



SANTA GERTRUDIS

USA

SEPTEMBER 2019 | VOLUME 22, NUMBER 9



**PERFORMANCE
ISSUE**



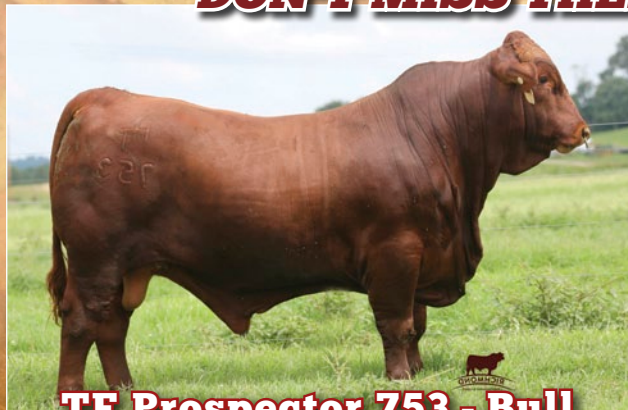
31st Annual

ALABAMA CONNECTION SALE

October 4 & 5, 2019

Hosted by Quail Valley Farms, Blountsville, Ala.

DON'T MISS THESE FEATURED LOTS!



TF Prospector 753 - Bull

Reg #20181333

Son of King Ranch 97/10, this tremendous young herd sire prospect exhibits seven traits in the top 15%, including Marbling, REA and BBK in the breed's Top 3%. Along with his performance, he has the phenotype to compete in the show ring! We are offering full possession and 50% semen interest.



TF 427 - Donor Prospect

Reg #20140371

This female combines Briggs Ranches, Harris Farms and Wendt Genetics. With five traits in the breed's Top 20%, including Marbling, she sells safe-in-calf to 2017 National Champion Masterpiece 101.



12/44 - Pair w/ Heifer Calf

Reg #20125925

This proven-producer combines Harris Farms and Double C Farms' genetics, with a very balanced set of EPDs and six traits in the breed's Top 20%.

Sells with heifer calf, ID 906, born 2/26/19 and sired by Pistolero. Cow sells safe-in-calf to RDF CA Mateo 7238.



88 - Pair w/ Heifer Calf

Reg #20155740

An own daughter of 2014 National Champion Integrity, this female's EPD traits across the board are very impressive. With seven traits, including Marbling, in the breed's Top 15%! Sells with heifer calf, ID 922, born 3/29/19 and sired by Pistolero. Cow sells exposed to Copperhead 5027 27E1 and TF 4102.

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Wendt Ranches Elite Female and Bull Sale

100

Head

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Wendt Ranch - Bay City, Texas

Santa Gertrudis

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CONGRESS
4-19 OCTOBER • GROWING GLOBALLY • USA

Held in conjunction with the 2019
Santa Gertrudis World Congress.

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BULLS -- ALL ARE HERD SIRE PROSPECTS
A.I. BRED HEIFERS -- TO TOP BULLS IN THE BREED
TOP OF THE HERD PICKED 3N1 COWS & CALVES

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 18th

4:00 pm - Field Day

7:00 pm Dinner & Dance

Saturday, October 19th

8:00 am - Cowboy Coffee, Viewing Cattle

11:00 am - Sale Begins

Hotel Accommodations

Block reserved under "Cattle Sale" until September 1st

LaQuinta Inn 979.323.9095 | Studio 6 979.244.2400

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SANTA GERTRUDIS USA

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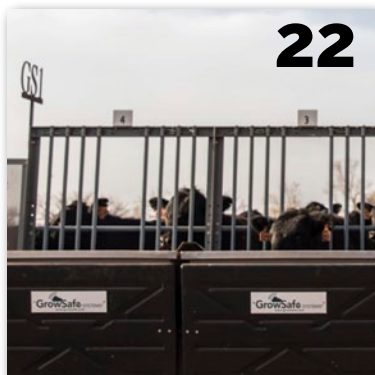
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ON THE COVER

A pair of yearling bulls that have recently come off the Tinney Farms Gain Test, Hanceville, Ala.
 Photo by Darren Richmond.

Providing Polled Power Genetics to the Santa Gertrudis Breed

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GRAY OAKS FARM

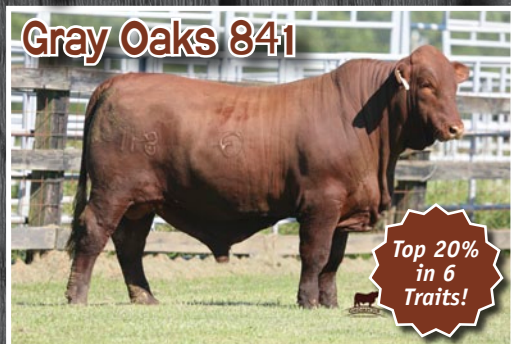
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(256) 335-8821



Gray Oaks Farm Alabama Connection Sale Offering Preview

Join Us! OCTOBER 4-5, 2019 • QUAIL VALLEY FARM • BLOUNTSVILLE, ALA.

Gray Oaks 841



Top 20%
in 6
Traits!

WDA: 3.17
REA: 12.04
REA/CWT: 1.12
IMF: 3.85

Gray Oaks 841 is a Viper 400 son. His dam is a Pay Day 0049 daughter. He was the high-gaining bull on the 2018 Tinney Farms Fall Bull Test with an ADG of 4.76.

CB 418



Top 10%
in 5
Traits!

GROWTH
INDEX: 16.43

CARCASS
RANK: 10

CB 418 is a Zeb 802 daughter. Her dam is a great-granddaughter of Grizzly's Chunk 0525. She sells with bull calf 935, born 4/22/19, sired by Viper 400. She also sells bred to Viper 400. Dam of Gray Oaks 833 (pictured below).

Gray Oaks 741



Top 10%
in 6 Traits!
Including
Top 1%
Marb.

