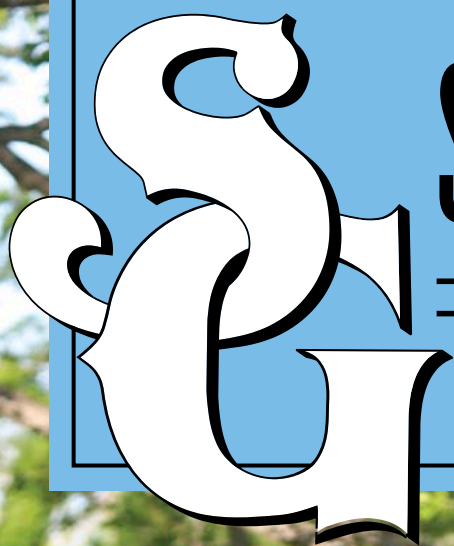




SANTA GERTRUDIS

USA

JULY 2019 | VOLUME 22, NUMBER 7

THE ENVIRONMENT



Santa Gertrudis

SANTA GERTRUDIS

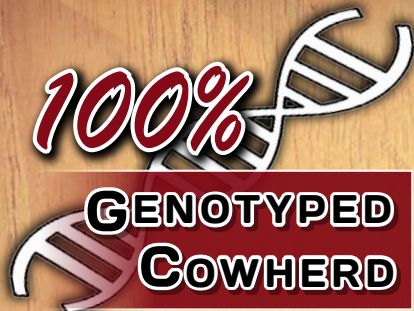
8,000

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Saturday, October 19, 2019

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in conjunction with 2019 Santa Gertrudis World Congress



Wendt Ranches 9127

Reg. #20177026

	BW	WW	YW	Mat	TMat	HCW
EPD	-0.20	2.65	16.92	-147	-0.15	10.90
ACC	0.27	0.21	0.16	0.10	—	0.12
	REA	Marb	Tend	Fat	Carcass	\$G
EPD	0.19	0.01	0.02	0.01	10	\$12.90
ACC	0.09	0.07	0.00	0.10		

A historical celebration of great Santa Gertrudis genetics!

Only bulls that are the cream of the crop have been chosen for this prestigious sale.

Schedule of Events:

Friday, Oct. 18

4:00 p.m. Field Day

7:00 p.m. Dinner & Dance

Saturday, Oct. 19

9:00 a.m. Cattle viewing

11:00 a.m. Sale begins

Hotel Accommodations:

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SANTA GERTRUDIS USA

IN THIS ISSUE

- 8** Match Game
- 12** Wind, Water, Shade Alleviate Heat Stress
- 16** World Congress: Environmental Diversity
- 17** Alabama Affiliate Hosts Field Day
- 20** Cross-Country Genetic Evaluation

DEPARTMENTS

- 6** Ramblings from the Open Range
- 6** Need to Know
- 10** President's Letter
- 10, 19** Sale Reports
- 14** Junior Letter
- 14** Breed Statistics
- 14** Calendar of Events
- 14** New Members
- 19** Ad Index



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ON THE COVER

A cow and her calf graze in their best environment at Woman Hollerin Ranch, Brookshire, Texas.
Photo by Darren Richmond.

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Ramblings from the Open Range

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By John Ford

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Santa Gertrudis is a **DATA DRIVEN** breed, and the amount of information and number of records submitted last year validates this claim. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, SGBI members submitted 14,196 trait records, and 4,620 ultrasound records were imported into the breed's database. Throw in the additional 1,988 genotypes (DNA samples) submitted and it becomes clear that the SGBI membership is fully focused on validating animal performance and identifying profitable genetic packages. SGBI's industry-changing, single-step genetic evaluation system has been in place for more than six years, resulting in an improvement in traits that matter to all beef industry members. Marbling is a good example of the progress Santa Gertrudis breeders have made. The average Marbling expected progeny difference (EPD) for the 2012 calving year was a dismal -0.00587. The 2018 number was a very pleasing +0.00459. This upward movement is supported by the results of the 2018 SGBI Steer Feedout that saw 96 percent of the harvested animals grade Choice or better.

It is evident that SGBI's EPDs are sound selection and decision-making tools that enable members and their customers to identify animals capable of speeding genetic improvement. However, it is important for any system that collects, evaluates and analyzes data to periodically update calculations in order to make the information more accurate. Following more than six years of collecting weights, scanning cattle and submitting DNA samples, the Performance Committee, with the approval of the SGBI Board of Directors, has initiated a review of the association's genetic evaluation.

