle to food production
Dr. John Stika, Certified Angus Beef
- 9:15 - 9:45 a.m. Who's our consumer and what do they want 20 years from now? Trends in the protein landscape
Dr. Brad Morgan, Performance Food Group
- 9:45 - 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:15 - 11 a.m. Genetics of meat science: what traits can we improve that affect the value/palatability of beef?
Dr. Keith Belk, Colorado State University
- 11 - 11:45 a.m. Panel discussion of General Session I speakers

- Noon Awards Luncheon
Presentation of BIF Commercial Producer, Continuing Service and Ambassador Awards, Frank Baker and Larry Cundiff Scholarships
- 2 - 4 p.m. Accompanying Persons Tour of Flint Hills Discovery Center, Education Symposia: “The role of fire and grazing management in the conservation of the tall grass prairie”
(walk to tour location [1 block] depart as group from hotel lobby)
- 2 - 5:30 p.m. Break-out Sessions

Advancements in Emerging Technology

Chair: Dr. Megan Rolf, Kansas State University

- 2 - 2:45 p.m. Comparative genomics and metagenomics: systems biology of bovine metabolism and of its ruminal symbionts
Dr. Gavin Conant, University of Missouri
- 2:45 - 3:30 p.m. RNA interference: will the overlooked nucleic acid be the new star among animal health technologies?
Dr. Barry Bradford, Kansas State University
- 3:30 - 4 p.m. Break
- 4 - 4:45 p.m. Rumen microbiome
Dr. Samodha Fernando, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. Use of IVF technology and genomic selection for rapid beef cattle improvement
Dr. Mark Allen, TransOva

Advancements in End Product Improvement

Chair: Dr. Tommy Perkins, International Brangus Breeders Association

- 2 - 3 p.m. The beef yield grading system - it’s history, current status and future
Dr. Ty Lawrence, West Texas A&M University
- 3 - 4 p.m. Live animal measures of tenderness
Dr. Rhonda Vann, Mississippi State University
- 3:30 - 4 p.m. Break
- 4 - 5:30 p.m. Breeder panel - carcass data, ultrasound data or DNA
Dick Beck, Three Trees Ranch, Sharpsburg, Georgia
Jan Oleen, Oleen Brothers, Dwight, Kansas
Vernon Suhn, Suhn Cattle Company, Eureka, Kansas

Advancements in Selection Decisions

Chair: Dr. Bob Weaber, Kansas State University

Genetic Improvement of Feed Efficiency in Beef Cattle-Findings of a USDA Funded Integrated Project

- 2 - 2:30 p.m. Project overview/objectives; genomics and RNA project discoveries
Dr. Jerry Taylor, University of Missouri
- 2:30 - 3 p.m. Gene set enrichment analysis for feed efficiency in beef cattle
Dr. Holly Neibergs, Washington State University
- 3 - 3:30 p.m. Effects of timing and duration of test period and diet type on intake and feed efficiency in Charolais-sired cattle
Dr. Dan Shike, University of Illinois
- 3:30 - 4:00 p.m. Feed efficiency and the microbiota of the alimentary tract
Dr. Harvey Freetly, US-MARC
- 4 - 4:30 p.m. Effects of diet digestibility on feed efficiency and impact of diet type and feeding phase on repeatability of feed efficiency phenotype
Dr. Stephanie Hansen, Iowa State University
- 4:30 - 4:45 p.m. Results of survey of stakeholders regarding knowledge of and attitudes towards feed intake, efficiency and genetic improvement concepts
Dr. Bob Weaber, Kansas State University

Schedule of Events

4:45 - 5:15 p.m. Extension demonstration project outcomes; Industry adoption and translation of project deliverables
Dr. Matt Spangler, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

5:15 - 5:30 p.m. Question and answer session

6:30 p.m. Evening Social/Dinner, Stanley Stout Livestock Marketing Center, K-State Campus
Shuttles depart Hilton Garden Inn east entrance beginning at 6 p.m.; Last bus returns at 9:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 16, 2016

7 a.m. - noon Registration, Hilton Garden Inn conference center foyer

7 - 8:30 a.m. Conference Breakfast, hotel foyer

9 - 11:45 a.m. Accompanying Persons Guided Tour of the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, K-State Campus.
(Depart from hotel lobby as group, board vans at east entrance of Hilton Garden Inn., refreshments served)

General Session II: Protecting Producer Profit for the Future

Moderator: Dr. Matt Spangler, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, University of Nebraska

8 - 8:15 a.m. Call to order/housekeeping announcements

8:15 - 8:45 a.m. The 2016 and the 2036 cow herd, what we do and what we need to do better
Dr. Dave Lalman, Oklahoma State University

8:45 - 9:15 a.m. Things a cow-calf producer learns when you own a feed yard: what drives profit
Chip Ramsay, Rex Ranch

9:15 - 9:45 a.m. Growing profit by understanding cow maintenance efficiency and maintenance requirement in an animal and systems context
Dr. Mark Enns, Colorado State University

9:45 - 10:15 a.m. Break

10:15 - 11 a.m. Making the cow herd more efficient and profitable by 2036: Where do we focus our efforts for the biggest impact?
Dr. Clay Mathis, King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management

11 - 11:30 a.m. Panel discussion with General Session II speakers

11:30 a.m. - Noon BIF Caucuses and Elections

Noon - 1:30 p.m. Awards Luncheon
Conference wrap-up: call to action, Dr. Kent Andersen, Zoetis, Presentation of BIF Pioneer and Seedstock Producer Awards, Roy Wallace Scholarship, Introduction of newly elected BIF Board of Directors, Invitation to BIF 2017

2 - 5:30 p.m. Break-out Sessions

Advancements in Genomics and Genetic Prediction

Chair: Dr. Mark Thallman, USDA-ARS-MARC

2 - 2:45 p.m. Bolt and an alternative approach to genomic EPDs
Dr. Bruce Golden, Theta Solutions, LLC

2:45 - 3:30 p.m. EPDs and Risk
Dr. Dale Van Vleck, U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (retired)

3:30 - 4 p.m. Break

- 4 - 4:45 p.m. Selection enhanced tenderness marker effects on means and variances of beef tenderness
Dr. J.R. Tait, U.S. Meat Animal Research Center
- 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. Accounting for discovery bias in genomic prediction
Jamie Parham, University of Nebraska

Advancements in Producer Applications

Chair: Dr. Darrh Bullock, University of Kentucky

- 2 - 2:45 p.m. Breeding objectives indicate value of genomics for beef cattle
Dr. M. D. MacNeil, Delta G
- 2:45 - 3:30 p.m. Using genomic tools in commercial beef cattle: taking heifer selection to the next level
Dr. Tom Short, Zoetis
- 3:30 - 4 p.m. Break
- 4 - 4:45 p.m. Genomics: return on investment - fact or fiction?
Dr. Tonya Amen, Dr. Michael Bishop, Dr. Andre Eggen, Illumina, Inc.
- 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. Panel Discussion

Advancements in Efficiency and Adaptability

Chair: Dr. Mark Enns, Colorado State University

- 2 - 2:50 p.m. Identifying genetic differences in susceptibility to BRD: Results from the USDA-NIFA CAP grant
Dr. Holly Neibergs, Washington State University
- 2:50 - 3:20 p.m. Guidelines for collection of bovine respiratory disease data
Dr. Larry Kuehn, USDA-Meat Animal Research Center
Dr. R. Mark Enns, Colorado State University
- 3:20 - 3:50 p.m. Break
- 3:50 - 4:10 p.m. Genetic Evaluation for Heat Tolerance in Angus Cattle
Heather L. Bradford, University of Georgia
- 4:10 - 4:30 p.m. Prototype Stayability Analysis using a Random Regression Approach
Dr. Scott E. Speidel, Colorado State University
Dr. Bruce L. Golden, Theta Solutions, LLC
- 4:30 - 5:15 p.m. Revised feed intake data collection guidelines
Dr. Robert Weaver, Kansas State University
- 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. BIF Board Meeting and Board Photo
- 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Closing Reception on Blue Earth Plaza (adjacent to Hilton Garden Inn; hors d'oeuvres and drinks) and tour the Flint Hills Discovery Center (admission paid by conference)

Friday, June 17, 2016

7 a.m. Tour of Recent BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year Recipients
McCurry Angus, Mushrush Red Angus, Moser Ranch, Fink Beef Genetics

Tour of Recent BIF Seedstock Commercial Producer of the Year Recipients
Tailgate Ranch, Woodbury Farms, Kniebel Cattle Co.

Coach buses/vans for tours depart east entrance of Hilton Garden Inn. Tours include breakfast, lunch and dinner, beverages, and transportation. Tours will return to conference hotel by approximately 9 p.m.

Speakers: General Session I

Session Moderator



Dave Weaber joined EMI Analytics and Express Markets Inc. in April 2016 as vice president and is responsible for leading and growing the company's efforts in beef supply chain analytics. This includes supply and demand side analysis and forecasting of cattle numbers and beef supplies as well as domestic and international trade impacts.

Before joining Express Markets, Dave served as economist, leading the Market Insights Team in the Strategic Sourcing and Supply Chain Analytics Group of Delhaize America, the eleventh largest grocery retailer in the U.S. From February 2005 through March 2007, Dave was employed by Swift & Co, as Director of Market Analysis. He was responsible for market research and forecasting in the cattle, beef, hog and pork markets as well tracking changes in the other commodity and competing meat markets. Dave also worked in the analysis of foreign markets and trade.

Prior to joining Swift & Co., Dave spent seven years at Cattle-Fax. Dave earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Colorado State University.



Glynn Tonsor is an Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University (KSU). He grew up on a farrow-to-finish swine farm in Monroe City, Missouri. Tonsor obtained a B.S. from Missouri State University and Ph.D. from KSU. He was a faculty member at Michigan State University from May 2006 to

March 2010 when he joined the KSU faculty.

