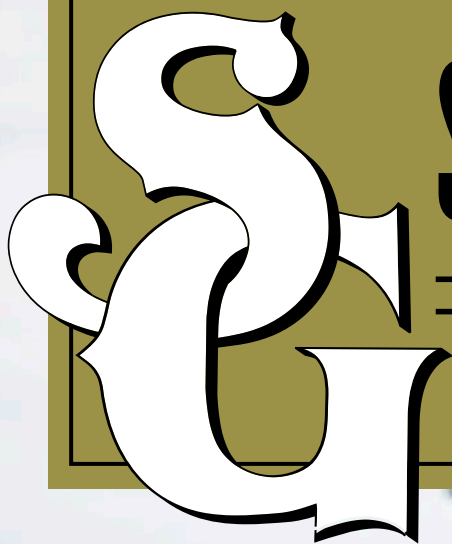




SANTA GERTRUDIS

USA

JUNE 2022 | VOLUME 25, NUMBER 6



Santa Gertrudis



The Preferred American
Beef Breed

Look for females like these to sell in the

34th Annual Santa Gertrudis

ALABAMA CONNECTION SALE

11:00 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022

Tinney Farms • Hanceville, Ala.



We Appreciate Our Crimson Classic Sale Buyers!

**Thank You to Richard Price, Old Iron Farms,
Monroe, N.C., for purchasing this year's
Crimson Classic high-selling lot.**

**Thank You to
Red Dawn Farms, Gallant, Ala.**

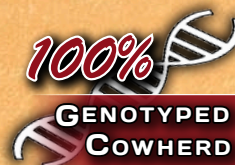
**Thank You to Steve McFall, McFall Farms, ►
Paragould, Ark.**



Manager: Arlin Taylor
256-507-3838
arlin.taylor@bhamfast.com
tinneyfarms.com

Tinney
FARMS
EST. 1980

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Looking to the FUTURE



If heifers like 1547 are in your future, you need to consider investing in Wendt Ranches genetics. The genetics you choose today will improve tomorrow's profits. Contact us for more information.

3rd Annual

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Baby Doll Sale

August 30

sconlinesales.com



We will award you \$10,000 if you win
National Champion in the Junior or Open Show with a sale heifer.



SS

Wendt Ranches Partners LLC

5475 FM 457, Bay City, TX

Email: wendtranches@hotmail.com

Gene Kubecka
979-240-5311

Daniel Kubecka
979-240-5312

SGBI Herd #621, established 1954

SS

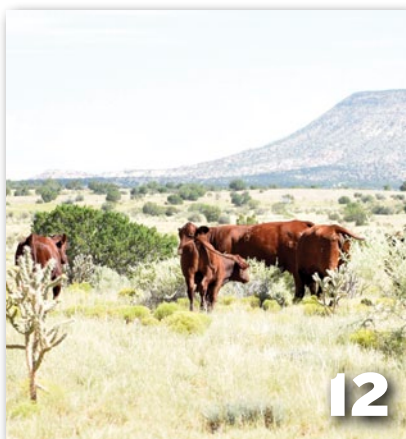
SANTA GERTRUDIS USA

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2022 NJS GS



DEJA MOO
ALL OVER AGAIN

TEXARKANA, AR

20

Santa Gertrudis USA (ISSN-10985026, USPS-013-876) is published monthly for \$30.00 US by *Santa Gertrudis USA* located at P.O. Box 427, Timnath, CO 80547. Periodicals postage paid at Timnath, CO and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: *Santa Gertrudis USA*, P.O. Box 427, Timnath, CO 80547. Subscriptions: \$30 U.S. per year for all subscriptions to the U.S. and her possessions. First class subscriptions in the U.S. are available at \$50. Foreign surface mail subscriptions are \$30. Foreign airmail subscriptions are as follows: Mexico/Canada - \$60, Central America & South America - \$100, Europe and all others - \$110. We accept Mastercard, VISA and Discover. Materials in *Santa Gertrudis USA* may not be reproduced without the permission from the publisher.

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June 2022 | Volume 25, Number 6

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ON THE COVER

Break time! Santa Gertrudis take a break from grazing at Briggs Ranches, Bloomington, Texas. Photo by Cate Doubet.

Providing Polled Power Genetics to the Santa Gertrudis Breed

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Brandon (919) 761-3894
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Herd No. 16769 • Herd No. 37879

CF

Polled Santa Gertrudis Association

Todd Osborne, Secretary & Treasurer
(859) 991-2438
peppydoc1@aol.com

Congratulations Cacie!



Flying C Ranch congratulates Cacie Lennon on her recent success with FC 24/1. FC 24/1 was the Yearling Female Champion at the 2022 Premier Santa Gertrudis Warm Up Show.

Thank you Lennon Cattle Company for your purchases of FC 24/1 and FC Lady Di 14/1 at the Purple Reign Sale.

*Thanks to our Crimson
Classic Sale Buyers*

Stroman Cattle Co., Bryan, Texas
McFall Farms, Paragould, Ark.

*We appreciate all of our buyers
and wish you great success with
your recent Flying C purchases.*



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Flying C Ranch

Lester & Ouida Cossey
2639 Gum Springs Rd., Searcy, AR 72143
(501) 207-2272
oidac@att.net



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(256) 668-2906



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Jody Standley, owner
(919) 291-4212
Kim Prestwood, manager
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84 Austin Farm Lane, Clayton, NC 27520





Trail Talk

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Webb D. Fields

(361) 592-9357 | wfields@santagertrudis.com

If it is to be, it is up to me. These words have been ringing through my head basically my whole life. While our juniors prepare to make the trip back to Texarkana, Ark., for what is sure to be another fun-filled and great experience, I was reminded of this phrase because it was first brought to me during my own junior national experiences many years ago. Year after year, an old, wise gentleman would get up in front of the crowd at the end-of-year banquet and mutter, "If it is to be, it is up to me."