The committee has recommended several configuration changes in order to strengthen the breed's EPDs. SGBI's genetic service provider has been instructed to re-estimate correlations and heritability. Due to the amount

of data added, today, we know more about heritability and the genetic correlations between economically important traits than we knew in 2012 when SGBI introduced the single-step model that the association uses to calculate the breed's EPDs. The same is true regarding adjustments made for dam age. Age-of-dam adjustments make the means of the different age-of-dam similar so that a fair comparison of animals can be performed. Therefore, the service provider has also been directed to review age-of-dam adjustments and make necessary changes.

So, what will this evaluation review and configuration change mean for SGBI members? The traits remain the same, but the scale may be slightly different, resulting in the adjustment of some EPDs. There is also the

possibility that sires will be re-ranked. While some might find these changes and sire re-rankings upsetting, the benefit from this update will be an increase in EPD accuracy. By looking at accuracy, cattlemen can sort out EPDs that are supported by datasets and those that are not. There is no question that an increase in accuracy, no matter how slight, has value when making breeding and selection decisions. If a trait has little or no supporting data that has been correctly collected and submitted, the low-accuracy EPD may not be fully representative of that animal's genetic potential. Accuracy matters, and as more and more datasets are utilized in the breed's genetic evaluation, the genetic prediction becomes more accurate. Simply stated, animals with the least amount of individual and progeny phenotypes will be most greatly affected since they rely solely on heritability and correlations in the model.

SGBI's genetic service provider has been directed to have the new evaluation configuration in place for the August 2019 EPD download.

After six years, and thousands of phenotypes and ultrasound records added to the association's database – supported by approximately 12,000 genotypes – the time has come to review and make any updates needed to SGBI's effective and industry-changing genetic evaluation. 🐄



SGBI

Need to Know

THE SANTA GERTRUDIS BREEDERS INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS has finalized wording for the recently approved artificial insemination (AI) certificate rule. The updated AI rule will go into effect on semen marketed **Aug. 1, 2019, forward**.

Registration applications for AI-sired calves born after April 30, 2020, must be accompanied by an artificial insemination certificate provided by the bull's recorded owner/co-owner. Non-owner AI certificates will be issued on semen when the last recorded owner is listed as a non-member of SGBI. Sire owners/co-owners will have the option to supply their customers paper or paperless certificates.

The revised Rule 13 can be found, in its entirety, on the SGBI website, <https://santagertrudis.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2019rules-of-assoc.pdf>. Additional information will be sent to members following certificate formatting and programming by the IT team.

The directors also approved final wording for the revised **Rule 10 Naming**. An animal's name may not be changed in any way without written permission from the person who originally registered the animal with Santa Gertrudis Breeders International. 🐄

SANTA GERTRUDIS DISTRICT VI BREEDERS



Selling Private Treaty

We thank those breeders who have purchased our genetics this past year. Your confidence in us is deeply appreciated and we continue to strive to build a program you can count on!



**Look for our consignments at the
Mt. Laurel Sale,
Calhoun, Ga.**

Nov. 2, 2019



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Match Game

Putting Together the Pieces for Better Cow Efficiency

As beef production input costs continue to rise, Oklahoma State University's (OSU) David Lalman, Ph.D., says environmental considerations are key to developing an efficient cow herd and helping to increase overall profitability.

Lalman, an OSU animal science professor and Extension beef cattle specialist, is an expert in helping producers match beef cattle genetics to their available environmental resources. He describes the "environment" as not only forage quality and quantity but also climate, parasite and disease exposure, terrain and management.

With its inherent hardiness and disease resistance, the Santa Gertrudis breed was specifically developed to thrive in multiple environments, including the hot, humid weather along the coastal regions of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, and also the more arid regions such as those found in south Texas, Arizona and New Mexico.

"In the southern United States, a beef cow must thrive in an environment with excessive heat, humidity or chronic drought, intensified parasite exposure and generally lower quality forage," Lalman says. "*Bos indicus*-influenced females are better equipped to deal with these environmental challenges.

"On top of that, consider the dramatic impact of heterosis in *Bos indicus*-*Bos taurus* crossbreeding systems. According to U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service scientists, the lifetime weaning weight per cow exposed can be increased by more than 30 percent in *Bos indicus*-*Bos taurus* crossbred and composite females. Much of this advantage is due to increased cow longevity and improved fertility."

Part of matching cows to available resources is considering forage quality and availability over a period of time and making stocking rate and genetic potential decisions based on average or below-average years, not peak years.

"If cattle are continuously selected based on best-case environmental conditions, input costs go up dramatically, and the cow herd's fit to the environment will gradually become imbalanced," Lalman says. "We think this may be one reason why weaning weights in some parts of the country in commercial cow-calf operations have stabilized.