Tonsor has broad interests and experiences which span issues throughout the meat supply chain. Through active research, engaged outreach with industry, and first-hand knowledge with livestock production, Glynn has economic expertise in an array of topics of importance to Kansas, U.S. and global stakeholders. These topics include animal identification and traceability, animal well-being and welfare, commodity market analysis, consumer demand, food safety, meat labeling policies, producer perceptions and preferences, risk management, and technology acceptance. Glynn's integrated research and extension program has resulted in multiple journal article publications and numerous outreach contributions.

Ted Schroeder knows that food for tomorrow depends on understanding the future of the livestock and grain industries.

Schroeder, an agricultural economist, studies livestock and meat marketing as well as price analysis to provide information and direction for the livestock and grain industries. His research focuses on improving commodity market efficiency by investigating price discovery methods, improving market coordinating mechanisms, evaluating market risk and understanding complexities of global meat demand.

He has received more than \$4.2 million in funding from organizations such as the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Meat Export Federation and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. He has more than 100 refereed journal publications. Schroeder is the founding director of the Kansas State University (K-State) Center for Risk Management Education and Research. He also teaches risk management and agricultural marketing courses.

Schroeder has a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Nebraska and a doctorate in agricultural economics from Iowa State University. He began his career at K-State in 1986.

As president for the Certified Angus Beef® brand, **John Stika**, guides grassroots programs to deliver premium beef from family farmers and ranchers to consumers' dinner tables. He has led the brand through nine consecutive years of record sales, reaching 896 million pounds in fiscal 2015, to satisfy growing demand for great tasting beef in more than 15,000 restaurants and grocery stores worldwide.

John grew up on a small family farm in Kansas, and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from KSU and doctorate in meat science from the University of Kentucky. He joined the CAB LLC staff in February 1999 as director of feeder-packer relations, and then director of packing and supply development.

Moving on to vice president of business development, he led sales growth through retail, foodservice, international and value-added products before becoming president.

In 2010, John received the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award from K-State's College of Agriculture and the Achievement Award from the American Meat Science Association.





J. Brad Morgan was reared in the ranch and oil community of Antlers, Oklahoma. He received his bachelor's in animal science from Oklahoma State University (1985), his master's in meat science from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (1988) and his Ph.D. in animal science from Texas A&M University (1991). Brad was an Assistant Professor and Extension

Meats Specialist at Colorado State University from 1991 to 1995 where he was part of the inaugural National Beef Quality Audit.

In 1995, Morgan joined the Animal Science faculty at Oklahoma State University. He taught undergraduate and graduate meat science courses and conducts research on the quality, quantity, safety, and usefulness of meat and meat products. Morgan's research and expertise in meat tenderness and color is known nationally and internationally. He has conducted research for companies such as Wal-Mart, National Beef and the U.S. Meat Export Federation.

One of Morgan's last research interests focused on development, verification and implementation of the OSU Tenderness Prediction System. Morgan has attracted over \$22.5 million in extramural funding, published more than 80 journal articles, given over 1,700 invited presentations, and conducted research in 29 countries. Morgan has received numerous research and teaching awards including the Outstanding Teaching Award from the American Meat Science

Association along with the Outstanding Scientist in the Division of Agriculture at Oklahoma State University. Morgan is the past president of the American Meat Science Association and is currently the senior director of protein for Performance Food Group.

Keith Belk is a Professor and Holder of the Ken & Myra Monfort Endowed Chair in Meat Science with the Center for Meat Safety & Quality, Department of Animal Sciences, Colorado State University (CSU). He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from CSU, and his doctorate from Texas A&M University. He has been employed in the private sector as a buyer by Safeway, Inc., and by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service in Washington, D.C., as an International Marketing Specialist.



At CSU since 1995, he has authored or co-authored 200 refereed scientific journal articles and more than 740 total publications, generated more than \$18M in external funding, and was the primary inventor on two patents.

He served as the state Meat Extension Specialist between 1995 and 2000, on the Editorial Board for the Journal of Animal Science in 1997-2000, on the Board of Directors for the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) between 2003-2005, and as President of AMSA in 2009-2010.



Make plans to attend next year's

Beef Improvement Federation

Annual Convention
May 31 - June 3, 2017
Athens, Georgia







www.beefimprovement.org

Speakers: General Session II

Session Moderator



Matt Spangler grew up on a diversified crop and livestock farm in Kansas. He received degrees from K-State (BS; 2001), Iowa State University (MS; 2003), and the University of Georgia (PhD; 2006) and is currently an Associate Professor and Extension Beef Genetics Specialist at the University of Nebraska.

He works as part of a team with colleagues at UNL and US MARC to improve genetic/genomic selection tools and methods and is currently part of an effort funded by the USDA to develop genomic predictors for feed efficiency in beef cattle.



Dave Lalman is a professor in the Animal Science Department at Oklahoma State University. He serves as the Extension Beef Cattle Specialist with primary responsibilities in cow-calf and stocker cattle nutrition and management.

Lalman's extension and research program emphasis is on increasing profitability and/or reducing cost of production through improved forage utilization, defining optimal management practices and evaluating beef production systems.



Kenneth (Chip) Ramsay was born and raised on a corn, soybean and cattle operation in central Indiana. He received an associate's degree in beef cattle management from Ricks College, a bachelor's degree in business finance from Brigham Young University and a master's in feedlot management from Texas A&M.

Ramsay has served in various management positions in cattle production and retained ownership for Deseret Ranches in Florida and Oklahoma from 1991 to 2006. He is currently general manager of Deseret Ranches' Nebraska operation known as Rex Ranch.

Clay Mathis was named director and endowed chair of the King Ranch® Institute for Ranch Management in July 2010. As director, Mathis leads faculty and staff appointed to the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management and oversees teaching and outreach efforts of the Institute.



He maintains and develops curriculum for the master's in ranch management degree program, which includes more than 42 hours of business and animal production coursework and intensive project work tackling issues on large partnering ranches across the U.S.

Mathis works closely with the KRIRM Management Council to identify topics and speakers for the entire suite of KRIRM lectureships and the annual Holt Cat Symposium on Excellence in Ranch Management.

A native of New Braunfels, Texas, he received a bachelor's degree in animal science and master's in the physiology of reproduction from Texas A&M University.

In 1998, he earned a doctorate from K-State in ruminant nutrition where his research focused on supplementing grazing cattle. From 1998 to 2010, Mathis worked as a professor and extension livestock specialist at New Mexico State University.

Conference Wrap-up

Kent Andersen was raised on a diversified livestock and farming operation in central Nebraska. Following graduation from the University of Nebraska (B.S., 1985) and Colorado State University (M.S., 1987 and Ph.D., 1990), Andersen served as director of education and research (1990 to 1999) and executive vice president (2000 to 2009) for the North American Limousin Foundation.



During his career, he has been active in various beef industry organizations, including the Beef Improvement Federation, the National Pedigreed Livestock Council, and the U.S. Beef Breeds Council.

In his position with Zoetis, Andersen serves as director of genetics for cattle and equine technical services. Andersen is active in his family's commercial cow-calf and farming operation in Nebraska.

Commercial Producer Award Nominees

Hobbs Ranch

Owner: Terry Hobbs Family

Manager: Terry Hobbs

Penokee, Kansas

Hobbs Ranch was established in 1887. After serving his country in the Civil War, Terry' great-grandfather left Missouri and traveled west, homesteading along the north fork of the Saline River near Penokee, Kansas, in southern Graham County.

For 70 years, both registered and commercial Polled Herefords were raised on the ranch. They were a cooperator herd for the American Polled Hereford Association (APHA), progeny testing young sires, recording data and furnishing the association with all the results. They exhibited their cattle at many state fairs and shows during the 1970s and 1980s. Most of the bulls produced were fed and performance-evaluated at central bull tests not only in Kansas, but in Nebraska, Colorado and Oklahoma as well.

In the early 1990s it was decided to incorporate Angus genetics into the herd. They looked to this breed to complement their Hereford cow herd, gaining hybrid vigor, carcass quality and consistency. Presently, they run more than 500 cows on about 12,000 acres of grass and farmland. Calving season begins the first part of February and wraps up about the end of March. They artificially inseminate 100 replacement heifers and 100 cows annually. All the heifers and cows are exposed to natural service sires during the summer. All the calves are weaned, usually in September and October, and backgrounded at the ranch for 60 to 90 days before being sent to a commercial feedyard, where growth and carcass value data is tracked for use in future bull selection. By retaining all, or part, ownership in their calves, they can take further advantage of the genetics they have in their herd.

The Kansas Livestock Association is proud to nominate the Hobbs Ranch.



Lovers Lane Farms

Owners/Managers: Bill and Jim Martin

Moorefield, West Virginia

Headquartered along the south branch of the Potomac River just north of Moorefield, West Virginia, Lovers Lane Farms is a third-generation, diversified livestock and crop farm managed by brothers Bill and Jim Martin along with their father, Leonard. The Martin family operates on 5,000 acres of owned and leased land spanning four counties, including 1,500 acres of crop land, and 2,500 acres of grazing and hay land, with the balance of the acreage being forested.

They calve 600 commercial Angus-cross cows and graze 350 stockers annually. The Angus based cow herd is sorted according to areas of need and specifically mated to top AI and performance tested Angus and Hereford bulls selected to improve each management group's area(s) of weakness. Replacement heifers are selected using reproductive tract scores, pelvic measurements, and health status as well as individual, sire, and dam performance. Steer calves are weaned and preconditioned at least 45-60 days prior to shipment. In addition to their own calves, the Martins will background 2,500-3,000 purchased calves and fully finish an additional 500 annually.

Home-raised and backgrounded calves as well as stockers are sold via local board sales in load lots to farmer feeders in the Eastern Corn Belt, where the Martin's have developed a reputation for healthy, documented, quality cattle. Finished cattle are marketed through local sales where they are procured for harvest in Eastern Pennsylvania. Because of their location within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, the Martin's follow a comprehensive nutrient management plan on all managed properties to protect water resources and appropriately allocate manure nutrients from their feeding facilities as well as their six poultry houses where they raise around 200,000 pullets annually for Pilgrim's Pride Corporation.