I heard the phrase every year, so it has stuck in my head ever since. Many times throughout my young life and now adulthood, I have reached back to those early experiences and this phrase. Of late, as we continue to brainstorm a path forward for Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI), this phrase has been running through my head once more.

If it is to be, I truly believe it is up to our collective membership to blaze the path forward. The SGBI Board of Directors set up committees for this year. There is a lot of enthusiasm around the vice presidents in these committees, with many goals set for this year among each committee. As I mentioned, the Youth Activities Committee is preparing for another great junior nationals. We look for this event to be a positive experience for our youth. This is a way for juniors to showcase their genetics and hard work, and to gain educational experiences that last a lifetime. Simultaneously, the networking opportunities to have fun and make friends with other likeminded individuals is second to none. Throughout the year, this committee will continue to support our youth program and work to be visible among our membership.

One area I am very excited about is marketing and promotion. Some lofty goals have been set to ensure our breed and association is as progressive as possible. A plan to completely dismantle our current advertising strategy is in play, which will allow us to take a hard look at our membership and commercial penetration, and focus

on those areas that we have a large footprint in, as well as those areas with potential growth for Santa Gertrudis. Our partnership with BluePrint Media has been great, as we will also be leaning on them to help us stay current with this publication and provide the type of material and look that members have been requesting via the recent survey.

At the same time, the Shows and Exhibits Committee is set for another great year of showcasing this breed up and down the road in a manner that is both beneficial to those members who are participating and the membership as a whole. Last, we look to have a strong focus on international marketing this year, promoting our genetics across the globe.

While our Membership Committee will be keeping members informed and working on membership outreach opportunities, this year is also time to update our long-range plan. Over the last year, we have juggled and debated many key factors that will affect our association for many years to come. I look forward to the Long-Range Planning Committee being active in developing a plan for the next five years. This will help us critically think about what we want the next five years to look like for our association. Long-range planning will be an important step in guiding some of the decisions the board currently faces.

While all this is taking place, the Breed Improvement Committee will remain focused on driving the Santa Gertrudis breed in the right direction as it pertains to both our registry system and genetic evaluation. We are discussing some exciting new traits as well as new opportunities in both our data collection and output. In addition, we have a strong focus in supporting current research and seeking new partnerships in this realm.

If it is to be, it is up to us. Now is the time to set the future, and I look forward to making it great for this association. 🍀

SANTA GERTRUDIS SALE

Reports

CRIMSON CLASSIC SALE APRIL 23, 2022 | CULLMAN, ALA.

SALE AVERAGES

56	Purebred Lots	\$3,350	Open Heifers	\$2,250
56	Crossbred Females	\$1,750	Pairs	\$5,750
	Bred Females	\$3,620	Bulls	\$4,210

The Crimson Classic Sale was sponsored by the Alabama Connection Group. The auctioneer was Chad Johnson and the sale manager was Darren Richmond.

The high-selling female was consigned by Tinney Farms, Hanceville, Ala., and was sold to Old Iron Farms, Monroe, N.C., for \$13,000.

The high-selling pair was consigned by Grandview Farms, Hamilton, Ala., and was sold to Thomas Burnett, Troup, Texas, and Robert Walker, Greensboro, Ala., for \$8,750.

The high-selling open heifer was consigned by Rolling Oaks Ranch, Doniphan, Mo., and was sold to T&S Farm, Leesville, S.C., for \$5,300.



Volume Buyer Steve McFall, McFall Farms, along with Brent Shaw, Grandview Farms.

The high-selling bull was consigned by Grandview Farms and was sold to Red Dawn Farms, Gallant, Ala., for \$5,600.

The high-selling crossbreds were consigned by 4S Farm, Geraldine, Ala., and were sold to Al Jackson, Great Falls, S.C., for \$2,500.

Thank you to our volume buyer Steve McFall, McFall Farms, Paragould, Ark.

Also, thank you to Blake Walker, High Country Farm, Jacksonville, Ark., for donating to the Santa Gertrudis Breeders International show/exhibits awards fund with your purchase of the branded cow hide donated by 777 Farms and Rockin 3T Ranch. 🍀

SANTA GERTRUDIS DISTRICT VI BREEDERS



SEMEN AVAILABLE!

*\$40 per straw with
10-straw minimum.*



OLD SCHOOL 518/14

HEAD OF THE CLASS

C Bar C would like to extend good luck wishes to all participants in the 2022 NJSGS later this month in Arkansas.

*Invest in some Old School semen today –
it will bring your herd to the head of the class!*



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Bud & Kelly Clark
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peppydoc1@aol.com



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parkerfarms@scrtc.com

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(270) 670-6285 • (270) 670-6776



Shampain Ranch

Santa Gertrudis Cattle
Del & Ginny Thomas
Pleasant Hill, IL 62366
(217) 734-2283
ginny2@irtc.net

Herd #4434

RED VIEW FARMS

5480 Jordan Village Rd.
Poland, IN 47868
(812) 829-8053
craiglopossa@yahoo.com



WindCrest Farm John & Nolan Taylor

REGISTERED SANTA GERTRUDIS CATTLE

Gertguys@NCTC.com
1238 Claggett Rd. (270) 589-9046
Leitchfield, Ky. 42754 Herd No. 10772

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Gene Kubecka

(979) 240-5311 | wendtranches@hotmail.com



I write this letter following our recent Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) Board of Directors meeting, hosted via Zoom, at which time the vice presidents presented their committees and sub-committees for board approval. As these committees were presented, several observations really caught my attention. One, the committee members on each of the committees represent a great cross section of our membership from east to west and north to south. Two, the makeup of these committees is comprised of individuals who want to make a difference in our breed and grow our breed. And three, each vice president committed to challenging each committee to be active and bring meaningful information back to the board and to the membership. I must applaud the work put forth and the strengths of these committees.

