



SANTA GERTRUDIS

USA

January 2026 | Volume 29 No 1



Includes 2026 Santa Gertrudis Breeders International Sire Directory

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January and February

January

January 19 National Santa Gertrudis Show *Fort Worth, Texas*
January 25 Santa Gertrudis Junior Show *Fort Worth, Texas*

February

February 1 Houston Open Show entry deadline
February 12-14 San Antonio Open Show *San Antonio, Texas*
February 13-14 Dixie National Open Show *Jackson, Mississippi*
February 16-17 San Antonio Junior Show *San Antonio, Texas*

INTRODUCING OUR SENIOR HERD SIRE GO NEVER FEAR 17ET

GO NEVER FEAR 17ET is a son of RDF Sancho's Never Before 1136 and the great donor Red Doc Ruby 4105. He is a young sire trait leader for scrotal circumference. He is moderate sized, extremely deep, and thick. His EPD profile has eight traits in the top 40% or better.



GC 555 NO FEAR

GC 555 No Fear is a son of Never Fear and our donor Sancha 905. We are really excited about this herd sire prospect.



Graves Creek Ranch
Barry Powell
Columbia, Mississippi
(601) 270-1561 | bpowell@powelltransportation.com

FROM THE FRONT OFFICE

Keaton Dodd, *SGBI Executive Director*

Ring in the 75th right where we began, in Kingsville, TX. It is tough to not get sentimental or nostalgic when we think back on the cattle, ranches, and most importantly, the people who have come before us to make Santa Gertrudis what we are today. I would venture to say that no breed has a better history, legacy, and lifestyle than we do at Santa Gertrudis. So as we look back, reflect, and smile about the great things we have accomplished up to this point, let's also roll up our sleeves and lean into progress and building an even better and more sustainable future for our coming generations.

"A rising tide lifts all boats." Let us not forget that we are all in this together. We are not competing within our breed but instead working together to grow and maintain our market share in the beef business.

Included with this issue of Santa Gertrudis USA is the 2026 SGBI Sire Directory. We invite you to take the time to evaluate some of the truly elite sires from industry leading firms committed to breeding the best cattle possible. I truly believe there is something for everybody in the catalog that can make a positive impact on your program. I would encourage you to reach out to fellow breeders, talk about cattle, discuss genetics, and ultimately embrace the spirit of collaboration and a relentless pursuit of improvement.

Be on the lookout for more details in relation to the annual meeting and the sale that coincides with it. As we continue to work to strengthen the commercial market and create marketing opportunities for our producers, we are in the very early stages of setting up a breed based, source verified, weaned and vaccinated feeder calf sale/ program. To go hand in hand with that, the possibility of a biannual commercial female sale for our breeders, and our customers who are using Santa Gertrudis in their breeding programs is in its early stages of development. We are aware of the breeding preparations and supply management challenges that come along with preparing for a sale like this, so we are expecting this to be available in early 2027.

I have full confidence that we are continuing to push our programs and the right direction and see 2026 as a landmark year for Santa Gertrudis breeders world wide. So as we move into the 75th, I propose while reflecting on the great accomplishments of the past, that we never take our eyes off the horizon and the future of the breed we all love.

God Bless and Happy New Year,

Keaton Dodd

Executive Director

Keaton Dodd, *SGBI Executive Director* | keaton@santagertrudis.com | (512) 924-9954



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Suzanne Fulton, SGBI President

A new year always brings fresh plans and renewed goals. As cattlemen and women, we naturally start thinking about what we want to improve—better calves, stronger numbers, more consistency, and smarter decisions that move our programs forward.

This issue's Sire Summary fits squarely into that mindset. Sire selection is one of the most important tools we have as breeders. The bulls we choose today shape not only our next calf crop, but the future of the Santa Gertrudis breed as a whole. Studying the data, understanding the strengths behind the numbers, and matching sires to your program goals takes time—but it's time well spent. The information in this summary is here to help you make informed, confident decisions as you plan for the year ahead.

Along with planning comes participation. I often hear conversations—sometimes concerns—about breed associations and how they operate. Those discussions are important, but they work best when paired with involvement. Santa Gertrudis Breeders International is strongest when members show up, ask questions, share ideas, and take part in the process.

As you make your list of goals for the year, I encourage you to add attending our Annual Meeting to it. The annual meeting is more than a date on the calendar—it's an opportunity to engage with fellow breeders, hear updates, have your voice heard, and help guide the direction of our association and our breed. Decisions don't happen in a vacuum; they are shaped by the members who choose to be involved.

The future of Santa Gertrudis cattle depends on thoughtful sire selection and an engaged membership. Both require participation. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Meeting as we start another year focused on progress, communication, and the continued success of this great breed.