Lovers Lane Farms is committed to maintaining healthy animals, a healthy environment, and a healthy business for their industry, their community and their family.

The West Virginia Cattlemen's Association is proud to nominate the Lovers Lane Farms.



Commercial Producer Award Nominees

Plum Thicket Farms

Owners: Rex & Nancy Peterson, Patrick & Krista Peterson

**Manager: Dr. Nancy Peterson
Gordon, Nebraska**

Plum Thicket Farms is located in the panhandle of Nebraska. Average annual precipitation is between 14" and 16". They purchased the core of the ranch in January of 1998 along with 200 Angus cows, calving over four months. At that time, the ranch consisted of 2,078 acres of native range, 170 acres of irrigated alfalfa under a side roll system, and 500 dryland acres in a wheat fallow system. The pastures were all season long grazed and the cattle were fed hay for five months of the year. The calves were sold at weaning.

They now control 4,000 acres of native range, grazed in a rest-deferred rotation grazing system. They no-till farm 2,300 acres, including 560 acres under pivot irrigation. They calve 325 Sim-Angus cows for 45 days, starting in late April. Whole herd AI has been a staple of their program. From the outset, they have maintained detailed individual performance records that follow cattle to the rail. Nancy utilized this data to make bull selections and culling decisions. She has steadily improved the genetic quality of their herd. Utilizing annual forages, their cattle live within an eleven-month grazing program. They breed all of the heifers and select their replacements in the spring after they have had their first calf, selling young pairs that will likely go into a fall calving herd. They background all of the steers on forage cocktails and swathed sorghum supplemented with DDG and often retain ownership through the feed lot. They also run a small backgrounding lot. They are currently developing 300 heifer calves, 32 bull calves, and feeding 140 cull cows.

Plum Thicket Farms are a family operation with a passion for raising excellent beef cattle, and improving the range and soil that are their livelihood. Rex and Nancy head the cattle operation. After two tours of duty with the National Guard, Rex and Nancy's son, Patrick, came home to head the farming operation. Patrick is passionate about improving soil health and conserving resources. His wife, Krista, is a large animal veterinarian with a mobile practice in the area. She did a food animal internship at Kansas State Veterinary School and is a welcome addition to their management team.

The Nebraska Cattlemen are proud to nominate Plum Thicket Farms.



SingleTree Ranch

**Owners/Managers: Frank and Sheila Daley
New Castle, Colorado**

SingleTree Ranch is a family run cow-calf operation started near New Castle, Colorado, in 1979 with the purchase of 106 acres of mostly irrigated land. An adjoining 160 acres were purchased in 1980 along with 80 head of mostly black baldy cows.

More land, cattle, BLM and Forest Service grazing permits have been acquired over the years. They now run close to 600 cows on two ranches near New Castle and another 250 cows on ranches near Wray, Colorado, added in 2005 and 2007. All calves except mountain replacement heifers are backgrounded in a small feedlot on their ranch at Haigler, Nebraska, just across the state line from Wray.

They feed the feeder calves to around 800 pounds at which time they decide whether to sell them or retain ownership while they are fed out at a custom lot. The dairy buy out in 1985 got them started on retained ownership and they have done it off and on since then. They purchased their first Limousin bulls in 1981 and have used primarily Limousin bulls since. They also have used Angus and a few Herefords.

When they have expanded, they have purchased more cows, mostly Angus and Black Baldies, but have primarily raised their own cow herd. Cows on the mountain ranches are bred to start calving March 1, while those in Wray start April 1. For several years they have been keeping the calves in a "natural" (as per USDA guidelines) and have marketed finished cattle to Coleman Natural Meats, Laura's Lean, Meyer Natural Angus,



National, Tyson, and a few others. Selling on a grid has worked well over the years because of the Limousin's excellent carcass traits. They always have a very high yield and a high percentage yield grade 1's and 2's with large ribeye area. Their mountain cattle summer at elevations from 8,500 to 10,500 feet and they have always appreciated how well the Limousins perform at these elevations.

The North American Limousin Foundation is proud to nominate Single Tree Ranch.

Triple M Farm

Owners: Tommy and Rhonda Martin

Manager: Tommy Martin

Moundville, Alabama

Triple M Farm, owned and operated by Tommy and Rhonda Martin, is located in Hale County, Alabama, just south of Tuscaloosa. The farm began in 1943, when 180 acres was purchased by Tommy's grandparents, and has produced beef cattle for three family generations. After his retirement in 2011, Tommy is operating the farm full-time.

The farm consists of 250 acres of owned land, with an additional 90 acres of leased land, made of sandy loam and clay soils. The forage base primarily consists of Bermudagrass, Bahiagrass and Crabgrass, with annual planting of Ryegrass for winter grazing. Soil fertility and weed control are a major focus.

The Triple M herd consists of approximately 90 Simmental and Angus cross cows with a 90-day fall calving system, beginning to calve around September 25 each year. A SimAngus cross is maintained to balance heterosis to capture benefits in fertility, heavier weights and longevity. Artificial insemination, along with estrus synchronization and fixed-time AI, has made a tremendous impact by providing the ability to capture the highest quality genetics. Emphasis is given in balance to calving ease and growth to produce a live calf with solid growth traits and maternal ability. Feeder calves are marketed each August through a cooperative tele-auction sale to seize fall marketing opportunities. Replacement heifers are selected by evaluating heifer and dam performance histories to advance performance. Triple M Farm began maintaining performance records through the Alabama BCIA Commercial Record Keeping Program in 2000. Since then, Triple M Farms has earned a BCIA Gold Star Cow Award each year for the past 13 years, a Most Improved Herd in 2008 and a Top Weaning Weight Award in 2016.

Triple M Farm is proudly nominated by the Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association.



K-State Animal Sciences & Industry

The Kansas State University Animal Sciences and Industry department serves students, livestock producers and the animal and food industries through teaching, research and education. The K-State ASI app allows users to search for educational events and activities hosted by the department. Users can view schedules and download resources as well as access directions and points of interest. The app also includes access to online educational tools and news.

BIF Commercial Producer of the Year

Name	State	Year
Woodbury Farms	Kansas	2015
CB Farms Family Partnership	Kansas	2014
Darnall Ranch, Inc.	Nebraska	2013
Maddux Cattle Company	Nebraska	2012
Quinn Cow Company	Nebraska	2011
Downey Ranch	Kansas	2010
JHL Ranch	Nebraska	2009
Kniebel Farms and Cattle Company	Kansas	2008
Broseco Ranch	Colorado	2007
Pitchfork Ranch	Illinois	2006
Prather Ranch	California	2005
Olsen Ranches, Inc.	Nebraska	2004
Tailgate Ranch	Kansas	2003
Griffith Seedstock	Kansas	2002
Maxey Farms	Virginia	2001
Bill & Claudia Tucker	Virginia	2000
Mossy Creek Farm	Virginia	1999
Giles Family	Kansas	1999
Mike & Priscilla Kasten	Missouri	1998
Randy & Judy Mills	Kansas	1998
Merlin & Bonnie Anderson	Kansas	1997
Virgil & Mary Jo Huseman	Kansas	1996
Joe & Susan Thielen	Kansas	1995
Fran & Beth Dobitz	South Dakota	1994
Jon Ferguson	Kansas	1993
Kopp Family	Oregon	1992
Dave & Sandy Umbarger	Oregon	1991
Mike & Diana Hopper	Oregon	1990
Jerry Adamson	Nebraska	1989
Gary Johnson	Kansas	1988
Rodney G. Oliphant	Kansas	1987
Charles Fariss	Virginia	1986
Glenn Harvey	Oregon	1985
Bob & Sharon Beck	Oregon	1984
Al Smith	Virginia	1983
Sam Hands	Kansas	1982
Henry Gardiner	Kansas	1981
Jess Kilgore	Montana	1980
Bert Hawkins	Oregon	1979
Mose Tucker	Alabama	1978
Mary & Stephen Garst	Iowa	1977
Ron Baker	Oregon	1976
Gene Gates	Kansas	1975
Lloyd Nygard	North Dakota	1974
Pat Wilson	Florida	1973
Chan Cooper	Montana	1972

Seedstock Producer Award Nominees

Brink Livestock

**Owners/Managers: Bob and Marilyn Brink
Piedmont, Kansas**

Bob and Marilyn Brink of Brink Livestock raise Braunvieh cattle on their ranch near Piedmont, Kansas. The Brinks entered into the registered Braunvieh business in 2000, and in 2005 relocated the operation to a grass-based ranch in the Flint Hills near Piedmont, Kansas.

They have a herd of approximately 100 registered Braunvieh cows, calving in both spring and fall. Brink Livestock markets cattle in a number of outlets. They are a founding member of the Braunvieh Herd Builder Group and have sold cattle in all 13 of the group's annual sales. They also promote and sell their Braunvieh cattle at regional and national livestock shows, and have been proponents of performance testing their Braunvieh bulls. Bob and Marilyn have each served two terms on the Braunvieh Association of America's Board of Directors, and have been strong supporters of youth in the Braunvieh breed.

The Brinks utilize native tallgrass prairie as their primary grazing source, and have worked extensively to be good caretakers of the land through rotational grazing and resting pastures, by controlling invasive species in the range and by improving water quality for livestock and wildlife. Bob grew up on the family farm and ranch in northeast Kansas, which included a herd of registered Hereford cattle as well as crop and haying operations. Marilyn was raised on a farm in Illinois and worked for 17 years with the American Polled Hereford and Hereford Associations.

Brink Livestock is proudly nominated by the Braunvieh Association of America.



Hunt Limousin Ranch

**Owners: Charles and Nancy Hunt
Managers: Charles Hunt and son Daniel Hunt
Oxford, Nebraska**

"Conserve the land for the future generations, keep current and knowledgeable on the leading cattle issues, high quality cattle for a fair price, and treat people with honesty and integrity." The Charles Hunt Family operation began in the 1960's after Charlie attended the University of Nebraska. With a love for God, family, the land, and cattle Charlie and Nancy were ready for the opportunity to do then what they still enjoy doing today, over 56 years later, raising cattle.