As we approach the summer months there are many activities to take part in, including the National Junior Santa Gertrudis Show, where total class entries are equal to last year's record numbers, as well as several affiliate and sanctioned sales that allow breeders to add some outstanding genetics to their herds. Also, don't forget the Beef Improvement Federation's Annual Research Symposium and Convention in Las Cruces, N.M., June 1-4. Check out these events for dates and times online through SGBI's website and the calendar of events on page 10.

Speaking of our national junior show, if you have not ever had the opportunity to attend, you need to put this annual event on your bucket list. The National Junior Santa Gertrudis Show is a week of excitement, fun and a lot of hard work, new acquaintances made and some of the best cattle you will see at any one event. A side note – it also has some of the best food and fellowship you'll find anywhere! This year's show is being held in Texarkana, Ark., June 19-24.

As I encouraged you to do in last month's letter, become active in your local cattle organizations, and encourage your local commercial cattlemen and women to invest in some of your Santa Gertrudis genetics. A good policy to implement after selling your genetics locally is to find time in a year or so to do a follow-up visit to see how the animals are doing and how you can be of help to your customers. A successful cattle operation thrives on repeat buyers!

Let's do great things together. 🤝

Purple Reign

SANTA GERTRUDIS SALE

Thank you to
Kinsley Kubecka
for her purchase of STAR 5 heifer,
Miss Gal Celebration 121!

**We wish her the best of
luck at Junior Nationals!**

Look for us at
Purple Reign in 2023!

TJ, Lauren and Gracelyn Lee
Fayetteville, Ark • (479) 841-0658



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Strait Ranches

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Stegall Farms

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Arlin Taylor (Ala.)

Tinney Farms

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Jamie Daniel (La.)

777 Farms

(870) 904-3070 | triple7farms@gmail.com

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(979) 224-6150 | richardh@amscattle.com

District 2 – OPEN

District 3 – Amber Robertson (La.)

Running R Cattle

(337) 377-9720 | runningrcattle@yahoo.com

(205) 533-5049 | ricky@xcelmasonry.com

District 4 – OPEN

District 5 – Mickey Bowman (N.C.)

Rockin B Farm

(336) 669-5771 | rockinbrowdyrooster@yahoo.com

District 6 – Nolan Taylor (Ky.)

Windcrest Farm

(270) 589-9046 | nolantaylor18@gmail.com

Introducing This Elite Female Into Our Donor Program!



Rockin 3T 110
#20206861

This unique female is sired by two-time SGBI Sire of the Year Rockin 3T Syrus. Her dam combines elite genetics, including Cinderella, 777 Vegas and SJ High Roller.

The future is bright for this female and her matings with RDF Never Sank 5012, as well as our other herd sires.

***Owned with Star C Cattle Co.
(Tyler and Megan Coats)***

Thank You to Our Recent Buyers!

Breeders of the Carolinas Sale

Frank Sossamon, Gaffney, S.C.
Mr. & Mrs. E.B. Harris, Warrenton, N.C.
Ann McNerney, Chester, S.C.
777 Farms, Magnolia, Ark.
Caleb Bram, Louise, Texas
Salter Farms, Milton, Fla.



Tried & True Commercial Female Sale

Thank you Wendt Ranches, Bay City, Texas,
(Gene Kubecka) for purchasing our group of
Hereford heifers bred to RDF Never Sank.



Jody Standley, Owner
(919) 291-4212

84 Austin Farm Lane
Clayton, NC 27520

Kim Y. Prestwood, Manager
(828) 320-7317



SANTA GERTRUDIS *Calendar*

JUNE

- 1-4** 2022 BIF Research Symposium & Convention, Las Cruces, N.M.
10 ACE 6-Year-Old Mature Cow Dispersal, Blountsville, Ala.
11 ACE Premier Invitational Heifer Sale, Blountsville, Ala.
19-25 2022 National Junior Santa Gertrudis Show, Texarkana, Ark.
24 Pitchford Cattle Opportunity Knocks Online Sale

JULY

- 11** Rise of Champions Sale, smartauctions.co
15-16 Kentucky National Show & Sale, Bowling Green, Ky.

AUGUST

- 30** 3rd Annual Wendt Ranches Partners Online Baby Doll Sale, sconlinesales.com

SEPTEMBER

- 10** Southern Harvest Sale, Deville, La.
16-17 District 6 Haltered Heifer Show & Sale, Corydon, Ind.

OCTOBER

- 1** Alabama Connection Sale, Hanceville, Ala.
14-15 Strait-Hefte Tried & True Production Sale, Streetman, Texas
21 Briggs Ranches Bull & Commercial Female Sale, Victoria, Texas
22 Tri-Star Santa Gertrudis Sale, Bloomington, Texas

NOVEMBER

- 11-12** Quail Valley Farms Bull & Female Sale, Oneota, Ala.

REGISTRATIONS, STAR 5 RECORDINGS AND TRANSFERS BY DISTRICT

APRIL 2022

ACTIVE MEMBERS

District	Purebred Reg.	STAR 5 Reg.	Performance Only	Purebred & STAR 5 Trans.
1	45	8	0	23
2	371	63	0	201
3	13	5	0	41
4	125	18	0	40
5	11	1	0	10
6	16	8	0	10

JUNIOR MEMBERS

District	Purebred Reg.	STAR 5 Reg.	Performance Only	Purebred & STAR 5 Trans.
1	60	7	0	51
2	9	2	0	7
3	12	4	0	7
4	0	0	0	0
5	1	0	0	0

FOR SGBI REGISTRATIONS CONTACT: Diana Ruiz
P. O. Box 1257, Kingsville, Texas 78364 | diana@santagertrudis.com
Phone: (361) 592-9357 • Fax: (361) 592-8572

SANTA GERTRUDIS *Juniors*

By Javid Sanchez, District 5 Director

Greetings from the Land of Enchantment. I am Javid Sanchez, from Bosque, N.M. New Mexico has seen little moisture in the last eight months. We have had two snowstorms and I cannot even remember the last rainstorm. I would like to talk about how Santa Gertrudis cattle have been beneficial to us during this drought.