GROWTH
INDEX: 14.56
CARCASS
RANK: 10

Gray Oaks 741 is a Bandit 152 daughter. Her dam is a Yuma 114 daughter. Her paternal brother is GO Uno 806. Number 1 Marbling at 5.11 and Number 1 Ribeye at 15.39 bull in the 2018 Tinney Farms Bull Gain Test. She sells bred to Red Doc Dinero Deal 6002.

Gray Oaks 833



Top 10%
in 8
Traits!

GROWTH
INDEX: 17.02

CARCASS
RANK: 8

Gray Oaks 833 is a Viper 400 daughter. Her dam is CB 418, pictured above. Sells open.

Gray Oaks Farm

DENNIS JONES, OWNER
(941) 735-9391

BILL LUNDBERG, CONSULTANT
(479) 880-6217

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Ramblings from the Open Range

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By John Ford

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

I am confident that most Santa Gertrudis herds are producing the type and kind of cattle that are profitable for all industry members. However, as seedstock producers we must recognize industry targets are always moving, and the challenges of building market share in a competitive seedstock sector continue to intensify. Santa Gertrudis Breeders International's (SGBI) genetic evaluation has made it much easier for members to make profitable breeding decisions, and information generated by the association's growing DNA database has accelerated genetic improvement. But we can't become complacent. It is imperative that SGBI members fine-tune breeding programs, keeping a focus on traits that will ensure our breed remains viable in the beef industry's competitive seedstock sector.

For years, *Bos indicus*-influenced cattle have been perceived as lacking from a carcass quality standpoint. Knowledgeable cattlemen recognize genetic variation exists both between and within breeds for many important beef cattle performance measures, including carcass quality. Carcass traits are moderately to highly heritable and a sire's carcass characteristic will be passed to his offspring. As previously mentioned, the association's genetic evaluation does a great job identifying genetic packages capable of improving carcass traits, but building a cow herd with sound carcass quality genetics requires using all the available tools.

The ability to obtain information on actual feedyard performance plus receive harvest data provides additional insight into a herd's genetic package. Each year, the SGBI Research and Education Committee joins forces with the Performance Committee to offer members a steer feedout program that provides indispensable information about an operation's calf crop and the factors that influence value beyond the weaned calf phase of beef production.

We received harvest data from the 2019 SGBI Feedout earlier this summer,

and the results provide a snapshot of those areas where the breed has made progress as well as areas that need continued attention. Although the 45 steers fed in the 2019 program did not hit the 96 percent Choice Quality Grade mark that last year's animals achieved, there were a number of positive takeaways.

The 2019 steers were extremely efficient feeders, averaging a remarkable 3.73 pounds per day with 33 percent of the animals surpassing 4 pounds per day. Overall, 62 percent of the steers on feed gained 3.5 pounds or more.

With a 14.8 square inch average ribeye area, all the steer calves easily fell into the 11 to 15 square inch range that's considered the optimum range for ribeye area. The 3.3 average Yield Grade was in line with the 2016 National Beef Quality Audit of 3.1, and 46 percent of the animals graded Choice. The remaining 55 percent hit the Select mark with the majority grading High Select, having marbling scores of slight 50 and greater. Once again, association feedout program results prove that Santa Gertrudis cattle are efficient feeders.

Building a solid Santa Gertrudis seedstock operation based on sound, profitable genetics is not a random occurrence. It is the result of making thorough breeding and selection decisions using all the information available. The association's steer feedout is another tool that provides insight into an operation's breeding program's performance.

Calves intended for harvest in 2020 are tentatively scheduled to go on test in mid-November. Participating cattle must be weaned a minimum of 45 days or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

SGBI

Need to Know

The Santa Gertrudis Youth Foundation program review, conducted by Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK), has been completed and the summary is currently being formatted for distribution to Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) leadership and members. The review provides information to help effectively grow and strengthen the association's youth program.

The survey-based assessment found that participants consider the ability to network and develop long-lasting relationships as one of the greatest benefits of National Junior Santa Gertrudis Association (NJSQA) membership. Survey results indicated leadership development is also considered an important element influencing participation in the breed's junior association.

The examination identified two major barriers that limit involvement in the NJSQA: finances and time. All survey respondents expressed concern regarding the expense associated with junior livestock program participation. Families indicated animal, feed, travel and other related costs, combined with association expenses, can be challenging. The abundance of activities available to today's young people was also pinpointed as a major barrier for participation in SGBI's junior program. The wide variety of school, athletic and other programs limits the time young people can spend caring for and preparing a beef project for show.

Irrespective of challenges and barriers, SGBI's junior program remains a valuable retention tool for the association. Retention of youth whose families are actively involved with the breed have the greatest chance of becoming active adult SGBI members. These young people face fewer barriers for long-term involvement and generally have access to land, cattle and finances.

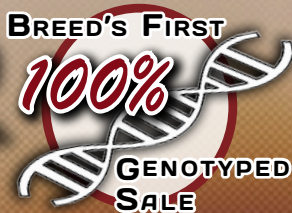
Unfortunately, retention of junior members who join under the guidance of a county Extension/4-H agent is not as great. SGBI involvement usually ends for these NJSQA members when 4-H or FFA participation is no longer an option. However, recognizing the limitations this group faces (land, access to animals, facilities) and structuring programming to better fit this audience may provide the greatest opportunity for future NJSQA growth. 🐾

INTEGRITY, QUALITY & TRADITION

31st Annual Alabama Connection Sale

October 4-5, 2019

Quail Valley Farms • Blountsville, Ala.



Fri., Oct. 4 – 1:00 p.m.

Bull & Crossbred Female Sale

Sat., Oct. 5 – 11:00 a.m.

