



SANTA GERTRUDIS

USA

SEPTEMBER 2021 | VOLUME 24, NUMBER 9



33rd Annual

ALABAMA CONNECTION SALE

11:00 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 2, 2021

Tinney Farms is excited to again be hosting the sale in Hanceville, Ala.!
Headlining this year's consignments:



155/6

Reg. #20166406

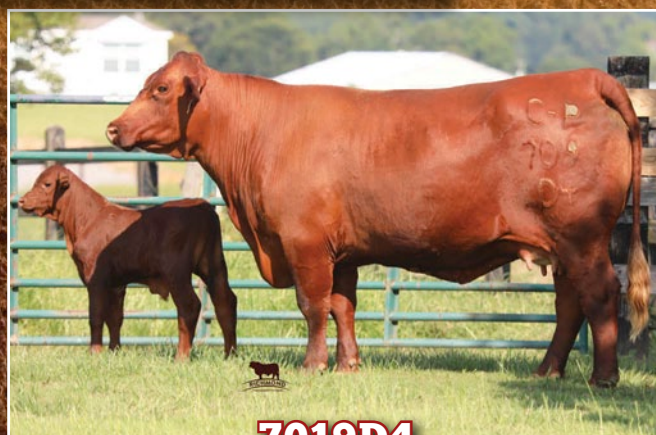
An RDF Never Before granddaughter sells with her heifer calf, ID J038, born 3/15/21 and sired by Pistolero. 155/6 sells exposed back to Briggs 118C3, "Striker", and 915F1, a TF Copperhead son.



TF 155G

Reg. #20196547

An own daughter of King Ranch 191/13, this female exhibits 8 traits in the breed's Top 25%. Her dam is 155/6, an RDF Never Before granddaughter also selling in the sale. 155G sells AI'd on 5/21/21 to CA/RDF Mateo 7238, whose breed indexes are Top 1% across the board with 5 traits, including Marbling, in the breed's Top 2%. She was later exposed to Hefte G38 and TF 5369G4.



7019D4

Reg. #20161546

This Donor cow, a Hatchet granddaughter, is a proven producer. She sells with her bull calf, born 8/2/21, sired by Rushmore.

***Selling a tremendous group of
bred heifers and proven pairs.***

DVAuction
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Sale to be broadcast on
www.dvauction.com

Tinney Farms

5251 Co. Rd. 601 Hanceville, AL 35077

Manager: Arlin Taylor | Phone: 256-507-3838

Email: arlin.taylor@bhamfast.com | Website: tinneyfarms.com

100%
GENOTYPED
COWHERD

Follow us on Facebook!

Wendt Ranches is Heading to Louisiana!

**Look for these lots and more in the Southern Harvest Sale
Wiley Ranch, Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021**

WENDT 1560

Bred Heifer
Reg. #20201270

This Strait Ranches bred female is as pretty as they come. Tremendous length of body, excellent body lines and exhibits female traits from one end to the other.

Sells confirmed AI to Never Sank 5012 sexed female semen.



Lot 24



Lot 89

WENDT 1226

Bred Cow • Reg. #20174941

Bred by natural service to Wendt 9084, this Wendt Ranch-raised female is a head turner for sure. An own daughter of Never Sank 5012, she is a total package of class and refinement. Her looks put her in a class of her own!



Lot 91

WENDT 9384

Bull • Reg. #20203885

A neatly packaged KR 1131/13 son that will get your attention. His indexes and genomic numbers are solid. He's a bull that is easy keeping, very docile, and exhibits a tremendous amount of thickness and a very tidy sheath.



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



SANTA GERTRUDIS USA

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ON THE COVER

A Creech Farms yearling bull at the Tinney Farms Gain Test, Hanceville, Ala. Photo by Darren Richmond.

Providing Polled Power Genetics to the Santa Gertrudis Breed

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Bringing Our Best! 2021 Alabama Connection Sale



Gray Oaks 825 and Heifer Calf

Gray Oaks 825 is a daughter of our senior herd sire, **RDF Sancho 3318**. She sells with a heifer calf born 4/21/21, sired by **Red Doc Dinero Deal 6002**. 825 is TOP 10% in 5 traits. Her indexes are: Balanced 4% Cow/Calf 3% • Terminal 8%.