Currently, the 6,500 acre diversified operation consists of dryland and irrigated corn, soybeans, alfalfa, wheat and grass land which supports 300 cows, private treaty bulls, and replacement females. Genetics have been placed all over the globe, including Canada, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand. Bulls have been on display at the National Western Stock Show for the past 31 years and the Hunts have attended many BIF, NCBA, and numerous other Ag conferences. Charlie has been the recipient of many awards including the first ever Commercial Marketing Supporter Award from the North American Limousin Foundation. One of the most prestigious awards was being inducted into the Nebraska Cattlemen's Hall of Fame.

The customers and acquaintances the Hunts have met in the beef industry have become some of their best friends. Hunt Limousin Ranch has hosted tour groups and individuals from foreign countries who want to learn the "Hunt Way". All visitors are welcomed with a homemade meal and hot cup of coffee. Hunts take pride in making bull selection a relaxed, low-stress experience.

Charlie and Nancy have four children; David, Susan, Sally and Daniel and nine grandchildren. Their family is always ready to offer a helping hand on the ranch. One of their greatest honors is to have Dan, his wife Melinda, and their children Jenna, Adeline, and Houston living and working beside them, benefiting Hunt Limousin Ranch and the beef industry.

The Nebraska Cattlemen and the North American Limousin Foundation is proud to nominate the Hunt Limousin Ranch.



Seedstock Producer Award Nominees

Little Creek Farm

Owners: Dr. Mikell and Mary Cheek Davis

Manager: Alex Gardner

Starkville, Mississippi

Little Creek Farm, LLC is located in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi near the city of Starkville. Twelve cows (four Polled Herefords, four Purebred Simmentals, and four Fullblood Simmental) were purchased in 1992. Two Full Fleckvieh Simmental heifers were purchased in 1993. Those two heifers began the Fleckvieh journey that continues today.

Red Angus cattle were added to the operation in 2004 with the primary intention to breed the cows to Fleckvieh bulls to demonstrate the impact of Fleckvieh genetics in a crossbreeding program. They made the strategic decision to maintain a Red Angus herd along with the Fleckvieh herd and to produce the Fleck-Angus crossbreds with the goal to retain the crossbred females as recipients for their embryo transfer program.

Little Creek began with a 57-acre home place location. Since 1994 six parcels have been purchased which resulted in a total of 850 acres, of which 100 acres are dedicated to hay production.

Little Creek maintains a two-hundred cow herd: 50 AI quality Fleckvieh cows, 35 AI quality Red Angus cows, and 115 embryo recipients. Embryo donor cows are selected from the two AI herds based on the cows' conformation, structural correctness (with emphasis on feet, legs, and udder), maternal qualities, ease of maintenance, and the quality of their offspring.

The Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association is proud to nominate the Little Creek Farm.



Mill Brae Ranch

Owners: T.D. Steele, Roger Steele, and Mark Nikkel

Manager: Mark Nikkel

Maple Hill, Kansas

Mill Brae Ranch is located in the Flint Hills region of eastern Kansas near Maple Hill. Comprised mainly of warm-season grasses, this region is a portion of the last tallgrass prairie left in North America.

T.D. and Roger Steele purchased the ranch in 1986 in an effort to expand their operation and bull sales. In the spring of 1987, Mark Nikkel was hired as herdsman for Mill Brae and three years later he assumed the day-to-day management of the ranch.

In 2001, the Steele family offered Mark and his wife, Janice, the opportunity to join the operation as partners and Mill Brae Ranch LLC was formed. Mark and Janice's daughter, Taylor, is actively involved on the ranch when she is not in school or participating in school, 4-H/FFA or junior breed association activities.

Today, operating on 5,000 acres of owned and leased land, Mill Brae Ranch runs a spring-calving herd consisting of 400 registered Angus and SimAngus cows and 150 commercial cows. The foundation females for the registered Angus cow herd trace back to the highly productive dams the Steele family used to establish their original cow herd in 1950. SimAngus genetics were added in 2013, in response to the needs of their commercial customers.

The registered cows are synchronized and artificially inseminated (AI) to proven high-accuracy bulls that rank in the top 15% in the breed for birthweight and weaning and yearling growth traits. Their main focus is to produce low birthweight, high-growth seedstock, with acceptable carcass traits, excellent udder quality and structural correctness. A portion of the commercial cow herd is used as recipients for the embryo transfer program. About 70 embryos are put in per year out of only highly proven donor cows, which allows them to duplicate their most superior genetics.

Mill Brae Ranch is proudly nominated by the Kansas Livestock Association.



Shaw Cattle Company

Owners: Shaw Family

**Managers: Greg, Tucker and Sam Shaw
Caldwell, Idaho**

The origin of Shaw Cattle Co. began with a Hereford heifer. Tom Shaw worked weekends and summers throughout high school for a neighbor. After high school and upon his return from the U.S. Navy, the heifer was given to Tom as payment for his summers and a thanks for serving his country. The registered Hereford heifer became the foundation of Shaw Hereford Ranch in 1946. By 1959, Tom had married Mary, started a family and purchased a home near Notus, Idaho. The family moved from the original Shaw homestead to the current headquarters and continued to build a cow herd and raise a family.

Tom and Mary's youngest son, Greg, officially joined the operation after graduation in 1968 and married Cleo two years later. In 1988, the Shaw cow herd was divided into three herds. Greg and Cleo, remained on the original home place at Caldwell to raise their three children Tucker, Sam and Jaime, and subsequently, formed Shaw Cattle Co. The third and fourth generations are continuing the tradition of raising reputable performance cattle. In 1990, Shaw Cattle Co. diversified the Hereford cow herd and added Red Angus genetics. In 1996, black Angus cattle were added to the herd. Today, Shaw Cattle Company maintains over 1,500 registered cows encompassing three breeds. The Shaw's continue to improve the cow herd through the diligent selection of breed leading genetics with a keen eye toward performance, science and technology.

Greg and Cleo's son, Sam, returned to the ranch in 1999, after graduating from the University of Idaho. Sam and his wife, Janel, are raising their three daughters on the ranch. After graduating from the University of Idaho and working in the private sector, Tucker returned with his wife, Angie, in 2003, and are raising their five children on the ranch. Greg and Cleo's daughter Jaime, husband Kelley, and two daughters live in Eugene, Oregon, and enjoy helping out on the ranch when they can.

The American Hereford Association is proud to nominate the Shaw Cattle Company.



Turner Farm

Owners: J.B. and Barbara Turner, Jr.

**Manager: J.B. Turner, Jr.
Harvest, Alabama**

Turner Farms is a diversified family operation, producing cattle and vegetables and is located in Madison County, Alabama. Turner Farms is owned and operated by J. B. Turner, Jr. and family, and has a firm commitment to producing high quality Angus and SimAngus seedstock and also F-1 Hereford/Angus cross females.

Their breeding program consists of approximately 80 mature cows and utilizes proven AI sires and embryo transfer to accelerate genetic advancement. Genetic selection emphasizes balanced EPDs along with visual appraisal to produce cattle with longevity and performance. Donor selection is an intensive, ongoing process involving analysis of a potential donor's pedigree, production record and performance of her progeny. The American Simmental Association's Total Herd Enrollment program and also the American Angus Association's AHIR program are used for performance evaluation and analysis.

Turner Farms takes advantage of both a fall and spring calving season to meet the farm's overall marketing goals. Turner Farms has evaluated the performance of their genetics through the Alabama BCIA North Alabama Bull Evaluation for the past 7 years. Top quality commercial replacement heifers from Turner Farms have been a highlight of the North Alabama BCIA Heifer Sale for the past 10 years.

J. B. Turner is a steadfast conservationist and has applied many USDA NRCS programs within his operation since the 1980s. His application of rotational grazing, cross fencing, improved water facilities and nutrient management has increased the land efficiency of his acreage. His commitment to operating in an environmentally sustainable manner was recognized with the honor of the 2016 Alabama NRCS Small Farmer of the Year and the national USDA NRCS Lloyd Wright Small Farmer of the Year Awards.

The Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association is proud to nominate the Turner Farm.



BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year

Name	State	Year
McCurry Angus Ranch	Kansas	2015
Schuler Red Angus	Nebraska	2014
Bradley 3 Ranch	Texas	2013
V8 Ranch	Texas	2012
Mushrush Red Angus	Kansas	2011
Sandhill Farms	Kansas	2010
Harrell Hereford Ranch	Oregon	2009
Champion Hill	Ohio	2009
TC Ranch	Nebraska	2008
Pelton Simmental Red Angus	Kansas	2007
Sauk Valley Angus	Illinois	2006
Rishel Angus	Nebraska	2005
Camp Cooley Ranch	Texas	2004
Moser Ranch	Kansas	2003
Circle A Ranch	Missouri	2002
Sydenstricker Angus Farms	Missouri	2001
Fink Beef Genetics	Kansas	2000
Morven Farms	Virginia	1999
Knoll Crest Farms	Virginia	1998
Flying H Genetics	Nebraska	1998
Wehrmann Angus Ranch	Virginia	1997
Bob & Gloria Thomas	Oregon	1997
Frank Felton	Missouri	1996
Tom & Carolyn Perrier	Kansas	1995
Richard Janssen	Kansas	1994
R.A. "Rob" Brown	Texas	1993
J. David Nichols	Iowa	1993
Leonard Wulf & Sons	Minnesota	1992
Summitcrest Farms	Ohio	1991
Douglas & Molly Hoff	South Dakota	1990
Glynn Debter	Alabama	1989
W.T. "Bill" Bennett	Washington	1988
Henry Gardiner	Kansas	1987
Leonard Lodoen	North Dakota	1986
Ric Hoyt	Oregon	1985
Lee Nichols	Iowa	1984
Bill Borrer	California	1983
A.F. "Frankie" Flint	New Mexico	1982
Bob Dickinson	Kansas	1981
Bill Wolfe	Oregon	1980
Jim Wolf	Nebraska	1979
James D. Bennett	Virginia	1978
Glenn Burrows	New Mexico	1977
Jorgenson Brothers	South Dakota	1976
Leslie J. Holden	Montana	1975
Jack Cooper	Montana	1975
Carlton Corbin	Oklahoma	1974
Mrs. R. W. Jones, Jr.	Georgia	1973
John Crowe	California	1972