Registered Female Sale

GRANDVIEW 9115F1



Reg. No. 20182507. A **FC Pistol 28/0** son out of the prolific **9115** donor cow. Big hip, strong top with tremendous base width, bone and muscle pattern. Top 1% in WW, YW, HCW and REA. *Grandview Farms retains 50% semen interest; selling full possession.*

MISS GRANDVIEW 967



Reg. No. 20190661. **OPEN HEIFER**. DOB: 1/2/19. Super correct, well-balanced and she has that show ring eye appeal. This daughter of National Champion **Masterpiece** puts it all together!

MISS GRANDVIEW 793



Reg. No. 20174648. **BRED HEIFER**. This **Red Hot 4010** granddaughter out of a **Sledge** and **KR Ricardo** bred dam. Very attractive with tremendous depth and flank. Sells bred to **915C8**, a probable show prospect on the way this fall!

Special Offerings Include:

PICK OF THE 2019 FALL ET CALF CROP

- 5 Embryo packages from our best matings.
5 embryos per lot
- Miss Grandview 268 with GunSmoke 253E and CA Navidad 8/5
- Miss Grandview 21 x Magnum 357
(full siblings to Masterpiece)
- Miss Grandview 9115 x Pusher 804
(full siblings to Miss Grandview Annie)
- Miss Grandview Little Annie 5100 x CA Navidad 8/5

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Grandview Farms Hamilton, AL

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Cell phone: (205) 468-5319

Email: delmo.payne@gmail.com

Website: grandviewfarm.biz

Brent Shaw, Manager (205) 412-5761

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Jerome Urbanosky

(281) 797-5715 | jerome@ameritechsi.com



Hello, Santa Gertrudis breeders. I am sure you know our current executive director, John Ford, will be retiring in April 2020. The Search Committee for our new executive director includes Yancey Strait, Nancy Wunderlich, John Ford and me. We will dedicate more than 100 hours of hard work, evaluation and discussion to screen the more than 20 quality candidates who have submitted their resumes for consideration.

This will be a very big challenge to take the candidates through the process, and for the committee to evaluate each candidate's merit and agree on a talented individual who can keep our breed association heading in the right direction.

There are so many talents a person must have to handle the business of SGBI, including financial oversight, management of association staff who process DNA submittals, registrations, transfers and correspondence, and all of the other SGBI business. These are some of the varied duties and responsibilities that an executive director must handle.

The fall show season is fast approaching, and it is always exciting to see and appreciate how much progress our breed has made to become so uniform and high quality. There will also be a good variety of upcoming sales. Two of my favorite things are Santa Gertrudis shows and sales. Please make plans to attend some and enjoy.

The Texas Department of Transportation bought 30 acres (due to eminent domain) from Urbanosky Ranch, and the Aggieland Tollway will be bisecting Urbanosky Ranch. We were building new fence to separate the properties and making sure our Santa Gertrudis stay off the tollway. We have a DGD Caterpillar dozer that someone tried to steal the other night. Can you imagine that? Luckily, they got stuck in a dry creek bed and we were able to retrieve it.

My dad passed away on July 12, and I appreciate all the messages and visits I received from my Santa Gertrudis family. Thank you.

Until next time, spread the good news about Santa Gertrudis! 🐾

In Memoriam

T.D. ULRICH



Longtime Santa Gertrudis breeder T.D. Ulrich, Shaker Hill Farm, Lebanon, Ohio, and Sparta, Ky., passed away earlier this year following a brief illness. Ulrich, a Depression-era youth, World War II hero and self-made success story is best known among Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) members for owning and promoting the national champion bull OU Superstar, two-time High-Point Bull of the Year Playboy and the National Best-of-Polled Bull Bullet. In 2015, SGBI's Shows and Exhibits Committee dedicated the

National Show to Ulrich in recognition of his efforts promoting the breed and his tremendous success in the show ring. The 2019 District 6 Show and Sale has been dedicated to the memory of Ulrich, and the District 6 Scholarship has been designated as the T.D. Ulrich Memorial Scholarship. 🐾

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

more by the delivery date and weigh approximately 600 pounds. A minimum of five head is preferred; however, depending on participation, three-head lots may be accepted. SGBI's steer feedout program creates an opportunity for members to determine how their genetic packages fit industry needs.

Members interested in participating or learning more about this calf performance feedout program may contact me for more information at (361) 592-9357 or jford@santagertrudis.com. 🐾

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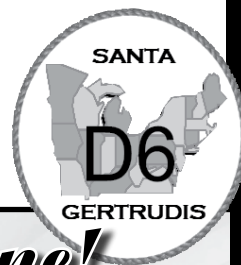
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SANTA GERTRUDIS DISTRICT VI BREEDERS



Congratulations Ashley Osborne!

NAMED PREMIER EXHIBITOR AT BOTH OHIO AND INDIANA STATE FAIRS



OLC ROSIE 418

← **YEARLING CHAMPION**

OHIO STATE FAIR

YEARLING CHAMPION

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION

INDIANA STATE FAIR

TOP 10 AT NJSGS

SIRE: Masterpiece 101 (2017 National Champion)

DAM: Rosie 190 (2013 National Champion)

ROYAL PRINCESS

GRAND CHAMPION STAR 5

OHIO STATE FAIR

INDIANA STATE FAIR

5TH PLACE AT NJSGS

***Look for Osborne
Consignments***



26TH ANNUAL DISTRICT 6 SALE

Sept. 20-21, 2019 • Corydon, Ind.

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WWW.CBARCRANCH.NET

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SANTA GERTRUDIS JUNIORS ELEVATE THEIR GOALS AS LEADERS IN BEAUTIFUL, SUNNY COLORADO

By Christy Moran, GOALS 2019 Co-Chair



Forty-six members of the National Junior Santa Gertrudis Association (NJSGA) converged on Estes Park, Colo., July 21-25, 2019, for a fulfilling experience at Gerts Ongoing Advanced Leadership Summit (GOALS). “Elevate Your GOALS – Reaching the Peak of Leadership Excellence” was the theme for the mountain-top experiences that led the participants on new adventures, allowed them to gain valuable leadership skills and interact with many wonderful Santa Gertrudis friends for a memory-making event.