Gray Oaks 961

Gray Oaks 961 is a daughter of **Red Doc Dinero Deal 6002**. Her dam is a daughter of **Gray Oaks Bandit 152**. 961 is TOP 10% in 7 traits. Her indexes are: Balanced 1% • Cow/Calf 1% Terminal 1%. She sells bred to **Gray Oaks 914**.



Gray Oaks 04ET

Gray Oaks 04ET is an ET daughter of **RDF Sancho Never Before 1136** and donor **Red Doc 3382**, who is the dam of **Gray Oaks Uno 806**. 04ET is TOP 15% in 7 traits. Her indexes are: Balanced 1% • Cow/Calf 2% Terminal 1%. She sells open.

We are extremely proud of our offering for the 2021 Alabama Connection Sale. We have a great selection of 3NIs, bred and open heifers.

**We look forward to seeing and visiting with you Sat., Oct. 2, 2021
at Tinney Farms, Hanceville, Ala.**

Flying C Ranch

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WILEY RANCH

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Trail Talk

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Webb D. Fields

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Every year I say it, but each year seems truer than the last. Time is flying by, and I'm not sure where the year has gone. As much as I would like time to slow down some, I am excited for another fall that has quickly come upon us. The fall brings some changes in the weather and a new sale season that will see more great Santa Gertrudis cattle go to new homes and make their mark on the industry.

However, before we get ahead of ourselves, I want to reflect on a great summer for our association. We were able to hit the road most of the summer and visit not only with members, but maybe more important, commercial producers interested in Santa Gertrudis genetics. It is an exciting feeling when we travel to different regions of the country and set up our booth full of Santa Gertrudis material. I truly enjoy talking with cattlemen outside our breed about the advantages Santa Gertrudis provide. While excellent membership services are our top priority at Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI), we must also make sure we are hitting the pavement and telling our story to those outside the breed. Luckily for us, Santa Gertrudis has a great story of both history and progress, and it has been fun to see the positive and growing response we receive about the cattle within the commercial industry.

The summer also brought a board meeting full of positive progress. As we continue to build the new pedigree platform, many new and exciting decisions needed to be made with advanced capabilities in the new registry system. A clarification was made to the artificial insemination (AI) certificate rule that is explained in the column at right. I am excited about this adjustment, as I think it provides the most flexibility for members when utilizing AI sires. As a big proponent of reproductive progress, I feel we must continue to promote and utilize advanced reproductive technologies with new and genetically supe-

rior animals, while at the same time understanding market pressures and protecting the value of these genetics.

The new pedigree platform is also going to allow progress in the way of whole herd reporting, a topic that has been discussed within the breed for years. The DigitalBeef system's ability to record fertility data with ease allowed the board of directors to approve a whole herd reporting component to our annual inventory. We anticipate this adding a few small steps to the annual inventory, but providing, in return, large amounts of key fertility data that will push the breed forward in a positive

direction for years to come. Having the ability to quantify the breed's maternal merit is a key next step within our genetic evaluation, and being a whole herd reporting breed continues our efforts as the most progressive *Bos indicus* choice.

Another progressive measure taken by the board of directors was the approval of a commercial data component to our current genetic evaluation. This will allow us to utilize commercial-influenced cattle with known Santa Gertrudis parentage into the genetic evaluation through a controlled process. This is an effort to add more data into the evaluation in a controlled and sound manner. More information will be provided as we unveil the program, but it is certainly an exciting new addition for the breed.

As we look back on a summer full of positives, the work is not yet done. We are looking forward not only to the fall sale season, but more opportunity to get down the trail and continue to promote these red cattle that have both a great history and a bright future. 🐾

SGBI ANSWERS YOUR Questions

By Webb D. Fields, Executive Director

Q. Does SGBI have an artificial insemination (AI) semen certificate program?

A. During a summer board of directors meeting, the board made a clarification to the artificial insemination (AI) certificate rule. With the new DigitalBeef platform, advanced tools have enabled us to better manage this rule within our pedigree system. A voluntary artificial insemination semen certificate program will now be offered through the new platform.