"In some regions, genetic capacity for growth, milk production and forage intake may have surpassed the ability of

the lower input 'commercial' environment to support it."

Lalman says that while some producers have made marked improvements to their individual cow herds over the years, large national data sets suggest that overall commercial cow fertility – including weaning rates and pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed – has remained relatively flat for the last three decades.

"If weaning weights are no longer going up and cow fertility is not improving, a shift in emphasis may be needed," he says. "That's where looking at a cow's response to environmental factors can start to make a difference in the bottom line."

Lalman encourages producers to keep detailed production records so they can identify individual trends in weaning weights and cow fertility.

"Because these numbers are going to fluctuate from year to year, it's best to look at them over a longer period of time," he says. "Record-keeping consistency is key so that accurate, long-term trends can be monitored."

Each producer will ultimately have their own set of criteria for efficiency in their individual operations, but Lalman lists some specific measures producers may want to consider:

- cows that wean a healthy calf every 365 days for 8-10 consecutive years;
- cows that can do the above and maintain average or above-average body condition (fleshing ability) compared to their contemporaries;
- cows that require no extra medical treatment;
- cows that require little supplemental feed in your grazing and management system;
- cows that travel and forage where the grass, forbs and brush haven't been grazed; and
- cows that produce steer calves with the capacity to gain on grass; convert at 5 pounds of feed (dry matter) per pound of gain; gain 3.5-4 pounds per day; never need to be treated; and produce a large, high-quality carcass.

"These criteria may seem like the bar is set high," he says. "Cows that meet all or most of these thresholds are demonstrating they're a good match for that environment."

With this in mind, Lalman says the best way to make progress in these traits is through purchased herd bulls and AI sires.

"Purchase bulls with mothers, sisters and/or daughters that have strong fertility records," he says. "Expected progeny differences (EPDs) for fertility and longevity are increasing



CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 »

Integrity. Quality. Tradition & Hospitality

31st Annual

ALABAMA CONNECTION SALE

October 4 & 5, 2019

Hosted by Quail Valley Farms, Blountsville, Ala.

**40 BULLS &
50 CROSSBRED FEMALES**

1:00 p.m., Friday, Oct. 4



**80 REGISTERED
FEMALES**

11:00 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 5



The Alabama Connection members are proud to welcome the Santa Gertrudis 2019 World Congress Attendees!

Santa Gertrudis 2019 **USA**
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Jerome Urbanosky

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The Mid-Coast Santa Gertrudis Association held its annual junior show in Navasota, Texas, in May, and approximately 175 head were exhibited. I think that is a record for the event. I was on hand and the Mid-Coast juniors seemed eager to have the National Junior Santa Gertrudis Show in their area this year.

I am pretty sure most of you are aware that our great Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) executive director, John Ford, will retire in April 2020. I am serving as head of the search committee, which consists of John Ford, SGBI past president Yancey Strait and SGBI President-Elect Nancy Wunderlich. An aggressive time table is in place to have the new hire onboard by November 2019. There has been a lot of interest by some outstanding beef cattle industry candidates. I am encouraged.

I just saw the newest SGBI video that highlights our junior program. I like the video and the well-done, rapidly moving storyline and video clips make it fun to watch and enjoy. The purpose of the SGBI videos is to promote and market our breed. I believe promotion and marketing are essential to the Santa Gertrudis breed's growth and viability. I am looking forward to the video series continuing as it was originally planned for 10-12 videos on different topics.

By the time you read this, the 2019 National Junior Show will be "in the books," and I am so looking forward to the event. Great cattle and great people make it a lot of fun.

Update on my dad, Harold Urbanosky. He is still hanging on, and we cherish every minute the good Lord has provided him to us.

Until next time, spread the good news about Santa Gertrudis. 🐄

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SANTA GERTRUDIS SALE

Reports

BREEDERS OF THE CAROLINAS SALE

MAY 11, 2019 | CHESTER, S.C.