Young leaders representing eight states (Texas, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas and New Mexico) participated in this year’s event, held at the YMCA of the Rockies. GOALS facilitator and featured speaker Kelly Barnes led multiple educational and inspirational sessions to engage participants to learn more about themselves and those around them and how to be better leaders and citizens.

Outside the classroom, juniors experienced active bonding and leadership skills through teambuilding exercises conducted by the YMCA. Another team event everyone enjoyed was the GOALS 2019 Beef Cook-off where team members were given a bag of groceries, a cut of beef and a pantry of items to create their own beef dish in a “chopped-like” challenge. They also participated in a scavenger hunt and night walk. The NJSGA Board of Directors met one evening to plan and

discuss events for the coming year.

Tuesday afternoon provided an opportunity to visit Jackson Stables and participate in a two-hour horseback ride through the Rocky Mountains, which was a favorite among many. Following the final leader-

ship session and reflection time with Barnes on Tuesday evening, the group enjoyed a gathering around a campfire, complete with s’mores and time to reflect on the experience.

The final day of GOALS was spent at the Cherokee Ranch and Castle, home of the late Tweet Kimble, Santa Gertrudis breeder and pioneer of the Rocky Mountain Santa Gertrudis Association. It was intriguing to listen to Juanito Miranda, son of ranch manager Rafael Miranda who has been with the ranch since Tweet began her Santa Gertrudis herd. Jaunito showed participants some of the Santa Gertrudis bulls in the Cherokee Ranch feedlot and discussed the history and workings of the ranch, which now runs about 130 head of Santa Gertrudis. Alicia Sanchez of Red Doc Farm in New Mexico, shared stories of growing up around Tweet and visiting the ranch and castle as a junior. The group then enjoyed a tour of the castle, greeted by James Holmes, executive director of the Castle Foundation. Visiting Cherokee Ranch and Castle was a special part of the GOALS 2019 experience!

The final leadership session was a visit by former NJSGA member Shelby Barrow Javernick, student recruitment and outreach coordinator for the University of Colorado. Javernick engaged juniors in a “U-Zoo Personality Test” and interactive exercise to plan an event with folks most like

themselves. She also spent time talking about “Preparing for College, Now.” To round out the event, juniors enjoyed a fun evening social and dance.

The comradery and bonding these young people develop over the course of a GOALS experience is amazing. Testimonies shared, passionate emotion and gratitude from the oldest junior veteran to the newest GOALS rookie is something that is very present by week’s end and heartwarming to see! These kids truly do love this breed, this association and the opportunities that are afforded them, and they learn wonderful leadership qualities through this program.

To close GOALS 2019, a final session was held to help juniors understand the importance of being thankful and appreciative. GOALS 2019 was dedicated in memory of Dr. Burton McDaniel and in honor of Judy McDaniel, both of whom impacted this program and will continue to be a part of this legacy of leadership excellence.

The GOALS 2019 youth and chaperones involved in this trip truly appreciate the support from financial supporters, memorials given in honor of Dr. McDaniel and support from parents for this unique leadership opportunity. Kudos to co-chair Casey Jones who was instrumental in planning GOALS 2019 and all others who gave support in any way to make another successful GOALS possible. 🐾



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JULY 2019

ACTIVE MEMBERS

District	Purebred Reg.	STAR 5 Reg.	Performance Only	Purebred & STAR 5 Trans.
1	27	5	5	5
2	387	8	195	160
3	33	6	0	16
4	84	7	37	23
5	29	5	4	9
6	36	2	3	11

JUNIOR MEMBERS

District	Purebred Reg.	STAR 5 Reg.	Performance Only	Purebred & STAR 5 Trans.
1	27	2	4	17
2	3	0	0	2
3	3	0	1	0
4	0	0	0	1
5	5	1	0	1

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 Ryan Hess, Vice President

Hi, my name is Ryan Hess, and I'm from Stephenville, Texas. I'm currently a junior in high school, and I'll be serving as the vice president of the National Junior Santa Gertrudis Association (NJSJA) Board of Directors this year. I am blessed with this opportunity and cannot wait to continue my service to this great association. As the outgoing NJSJA treasurer, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the fundraisers and silent auctions that raised funds for the junior board and the NJSJA.

July 28-Aug. 1, NJSJA members gathered in Estes Park, Colo., for GOALS – Gerts Ongoing Advanced Leadership Summit – a leadership retreat designed to help our juniors achieve leadership excellence. There was a great turnout, and attendees learned many skills to help enhance leadership among our association's young members.

I'd also like to talk a little bit about how performance plays a role in the cattle industry. Performance records can be used to measure important economic traits such as birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, and maternal and breeding



SANTA GERTRUDIS

Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- 18** Silva Ranch's Genetic Advantage Sale, Online
20-21 District 6 Show and Sale, Harrison County Fairgrounds, Corydon, Ind.
28 Arkoma Santa Gertrudis Association Sale, Tulsa, Okla. **CANCELLED**
28 Carolinas Field Day, Raeford, N.C.
29 Tulsa State Fair Open Santa Gertrudis Show, Tulsa, Okla.

OCTOBER

- 4-5** Alabama Connection Sale, Blountsville, Ala.
4-19 Santa Gertrudis World Congress 2019
10-12 State Fair of Texas, Dallas, Texas
19 NuGen/Wendt Elite Sale, Bay City, Texas
25-26 2nd Annual Strait-Hefted True Production Sale, Carrizo Springs, Texas

NOVEMBER

- 2** Mountain Laurel Classic Sale, Calhoun, Ga.
8-9 16th Annual Briggs Ranches Bull & Commercial Female Sale/TriStar Sale, Bloomington, Texas
21 North American Livestock Expo Show, Louisville, Ky.
23 South Texas Heritage Sale, Robstown, Texas

2020

JUNE

- 11-13** Quail Valley Farms Elite Female Sale, Oneonta, Ala.