BIF Ambassador Award Past Recipients

Name	Publications	State	Year
E. C. Larkin	Gulf Coast Cattlemen	Texas	2015
John Maday	Drovers CattleNetwork	Colorado	2014
A.J. Smith	Oklahoma Cowman Magazine	Oklahoma	2013
Burt Rutherford	BEEF Magazine	Texas	2012
Jay Carlson	BEEF Magazine	Kansas	2011
Larry Atzenweiler and Andy Atzenweiler	Missouri Beef Cattlemen	Missouri	2010
Kelli Toldeo	Cornerpost Publications	California	2009
Gren Winslow and Larry Thomas	Canadian Cattleman Magazine	Canada	2008
Angie Denton	Hereford World	Missouri	2007
Belinda Ary	Cattle Today	Alabama	2006
Steve Suther	Certified Angus Beef LLC	Kansas	2005
Kindra Gordon	Freelance Writer	South Dakota	2004
Troy Marshall	Seedstock Digest	Missouri	2003
Joe Roybal	BEEF Magazine	Minnesota	2002
Greg Hendersen	Drovers	Kansas	2001
Wes Ishmael	Clear Point Communications	Texas	2000
Shauna Rose Hermel	Angus Journal & BEEF Magazine	Missouri	1999
Keith Evans	American Angus Association	Missouri	1998
Bill Miller	Beef Today	Kansas	1997
Ed Bible	Hereford World	Missouri	1996
Nita Effertz	Beef Today	Idaho	1995
Hayes Walker III	America's Beef Cattleman	Kansas	1994
J.T. "Johnny" Jenkins	Livestock Breeder Journal	Georgia	1993
Dick Crow	Western Livestock Journal	Colorado	1991
Robert C. DeBaca	The Ideal Beef Memo	Iowa	1990
Forrest Bassford	Western Livestock Journal	Colorado	1989
Fred Knop	Drovers Journal	Kansas	1988
Chester Peterson	Simmental Shield	Kansas	1987
Warren Kester	BEEF Magazine	Minnesota	1986



E.C. Larkin (right), Gulf Coast Cattlemen, received the 2015 BIF Ambassador Award from Steve Munger, 2014-15 BIF president.

BIF Pioneer Award Past Recipients

Name	State	Year	Name	State	Year
Paul Genho	Florida	2015	Harlan Ritchie	Michigan	2000
Tom Woodward	Texas	2015	Robert R. Schalles	Kansas	2000
Merlyn Nielsen	Nebraska	2014	Joseph Graham	Virginia	1999
Gary Bennett	Nebraska	2014	John Pollak	New York	1999
Steve Radakovich	Iowa	2014	Richard Quaas	New York	1999
Keith Bertrand	Georgia	2013	John Crouch	Missouri	1998
Ignacy Misztal	Georgia	2013	Bob Dickinson	Kansas	1998
Glenn Selk	Oklahoma	2013	Douglas MacKenzie Fraser	Canada	1998
Sally Buxkemper	Texas	2012	Larry V. Cundiff	Nebraska	1997
Donald Franke	Louisiana	2012	Henry Gardiner	Kansas	1997
Leo McDonnell	Montana	2012	Jim Leachman	Montana	1997
Mike Tess	Montana	2011	A.L. "Ike" Eller	Virginia	1996
Mike MacNeil	Montana	2011	Glynn Debter	Alabama	1996
Jerry Lipsey	Montana	2011	James S. Brinks	Colorado	1995
Richard McClung	Virginia	2010	Robert E. Taylor	Colorado	1995
John & Bettie Rotert	Missouri	2010	Tom Chrystal	Iowa	1994
Daryl Strohhahn	Iowa	2010	Robert C. DeBaca	Iowa	1994
Glen Klippenstein	Missouri	2010	Roy A. Wallace	Ohio	1994
Bruce Golden	California	2009	James D. Bennett	Virginia	1993
Bruce Orvis	California	2009	M.K. "Curly" Cook	Georgia	1993
Roy McPhee (posthumously)	California	2009	O'Dell G. Daniel	Georgia	1993
Donald Vaniman	Montana	2008	Hayes Gregory	N. Carolina	1993
Louis Latimer	Canada	2008	Dixon Hubbard	Virginia	1993
Harry Haney	Canada	2008	James W. "Pete" Patterson	North Dakota	1993
Bob Church	Canada	2008	Richard Willham	Iowa	1993
Rob Brown	Texas	2007	Frank Baker	Arkansas	1992
David & Emma Danciger	Colorado	2007	Ron Baker	Oregon	1992
Jim Gosey	Nebraska	2007	Bill Borrer	California	1992
John Brethour	Kansas	2006	Walter Rowden	Arkansas	1992
Harlan & Dorotheann Rogers	Mississippi	2006	Bill Long	Texas	1991
Dave Pingrey	Mississippi	2006	Bill Turner	Texas	1991
Jack and Gini Chase	Wyoming	2005	Donn & Sylvia Mitchell	Canada	1990
Jack Cooper	Montana	2005	Hoon Song	Canada	1990
Dale Davis	Montana	2005	Jim Wilton	Canada	1990
Les Holden	Montana	2005	Roy Beeby	Oklahoma	1989
Don Kress	Montana	2005	Will Butts	Tennessee	1989
Frank Felton	Missouri	2004	John W. Massey	Missouri	1989
Tom Jenkins	Nebraska	2004	Christian A. Dinkle	South Dakota	1988
Joe Minyard	South Dakota	2004	George F. & Mattie Ellis	New Mexico	1988
George Chiga	Oklahoma	2003	A.F. "Frankie" Flint	New Mexico	1988
Burke Healey	Oklahoma	2003	Glenn Burrows	New Mexico	1987
Keith Zoellner	Kansas	2003	Carlton Corbin	Oklahoma	1987
H.H. "Hop" Dickenson	Kansas	2002	Murray Corbin	Oklahoma	1987
Martin & Mary Jorgensen	South Dakota	2002	Max Deets	Kansas	1987
L. Dale Van Vleck	Nebraska	2002	Charles R. Henderson	New York	1986
Larry Benyshek	Georgia	2001	Everett J. Warwick	Maryland	1986
Minnie Lou Bradley	Texas	2001	Mick Crandell	South Dakota	1985
Tom Cartwright	Texas	2001	Mel Kirkiede	North Dakota	1985
J. David Nichols	Iowa	2000	Bill Graham	Georgia	1984

Name	State	Year
Max Hammond	Florida	1984
Thomas J. Marlowe	Virginia	1984
Jim Elings	California	1983
W. Dean Frischknecht	Oregon	1983
Ben Kettle	Colorado	1983
Jim Sanders	Nevada	1983
Carroll O. Schoonover	Wyoming	1983
Gordon Dickerson	Nebraska	1982
Mr. & Mrs. Percy Powers	Texas	1982
F.R. "Ferry" Carpenter	Colorado	1981
Otha Grimes	Oklahoma	1981
Milton England	Texas	1981
L.A. Maddox, Jr.	Texas	1981
Charles Pratt	Oklahoma	1981
Clyde Reed	Oklahoma	1981
Richard T. "Scotty" Clark	Colorado	1980
Bryon L. Southwell	Georgia	1980
Robert Koch	Nebraska	1979
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Roubicek	Arizona	1979
Joseph J. Urick	Montana	1979
James B. Lingle	Maryland	1978
R. Henry Mathiessen	Virginia	1978
Bob Priode	Virginia	1978
Ralph Bogart	Oregon	1977
Henry Holsman	South Dakota	1977
Marvin Koger	Florida	1977
John Lasley	Missouri	1977
W. L. McCormick	Georgia	1977
Paul Orcutt	Montana	1977
J.P. Smith	Missouri	1977
H.H. Stonaker	Colorado	1977
Forrest Bassford	Colorado	1976
Doyle Chambers	Louisiana	1976
Mrs. Waldo Emerson Forbes	Wyoming	1976
C. Curtis Mast	Virginia	1976
Glenn Butts	Missouri	1975
Keith Gregory	Nebraska	1975
Braford Knapp, Jr.	Montana	1975
Reuben Albaugh	California	1974
Charles E. Bell, Jr.	Virginia	1974
John H. Knox	New Mexico	1974
Paul Pattengale	Colorado	1974
Fred Wilson	Montana	1974
Ray Woodward	Montana	1974
Jay L. Lush	Iowa	1973



Paul Genho, president of Farmland Reserve Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah, was awarded the BIF Pioneer Award. Receiving the award in his honor were his two sons, John Genho and David Genho. Pictured are (from left) John Genho; David Genho; Mark Enns, BIF Western Region secretary; and Steve Munger 2014-15 BIF president.



Tom Woodward (left) of Broseco Ranch, Decatur, Texas, received the BIF Pioneer Award from Steve Munger, 2014-15 BIF president.