SALE AVERAGES

39	Registered Lots	\$2,140
5	Bulls	\$2,380
9	Bred Females	\$1,944
17	Open Heifers	\$1,576
3	Pairs	\$3,066
5	3NI	\$3,610
66	Crossbred/STAR 5 Females	\$1,044

The Breeders of the Carolinas Sale was sponsored by the Breeders of the Carolinas Santa Gertrudis Association. The high-selling lot was consigned by Creech Farms, Zebulon, N.C., and was sold to Van Culberson, Slier City, N.C., for \$8,200. The next high-selling lot was consigned by Creech Farms and was sold to Red Doc Farm, Belen, N.M., for \$5,500. 🐄



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SANTA GERTRUDIS *Production*

WIND, WATER, SHADE ALLEVIATE HEAT STRESS

By Randy L. Stanko, Ph.D., Texas A&M University-Kingsville



Spring is gone and summer has arrived. The worst of high temperatures and humidity (in some places) is on the horizon. All cattle can become heat stressed because of two major physiological factors: 1) cattle cannot dissipate heat load effectively because of a poor sweating mechanism; and 2) the amount of heat generated daily from normal rumen fermentation.

Consequently, cattle accumulate a heat load during the day and then release it back into the environment during cooler nights. Problems arise when nights are not cooler and cattle cannot get rid of the heat load. Heat stress is a result of increased ambient temperature, high relative humidity, and low air movement and evaporation rate. Body temperature will rise when cattle cannot effectively transpire and evaporate excess heat. These conditions result in lower feed intake and decreased production. Cattle will become unresponsive at a body temperature of 106 degrees Fahrenheit (vs. normal 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit).

Breeds of cattle differ greatly in the amount of heat that they can comfortably handle. The temperature comfort zone for *Bos taurus* cattle is between 39 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit, whereas *Bos indicus* have a comfort zone of 50-81 degrees Fahrenheit. Because of the *Bos indicus* influence, American breed cattle have a much better ability to regulate heat due to differences in metabolic rate, feed and water consumption, sweating rates and hide/hair characteristics.

Cattle on pasture typically have the ability to seek shade, air movement and water to help themselves stay in their comfort zone. However, as producers, we must make sure there is plenty of both shade and water for the entire herd. We cannot do much in terms of air movement, at least not economically. Cattle confined to pens or show barns rely on us for wind (fans), water and shade. Water requirements increase during heat stress because water is lost through respiration and sweating. Water is also the fastest way to lower core body temperature, and cattle always drink more when the temperature is above 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Water troughs should be kept clean and free of moss to encourage frequent drinking. Automatic floats need to be in good working condition to deliver about 1 percent of body weight per hour in flow. For example, 20 1,400-pound cows using one water trough would need a water supply that can deliver (fill) 40-50 gallons per hour. A 5/8-inch, 100-foot

garden hose supplied with 40 psi can deliver 11 gallons per minute. Because cattle often come to water as a group, having enough water tanks or drinking space is crucial; each cow needs 3-4 inches of linear drinking space. A 1,300-pound beef animal needs approximately 2 gallons of water per hour during summer heat.

Pasture cattle will graze very early to midmorning and then again late afternoon into the evening. Heat production from digestion of morning grazing will peak in about 4-6 hours and, unfortunately, will coincide with the heat of the day. That is when we observe cattle to be in shade; loafing and ruminating. Effective shade areas must provide each cow at least 20 square feet, but preferably 40 square feet, of shade. Trees or structures oriented east-to-west are better at keeping the ground cool. If a pasture has trees, or a constructed shade structure, we need to provide at least 8-10 feet of open-air space to allow for maximum air flow under the shaded area. Wind and wind speed cannot be emphasized enough as a means to help cattle dissipate their heat load.

Why the concern about heat stress? Altered rumen function and digestion, electrolyte loss and imbalance, lower conception and fertility, increased embryo mortality, compromised immune system, nutrients diverted from production to thermoregulation and release of stress hormones are just a few of the major physiological ramifications of heat stress. Visible signs of heat stress include crowding water troughs and shade, slobbering, panting and open mouth breathing. Summer cattle working should be done early in the morning and not late in the evening, even though the ambient temperatures may be similar. Cattle need the cooler evenings to dissipate the daily heat load and to simply rest and relax. 🐄



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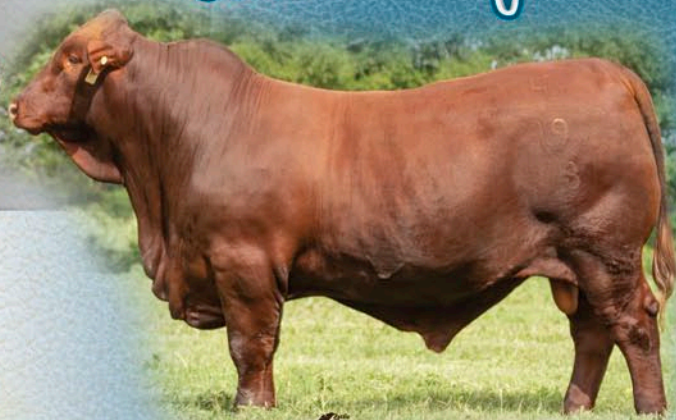
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SANTA GERTRUDIS Juniors

By Taylor Terry, President



Howdy! I am Taylor Terry, and I am from Denton, Texas. This past year I had the privilege to serve as the National Junior Santa Gertrudis Association president. I have been a part of this association since I was an infant and soon I will step in the ring for the last time. Looking back on my years in this association, I am grateful to have been a part of this and to have gained

lifelong friends. I am sad to say that after almost 20 years my time is coming to an end, but I hope that as a past princess, queen and now president, I have made a difference in this association.