SEPTEMBER

- 12** The 1st Annual Southern Harvest Sale, Wiley Ranch and Cotton Branch Plantation, Smithdale, Miss.

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New Members

Active Members

Windy Kob Santa Gertrudis, Shane Bates, Russia, Ohio
 Bobby H. Payne, Dayton, Texas
 M6 Gresson Farms, Joey Martinez, Rice, Texas
 Tierre Elle, George Woods, Orange Grove, Texas

Junior Members

Kenneth Manak, Kendra H. Burks and Patti Manak, Poth, Texas
 Layne Patterson, Bloomington, Ind.

Commercial Members

Darrell Denison, Alvin, Texas
 Thomas Brinley Jr., Broadway, N.C.
 Steve Moss, Corinth, Miss.

traits. There are many expected progeny differences (EPDs), and they are all meant to serve as a guide to help users achieve the highest return on their investment. Understanding how EPDs work is vital to any operation that uses them.

I'm excited for this upcoming year of service and hope to see everyone at the State Fair of Texas in October! 🐾

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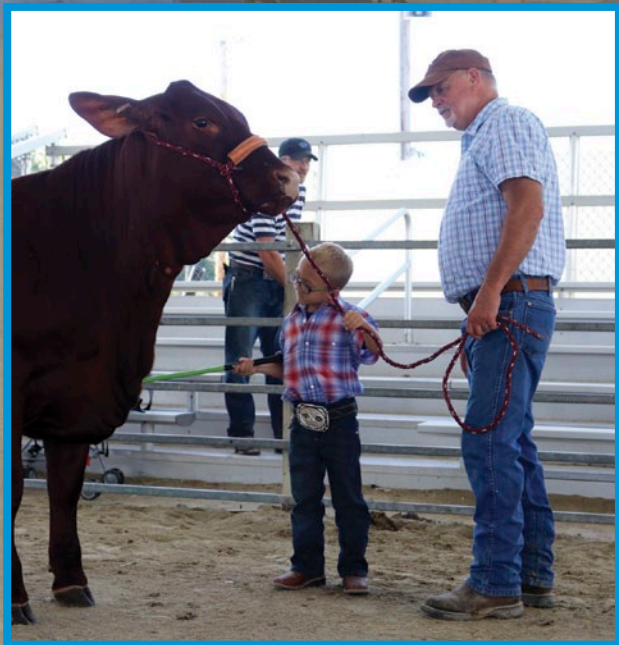
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Junior Show entries/information:

Craig Lopossa

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20180381

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Selling full possession and 50% semen interest.

QVF MS PISTOLERO 117F



20185626

This is the one everyone points to when they drive in the pasture. She has a June birth date so she purposely left open to breed this fall. She is one of the first Pistolero 64/5 offspring to be offered for auction.

117F writes 6 EPD traits in the Top 15% with a trait-leading .37 REA. She scanned a 1.2 REA/CWT with a 4.36 %IMF.

QVF is retaining one flush or 6 embryos and will assume all cost.

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20183702

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His genomic-enhanced EPD profile is truly unmatched to any other living Santa Gertrudis. Chosen One 651 writes and unbelievable 10 EPDs in the Top 10%, 9 in the Top 5% and 8 in the Top 2%. Incredible never-before-seen genomic-enhanced EPDs.

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20180218

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SANTA GERTRUDIS *Production*

COW BEHAVIOR AT CALVING MAY CARRY THROUGH TO WEANING

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



We all have experienced those bad mamma cows in the calving pastures and much prefer the gentler mamma cows – unless there is a bad predator problem on the ranch. Recently, researchers at Mississippi State University, North Mississippi Research and Extension Center and the Prairie Research Unit, Prairie, Miss., presented their findings¹ from a study designed to assess whether maternal behavior at calving

would influence maternal behavior at weaning. They also considered the parity (first timers vs. experienced) of the cows and the season of calving (spring vs. fall).

The animal scientists used crossbred cows (n = 58) and evaluated cow maternal aggression during calf handling (i.e. tagging and weighing) that occurred within 24-hours of birth and mothering aptitude immediately following calf handling. Maternal aggression displayed while handling the calf was scored as 1 to 5; 1 = a “flight” response (running away from person and calf), whereas 5 = “fight” response (i.e. head down and snorting). Below is how the researchers evaluated cow mothering aptitude:

Mothering Aptitude Score

- 1** = Cow abandoned its calf
- 2** = Cow retreated quickly with her calf
- 3** = Cow flees chasing her calf
- 4** = Cow walked away with her calf
- 5** = Cow stayed in immediate area with her calf

Theoretically, cows with higher scores in both categories would probably be considered better mothers, although aggressive cows (aggression score = 5) may present challenges to the weighing and tagging of calves. The researchers’ objective was to determine if cow behavior displayed at calving would influence how cows behaved when their calves were fence-line weaned.

Each of the 58 cows were fitted with a global positioning system (GPS) collar on the same day the researchers weaned calves. After weaning, the cows were placed in a 24-acre pasture adjacent to their calves and separated by a common fence. Cow position in the pasture was recorded at 5-minute intervals by the GPS collars. The distance from the fence was calculated from each GPS “ping” and statistically analyzed. Mothering aptitude score affected average daily distance to the fence. Interestingly, average daily distance

from the fence was in sequential order from greatest to least for dams with aptitude scores of 3, 1, 5, 2 and 4. No immediate apparent correlations were evident, but obviously the cows that lead their calves away after post-birth handling must have established a stronger maternal bond.



Photo from Red Doc Farm, Belen, N.M.

Maternal aggression, measured at post-birth calf handling, also influenced maternal behavior at weaning. Dams assigned an aggression score of 5 (“fight” response) maintained significantly greater average daily distance from the fence (300.5 yards), whereas dams assigned an aggression score of 2 or 1 maintained the least (229 yards) and second least (241 yards) average daily distance from the fence. Maybe those mean mommas (score 5s) were looking for a fight! In addition, the average daily distance of cows from the fence was greater during fall than spring (not sure why?) and, not surprisingly, greater for multiparous than primiparous dams. Experience makes the fence-line weaning process much easier on the mature cows.