BIF Continuing Service Award Past Recipients

Name	State/Organization	Year	Name	State/Organization	Year
Joe Cassady	South Dakota State Un.	2015	Sherry Doubet	Colorado	2003
Andy Boston	Indiana	2015	Ronnie Green	Virginia	2003
Lois Schreiner	Kansas State University	2015	Connee Quinn	Nebraska	2003
Chris Shivers	Am. Brahman Breeders Association	2015	Ronnie Silcox	Georgia	2003
Larry Kuehn	US MARC	2014	S.R. Evans	Mississippi	2002
Wade Shafer	Am. Simmental Association	2014	Galen Fink	Kansas	2002
Warren Snelling	US MARC	2014	Bill Hohenboken	Virginia	2002
Susan Willmon	Am. Gelbvieh Association	2014	William Altenburg	Colorado	2001
Ben Eggers	Sydenstricker Genetics	2013	Kent Andersen	Colorado	2001
Brian House	Select Sires	2013	Don Boggs	South Dakota	2001
Lauren Hyde	Am. Simmental Association	2013	Ron Bolze	Kansas	2000
Jerry Taylor	University of Missouri	2013	Jed Dillard	Florida	2000
Jack Ward	Am. Hereford Association	2013	Bruce Golden	Colorado	1999
Tom Field	Nebraska	2012	John Hough	Georgia	1999
Stephen Hammack	Texas	2012	Gary Johnson	Kansas	1999
Brian McCulloh	Wisconsin	2012	Norman Vincil	Virginia	1999
Larry Olson	South Carolina	2012	Keith Bertrand	Georgia	1998
Tommy Brown	Alabama	2011	Richard Gilbert	Texas	1998
Mark Enns	Colorado	2011	Burke Healey	Oklahoma	1998
Joe Paschal	Texas	2011	Glenn Brinkman	Texas	1997
Marty Ropp	Montana	2011	Russell Danielson	North Dakota	1997
Bob Weaber	Missouri	2011	Gene Rouse	Iowa	1997
Bill Bowman	Missouri	2010	Doug L. Hixon	Wyoming	1996
Twig Marston	Nebraska	2010	Harlan D. Ritchie	Michigan	1996
David Patterson	Missouri	2010	Paul Bennett	Virginia	1995
Mike Tess	Montana	2010	Pat Goggins	Montana	1995
Darrh Bullock	Kentucky	2009	Brian Pogue	Canada	1995
Dave Daley	California	2009	Bruce E. Cunningham	Montana	1994
Renee Lloyd	Iowa	2009	Loren Jackson	Texas	1994
Mark Thallman	Nebraska	2009	Marvin D. Nichols	Iowa	1994
Doug Fee	Canada	2008	Steve Radakovich	Iowa	1994
Dale Kelly	Canada	2008	Doyle Wilson	Iowa	1994
Duncan Porteous	Canada	2008	Robert McGuire	Alabama	1993
Craig Huffhines	Missouri	2007	Charles McPeake	Georgia	1993
Sally Northcutt	Missouri	2007	Henry W. Webster	South Carolina	1993
Jimmy Holliman	Alabama	2006	Jack Chase	Wyoming	1992
Lisa Kriese-Anderson	Alabama	2006	Leonard Wulf	Minnesota	1992
Dave Notter	Ohio	2006	John Crouch	Missouri	1991
Jerry Lipsey	Montana	2005	Robert Dickinson	Kansas	1990
Micheal MacNeil	Montana	2005	Roger McCraw	North Carolina	1989
Terry O'Neill	Montana	2005	Bruce Howard	Canada	1988
Robert Williams	Missouri	2005	Bill Borrer	California	1987
Chris Christensen	South Dakota	2004	Jim Gibb	Missouri	1987
Robert "Bob" Hough	Texas	2004	Daryl Strohbehn	Iowa	1987
Steven M. Kappes	Nebraska	2004	Larry Benyshek	Georgia	1986
Richard McClung	Virginia	2004	Ken W. Ellis	California	1986
			Earl Peterson	Montana	1986
			Jim Glenn	IBIA	1985
			Dick Spader	Missouri	1985

Name	State/Organization	Year	Name	State/Organization	Year
Roy Wallace	Ohio	1985	Lloyd Schmitt	Montana	1977
James Bennett	Virginia	1984	Don Vaniman	Montana	1977
M.K. Cook	Georgia	1984	A.L. Eller, Jr.	Virginia	1976
Craig Ludwig	Missouri	1984	Ray Meyer	South Dakota	1976
Art Linton	Montana	1983	Larry V. Cundiff	Nebraska	1975
J.D. Mankin	Idaho	1982	Dixon D. Hubbard	Washington, DC	1975
Mark Keffeler	South Dakota	1981	J. David Nichols	Iowa	1975
Glenn Butts	PRI	1980	Frank H. Baker	Oklahoma	1974
Jim Gosey	Nebraska	1980	D.D. Bennett	Oregon	1974
C.K. Allen	Missouri	1979	Richard Willham	Iowa	1974
William Durfey	NAAB	1979	F. R. Carpenter	Colorado	1973
James S. Brinks	Colorado	1978	Robert DeBaca	Iowa	1973
Martin Jorgensen	South Dakota	1978	E.J. Warwick	Washington, DC	1973
Paul D. Miller	Wisconsin	1978	Clarence Burch	Oklahoma	1972



Andy Boston (right), Purdue University Extension, received the Continuing Service Award from Steve Munger, 2014-15 BIF president.



Joe Cassady (left), retired BIF executive director, received the Continuing Service Award from Steve Munger, 2014-15 BIF president.



Lois Schreiner (right), Kansas State University, received the Continuing Service Award from Steve Munger, 2014-15 BIF president.



Chris Shivers (right), American Brahman Breeders Association, received the Continuing Service Award from Steve Munger, 2014-15 BIF president.

Baker/Cundiff Award



Frank H. Baker 1923-1993

(Photograph of portrait in Saddle and Sirloin Club Gallery; Everett Raymond Kinstler, artist)

Dr. Frank H. Baker is widely recognized as the “Founding Father” of the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF). Frank played a key leadership role in helping establish BIF in 1968, while he was Animal Science Department Chairman at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 1966-74. The Frank Baker Memorial Scholarship Award Essay competition for graduate students provides an opportunity to recognize outstanding student research and competitive writing in honor of Dr. Baker.

Frank H. Baker was born May 2, 1923, at Stroud, Oklahoma, and was reared on a farm in northeastern Oklahoma. He received his B.S. degree, with distinction, in Animal Husbandry from Oklahoma State University (OSU) in 1947, after two and a half years of military service with the US Army as a paratrooper in Europe, for which he was awarded the Purple Heart. After serving three years as county extension agent and veterans agriculture instructor in Oklahoma, Frank returned to OSU to complete his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Animal Nutrition. Frank’s professional positions included teaching and research positions at Kansas State University, 1953-55; the University of Kentucky, 1955-58; Extension Livestock Specialist at OSU, 1958-62; and Extension Animal Science Programs Coordinator, USDA, Washington, D.C., 1962-66. Frank left Nebraska in 1974 to become Dean of Agriculture at Oklahoma State University, a position he held until 1979, when he began service as International Agricultural Programs Officer and Professor of Animal Science at OSU. Frank joined Winrock International, Morrilton, Arkansas, in 1981, as Senior Program Officer and Director of the International Stockmen’s School, where he remained until his retirement. Frank served on advisory committees for Angus, Hereford, and Polled Hereford beef breed associations, the National Cattlemen’s Association, Performance Registry International, and the Livestock Conservation, Inc.

His service and leadership to the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) included many committees, election as vice president and as president, 1973-74. Frank was elected an ASAS Honorary Fellow in 1977, he was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and served the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) as president in 1979. Frank Baker received many awards in his career, crowned by having his portrait hung in the Saddle and Sirloin Club Gallery at the International Livestock Exposition, Louisville, Kentucky, on November 16, 1986. His ability as a statesman and diplomat many awards in his career, crowned by having his portrait hung in the Saddle and Sirloin Club Gallery at the International Livestock Exposition, Louisville, Kentucky, on November 16, 1986. His ability as a statesman and diplomat for the livestock industry was to use his vision to call forth the collective best from all those around him. Frank was a “mover and shaker” who was skillful in turning “Ideas into Action” in the beef cattle performance movement. His unique leadership abilities earned him great respect among breeders and scientists alike. Frank died February 15, 1993, in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Larry Cundiff

(Photograph taken at BIF 2014, by Angus Journal)

Dr. Larry Cundiff retired in January 2007 after 40 years of service as a Research Geneticist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service. He was Research Leader of the Genetics and Breeding Research Unit at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center from 1976 until 2005, when he accepted an interim eight-month appointment as Acting Center Director.

Larry Cundiff was born in Kansas in 1939, received his B.S. from Kansas State University in 1961, his M.S. and Ph.D. from Oklahoma State in 1964 and 1966. He married his wife, Laura, in 1960. They have three children. He was on the faculty at the University of Kentucky from 1965 to 1967, before working as a research geneticist in the USDA.

Cundiff has not only designed, conducted and published some of the most important beef breeding research of the 20th century, but also has lead in the transfer of new technology to the beef industry through his continued work in



BIF and his presentations made across the nation and around the world.

His research efforts have involved evaluation and utilization diverse breeds, effects and utilization of heterosis through alternative crossbreeding systems, and evaluation and effectiveness of selection for traits of economic importance in beef production. Since his retirement, he has continued service as a collaborator at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center assisting with preparation of research reports and speaking at beef industry meetings and conferences. Dr. Cundiff has served as chairman of the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Committee on Genetic Prediction from 1973 until 2007, and as the Agricultural Research Service, USDA representative on the BIF Board of Directors from 1981 until 2007. He has served as editor of the Beef Improvement Federation's 9th Edition of Guidelines for Uniform Beef Improvement Programs.