I cannot thank junior members and adult breeders enough for giving me memories that I will carry with me forever. The support and love I have received is unlike anything I've ever felt anywhere else. To the next group of juniors, remember that time flies by a lot faster than you think it will. Enjoy every moment in the ring and with your friends because, before you know it, your time as a junior will be up.

"We didn't realize we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun." – Winnie the Pooh. 🐻

REGISTRATIONS, STAR 5 RECORDINGS AND TRANSFERS BY DISTRICT

MAY 2019

ACTIVE MEMBERS

District	Purebred Reg.	STAR 5 Reg.	Performance Only	Purebred & STAR 5 Trans.
1	77	4	0	22
2	73	14	3	54
3	25	7	0	5
4	17	1	0	8
5	4	1	0	1
6	96	2	10	27

JUNIOR MEMBERS

District	Purebred Reg.	STAR 5 Reg.	Performance Only	Purebred & STAR 5 Trans.
1	28	10	0	38
2	6	0	0	2
3	0	0	0	2
4	4	0	0	7
5	7	0	0	3

FOR SGBI REGISTRATIONS CONTACT: Diana Ruiz

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SANTA GERTRUDIS Calendar

JULY

19-20 41st Annual Kentucky National Santa Gertrudis Show and Sale, Bowling Green, Ky.

28-Aug. 1 Gerts Ongoing Advanced Leadership Summit, Estes Park, Colo.

29-30 Ohio State Fair, Columbus, Ohio

SEPTEMBER

20-21 District 6 Show and Sale, Harrison County Fairgrounds, Corydon, Ind.

27-Oct. 20 State Fair of Texas, Dallas, Texas

28 Arkoma Santa Gertrudis Association Sale, Tulsa, Okla.

28 Carolinas Field Day, Double C Farm, Raeford, N.C.

OCTOBER

4-5 Alabama Connection Sale, Blountsville, Ala.

4-19 Santa Gertrudis World Congress 2019

19 NuGen/Wendt Elite Sale, Bay City, Texas

25-26 2nd Annual Strait-Hefte Tried & True Production Sale, Carrizo Springs, Texas

NOVEMBER

2 Mountain Laurel Classic Sale, Calhoun, Ga.

21 North American Livestock Expo Show, Louisville, Ky.

2020

OCTOBER

16-17 3rd Annual Strait-Hefte Tried & True Production Sale, Carrizo Springs, Texas

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Allison Marie Baca, Burleson, Texas

Alexis Elizabeth Rabalais, Mansura, La.

Caden Brooks, Palacios, Texas

Hailee Woody, Kaufman, Texas

James Mason Carlow, New Boston, Texas

Jazmine Flores, Houston, Texas

Dalton Morton, Lufkin, Texas

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Kyla Kirk, Bremond, Texas

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WORLD CONGRESS: ENVIRONMENTAL DIVERSITY

Santa Gertrudis World Congress is just a few short months away and the excitement is growing! Registrations are still available for full, half and partial packages, as well as day registrations. We invite you to join us for all or some of this historic tour. Visit

www.SantaGertrudisWC2019.com for a full schedule, costs, details and registration information and forms.

This tour will highlight the environmental diversity of Santa Gertrudis cattle. From the lush green pastures of Alabama and Mississippi to dryer, semi-arid regions in south Texas and lastly the coastal regions in Texas, participants will see Santa Gertrudis cattle working in all kinds of environments.

The tour begins in Alabama, where annual rainfall varies from 55-60 inches per year and the annual temperatures range from the mid-to-high 90s in the summer to lows around the 30s in the winter. Summers are hot and humid and winters are cool and wet. Quail Valley Farms, Blountsville, and Tinney Farms, Hanceville, are both located among the rolling hills of northern Alabama. Their forage base is native fescue with some improved pastures of rye grass, clovers and legumes. Pastures are fertilized in the spring and hay is fed over the winter to maintain the cow herds. Managing the forage quality is a top consideration for these operations.