This research suggests that maternal behavior at calving is related to maternal behavior at weaning and that parity and season also influence weaning behavior of dams. Thus, taking good notes on cow behavior at calf weighing and tagging can help you predict maternal behavior at weaning.

¹ Montgomery, S., Rutherford W., Parish J. 2019. Effects of maternal behavior at calving, parity and season on dam behavior during fenceline weaning. *J. Animal Sci.*, Abstract 194, Annual Meeting, Beef Species Session I. <https://www.eventscribe.com/2019/ASASAnnual/SearchByBucket.asp?pfp=Sessions&f=SessionType>. 🐄

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By Kelsey Pope, Freelance Writer

Tylor Braden, area manager for cattle operations at King Ranch®, uses performance tools in several capacities throughout their operation to make decisions impacting both their seedstock and commercial herds. As the area manager since 2017, Braden oversees all of the cattle operations on the ranch, including 23,000 breeding females, 1,500 seedstock cattle and a 16,000-head feeding/backgrounding yard.

"The purpose of our purebred operation is to make seedstock for our commercial operation," Braden says. "We sell a handful of seedstock animals, but the main focus is making seedstock for ourselves. It is important to delineate our purpose and objective, to be sure we focus on truly developing the best seedstock that we can so we can produce the best commercial product that we can."

In order to produce the best commercial product, Braden explains that they employ the most modern performance tools throughout their operation to select for the best traits while also having an animal that fits their environment.

"We still breed cattle today with the original focus that we started with, and that's to make the most profitable animal we can," Braden adds. "However, we've made drastic improvements while still managing our correlations between traits to make sure we never sacrifice cow efficiency."

With a focus on fertility, longevity and performance in their tough environment, King Ranch has been collecting and utilizing data for decades. They put a tremendous amount of emphasis on their King Ranch PROVEN indexes derived from within-herd expected progeny differences (EPDs). This system is a collection of various carcass, growth and fertility EPDs.

"Since launching the within-herd EPD system, carcass quality has been a primary focus, while still maintaining selection pressure on maternal, growth and functional traits," he adds.

The King Ranch dataset, phenotypes and genotypes are on loan to SGBI. This data, along with the association's dataset collected by other Santa Gertrudis breeders, enabled SGBI to strengthen the breed's genetic evaluation for the betterment of all breeders.

Data-driven analysis has allowed for optimum selection and a focus on profitable production on the King Ranch, yet this was just a start. King Ranch has been genotyping all of their seedstock animals for a decade and began genotyping their commercial heifers this past year.

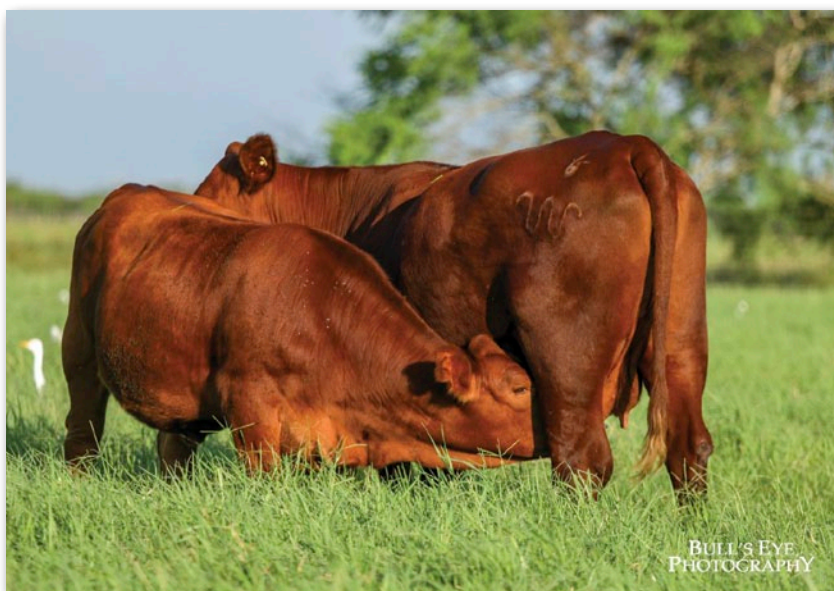
In 2012, King Ranch implemented the single-step genomically enhanced EPD model, which is a "self-learning genetic evaluation" that utilizes genomic relationships to estimate the genetic merit of an individual animal. King Ranch was

the first to use this model – one that other breeds have subsequently implemented. The single-step model significantly improved EPD accuracy industry wide, and genomic data will continue to add significant accuracy to the genetic-merit evaluations. This is especially important for traits like fertility where a sire may be dead by the time his progeny have proven production potential; hence, the implementation of the commercial genotyping program at King Ranch. Along with all of that data, each one of their animals is sire verified, which feeds back into the King Ranch database system that is then shared with SGBI.

"We genotype 100 percent of our purebred animals and we are also adding 5,000-plus commercial genotypes a year to our database, which includes both carcass and feedout animals as well as fertility records on our first-calf heifers, and subsequently genotyped commercial cows going forward," Braden says.

The first-calf heifers are genotyped in order to track their fertility and mark their pregnancies. Braden says that it takes several years of data collection to see the results but, because of their history of genotyping and data analysis with their seedstock herd, they are quickly seeing genetic improvement with their commercial herd.

"The seedstock operation is the leverage point for our genetic control," he explains. "All of our genetic decisions are on the seedstock side. Those bulls will then be the populous for the genetic improvement on the commercial side. We look for EPDs in the top 50 percent of our within-herd EPDs along with phenotype selection for culling criteria. The



King Ranch first-calf heifer and calf. Photo courtesy Adan "Bull" Alvarez, fifth-generation King Ranch Keneño and Santa Gertrudis division manager.

production data from both the purebred and commercial herd populate our database to calculate the EPDs used for selection."