In the past months we have had mild herd reduction due to the harsh climate. I have watched neighbors full feed their Angus cattle, while Gerts are really showing us the difference. Our ranches have little to no feed and the Santa Gertrudis breed is still raising feed-efficient, heat-tolerant and genetically tough calves. The drought that the western United States is enduring is causing many ranchers to sell out or even full-feed their herds. This drought has taken a toll on many, and the Santa Gertrudis breed is the only breed I've come to know that has been able to withstand the heat and limited feed resources while still producing great calves for our herds.



SANTA GERTRUDIS WELCOMES

New Members

Active Members

2-10 Farm, Avery, Texas
 Janak Cattle, Rockport, Texas
 Relleh Ranch, Houston, Texas
 Robert Honza, Ennis, Texas
 Tylor Braden, Kingsville, Texas
 Clark Ranch, Picayune, Miss.
 Garner Farms, Moulton, Ala.
 Blacktip Cattle, LLC, Celebration, Fla.

Commercial Members

Aren McNutt, Hartselle, Ala.
 Cash A. Johnson, Climax, N.C.

Junior Members

Abigail Mitchell, Avery, Texas
 Angela Moyer, Longview, Texas
 Austin Klockgether, Bonham, Texas
 Bailey Browne, Sachse, Texas

Brecken Massey, Alvarado, Texas
 Callie Hacke, Katy, Texas
 Cheyanne Skinner, Alvin, Texas
 Cole Powers, Nacogdoches, Texas
 Hudson Novosad, Caldwell, Texas
 Kendra Minchew, League City, Texas
 Linda V. Olivares, Aubrey, Texas
 Mackenzie Grimes, Purdon, Texas
 Baxter Waller, Emerson, Ark.
 Braxton Whiddon, Stephens, Ark.
 Brody Whiddon, Stephens, Ark.
 Olyvia Belle Davis, Ashdown, Ark.
 Riley Fox, Honey Grove, Texas
 Claire Randle, Pontotoc, Miss.
 Elizabeth Nichols, Belden, Miss.
 Jady Hession, Denham Springs, La.
 Wyatt Robertson, Bell City, La.

I wish you all a great summer and may God send us rain. Can't wait to see y'all in Texarkana this year for junior nationals. 🍀

SANTA GERTRUDIS SMALL BREEDERS GROUP

Brad & Sarah Carlile Madisyn Douglas
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*Scott & Tracy
Van Zile*



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Santa Gertrudis
STAR 5

Ridge Point Ranch

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(601) 573-0204 • dixieclay@att.net
Herd No. 1541

Rockin B Farm

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Staley, N.C.
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Herd No. 13517

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VZ Cattle

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(903) 908-2910 or
(903) 908-2239
vzcattle@gmail.com

VZ Cattle
Santa Gertrudis

THE ART OF ADAPTABILITY

Cattle Producers and Their Herds Are Forced to Adapt to Extreme Drought Conditions

By Grace Vehige, Contributing Writer

In the cattle business, adaptability is an important characteristic for both you and your herd. As a producer, you have to be able to adapt to changing economic and environmental conditions, and cattle have to be able to do the same.

Across the United States, cattle producers are undergoing extreme financial and ecological struggles, and the cherry on top is no surprise – drought. Much of the western United States is under severe, if not extreme, drought conditions. It has been that way for quite some time. Despite these harsh environments, Santa Gertrudis producers have been able continue business – but not without a few management adjustments.

A Unique Drought Season

According to Rafael Miranda, ranch and land manager at Cherokee Ranch in Sedalia, Colo., their ranch has fallen victim to severe drought conditions for the last 10 years. This year, however, the drought has settled earlier than usual, leaving the ranchers in the area to adjust to the unique conditions.

“For the last three years, it’s been worse than ever before,” Miranda explains. “Five years ago, eight years ago, the average rain or moisture we had was 17 inches. For the last three years, we’ve been averaging 11 inches.”

Similarly in New Mexico, Red Doc Farm is undergoing unusual drought conditions across their 50,000-acre ranch in the Rio Grande Valley. There was a monsoon last year that the Sanchez family thought could help

carry them through the drought season. However, with the little precipitation from the monsoon, as well as the minimal winter precipitation, this spring has been exceptionally dry.

“This year’s drought conditions are a little unique,” says Adolfo Sanchez, M.D., Red Doc Farm, Belen, N.M.

The cyclical nature of drought is one of Rec Doc Farm’s greatest concerns. The aftermath of a drought carries over into the winter months, making it even more difficult for cattle to travel long distances in the cold weather for grazing and water.

“Last year, we had a decent monsoon, not an exceptional monsoon, however. Going into the winter, we have very little precipitation, which leads to very little sub-soil moisture, which leads to very little green up in the spring. This is important when you’re trying to get these cows cycling and things like that,” Sanchez says. “It puts us in a difficult situation because it sets us back. It requires you to have to bring in additional supplementation.”

The Challenges of Drought

For operations like Cherokee Ranch and Red Doc Farm, drought is not a new area of concern. It has been a long-time issue that is continually addressed. Sometimes, however, the best way to address the drought requires a bit of sacrifice.