Suzanne Fulton

President, Santa Gertrudis Breeders International

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BREEDER FEATURE

Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas

Texas State University's Agriculture Department is building momentum with a Santa Gertrudis-focused initiative designed to strengthen both student education and breed-relevant research.

Texas State's Ag Department currently serves approximately 850 undergraduate students, many of them animal science majors on a pre-veterinary track. A significant number of those students arrive with little or no agricultural background, shaping the department's emphasis on experiential learning.

"Probably half of our students have no agricultural background at all," Brian Bruner, Associate Professor of Instruction, Department of Agricultural Sciences, Texas State University shared. "They come here wanting to work with dogs and cats, and we teach them about livestock, cattle, sheep, goats, horses, so they can see the full scope of opportunities in agriculture."

This initiative has been made possible through the generous support of Kevin and Heather Blewett of Buena Vida Cattle Company and other breeders, who contributed financial resources, donated cattle, and provided frozen genetics to help launch the program.

Much of that learning takes place at Freeman Ranch, the university's 3,500-acre ranch that functions as a working classroom. Historically maintained at around 80 commercial cows, the herd has been expanding and transitioning toward Santa Gertrudis and registered Star 5 cattle. Today, the ranch totals roughly 150 head when counting cows and calves, with plans to grow toward approximately 200 breeding-age females.

That research component has become a key focus of Texas State's partnership with Santa Gertrudis. Faculty are working on a genomics initiative aimed at collecting tissue and DNA samples, paired with performance and, when possible, carcass data, from Santa Gertrudis-influenced cattle as they move through the beef supply chain.

"There's not a lot of genomic representation for Santa Gertrudis or Bos indicus-influenced cattle," Bruner noted. "Our goal is to identify markers for economically important traits that make genomic predictions more accurate and useful for this breed."

The project recently received additional momentum through funding that supports 10 undergraduate interns. These students will assist with data collection, lab work, and travel to ranches, feedlots, and harvest facilities as part of the Santa Gertrudis genomics effort.

"That's a huge step forward for us," Bruner said. "It allows students to be directly involved while helping move the breed forward."

Texas State has also expanded applied coursework and developed a competitive show team to increase cattle exposure for students. This year, 60 students applied for the team, only 14 were selected.

"Only one of those students had shown cattle before," Reagan Sims, PhD, Assistant Professor of Applied Animal Science, Department of Agricultural Sciences, Texas State University shared. "For many of them, this is their first real hands-on experience, and they're thriving."

As the program grows, Texas State is making a clear call to Santa Gertrudis breeders and commercial partners for collaboration. The research team is actively seeking cattle data and samples, particularly from cattle headed to the feedlot or retained through ownership programs.

"We need samples and we need data," Bruner emphasized. "Anything we can get performance or carcass information on helps, and we'll do the legwork to make it happen."

Through education, research, and collaboration, Texas State's Santa Gertrudis initiative is working to prepare the next generation of agriculture professionals while generating data and insights that benefit breeders across the industry.



Photos by: Hillviews Magazine

JUNIOR FEATURE

Gracyn Foster, *Mississippi*

Gracyn Foster's journey with Santa Gertrudis cattle did not begin in a show barn or on a family ranch, it started with a conversation in a feed store.

At the time, Gracyn had never touched a cow. Her experience with livestock included everything but cattle. A chance meeting with Santa Gertrudis breeder Eric Tisdale changed that. Tisdale was looking for a junior who wanted to learn, and offered Gracyn the opportunity to show a young bull named "Durango". With no prior cattle experience, she jumped in headfirst, learning everything from breaking cattle to feeding, and daily care.

That leap of faith quickly turned into a passion for the Santa Gertrudis breed.

Her first National Junior Santa Gertrudis Show came in 2018 in Texarkana, Arkansas. Like many first-time exhibitors, Gracyn felt overwhelmed. She didn't know many people and pushed herself to compete in events far outside her comfort zone.

One of the most defining moments of Gracyn's junior career happened after a difficult sales talk competition at her first National Junior Santa Gertrudis Show. Feeling discouraged, she was introduced to Santa Gertrudis breeder Burton McDaniel.

"He walked me to my cattle pen and told me to give him my speech again," Gracyn recalled. "Then he said, 'This is how we fix this,' and walked me through how to really understand what I was presenting, not just how to present it."

That conversation went far beyond a single competition. It reinforced the importance of knowledge, confidence, and understanding the cattle behind the halter.

"People like that take you under their wing and invest in you," she said. "That's what makes this breed so special."

As Gracyn became more involved, she found lifelong friendships and experiences through the Mississippi Affiliate and the National Junior Santa Gertrudis Association.