These EPDs enable index analysis that will also show the relevance of economic traits.

"At one time, our carcass quality rates were in the 40s, so even though carcass is not the most economically relevant trait, it was the low-hanging fruit for us," Braden says. "The most minimal amount of effort generated the most significant rate of genetic improvement, and therefore, economic impact for us."

Today, King Ranch Santa Gertrudis cattle grade on par with the national carcass quality average. Fertility traits are the most economically relevant, yet the most difficult to improve genetically. Braden says this is because heritability is so low, and stayability – how long that cow will stay in the herd – does not allow them to capitalize on a cow's sire genetics.

"If King Ranch has a cow that has had a calf every year, by the time she is eight years old, her sire is likely dead, so we need a higher accuracy tool that evaluates the potential stayability of a yearling bull's future heifer progeny," Braden says. "So how do we know which bull has that kind of fertility traits? For us, the genomic piece is what helps us close that gap. That's the reason we're doing so much genomic testing on all of our commercial cattle, which is traced back to our seedstock sires."

"Some traits are finite and some are infinite, and depending on where you are on the scale of genetic improvement, the relative value of genetic change may be different. As you make genetic improvement, continued trajectory requires more effort, input, cost and higher risk of deleterious effects on inversely related traits," Braden adds.

To maintain the track King Ranch is on, Braden explains they have to continue dialing things in, using all of the tools they've had in the past – phenotypic evaluations, pedigrees and EPDs. However, using genomics is what is going to enable them to continue the same rate of improvement. He compares genetic improvement to be a little bit like trying to lose weight.

"The first 50 percent takes just a little effort to show improvement. The next 25 percent you have to work a little harder and you continue to see improvement. The next 15 percent is pretty hard, and the last 10 percent is nearly impossible," Braden relates. "Genetic improvement is the same way, and we have been working hard and made so much improvement over the years. Genomics is what takes us to the next level." 🐄

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MEASURING RESIDUAL FEED INTAKE TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY

By Macey Mueller, Freelance Writer

EFFICIENCY. SUSTAINABILITY. DOING MORE WITH LESS. These are common themes in today's beef industry. A growing population's growing demand for beef means identifying opportunities to produce more of the product consumers love with fewer resources. Technology continues to play an important role in this endeavor.

Livestock feed efficiency is measured as residual feed intake (RFI), which is calculated as the difference between an animal's actual feed intake and its predicted feed intake for a given level of production. Each animal's predicted feed intake is based on its actual measured performance and size, as compared to its contemporaries.

For nearly 30 years, GrowSafe Systems® has been helping livestock producers become more efficient and is considered the gold standard for measuring individual animal feed intake and weight, monitoring animal behavior and growth, and predicting feed efficiency traits.

"When we look at the bottom line and the profitability drivers within the beef industry, efficiency is second only to a live calf each year," says Mark Nelson, GrowSafe Systems director of industry relations. "Being able to compare how much an animal eats to a measurable deliverable is an incredible opportunity for anyone willing to use that data, and a huge majority of that data is being collected on GrowSafe Feed Intake nodes."

Calculating RFI requires measuring both feed intake and body weight gain at the same time.

Using the GrowSafe Feed Intake system in a development yard, each

animal has an industry-standard half duplex (HDX) radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tag that uniquely identifies an animal and continuously and automatically captures data on feed consumption every second that animal feeds from an RFID-equipped feed bunk.

Additionally, the GrowSafe Beef system is an in-pen, weight-monitoring system installed next to compatible water tanks that measures each animal's frequency and duration at the water trough and partial body weight every second it is there.

GrowSafe Beef technology is superior to conventional chute weighing techniques because an animal's weight fluctuates over time due to several fac-

GrowSafe Feed Intake nodes utilize individual HDX RFID ear tags to identify an animal and record its daily feed consumption.

tors, including rumen fill, water consumption and feeding patterns. When a chute weight is taken, it is not generally known if an animal is at a heavy or light point in its daily cycle.

"When we're using the GrowSafe Feed Intake nodes to carefully measure how much an animal eats every day, it's only good business to also know what they gain every day," Nelson says. "The GrowSafe Beef system captures an animal's weight each time it steps up to get a drink and determines an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26 »

SANTA GERTRUDIS EFFICIENCY TOOL

By John Ford, Executive Director

Long-term farm and ranch sustainability are dependent on profitability, and feed efficiency is a significant component of the equation. The tools available today, such as the GrowSafe Systems® Automated Livestock Performance Monitoring System, allow seedstock producers to identify animals and genetics that perform efficiently at the highest level.

Recognizing the value of efficiency and the need for a breed-specific residual feed intake (RFI) tool, the Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) Board of Directors appointed a committee to work on developing a Santa Gertrudis feed efficiency measure. The committee met earlier this year during the annual Beef Improvement Federation conference and initiated the process for developing an RFI expected progeny difference.

Compiling feed efficiency records from GrowSafe Feeding Systems is an essential component in the development process. Currently, SGBI has one-half of the needed records in the association's database. In order to develop a valid RFI tool, the association needs approximately 1,000 more records.

Santa Gertrudis breeders interested in learning more about their cow herds' feed efficiency may want to consider participating in a feeding program that measures RFI and sharing their datasets with SGBI. 🐄

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SANTA GERTRUDIS SALE *Report*

2019 KENTUCKY NATIONAL SALE JULY 20, 2019 | BOWLING GREEN, KY.

SALE AVERAGES

1 Bull	\$2,900	16 Open Heifers	\$1,520
9 Bred Females	\$2,160	5 STAR 5 Females	\$1,480
5 Pairs	\$2,890	31 Registered Lots	\$1,970

The 2019 Kentucky National Sale was sponsored by the Kentucky Santa Gertrudis Association and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. The auctioneer was Greg Reynolds and the sale manager was Darren Richmond. The high-selling bull was consigned by Nolan and Emily Taylor, Leitchfield, Ky., and was sold to Richard Quest, Pocahontas, Ark., for \$2,900. The high-selling open heifer was consigned by Creech Farm, Zebulon, N.C., and was sold to Gray Oaks Farm, Russellville, Ala., for \$2,600. The high-selling female was consigned by Shampain Ranch, Pleasant Hill, Ill., and was sold to Wiley Ranch, Deville, La., for \$3,600. The high-selling pair was consigned by Heath Farm, Hodgenville, Ky., and was sold to Amanda Jackson, Piggott, Ark., for \$3,250. The volume buyer was Wiley Ranch.