2016 Recipients

Kathleen Ochsner, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Kashly Schweer, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Past Recipients

Previously known as Frank H. Baker Memorial Scholarship

Name	University	Year	Name	University	Year
Justin Buchanan	Oklahoma State Un.	2015	Charles Andrew McPeak	Michigan State Un.	2003
Jamie Parham	South Dakota State	2015	Katherina A. Donoghue	Un. of Georgia	2002
Heather Bradford	Kansas State Un.	2014	Khathutshelo A. Nephawe	Un. of Nebraska	2002
Xi Zeng	Colorado State Un.	2014	Khathutshelo A. Nephawe	Un. of Nebraska	2001
Heather Bradford	Kansas State Un.	2013	Janice M. Rumph	Un. of Nebraska	2001
Erika Downey	Texas A&M Un.	2013	Paul L. Charteris	Colorado State Un.	2000
Jeremy Howard	Un. of Nebraska-Lincoln	2012	Katherine A. Donoghue	Un. of Georgia	2000
Kristina Weber	Un. of California-Davis	2012	Janice M. Rumph	Un. of Nebraska	1999
Brian Brigham	Colorado State Un.	2011	Bruce C. Shanks	Montana State Un.	1999
Megan Rolf	Un. of Missouri	2011	Patrick Doyle	Colorado State Un.	1998
Kent A. Gray	North Carolina State Un.	2010	Shannon M. Schafer	Cornell Un.	1998
Lance Leachman	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Un.	2009	Rebecca K. Splan	Un. of Nebraska	1997
Scott Speidel	Colorado State Un.	2009	Robert Williams	Un. of Georgia	1997
Devori W. Beckman	Iowa State Un.	2008	D. H. "Denny" Crews, Jr.	Louisiana State Un.	1996
Kasey L. DeAtley	New Mexico State Un.	2008	Lowell S. Gould	Un. of Nebraska	1996
Gabriela C. Márquez Betz	Colorado State Un.	2007	D. H. "Denny" Crews, Jr.	Louisiana State Un.	1995
Yuri Regis Montanholi	Un. of Guelph	2007	Dan Moser	Un. of Georgia	1995
Amy Kelley	Montana State Un.	2006	Kelly W. Bruns	Michigan State Un.	1994
Jamie L. Williams	Colorado State Un.	2006	William Herring	Un. of Georgia	1994
Matthew A. Cleveland	Colorado State Un.	2005			
David P. Kirschten	Cornell Un.	2005			
Reynold Bergen	Un. of Guelph	2004			
Angel Rios-Utrera	Un. of Nebraska	2004			
Fernando F. Cardoso	Michigan State Un.	2003			

Roy A. Wallace BIF Memorial Scholarship



The Roy A. Wallace BIF Memorial Fund was established to honor the life and career of Roy A. Wallace. Mr. Wallace worked for Select Sires for 40 years, serving as vice-president of beef programs and devoted his life to beef-cattle improvement. He became involved with BIF in its infancy and was the only person to attend each of the first 40 BIF conventions.

Roy loved what BIF stood for – an organization that brings together purebred and commercial cattle breeders, academia and breed associations, all committed to improving beef cattle. Wallace was honored with both the BIF Pioneer Award and BIF Continuing Service Award and co-authored the BIF 25-year history, *Ideas into Action*. This scholarship was established to encourage young men and women interested in beef cattle improvement to pursue those interests as Mr. Wallace did, with dedication and passion.

Proceeds from the Roy A. Wallace Beef Improvement Federation Memorial Fund will be used to award scholarships to graduate and undergraduate students currently enrolled as fulltime students in pursuit of a degree related to the beef cattle industry. Criteria for selection will include demonstrated commitment and service to the beef cattle industry. Preference will be given to students who have demonstrated a passion for the areas of beef breeding, genetics, and reproduction. Additional considerations will include academic performance, personal character, and service to the beef cattle industry.

Two scholarships will be offered in the amount of \$1,250 each. One will be awarded to a student currently enrolled as an undergraduate and one will be awarded to a student currently enrolled in a master of science or doctoral program.

2016 Recipients

Ryan Boldt, Colorado State University
Will Shaffer, Oklahoma State University

Past Recipients

Name	University	Year
Joshua Hasty (graduate)	Colorado State University	2015
Matthew McIntosh (undergraduate)	University of Connecticut	2015
Heather Bradford (graduate)	Kansas State University	2014
Maci Lienemann (undergraduate)	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	2014
Loni Woolley (graduate)	Texas Tech	2013
Tyler Schultz (undergraduate)	Kansas State University	2013
Ky Polher (graduate)	University of Missouri	2012
Natalie Laubner (undergraduate)	Kansas State University	2012
Jessica Bussard (graduate)	University of Kentucky	2011
Cassandra Kniebel (undergraduate)	Kansas State University	2011
Paige Johnson (graduate)	Texas Tech University	2010
Sally Ruth Yon (undergraduate)	South Carolina	2010

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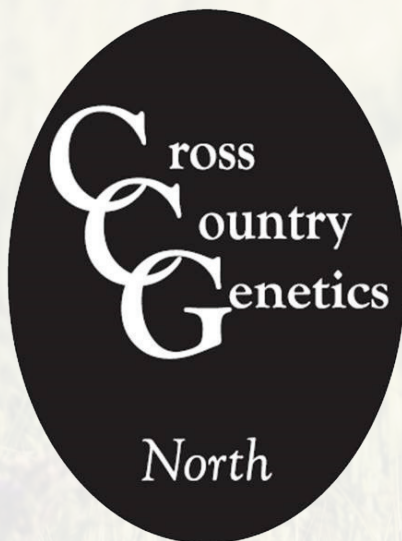


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Past BIF Commercial Producer of Year Tour



Tailgate Ranch, Tonganoxie, Kansas

Tailgate Ranch is a commercial cow-calf operation consisting of about 1,500 acres of cool-season grass and legume pastures, 390 acres of brome hay meadows, and 60 acres of alfalfa. Tailgate was formed in 1962 by Paul McKie and grew into its present state. The ranch is located at Tonganoxie, KS, about 30 minutes west of Kansas City.

The ranch currently runs about 280 females (including 80 replacement heifers) in its spring calving herd and 120 cows in the fall calving herd. Their main focus over the last seven years has been developing and breeding high-quality replacement females following a strict culling regime in order to build a superior maternal cow herd. Feedlot and carcass data have been

collected to help improve feed efficiency and product quality.

Bred heifers begin calving February 10, and are through in 45 days. Heifers are estrus synchronized and artificially inseminated (AI) one time, then cleaned up by proven, easy calving Angus / Red Angus bulls. Spring cows, consisting mostly of Red Angus or Angus crossbreds, begin calving March 1 and are through by April 15. Calves are pre-wean vaccinated, then weaned September 20 and put on growing ration and pasture until steers are either sold or sent to a feedlot. Heifers continue developing on pasture for the AI breeding program. Fall calving cows, mostly straight Angus, begin September 1 and finish by October 15. Fall calves are generally creep fed 60-80 days, weaned at 150 days of age, preconditioned and sold as grass cattle. Angus, Red Angus, and Red Angus x Simmental bulls are used on the spring herd with Angus, Red Angus and Braunvieh bulls used on fall cows.

Woodbury Farms, Quenemo, KS

Woodbury Farms is located in Osage County, Kansas, on the eastern edge of the Flint Hills. Their operation was started in 1881 when Fred H. Woodbury purchased his first 80 acres near Olivet, Kansas. The headquarters of the farm was moved 25 miles northeast in 1968, as the original homeplace was flooded to make way for the Melvern Reservoir.

The fourth generation of Woodburys now operates land in four counties, consisting of 5,000 acres of native and tame grasses and 400 acres of cropland. The cow herd is made up of 400 spring-calving cows, of which 175 are registered Angus and 225 are commercial Angus and black baldies, along with a few red baldies that stem from a Hereford cow base.

The Woodburys market calves through many avenues. All calves are backgrounded after weaning, with a majority of the steers being sold through the local sale barn. About 1/3 of the heifer calves are retained for replacements and a majority of the remainder are sold in a production sale in March, along with about 40 yearling bulls from the registered herd.

A small number of steers and heifers also are entered in the annual Flint Hills Beef Fest held in Emporia, Kansas. Cattle are summer grazed on the Flint Hills, then finished at a commercial feedyard where carcass data is gathered. Over the past several years, Woodbury cattle have won the grandstand show in both the steer and heifer divisions and placed high in the grass futurity contest. They also won the steer carcass contest in 2012.

With a long-standing tradition behind them, the Woodburys are focused on continuing the operation into the next generations.





Kniebel Cattle County, White City, Kansas

The year 2013 marked the 135th anniversary of Kniebel Farms and Cattle Company, a diversified family operation that has grown from a single homestead to encompass 7,000 acres of Flint Hills grass and farmland. Great-grandfather Kniebel started raising cattle in 1878. Like most operations, the base herd was Hereford; but unlike most operations, there were never any calves sold, only market-ready cattle. Originally, finished cattle were driven to the railhead. As years passed, these cattle were trucked to Kansas City, sold to packing houses through local sale barns and, eventually, bought directly by packers.

The current operation, owned and managed by Charles and sons Kevin and Chuck and their families, consists of 500 spring-calving cows and 60 fall-calving cows. They utilize a three-breed rotation, consisting of Red Angus, Angus and horned Hereford, in the crossbreeding program for their commercial herd. All the calves are finished in their family-owned feedyard. The farming portion of the ranch raises all the feed for the feedlot. It truly is a “conception to consumption” operation.

In 1996, they joined U.S. Premium Beef (USPB), a progressive group of ranchers and feeders that purchased part of the National Beef packing plant. USPB pays for harvested cattle on a grid, which rewards the quality we strive to produce.

Kniebel’s raise cattle that are thick, moderate-framed, easy-keeping, pound-producing, and also happen to be higher grading, choice cattle. Through USPB, carcass data is collected and added to culling criteria. Kniebel Farms and Cattle Company believe in developing a well-rounded program and they do not chase any single trait or fad. They continue to try to find ways to be more efficient and currently are incorporating different grazing varieties and techniques to hold down costs.

Past BIF Seedstock Producers of the Year Tour

McCurry Angus Ranch, Burrton, KS

McCurry Angus Ranch is a family owned and managed operation located in south central Kansas in the Sandhills area of Reno and Harvey counties. McCurry Angus Ranch utilizes 2,000 acres for home-based operations, with satellite operations in Chase and Greenwood counties, which consists of primarily native tallgrass prairie in the Flint Hills. Buffalo, SD, is the ET base for 150 commercial Angus-based cows.

McCurry Angus consists of 400 registered Angus cows split evenly between spring- and fall-calving herds, and 250 spring-calving commercial Angus cows. About 175 bulls are sold yearly in a spring production sale and private treaty sales throughout the year. The target customers are commercial cattle producers. Currently, females are marketed primarily private treaty. In addition, spring-born commercial steer calves are marketed through Superior Livestock’s online auction.