"With Santa Gertrudis, people will clap for you when you win, even if they're standing right beside you in the ring," she said. "It's competitive, but it's supportive. You can't fail here, you can only grow."

Gracyn's leadership journey continued when she ran for and served as National Princess, a role that initially intimidated her but ultimately shaped her leadership style. Rather than focusing on the title, she used the position as an opportunity to observe, learn, and encourage others.

"You can't become a leader overnight," she said. "Leadership is learned by watching, listening, and showing up."

Today, as her junior career comes to a close, Gracyn remains deeply invested in the future of the Santa Gertrudis breed. She owns cattle of her own, is actively developing a breeding program, and plans to stay involved through leadership, mentorship, and support for junior exhibitors.

"Get involved in everything you can," Gracyn said. "Try things even if they're uncomfortable. If you put 110% into it, you're going to get 110 percent back."



SALE RESULTS

December 2025

King Ranch Bull Sale, Kingsville, Texas

Santa Gertrudis bull average	\$8,384.62
American Cruz bull average	\$8,036.11
Total gross	\$542,950

SHOW RESULTS

Hot Gert Show, Gonzales, Texas

Judged by: Doug Husfeld

Grand Champion Santa Gertrudis Female



TN Red Lady
Owned by: Tripp Nichols

Reserve Champion Santa Gertrudis Female



XL's Celine 020
Owned by: Excell Santa Gertrudis

Grand Champion Santa Gertrudis Bull



XL's American Pharoah 303 ET
Owned by: Excell Santa Gertrudis

Reserve Champion Santa Gertrudis Bull



Wendt's Dreamboat 9953 ET
Owned by: Kinsley Kubecka

Grand Champion Star 5 Female



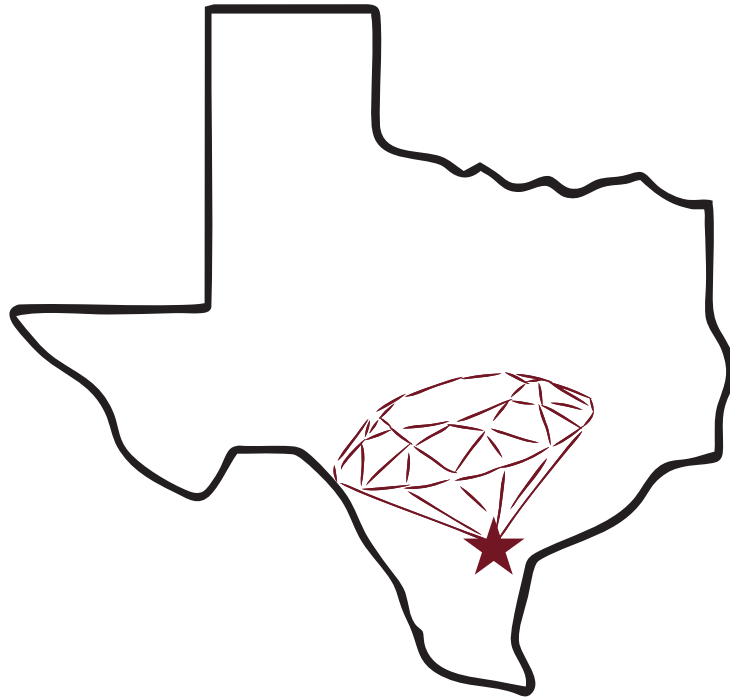
ES 443
Owned by: Bree Kiefer

Reserve Champion Star 5 Female



GUCCI'S GOD FAV M401
Owned by: Pitchford Cattle Company,
Casey Pitchford, Gracey Pitchford, and
Laura Zibilski

Santa Gertrudis Breeders International
PO Box 1257
Kingsville, TX 78364



DIAMOND LEGACY

75 Years of Santa Gertrudis Excellence

Santa Gertrudis Breeders International Annual Membership Meeting
Kingsville, TX | April 16-19, 2026

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 16

7 a.m. - 8 a.m.	Breakfast and registration
8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.	King Ranch tour
12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch at SGBI
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Tour of San Jose Cattle Company
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Dinner and welcome social

Friday, April 17

7 a.m. - 8 a.m.	Breakfast
8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Committee meetings
12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch/keynote speaker
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Board meeting
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Awards Dinner and 75 year recap

Saturday, April 18

7 a.m. - 8 a.m.	Breakfast
8 a.m.	Annual membership meeting
11 a.m.	Committee breakout session and brainstorming
12 p.m.	Lunch
2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	New board meeting
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Cocktail hour and 75th Anniversary Genetic Event and Sale
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.	President's Dinner with dance/social to follow

** Schedule subject to change.*

** Members will be notified via email, social media, and newsletters when registration opens for the 75th Annual Membership Meeting.*