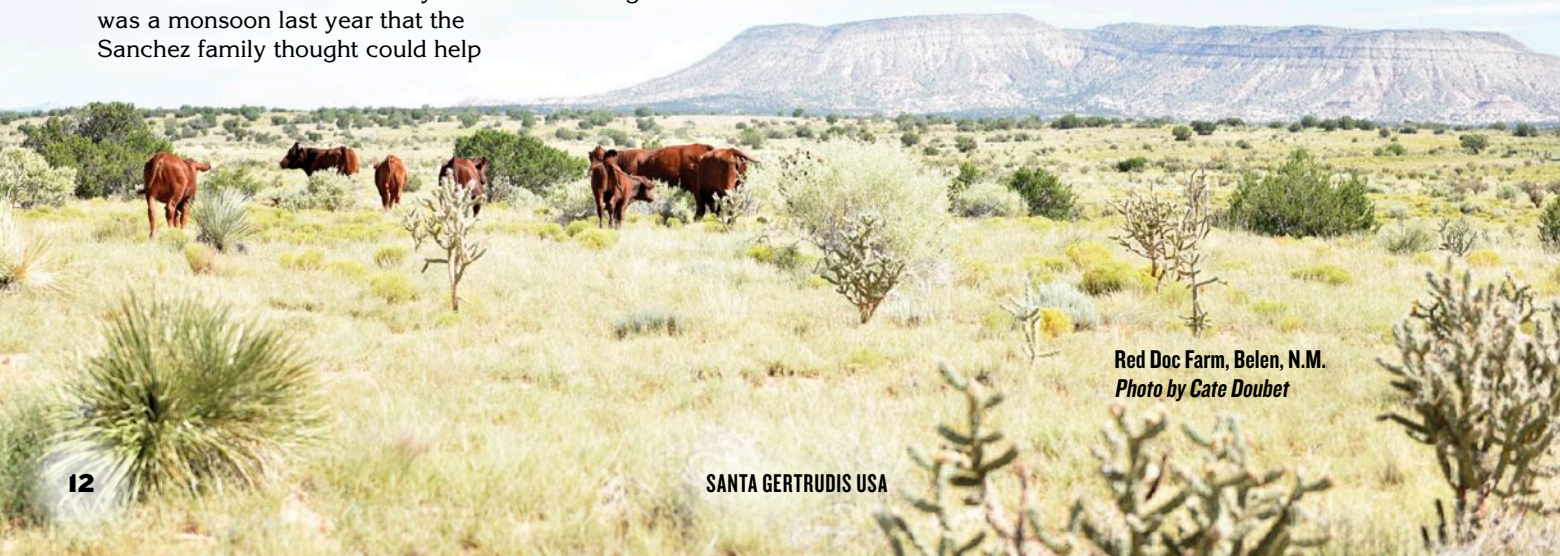
Two years ago, Cherokee Ranch chose to downsize their herd to relieve some of the stressors caused by drought conditions.

“We did cut down, mainly because [the drought] stressed the cattle too much,” Miranda says. “In fact, for the last two years, I haven’t cut down anymore, just because we were prepared for [this drought].”

While Cherokee Ranch is in a better place to handle this year’s drought, two years ago, they were still left with no option but to downsize the herd. According to Miranda, the ongoing drought issues, not to mention the increase in drought severity, has not allowed the operation to expand back to usual herd numbers – ultimately limiting profitability.

The current drought conditions have not only cut into profit margins, but input costs have increased as well. The cost of fuel, labor and commodities have all increased, and with cattle producers using these resources to adjust to drought conditions and continue proper herd management, the economic impact is of growing concern.

“The biggest challenge in this particular year is the rapid increase in fuel costs that will impact the cost of supplementation and even transportation. And we definitely see that cutting into our margins in this next short period of time,” Sanchez explains. “We typically anticipate some fluctuations, but it is difficult when you’re trying to maintain your animal units and you’re having to make those additional checks and keeping up with water systems, among other things.”



Red Doc Farm, Belen, N.M.
Photo by Cate Doubet

Santa Gertrudis – Doing More With Less

Despite current drought conditions, Red Doc Farm and Cherokee Ranch echoed each other on one positive point – the performance of their Santa Gertrudis cattle. As Sanchez says, Santa Gertrudis “can do more with less.”

In areas where British and Continental breeds may struggle performing in harsh weather conditions, Santa Gertrudis are able to maintain productivity.

“Santa Gertrudis get a point above other breeds because, despite how early the drought is coming, with the cattle we have, they still breed back because they can adapt to the heat and the drought pretty quickly,” Miranda explains. “And so with the drought, [breeding back] is typically a concern. That’s one of the reasons why the ‘Gerts’ get a point, like I said, above the other breeds. They seem to do a little better when the drought comes vs. other breeds as far as breeding back.”

Undoubtedly, the ability for Santa Gertrudis to adapt to the extreme weather conditions is unparalleled to other breeds. The breed’s heat tolerance alone is enough for any registered breeder or commercial producer to find value in implementing Santa Gertrudis genetics into their herds.

“Genetics continue to be paramount when it comes to surviving in this country,” Sanchez states. “Our greatest management tool is really genetic selection. It’s what we put the highest priority on. There’s not a mineral supplement or pharmaceutical product that has contributed as much as through selecting cattle and genetic lines.”

As ranchers, there is a common goal shared: raise a high-quality animal that produces a high-quality product. Drought may be a bump in the road, but Santa Gertrudis genetics are a great way to reduce the damage.

Like many cattle producers across the country, both Red Doc Farm and Cherokee Ranch remain committed to producing high-performing animals despite strenuous environments. If anything, their operational success is a testament to the performance ability of Santa Gertrudis cattle in all environments – but namely in extreme weather.

“The environment is our greatest selection tool at the end of the day,” Sanchez says. “It is our greatest challenge, but it is our greatest selection tool in being able to produce genetics that have marketplace value and will bring additional profits to our commercial and registered clients.” 🐄



Cherokee Ranch, Sedalia, Colo. Photo by Megan Sajbel Field

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SANTA GERTRUDIS *Production* PROLAPSE – NOT FUN FOR ANYONE!