The ranch got its start in 1977, with the marriage of two third-generation Angus breeders. Andy and Mary McCurry began their first-generation start-up operation with seven registered Angus heifers representing pedigree lineage of seven distinct cow families, no land, no facilities, and no equipment. Today, 95% of the current herd traces back to those foundation females. Upon completion of college in 2004, the McCurrys’ son, John, joined the operation full time and expansion occurred. The firsthand knowledge of developing a business from the ground up, with no external financial backers or financial means beyond themselves, has provided the McCurrys with a unique insight of the overall business structure required for profitability and sustainability.



Tours



Mushrush Red Angus, Strong City, Kansas

Mushrush Red Angus is a family-owned and managed operation located in the heart of the Kansas Flint Hills in Chase County. Literally scattered from one end of the county to the other, Mushrush Red Angus utilizes about 8,000 acres of native tallgrass prairie. While fairly diversified across segments of the cattle industry, the operation is unique in that every endeavor encompasses the use of Red Angus genetics.

The main enterprise consists of 500 registered Red Angus cows split evenly between spring- and fall-calving herds. About 150 bulls are sold yearly in a spring production sale and private treaty sales throughout the year. The target customers are commercial cattle producers. In addition, a bred heifer program

has been developed. Between 400 and 500 heifers, sourced from commercial customers using Mushrush genetics, are developed, bred and sold every year. Heifers not meeting the quality of their breeding program, bulls not meeting criteria to be seedstock, and Mushrush Red Angus-sired steers purchased from customers are fed to finish in their on-site 1,000 head feedlot or run through the stocker phase on grass pasture and then put on feed. All fed cattle are sold on a value-based grid to U.S. Premium Beef, with full carcass data collected.

Started by Robert and Oma Lou Mushrush in the early 1950s, the operation first accumulated 40 years experience in the commercial cow-calf business. When Joe and Connie Mushrush joined in 1980, the first registered Red Angus cows were added, in addition to an extensive stocker cattle enterprise. The feedlot was added in 1990. This extensive involvement in all segments of the cattle industry has given Mushrush Red Angus a unique insight into the needs of the commercial cattlemen.

Fink Beef Genetics, Randolph, Kansas

Completely unique may be the best way to describe the beginning and day-to-day operations of Fink Beef Genetics (FBG), located near Manhattan, Kansas. Faced with two low paying, full time jobs, one Angus cow, no land and very little money in 1977, Fink Beef Genetics has grown to a seedstock operation that today includes Angus, Charolais and F1s. The business incorporates all segments of the beef industry from conception to consumption.

Since 1991, owners Galen and Lori Fink, along with their daughter Megan, have devoted their efforts to FBG. The business operates entirely with rented land, purchased feeds and basically no outside labor. The operation has used AI exclusively since 1977 and implants more than 1,000 embryos each year.

Cooperator herds were devised in 1990 to utilize the commercial producers' land ownership and management and form a profitable relationship for both parties. High accuracy sires dominate the breeding program and all pedigrees are stacked several generations deep to prevent surprises for customers.

Seedstock, embryos and semen are sold nationwide through public auctions, ecommerce and private treaty. The concept of pre-contracted bulls was developed by FBG in 1991. Customer service is a major part of the FBG program. Types of services available include the longest running sponsored calf sales in the United States, commercial female sales, seedstock cooperators in five beef alliances, credit for carcass data and working relationships with various feedlots. Fink Beef Genetics has co-founded two companies, Genetics Plus and Integrated Genetic Management, that focus on providing customers complete genetic assistance.

Since 1992, Finks have owned and developed the Little Apple Brewing Company Restaurant in Manhattan. This experience has provided insight into the beef industry from conception to consumption.





Moser Ranch, Wheaton, Kansas

The spring of 1987 saw the Moser Ranch market four bulls as breeding stock to local cattlemen, and in their 11th annual sale on February 8, 2003, 118 head of Simmental, Angus and Red Angus bulls sold into seven states and one Canadian province. Harry, a native of North Dakota and graduate of North Dakota State University in agriculture/animal science, and Lisa, a native Kansan with a degree in agriculture/animal science from Kansas State University, have been in the cattle business all of their lives. Along with their children, Cameron, Kendra and Kayla, the Mosers own and manage the Moser Ranch, located approximately 40 miles northeast of Manhattan in the northern Flint Hills of Kansas.

With the use of proven, predictable genetics, and extensive artificial insemination (AI) and embryo transfer (ET) program, utilizing every available economic and performance measurement as much as possible, the Mosers have built a very strong genetic base in their cow herd, while at the same time developing a strong customer service program. 150 spring and 20 fall-calving Simmental females, 40 spring and 10 fall-calving Angus, 25 Red Angus spring-calving females, and 50 fall-calving commercial Angus females make up the cow herd numbers on the Moser Ranch. Currently, seven producers are cooperator herds for the embryo transfer program, which began in 1991 and this enables the Mosers to produce approximately 150 additional calves per year. Bulls are sold primarily to commercial cattlemen in the annual bull sale, and females and embryos are sold private treaty.

The Mosers are very “hands-on” with respect to their entire operation. Whether it be day-to-day care of the cow herd, sire selection and mating decisions, all heat detection and AI work, weaning and development of bulls and replacements, putting up and grinding feed, all aspects of sale management and promotion, financial and breed association bookwork, computer time and web site updates, customer service and consultations or developing marketing options and feeding alliances, the family works together and utilizes the strengths each person brings to the operation.

In the past five years, the commitment to helping market customer calves through various avenues has been especially rewarding. Two alliances with which they are involved provide feedlot and carcass data on each individual animal that goes through each program. In addition, a Moser Influence Preconditioned Calf Sale held each fall gives still other customers a very lucrative option. Continued customer and consumer education is addressed regularly by holding seminars and hosting tours to enhance understanding of the beef industry.

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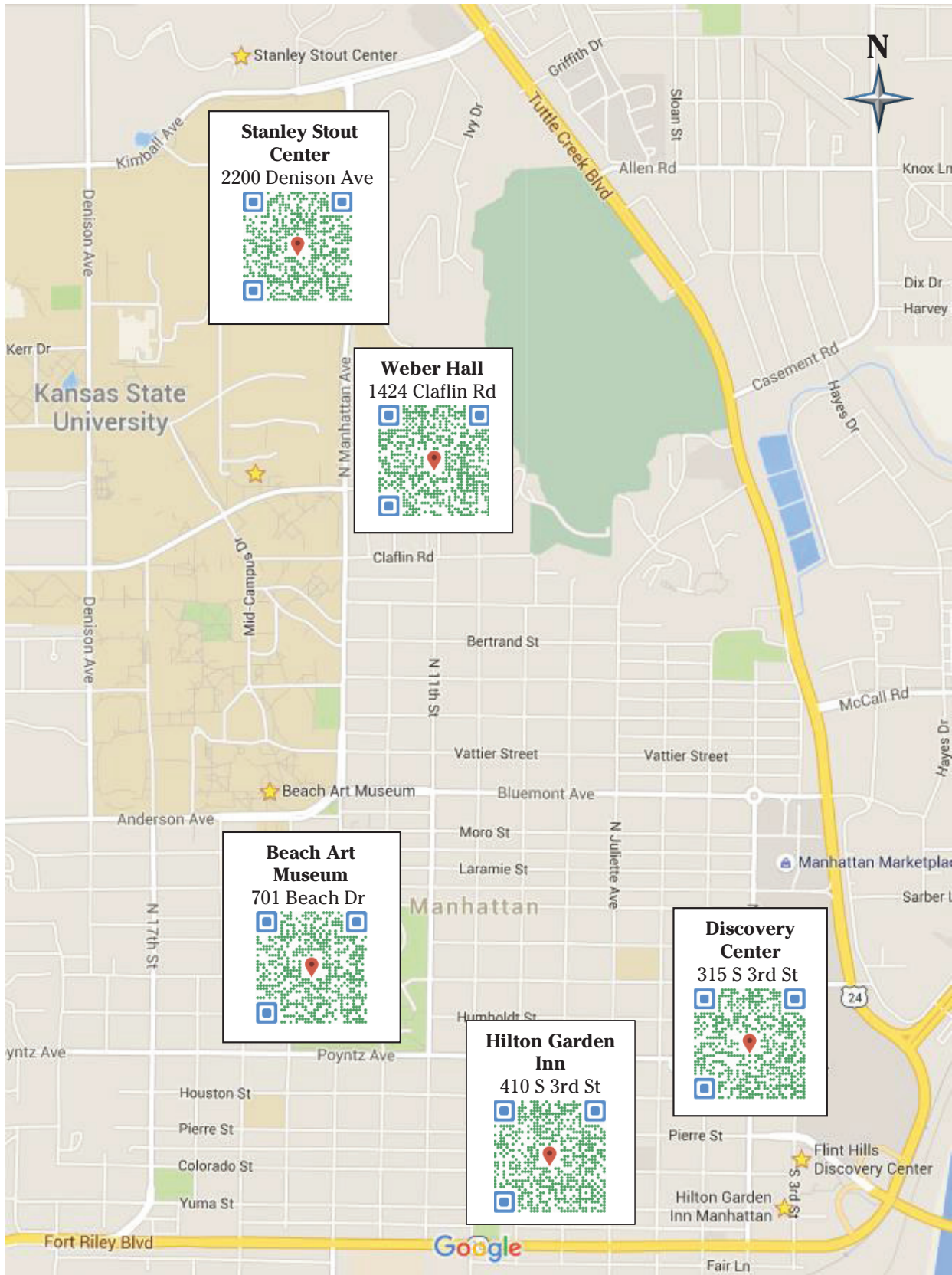
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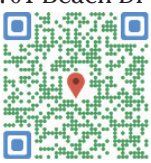
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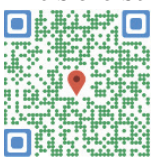
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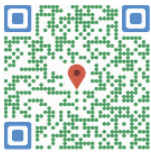
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