This will allow a member to enroll an AI sire into the program, requiring an AI certificate purchased from Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) by the owner of the sire and then released from said owner to a non-owner of the sire before registering an animal. Enrollment of these sires will be the responsibility of the owner and made with SGBI. AI sires not enrolled in the voluntary certificate program will not require an AI certificate to register the calves and will accompany an AI service fee instead. This fee will be charged to the member registering the progeny.

The voluntary program allows for the most flexibility in managing AI sires for members, while still capitalizing on elite genetics' added value in an effort to protect that value in today's fast-paced industry. A voluntary system also allows members to easily promote and utilize AI where the accounting of certificates might not be necessary.

Tutorials on how to successfully implement the process will be made as we transition into the new pedigree platform. Please reach out to SGBI staff with any questions. 🐾

Quail Valley Farms



QVF Pistol 60G9 Sold in 2020



QVF Ms Data Driven 915H3 Sold in 2021



75 Head Registered
Santa Gertrudis
'Performance' Bulls

45 Head Reg.
Replacement Females

Quail Valley Farms 'Next Generation'
Registered Santa Gertrudis
Replacement Female Sale

35 QVF Santa Gertrudis Open Heifers:

Cutting edge, Fall born (complete weights & measures)

Friend Consignments:

10 Elite Santa Gertrudis Females

This sale will be broadcast live on the internet.

DVAuction

Broadcasting Real-Time Auctions
Real time bidding & proxy bidding available.

Sale managed by:

**american
marketing
services**
Marketing Superior Genetics.

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Mark Cowan | 903.495.4522 | markc@amscattle.com

Trey Kirkpatrick | 979.324.5518 | treyk@amscattle.com

www.amscattle.com

We will again have our annual bull sale, but *New* this fall is our Registered Female Sale.
We are excited to bring you this group of females!

Sale Schedule

Blountsville, Alabama

Thursday, October 28th

Noon: Cattle available for viewing

Friday, October 29th

4:30 pm: 'Next Generation' Replacement Reg. Female Sale

Saturday, October 30th

8:30 am: QVF Brunch

10:30 am: 75 Santa Gertrudis Bull Sale

Followed by Commercial Females

Quail Valley Farms

RICKY & ANGIE CLEVELAND, Owners

848 Jan Street | Oneonta, AL 35121

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Nancy Wunderlich

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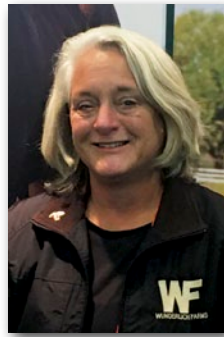
Greetings, everyone. Here we are again, approaching the fall sale season and anticipating the fall breeding season. This is the perfect opportunity to open that proverbial toolbox and pull out all those handy dandy performance records. But wait...how did all those records get there and how do I use them?

All those records just didn't appear. This is a long-time process of members and breeders collecting birth and weaning weights, and scanning for marbling, ribeye area and backfat, in addition to collecting DNA to solidify the correlation of the pedigree. Now, I admit, I do not completely understand the complexity of those numbers. However, I do know these performance records are one of the most valuable tools that gives us a glimpse into the future of a mating's offspring.

This has led us to the **"Data Driven, Profit Proven"** slogan that has caught the attention of the cattle industry for several years. The Breed Improvement and Marketing & Promotions Committees have diligently worked together to progress our cattle and membership, and keep us in the profit margins. There is a sea of information that the committees research, discuss and sort through to make the best recommendations to keep us moving in that positive direction. We must all keep in mind that it is what is best for the breed.

So, as you flip through those sale catalogs and view the videos, keep in mind the hours and years of determination and dedication behind all those numbers posted. As you read the detailed description of the lots, recognize the humble pride that breeders bring to you in their proven product. Your progressive practices have caught the attention of the cattle industry for years to come.