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



Is it genetics or the internal “cow environment” that leads to eversion of the vagina, cervix and sometimes the entire uterus? Honestly, it can be both. Once a cow has prolapsed, there is a high probability she will repeat the problem, repeatedly. She has inherited a structural weakness of the reproductive tract that allows part of the vagina to prolapse during late pregnancy. If a bull’s dam or other female relatives have had a prolapse problem,

he could sire daughters that prolapse or the daughters could pass that tendency on to their daughters.

Vaginal prolapses are more common and will continue to occur in late pregnancy unless corrected with a minor surgical repair (wash off with warm water, treat with mild disinfectant, three cross-stitches to close up the vulva with umbilical tape). Vaginal prolapses are mostly due to the pressure and weight of the calf and uterus in late pregnancy, and are often observed while cows are passing manure or lying down.

Uterine prolapses occur predominately after calving and are usually associated with dystocia. However, every dystocia and/or calf-pulling session does not necessarily result in a uterine prolapse. The specific tissues expelled with a uterine prolapse will include the vagina, cervix and uterus. The uterine prolapse is a deeper red-colored tissue, much larger in size and will be covered with large masses called caruncles (sites of placental attachment) that are 1.5 to 2 inches in diameter. This condition is much worse than a vaginal prolapse and, if not addressed properly and timely, it can result in euthanasia of the cow.

According to the *Merck Veterinary Manual*, predisposing factors for a vaginal prolapse include intra-abdominal pressure due to a pregnant uterus, excess intra-abdominal fat and rumen distension plus a softening of the pelvic girdle and other soft tissues within the pelvic canal. Tissue softening is a natural process that precedes parturition to make the birthing process easier and is caused by increased estrogen and another hormone called relaxin. This tissue softening is all part of the natural birthing process. However, a vaginal prolapse can occur in nonpregnant heifers, especially if they are fat or have grazed estrogenic plants (e.g. subterranean clover) or have received an estrogen-containing, growth-promoting ear implant.

A vaginal prolapse can also appear in cows that have been repeatedly used for superovulation and embryo transfer. The culprit in this case is repeated exposure to higher-than-normal estrogen levels from the large ovarian follicles we have stimulated her to produce. Specific breeds of cattle and

sheep appear to have a predisposition for vaginal prolapse. Even swine can experience a vaginal prolapse, often associated with consuming estrogenic mycotoxins present in feed.

Dealing with a vaginal or uterine prolapse on your own is not recommended. For first timers, I suggest getting your veterinarian out to the ranch, the sooner the better. For a successful treatment, the length of time of exposure outside the body cavity needs to be minimized. After correction, the vulva will not open, thus preventing subsequent prolapses, but she can still urinate easily. The umbilical tape sutures of a veterinarian-corrected vaginal prolapse will be anchored to the thick hide on both sides of the vulva. These sutures will need to be removed or at least cut prior to calving (when she is in early labor) to avoid another wreck. Prolapse cows should be culled, and it is not recommended that heifers from these cows be kept as replacements.

I hope everyone gets some rain; it sure is dry in most places. ☔

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THE TRUTH ABOUT Regenerative Ranching

Sometimes the best way to explain a concept is to say what it is not. Experts from Noble Research Institute and Texas A&M University address four common myths around regenerative ranching to help explain the truth of what it is.

You may be hearing things about regenerative ranching. That it's the same as organic farming. That you would have to build all-new fences and move your cows every day. That soil health is more important than livestock productivity.

It's natural that new and unfamiliar concepts can lead to misconceptions and myths such as those listed above. To help correct these misnomers, two experts give us the straight talk on regenerative ranching.

Caitlin Hebbert, livestock consultant with Noble Research Institute, and Jeff Goodwin, program director for Texas A&M University's Natural Resources Institute, agree that a primary barrier to beginning the regenerative ranching journey can include unknown answers to fundamental questions.

Let's start with one simple truth: Regenerative ranching is the process of restoring degraded soils using practices based on ecological principles. "In short, it's important to understand that regenerative ranching is not a program, a certification, an endpoint or a set of rules," Goodwin says. "That's where some of the myths originate."

The No. 1 thing regenerative ranching is, he says, is a mindset — a way of looking at things, even when looking at something seemingly as simple as cows grazing in a field.

"Yes, we see cows on grass, but we're also looking at multiple, dynamic ecosystem processes, all competing for balance," he says. "And we want these processes — the water, energy and nutrient cycles as well as community dynamics — to be healthy and in balance on our land."

The regenerative ranching mindset looks holistically at the intersection of soil, plants, water, animals and the producer. "So many good things can happen when we work in concert with nature and help cattle be in sync with their environment," Hebbert says.

Here are the four most common myths about regenerative ranching. Hebbert and Goodwin address each in the hopes of helping producers start their own regenerative journey.

MYTH: Regenerative ranching is the same as "organic," "never-ever" or "all-natural" programs.

TRUTH: The aforementioned livestock production methods are based on prescriptive standards that lead to certification of the meat that's produced and marketed to consumers:

- **Organic:** The animal's diet is certified organic and no antibiotics or growth hormones can be used.

- **Never-ever:** A varying list of things "never ever" done — from administering antibiotics, adding hormones or artificial ingredients, to feeding anything but a grass-fed and vegetarian diet.

- **All-natural:** Doesn't refer to farm or ranch practices, but to not adding anything to the meat during processing.

This is not the case with regenerative ranching. "Regenerative ranching is not a certification or a program. It's an adaptive framework of principles to help producers build and repair broken ecosystems," Goodwin says. "There is no checklist. There is no recipe. It's adaptive management to local conditions."

From an ecological perspective, adaptive management may mean a gradual transition away from an annual dependence on synthetic fertilizer rather than going cold turkey, he says. Using the soil health principles will create a healthy ecosystem of plants and soil organisms that can produce their own fertility, but it takes time.