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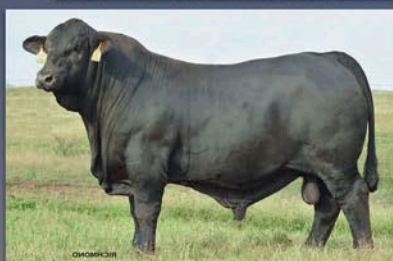
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Schedule of Events
Thursday, November 7th
4:00pm - Cattle viewing

Friday, November 8th
7:00am - Cowboy coffee
11:00am - 16th Annual Bull Sale
1:00pm - 16th Annual Commercial Female Sale
4:00pm - Tri-Star cattle viewing
6:00pm - Gathering & dinner

Saturday, November 9th
8:00am - Breakfast & cowboy coffee, cattle viewing
11:00am - 42nd Annual Tri-Star Sale

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RESIDUAL FEED INTAKE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

average daily weight. That specific data collection allows us to nail average daily gain like never before.”

When used in conjunction, the GrowSafe technology enables producers to collect data for a set time period – 35 valid days is the current industry standard for dry matter intake (DMI), and 49 total days of average daily weight gain allows a producer to get a standardized RFI calculation.

In addition to identifying animals performing more efficiently (negative RFI) or less efficiently (positive RFI) than the group average, the daily data can be used to help improve the management of individual animals by monitoring health when an animal is flagged for reduced intake.

RFI is a moderately heritable trait with a heritability range of 26-58 percent. Using RFI as a genetic selection tool results in progeny that consume less feed for the same level of production. Additionally, RFI is independent of growth, body size and other performance traits, so selecting animals with low RFI will lead to reduced feed intake and improved feed efficiency without compromising body size, carcass quality or growth.

“Producers should not be selecting for efficiency at the expense of other traits that drive value,” Nelson says. “We recommend selecting for all the traits they would normally select for, and then identifying the most efficient animals within that group to fine-tune their selection.”

It's important to note that feed-to-gain ratios have historically been used to identify feed efficient animals, resulting in larger animals that often had even greater maintenance requirements. Selecting for residual feed intake is now the industry standard to produce more feed efficient cattle that reduce costs and increase profit. 🐄

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KENTUCKY NATIONAL SHOW

July 19, 2019 | Bowling Green, Ky. | Judge: Bradley Wilson

SANTA GERTRUDIS SHOW *Results*

GRAND CHAMPION BULL

Windcrest 7/81, shown by Nolan and Emily Taylor,
Leitchfield, Ky.

GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE

RR Red Rose 710/14, shown by
Greg Reynolds, Reynolds Farm, Murray, Ky.

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE

MF Tic Tock 708, shown by Mattingly Farms,
Brandenburg, Ky.

GRAND CHAMPION STAR 5 FEMALE

Shakers Ava 500, shown by Mosby Creek Ranch,
Sparta, Ky.

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION STAR 5 FEMALE

Triple C 15-41, shown by Triple C Cattle Co.,
Ocean Isle, N.C.



The Kentucky National Show was sponsored by the Kentucky Santa Gertrudis Association and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Correction

In the August issue of *Santa Gertrudis USA*, there was an error with the listing of the National Santa Gertrudis Youth Foundation scholarship recipients. Ashley Osborne is the recipient of the \$2,000 Polled Santa Gertrudis Association Scholarship, and Laura Zibilski is the recipient of the \$1,250 Charlie William Wilson III Scholarship. We apologize for this error and once again congratulate each of the 2019 National Santa Gertrudis Youth Foundation scholarship recipients. 🐄

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Special thanks to Kim and Erik Wiley, Wiley Ranch, Deville, La., for purchasing the sale's high-selling lot as well as being the sale's volume buyer!



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Shane Bates
Ron & Barb Moeller
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Triple C Cattle Co.

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Blaine Patterson
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Nov. 19-21, 2019

Show Day: Nov. 21

Entry Deadline: Oct. 1, 2019

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OHIO STATE FAIR

July 29, 2019 | Columbus, Ohio | Judge: Pasquale Swaner

SANTA GERTRUDIS SHOW *Results*



GRAND CHAMPION BULL
OLC Red Man, shown by
Red View Farm, Poland, Ind.



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION BULL
Circle A Creed, shown by
Flatwillow Farm, Statesville, N.C.



**GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE AND
BEST OF POLLED FEMALE**
Flatwillow Lyric, shown by
Flatwillow Farm, Statesville, N.C.



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE
Miss Double TT 107, shown by
Cody Heath, Turners Station, Ky.



GRAND CHAMPION STAR 5 FEMALE
Royal, shown by
Ashley Osborne, Lathrop, Mo.



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION STAR 5 FEMALE
Daisy, shown by Layne Patterson,
Bloomfield, Ind.

NO PHOTO > BEST OF POLLED BULL

RS Sleep EZ 1/9, shown by Cody Heath, Turners Station, Ky.

A TOAST TO LIFE & SANTA GERTRUDIS CATTLE

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We thank Kim & Erik Wiley, Wiley Ranch, Deville, La. for purchasing our high-selling female at the Kentucky National Sale in Bowling Green, Ky.

We also thank Arrow Creek Farm, Elizabethtown, Ky. for purchasing our other consigned female.

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Top 10% HCW

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