Always keep in mind that we are all in this together and are better as a united front. 🤝



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SAVE THE DATE!

SANTA GERTRUDIS BREEDERS INTERNATIONAL

LET THE SPIRITS LEAD YOU



TO KENTUCKY

HOST HOTEL

Embassy Suites | Lexington, Ky.

245 Lexington Green | (859) 271-4000

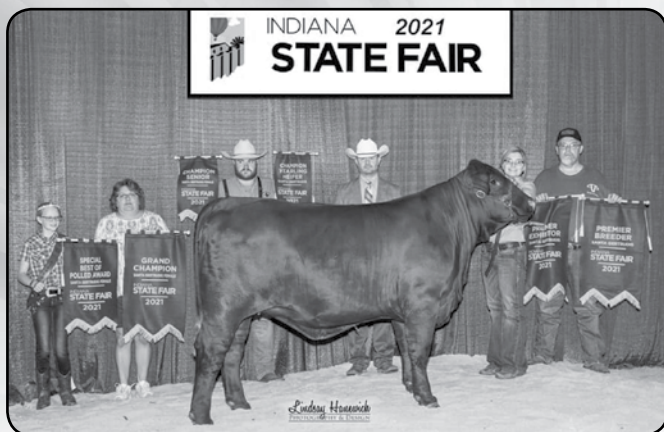
Click here to book!

SANTA GERTRUDIS DISTRICT VI BREEDERS



Congratulations Ashley Osborne!

**ON HER RECENT SUCCESS AT THE 2021 INDIANA STATE FAIR
SGBI POINT SHOW**

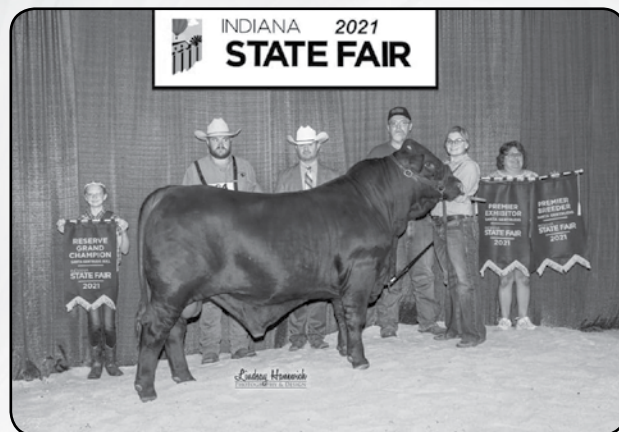


OLC SHEBA 22

**GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE
BEST OF POLLED FEMALE**

Sired by OLC Masterplan

National Champions OLC Rosie x Masterpiece 101



OLC KENTUCKY STAR 120

RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION BULL

Sired by Simba 63

A National Champion OU SuperStar grandson

PREMIER BREEDER & EXHIBITOR

Osborne Livestock Co.



Look for Our Consignments

DISTRICT 6 SALE

Sept. 18, 2021 • Corydon, Ind.

C BAR C CRANCH



De Soto, MO 63020
Alan Clark
Bud & Kelly Clark
(314) 607-1076
bud@cbarcranch.net

WWW.CBARCRANCH.NET

OSBORNE LIVESTOCK

Todd, Donna, Dalton & Ashley Osborne
Sparta, Ky. • Lathrop, Mo.



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Herd #4434

GOALS 2021

SANTA GERTRUDIS JUNIORS CHART A COURSE FOR CLEAR SUCCESS

Forty-six members of the National Junior Santa Gertrudis Association (NJSJA) gathered in Crystal River, Fla., July 26-30, 2021, for a fulfilling experience at Gerts Ongoing Advanced Leadership Summit (GOALS). “Chart a Course for Clear Success” was the theme for the 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 seven states (Texas, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Illinois, Arkansas and New Mexico) participated in this year’s event. The Plantation on Crystal River was a perfect setting to learn and have fun in the sun and water in the summertime. GOALS facilitator and featured speaker, Jason Wetzler, led multiple educational and inspirational sessions to engage participants to learn more about themselves and those around them, explore their WHY in life and contemplate how to be better leaders and citizens.