Grandview Farms is in northwest Alabama in Marion County. The operation borders Mississippi, an area where a large percentage of the county is woodland. The timber industry, mobile home plants and recreation are big there, making cattle production a lesser industry. Grandview Farms runs cattle on four different places, three of which are located in the river bottom area. With an average of 59 inches of annual rainfall and the best deep soils in the county in these river bottom areas, they are in an environment very conducive to growing grass.

Cotton Branch Plantation is in the rolling hills of southeastern Mississippi, with average annual rainfall of 56 inches. Like Alabama, the area is hot and humid in the summer and cool and wet in the winter. Bahia grass is the main forage for summer grazing and winter annuals such as wheat or rye mixes are used for winter grazing. Heifer calves are fed a growing ration until 12 months of age and then they are put on a high-quality, year-round forage program for the rest of their time on the ranch.

From there, the tour moves into Louisiana, another high-rainfall area lush with forage and crops. Wiley Ranch, Deville, is a father and son team of Kim and Erik Wiley. They also farm 7,000 acres of row crops and will bring a unique, dual perspective of cattle production and farming to the tour.

After a few days in Dallas and San Antonio, the tour heads south. King Ranch operates in the harsh south Texas climate that is most accurately described as a subtropical, semi-arid desert. Summer heat indexes routinely exceed 110 degrees Fahrenheit. The annual rainfall is 28 inches, but regularly varies from 12-50 inches. This incredible variation is among the most difficult aspects of the operation to manage, with annual carrying capacity fluctuations potentially exceeding 10,000 animal units. King Ranch maintains a systems approach to management to ensure ecological, economical and generational sustainability.

The land that makes up San Jose Cattle Company is situated in a diverse area in the coastal bend of South Texas. It's a semi-arid region known as the Wild Horse Desert. Although in a rainfall belt of 24-26 inches annually, the area does not consistently get ample moisture. Despite frequently arid conditions, the ranches are teeming with wildlife that is intensively managed. To avoid degradation of the habitat, the operations use a prescribed course of burning, brush control, rotational grazing and supplemental feeding as well as creation of water sources while monitoring and controlling the population of cattle and wildlife.

Townsend Cattle is in the heart of the Texas Gulf Coast and utilizes native Bermuda grass along with hybrid Jiggs Bermuda they have planted during the spring, summer and fall. In the winter months they graze rye grass and oats while supplementing with hay. Their winters are usually mild on average and they are blessed with ample rainfall during the spring and summer, aside from the occasional drought.

The final stop is at Wendt Ranches in Bay City, Texas. Their average rainfall is 48-52 inches, giving their grasses a very high moisture content and low nutritional value. They have a strong mineral program to offset this. In addition, with the high rainfall comes hoof rot and heavy mosquito populations. Because of their environment, their cattle must have high forage capacity and heat tolerance. 🐄



Alabama Affiliate Hosts Field Day

By Darren Richmond, SGBI Member Services Representative

The Alabama Santa Gertrudis Association held its first field day in several years on May 18. Quail Valley Farms, Blountsville, Ala., hosted more than 125 breeders, junior members, visitors and breed enthusiasts. The Cleveland family, Ricky and Angie Cleveland, Quail Valley Farms crew, Brian Wood, Josh Latham and David Cleveland graciously gave the breed a first look at their state-of-the-art sale facility that will host the 31st Annual Alabama Connection Sale and be the first stop on the Santa Gertrudis World Congress 2019 tour Oct. 4-5.

The activities began with a welcome from Alabama Santa Gertrudis Association President Delmo Payne. The morning included several informative and educational presentations by speakers SGBI Executive Director John Ford, TransOva representative Kevin Gleason, Purina representative Rhonda Johnson, Ranch Hand Analytics representative Brad Wright and Alabama Cattlemen's Association representative Morgan Pounds. Rhonda Johnson

raffled off a pair of clippers donated by Purina to one lucky junior member in attendance. Congratulations to National Junior Santa Gertrudis Association Queen, Abbie Edenfield, Altha, Fla., for winning the clippers.

That afternoon, attendees watched the Alabama Santa Gertrudis Association's Junior Warm Up Show. There were nearly 30 head from throughout the Southeast, including a large group from the Mississippi Junior Association. The show was organized by Darren Richmond and judged by Jeremy Childers, Hartselle, Ala. The Grand and Reserve Grand Champion Female were exhibited by J.D. Chism, Pontotoc, Miss. The Grand Champion Bull was exhibited by J.D. Chism, and Reserve Grand Champion Bull was exhibited by Caleb French, Noxapater, Miss. The Champion

STAR 5 Heifer was also exhibited by J.D. Chism. Quail Valley Farms donated the jackpot monies, and Richmond Photo and Video sponsored the awards.