Likewise, even regenerative ranchers with a goal of not using chemical brush control may find it necessary when they buy a property covered in mesquite. "Soil health is not going to magically get rid of the mesquite problem," Goodwin says. "Context matters."

In other words, there's room in regenerative ranching to use these tools, judiciously and with intention, to mend broken ecosystem processes based on a producer's specific context. Their use in transition can help reach the goal of not being forever dependent on them to reach some level of productivity.

The same applies to being good stewards of our animals as well as our land. Regenerative ranching neither prescribes nor prohibits the use of any tool producers believe is necessary for their operation. "For example, one ranch's animal health protocol may include vaccination programs and antibiotics to treat illness or injury, while still ranching regeneratively," Hebbert says. "Another producer may choose to be both regenerative and organic and not use these tools."

MYTH: Regenerative ranching requires cattle to be moved every day or multiple times a day.

TRUTH: It's not required, although some ranchers chose to do so.

Regenerative grazing, especially adaptive multi-paddock (AMP) grazing, attempts to mimic nature and the way livestock would naturally interact with ecological systems, "the way the relationship was designed to be," Hebbert says. "Think of bison on the Great Plains. They would roam, mob an area, then move on and not come back to that area for another five years, until the native prairie grasses recovered."

Today, the primary objective of how grazing is managed in regenerative ranching is to do what the bison did — allow grass to fully recover before grazing it again. That means planning livestock movements to achieve the ecological outcomes you want on your ranch, not following a rigid grazing prescription.

Goodwin outlines the four tools ranchers need to balance and manage when it comes to grazing events aimed at pasture recovery: timing, intensity, frequency and duration. “Managing with those four key tools gives the rancher more control over the time that allows that plant or that pasture to recover,” he says.

This principle is in contrast to setting a rigid, prescriptive stocking rate and a calendar of scheduled moves that are made without regard to the pasture condition or how the cattle are behaving or performing.

“Once you are in a regenerative system, the cattle will tell you when they’re content and when they’re no longer content, if you just pay attention,” Hebbert explains. She also understands why producers starting with regenerative ranching may worry about their cattle’s ability and willingness to move so often. There is a learning curve for both humans and livestock.

“We’ve managed a lot of the foraging ability out of domestic cattle with monoculture pastures,” she says, “so regenerative ranching includes ‘biomimicry’ – imitating what cattle are naturally designed to do – and managing to help them do it.”

Experienced regenerative practitioners report their cattle soon become used to seeing them among the herd and gladly move to fresh forage. They become more docile, which makes it easier and saves labor when it’s time to work them, Hebbert says. “The cattle also regain their natural foraging skills and better utilize pastures by grazing more than just the grass.”

MYTH: Regenerative ranching causes you to sacrifice livestock performance for the land.

TRUTH: This myth comes partly from equating the practice of high-intensity or “mob” grazing with regenerative ranching. Producers may believe their cattle will lose condition if they have to move them daily, or multiple times a day, pushing them to be selective as they graze and shorting them on forage.

It’s possible that livestock performance could suffer if high-intensity grazing is used as a rotational grazing “practice” without looking holistically at the whole picture and focusing on the ecological principles, Hebbert explains. “The point of regenerative is to reach a place where you don’t have to supplement as much because you’ve put your animals in sync with their environment.”

Part of connecting cattle with nature is expanding their grazing palate beyond foods that are safe and familiar, just like with humans. Hebbert recalls a herd that had been acquired and put on one of Noble ranches. The herd had come off a wheat pasture and had been fed a mixed ration every day.

“We turned them out to graze in a multi-culture pasture, and they didn’t know how! They were seeing stuff they hadn’t seen before,” she says.

After grazing under denser conditions and a little bit of pressure, she says, the cows learned to forage and eat more of the present plant species. Helping herds regain that natural skill through biomimicry increases pasture utilization, extends the grazing season and can improve livestock health with a more diverse grazing diet.

Goodwin revisits the point that by managing the timing, the frequency and the duration of regenerative grazing, producers should be able to limit issues with performance



while caring for the soil, if there’s adequate forage.

“But come February,” he acknowledges, “if forage quality isn’t adequate to meet nutrient requirements for that cow, there is going to be a need to supplement, and that’s OK.”

Contrary to another part of the performance myth, supplementation to meet the needs of the cow in a regenerative system is not off the table, Goodwin adds. The goal is to be supplementing for forage quality to keep cows in condition, rather than paying to substitute for lack of forage quantity.

MYTH: Regenerative ranching requires too much costly infrastructure.

TRUTH: Does regenerative ranching require you to put in 17 miles of permanent fencing, 18 concrete water troughs and clear all the brush on the ranch before you can start? Not at all.

“You can start right where you are,” Hebbert says. “This is all about adaptability, and there’s nothing adaptive about saying ‘you’re not regenerative until everything is split up within a certain number of acres.’”

Goodwin echoes that advice: “Start with the infrastructure and conditions you have.”

Both consultants recommend temporary fencing to make smaller paddocks that can use the same water source. Or use a movable water trough that quick-connects along a pasture pipeline. If brush density is an issue, make a brush control plan, and start on it as you can. “Infrastructure challenges need not preclude you from beginning the journey of being regenerative,” Goodwin says.

People hear “regenerative” and worry about spending too much money on water and fences, Hebbert explains, “but consider where your investment is now. Sit down and pencil out how much money you spend feeding your cattle all winter; the labor and fuel to haul hay; money lost by not utilizing your pastures to the best of those animals’ abilities.”

It’s a matter of changing the investment from production to adaptability. “You could adapt that herd where you don’t have to do that winter feeding anymore,” she adds.