Outside the classroom, juniors experienced active bonding and leadership skills through activities and tours. Everyone enjoyed the GOALS 2021 Beef Cook-Off where team members were given a bag of groceries, ground beef and a pantry of items to create their own “epic burger” in a “Chopped-like” challenge. The youth loved this and the Plantation chef, marketing



director and sales representatives, who served as judges, were wowed by this competition. Participants enjoyed all the Plantation had to offer with a pool-side hamburger meal, swimming in the pool as well as the adjacent bay, and enjoyed a dive-in movie night.

One of the week’s highlights was the Adventure Center Boat Tour and swimming with the manatees. The “gentle giants,” often called sea cows, were exciting to see, especially a momma and baby calf manatee pair! And, getting to go to Three Sisters natural springs to “spring-hop” was a lot of fun and a beautiful nature experience that many have never experienced before!

The week also involved some outstanding agricultural tours and educational sessions. We had the privilege of

visiting the University of Florida (UF) Beef Teaching Unit in Gainesville. This 90-acre farm includes 200 head of cattle and provides hands-on training for students enrolled in the animal sciences program.

Todd Thrift, Ph.D., spoke to our juniors and provided a workshop on animal care and health, including information on vaccinations, proper healthcare equipment, dehorning and castration procedures, hormone usage and working cattle in general for their health and safety. Thrift shared a live demonstration of working bull calves in the cattle chutes to give them vaccinations, hormone implants, castration methods, etc. He also shared this information as part of the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program, which allowed all GOALS attendees to receive their BQA certification.

Thrift then shared a demonstration on pulling a calf in a full-size cow simulated model and shared the process of cattle birth as well as the complications that can come with calf presentations and how to effectively pull a calf if needed during birth. Jesse Savell, former Florida National Junior Santa Gertrudis Association member, also welcomed us to the beef unit as its manager. We also visited the UF Gator football stadium for photo opportunities as well as to see parts of the campus.

GOALS also featured a full day touring ag facilities in the Lake City area. We visited Cracker Land and Cattle Company, a bonded cattle dealer that specializes in cattle order buying and preconditioning. Cracker Land is a family-owned business that began in 2001 by Hunter and Luci Ketcham. Cracker buys, receives, processes and ships up to 4,000 cattle per week in Florida and Georgia and can ship to feedlots all over the United States. They also prepare and feed more than one million pounds of feed per week, and employ a

The GOALS delegation at the University of Florida Beef Teaching Unit with Dr. Todd Thrift and Unit Manager and NJSJA member Jesse Savelle. This experience allowed all the juniors to receive their BQA certification.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 14 »

GRANDVIEW FARMS

Alabama Connection Sale Offering Is Dynamic!

Semen Offering

On the No. 1 Young Sire Trait Leader for Marbling

QVF JACKPOT 5369G8

Your only opportunity this year to purchase his semen!

SELLING ONE 50 STRAW PACKAGE ON JACKPOT
FOR IN-HERD USE.

BW	WW	YW	MILK	SC	HCW
-1.05	8.30	13.89	4.06	0.14	10.71
REA	MARB	TEND	BAL	C/C	TERM
0.09	0.88	-0.01	1%	6%	1%



#20193317

Additional Offering

PICK OF THE 2021 FALL ET CALF CROP

- Over 50 fall born calves to choose from including approximately 15 calves sired by Jackpot 5369G8. This will be his first offspring to be offered at auction.
- Selection to be made spring 2022. Look for more details in the Alabama Connection Sale catalog.

October 2, 2021

Hosted by

Tinney Farms • Hanceville, Ala.



Featured Lots

DP MISS GINA 30G1



#20196081

Gina is a daughter of **KR 191/13** and out of donor dam **30G1**, a **Fred 5/0** daughter. Gina sells heavy bred to **SR 66/19**. This mating will be loaded with EPDs and Phenotype.