Ultrasound technician Amanda Engle was also on hand during the field day to provide her services, which several junior members and area breeders took advantage of to collect data on their cattle.

Prior to and after the field day, Quail Valley Farms gave pasture tours, providing an opportunity to view the outstanding set of genetics that Quail Valley Farms has put together. 🐄



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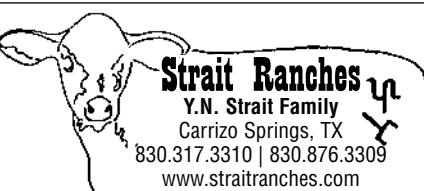
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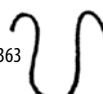
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SANTA GERTRUDIS SALE

Reports

MID-COAST CATTLEMAN'S OPPORTUNITY SALE

MAY 11, 2019 | BRENHAM, TEXAS

SALE AVERAGES

Bulls	\$3,333
Purebred Pairs	\$3,917
Purebred Bred Females	\$2,304
Purebred Open Heifers	\$1,815
STAR 5 Bred Females	\$2,067
STAR 5 Open Heifers	\$850

The Mid-Coast Santa Gertrudis Association held its annual Cattleman's Opportunity Sale Saturday, May 11, in Brenham, Texas. The high-selling lot, a high marbling King Ranch 921/15 son, was consigned by Blackjack Oaks Ranch, Washington, Texas, and sold to Wunderlich Farms, Brenham, Texas, for \$5,300.

The high-selling cow-calf pair was consigned by Mariah Knuth, Dickinson, Texas, and sold to Wendt Ranches, Bay City, Texas, for \$4,900. The second high-selling pair was consigned by Madison Moran, Brenham, Texas, and sold to Briggs Ranches, Victoria, Texas, for \$4,400.

The high-selling open heifer was consigned by Corporron Acres, Schulenburg, Texas, and sold to Blackjack Oaks Ranch for \$3,400. The second high-selling open heifer was consigned by Kubena Cattle Co., Sweeny, Texas, and sold to Ben Roberson, Rowlett, Texas, for \$3,000.

The high-selling bred female was consigned by CF Cattle Co., Brenham, Texas, and sold to Mark Schmidt for \$3,400. The second high-selling bred heifer was consigned by Kennedy Brooks, Krum, Texas, and sold to Kubecka Ranch, Bay City, Texas for \$3,000.

The high-selling STAR 5 bred female was consigned by Myers Cattle and Land, Navasota, Texas, and sold to Randy Tiemann for \$3,200.

The high-selling STAR 5 open heifer was consigned by Kubena Cattle Co., and sold to Sage Fisher, Carrizo Springs, Texas.

The volume buyer was Kyle Kerlick, Yorktown, Texas.

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La Cuchilla Ranch	18		
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CROSS-COUNTRY GENETIC EVALUATION

By John Genho, Senior Director Technical Services, Neogen

The creation of the barcode is an interesting piece of history that is often overlooked. We buy various items from day to day but never think about the black and white bars on the side. Imagine Coke and Pepsi, Wrigley's and Trident, Walmart and Target, sitting down together to come up with a uniform barcode system. Surely some were concerned about losing competitive advantage – one group running the show and sidelining the other, etc. Yet somehow these groups saw a benefit to working with competitors to set a standard. The economic term used to describe this is *cooperatition* – a mix of competition and cooperation. The idea is that opposing groups cooperate so that they can more easily compete.

Breed associations representing the same breed in different countries often find themselves in a similar situation. In general, breeders are better off when they have the option to use genetics from different countries to improve their herds. Doing some type of genetic evaluation between countries can be a form of this cooperation principle to offer breeders everywhere better information.

When we analyze data collected across countries and continents, there are several issues we introduce to our current genetic evaluation models. First, we would assume that we've introduced more environmental variation (or variation that isn't explained by genetics) since there are certainly differences in management, weather and the industry in general between countries. If this is simply increasing the environmental variation, our models can handle that.

However, what if genetics that work in one country don't work well in another? What if there is an interaction between genetics and the environment? This creates a more complicated problem that we're not currently set up to handle. Furthermore, what if the basic trait being measured isn't the same between countries (think 205-day weaning weight as the standard in the United States vs. other standard ages in other countries, different marbling scores, etc.)?

Another more practical problem is the challenge of linking data between

associations. Often, data is formatted differently with various standards being applied in various situations. It would be a huge undertaking to build databases that can pool data across countries using different data structures.