Principles, not Practices

It’s understandable to have myths, or preconceptions, about what may be a new way of looking at ranching and grazing management. For many producers, it’s not uncommon to use practices just because “we’ve always done it that way” or because they’ve come to depend on them to reach some level of productivity. Most may not instinctively look to principles as a guide.

But rather than reaching for practices or prescriptions to repeatedly fight a broken ecological system, regenerative principles are a method to mend the ecosystem processes on the land. Regenerative ranching is about letting each piece of the system (soil, plant, water, animal and the producer) work synergistically. “The land was made for the cattle, and the cattle were made for the land,” Hebbert says. “And we are stewards of the land and the animals.”

The biggest thing, the first thing, is getting the mindset right, Goodwin believes. Stepping back and looking at the community of your ranch from a holistic perspective, not as individual pieces. “Once you see the picture differently, your mindset begins to change. And you’re ready to start regenerative ranching, right where you are.”

Editor’s Note: This story originally appeared in *Legacy*, a regenerative ranching publication from Noble Research Institute. 🌱

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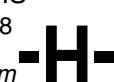
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2022 National Junior Santa Gertrudis Show

June 19-25, 2022
Four States Fairgrounds
Texarkana, Ark.

The following schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Schedule of Events

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

- 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Grounds open for arrival
(all cattle must be on fairgrounds by 3 p.m.)
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Show Office open, *Fairgrounds*
- 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Princess/Queen/Director candidates may begin campaigning
- 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Check In, *Arena Area*
- 12 p.m.-5 p.m. Better Beef Contest, *Equine Center*
- 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Photo and Ad Contest Turn In, *Show Office*
- 7:30 p.m. Survivor – Exhibitor Style: Outwit, Outlast, Outplay, *Show Arena*

MONDAY, JUNE 20

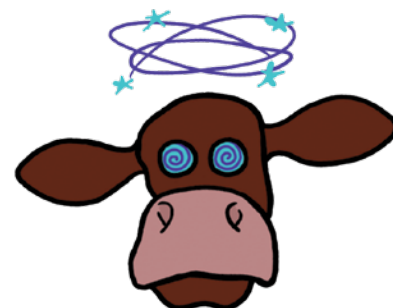
- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Show Office open, *Fairgrounds*
- 8 a.m. Public Speaking Contest, *Hilton Garden Inn*
- 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Queen and Princess Luncheon, *Hilton Garden Inn*
- 12 p.m.-2 p.m. Voting, *Arena Area*
- 2 p.m. Livestock Judging and Cattleman's Contest, *Arena*
- 5:30 p.m. Welcome Dinner (director, queen and princess candidates' speeches), *Fairgrounds*
- 7 p.m.-8 p.m. Voting at Dance, *Arena Area*
- 7 p.m.-10 p.m. Junior Dance and Social, *Fairgrounds*
- 9 a.m. NJSGA Board of Directors Meeting
- 10 a.m. Director Clinic
(anyone running for director must attend)

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Show Office open, *Fairgrounds*
- 8 a.m. Sales Talk Contest, *Show Arena*
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Cattle stalled in barns, Herdsman Contest
- 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Voting, *Arena Area*
- 1:30 p.m. Brain Bowl Competition, *Ag Learning Center*
- 6:30 p.m. Director Interviews and Scholarship Interviews, *Hilton Garden Inn*

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2022 NJSGS



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

- 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Show Office open, *Fairgrounds*
- 8:30 a.m. Showmanship Contest, *Show Arena*: Pee-Wee (5-7 years old), Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Old Timers
- 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Cattle stalled in barns, Herdsman Contest
- 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Final Voting
- 12 p.m. Norval and Anna Sells Hard Luck Stories need to be turned into the show office
- 4 p.m. NJSGA Membership Meeting and Social, *Show Arena*. (Junior Board Meeting for current and new directors will follow the social.)

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

- 8:30 a.m. National Junior Santa Gertrudis Show:
Donated Heifer Class, STAR 5 Heifer Classes,
Bred and Owned Female Classes, Best of Polled
Female Classes
- 6 p.m. NJSGS Awards Ceremony, *Hilton Garden Inn*

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

- 8:30 a.m. National Junior Santa Gertrudis Show:
Purebred Bull Show, Purebred Heifer Show
- Following Show 30 minutes after the selection of champion female:
Scholarship Recipient Meeting, Donated Heifer
Winner's Meeting. Cattle released after showing

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

- Departure Cattle must be off show grounds by 12 p.m.

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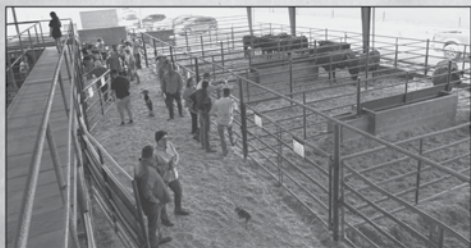
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Committees Are the Foundation of SGBI's Success

The purpose of each Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) committee and subcommittee is to serve as the voice of the membership and provide recommendations to ensure the association's continued success. One of the neat things about our committees is the diversity of members that are represented. Each member has unique experiences they can leverage during committee discussions. What unifies our members is their common interest in Santa Gertrudis cattle, but the different experiences and ideas that members bring to the table is invaluable to keep the association moving forward.

The SGBI Board of Directors recently set up this year's committees. Committee members have already been busy planning and setting goals for what they want their respective committee to accomplish in the next year. 🐄

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Amanda Millican
Matt Preston
Alicia Sanchez
Heather Strait

SGBI members are encouraged to contact committee members with ideas and suggestions.



Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) is hosting a special election to fill two open seats on the association's board of directors. The two open board positions are District 2 at-large director and District 4 at-large director. Ballots will be mailed to SGBI members in early June and must be returned to the association office by July 1. If you have questions or need additional information about this, please contact Diana Ruiz, member services specialist, at (361) 592-9357 or diana@santagertrudis.com. 🐄

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