GRANDVIEW 828

**SEMEN
FOR SALE**



#20175579

BW	WW	YW	MILK	SC	HCW
1.69	18.86	40.89	0.38	0.09	18.28
REA	MARB	TEND	BAL	C/C	TERM
0.14	0.08	0.01	2%	5%	1%

Many of this years' consignments will carry his progeny and service!



Grandview Farms

Hamilton, AL

OWNERS: Delmo & Wilmoth Payne

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EMAIL: brent.shaw007@gmail.com

HERDSMAN: Seth Holmes (205) 412-7053

SANTA GERTRUDIS

Calendar

SEPTEMBER

- I** 2020-2021 Polled Association High Point Awards Application Deadline
- 11** Proud to be American Sale, Shidler, Okla.
- 11** Southern Harvest Sale, Deville, La.
- 12** Four States Fair, Texarkana, Ark.
- 17** D6 Larry Osborne Memorial Show, Corydon, Ind.
- 17-18** District 6 Haltered Heifer Sale and Show, Corydon, Ind.
- 20** Southeastern Empire Fair, Lawrenceville, Ga.
- 26** Oklahoma State Fair, Oklahoma City, Okla.

OCTOBER

- 2** Alabama Connection Sale, Hanceville, Ala.
- 3** Tulsa State Fair, Tulsa, Okla.
- 10** State Fair of Texas, Dallas, Texas
- 16** Strait-Hefte Tried & True Production Sale, Streetman, Texas
- 19** North Carolina State Fair, Raleigh, N.C.
- 19** Pitchford Cattle Opportunity Knocks Chapter 3 Online Sale
- 23** Arkansas State Fair, Little Rock, Ark.
- 29** Quail Valley Farms Next Generation Replacement Registered Female Sale, Oneota, Ala.
- 30** Quail Valley Farms Bull & Commercial Female Sale, Blountsville, Ala.

NOVEMBER

- 5-6** Louisiana State Fair, Shreveport, La.
- 6** Mountain Laurel Classic Sale, Calhoun, Ga.
- 12-13** Briggs Ranches Bull & Commercial Female Sale, Bloomington, Texas
- 12-13** Tri Star Santa Gertrudis Sale, Bloomington, Texas
- 18** North American International Livestock Expo, Louisville, Ky.
- 20** Red Hot Gert Show, Robstown, Texas
- 20** South Texas Heritage Sale, Robstown, Texas

2022

APRIL

- 1** Elite Cut Female Sale, Bosque, N.M.
- 2** Red Hot Bull Sale, Bosque, N.M.

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Cooper Sibille, Iowa, La.

SANTA GERTRUDIS

Juniors

By Leighton McCulley, Vice President



My name is Leighton McCulley. I am from the Mississippi affiliate. I am an at-large director, and I also serve as National Junior Santa Gertrudis Association vice president.

Beef cattle production can be divided into three general categories. The cow-calf segment produces feeder calves for further feeding/grazing. The backgrounding or stocker phase of production adds body weight to recently weaned calves, resulting in yearlings that are feedlot ready. Last, there is the finishing stage of production during which cattle are fed until they reach market weight.

Many factors contribute to production with a focus on management and certain techniques that are suitable for your part of the country or which way you choose to go with your operation. The focus in the center of it all should be a well-rounded female. Santa Gertrudis females work well in any type of operation – purebred or commercial. Production always starts with her.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21 »

REGISTRATIONS, STAR 5 RECORDINGS AND TRANSFERS BY DISTRICT

JULY 2021

ACTIVE MEMBERS

District	Purebred Reg.	STAR 5 Reg.	Performance Only	Purebred & STAR 5 Trans.
1	27	6	2	18
2	717	37	0	275
3	60	4	12	37
4	158	9	2	78
5	56	36	45	16
6	17	0	0	9

JUNIOR MEMBERS

District	Purebred Reg.	STAR 5 Reg.	Performance Only	Purebred & STAR 5 Trans.
1	11	0	0	16
2	9	3	0	12
3	8	1	0	2
4	0	0	0	1
5	1	0	0	0

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GOALS 2021 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

full staff of cowboys (including former NJSGA member Jakob Jones)

We also visited Southern Cross Dairy, a local Florida dairy owned by Australian native and second-generation dairy farmer Dave Temple. Dave and his family recently built a new dairy facility housing Holstein females that are milked three times a day. They produce their own silage and breed all their dairy cows to a beef bull to produce halfblood calves for feedlot operations. Dave also created Thunder Coffeemilk, a popular Australian beverage. This product is made without added chemicals and preservatives, and is a shelf-stable coffee dairy beverage that is set to hit the U.S. market in September.