A final challenge to international genetic evaluation is the sharing of data between associations and breeders in different countries. Each wants to ensure integrity of their data and offer their breeders the best selection tools without losing their identity as an association. Owning data (including pedigree, performance and genomic data) and protecting it are basic roles of any association. How does an association protect itself against being overrun by a larger association in a neighboring country?

In general, breeders are better off when they have the option to use genetics from different countries to improve their herds. Doing some type of genetic evaluation between countries can be a form of this cooperation principle to offer breeders everywhere better information.

Luckily, there is a very useful and easy way to implement models that can allow sharing of information between associations. Rather than these groups sharing complete databases and dealing with the issues discussed above, associations in different countries can partner with each other by sharing the results of their genetic evaluations in the form of expected progeny differences (EPDs) and accuracies.

Currently, when a bull from country A is used in country B, that bull's EPDs in country B start at 0 and only change as progeny records are turned in. If the EPDs from country A are sent to country B, then country B can use those EPDs as a starting point for that bull in their genetic evaluation and allow progeny records to change his EPDs as they're turned in. Rather than starting

A Note From John Ford –

Social media and other technologies have made it easy to see, in real time, the genetic packages of Santa Gertrudis breeders worldwide. This ability to immediately analyze animals recorded in our sister associations' herdbooks has resulted in a growing interest in developing a tool or evaluation system that allows for equal comparison of genetic merit between Santa Gertrudis cattle, regardless of country. In 2016, Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) took a proactive approach in developing a global genetic merit measurement tool, analyzing options and examining data sharing opportunities with the Mexican Santa Gertrudis Association. More recently, SGBI did the same with members of the Australian Santa Gertrudis Association.

Developing a tool that takes into account the variations of different environments and management systems is challenging, as SGBI's geneticist John Genho explains in this article. However, SGBI leadership recognizes the opportunities that a cross-country genetic evaluation would create for SGBI members. Development of a global measurement will be a major focus during the upcoming Santa Gertrudis World Congress 2019.

at zero and working from there, the bull can start at a point based on his EPDs in country A.

This model enables each association to have the basic roles of 1) ensuring the integrity of pedigrees; 2) protecting the ownership of performance and genomic data; and 3) performing genetic evaluations on their datasets. Extending the above example, suppose country B finds that weaning weights reported from country A don't correlate well with data they receive in their dataset. Since they have control over their evaluation, they can discount the weaning weight EPDs they receive from the bull in question and start him closer to zero. Suppose though that they find marbling scores correlate well with their dataset. In this case, country B can parameterize their genetic evaluation to allow this to be reflected. Each association retaining control over their genetic evaluation gives each group the ability to deliver the best possible tools to their breeders.

The model described above has the ability to provide between-country analysis but not force any association to cede control of its data and direction. In the end, this will result in better analysis for all countries. Ultimately, this rising tide will float all boats. ☔

MATCH GAME CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

throughout the industry. These tools are powerful if used consistently over a long period of time in herd bull selection."

And while other maternal traits like milk production are important to the industry, Lalman says efficiency can depend heavily on an individual cow's forage intake and fleshing ability. In the OSU research program, the group has shown that it requires 60-90 pounds of cow forage consumption to create one more pound of calf weaning weight, which does not pencil out for most producers.

"We've got plenty of milk in the beef cattle industry, and more is not going to help because milk is expensive from a nutrient requirement standpoint," he says. "In most situations, I encourage producers to consider breed-average to below breed-average genetics for milk for that reason. The last thing you want to create is a situation where you have genetic potential for 30 pounds of milk yield with forage that can only support 20 pounds of milk yield."

Lalman also warns against trying to increase overall cow size in an effort

to increase weaning weights, because bigger cows do not necessarily wean big enough calves to make it a profitable management decision.

He has found that increasing an average cow herd size by 100 pounds can produce anywhere from 6 to 20 pounds more weaning weight, but those extra pounds are not near enough to pay for the increased cow weight.

"It costs somewhere between \$40 to \$50 to keep 100 pounds of cow weight around for an entire year," he says. "If you do the math, that 6-20 pounds of extra calf weight is only worth about \$6-\$25."

Instead, Lalman suggests working toward building an efficient cow herd that thrives in the local environment, and then selecting and managing for enhanced post-weaning performance and carcass quality within that framework.

"We have old and new tools and technology today [crossbreeding, composite systems, EPDs] to build an efficient cow that is a match to environmental conditions, fertile, maintains good body condition and weans a calf every year with efficient, post-weaning performance and carcass quality," he says. ☔



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413 Day REA Scan: 14.85

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