The final GOALS 2021 highlight was an evening dinner and dance at the Plantation. Florida Rep. Chuck Brannan addressed the youth and shared how his involvement with agriculture as a former NJSGA member and showman, 4-H and FFA member as well as state FFA officer made him the person he is today and attributes his success in politics to his upbringing in youth agricultural programs. He also shared a letter from the Florida governor welcoming GOALS 2021 delegates to Florida and recognizing the wonderful opportunities being afforded through this program.

The comradery and bonding these young people develop over the course of a GOALS experience is amazing. Testimonies sharing 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 so heartwarming to see! Nearly half of the attendees were first-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



ABOVE: The bonding and unity spirit of GOALS shown as members enjoy the Spring Hop at Three Sisters Spring off King's Bay in Crystal River.



LEFT: Juniors embark on a trip to the Adventure Center. Swimming with manatees was a highlight of the trip.

SGBI

On the Road

After being grounded during the pandemic, Santa Gertrudis Breeders International is back on the road, representing Santa Gertrudis genetics and promoting the breed to cattlemen across the southern United States. It's been a busy summer for Executive Director Webb Fields, who has attended the National Junior Santa Gertrudis Show, the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention, the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Convention and Expo and, most recently, the 2021 Cattle Industry Convention & National Cattlemen's Beef Association Trade Show. It's great to be out meeting people interested in Santa Gertrudis cattle! 🐄



ABOVE: Darren Richmond and Webb Fields at the SGBI booth at NCBA.

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KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR BLISTER BEETLES

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



Frequently, I enjoy discussing with readers things I encounter in my corner of the world. This month is one of those occasions. Last month I came upon a massive hatching of blister beetles in an area adjacent to a water trap and loading chute. There were literally thousands of them. A quick internet search confirmed my assumptions.

Horses are the most susceptible livestock species, but I know lots of folks who have both beef cattle and horses. These beetles were just waking up with the sun and were crawling up knee-high weeds that should have been mowed months ago. I sprayed them with typical cattle insecticide (permethrin) and it worked well, albeit on a very small and concentrated hatching area. I have not seen any since.

Nonetheless, it prompted me to do a little more research and brush up on my entomology, which I want to share with you. These critters come in three varieties: three-striped, ash gray and black. My south Texas outbreak was the three-striped kind and following the wettest May through July that we have had in a very long time. This fact is contrary to the norm, as blister beetles are supposed to be really bad during dry weather and drought. The good news is that most blister beetles only produce one crop per year. These soil egg-laying bugs love to eat grasshopper eggs and/or blooming alfalfa and weeds with flowers, nectar and pollen. The beetles are very mobile – that is what caught my observation – and like to congregate in small areas.

All blister beetles produce a toxin call cantharidin, which is an oily substance that is toxic to people and livestock. Hence, the nickname of these bugs is “oil beetles.” The male beetle produces the cantharidin and presents it to the female after mating. The female, in turn, applies the cantharidin to her eggs for protection from predators. Horses are the most affected of all livestock, but toxic levels in beef cattle have been identified. Unfortunately, the type of beetle I had produces the most cantharidin, and the female beetle produces almost as much as the males (4.52 to 5.21 milligrams per beetle). The lethal dose for a 1,200-pound horse is 109 three-striped blister beetles. Why on earth would a horse knowingly eat 109 blister beetles? If this is what you are thinking, I agree. This is where the problem can get serious – if good quality hay is put up during a blister beetle hatch and then fed accidentally to horses.

The clinical signs of blister beetle poisoning include blisters and ulcers in the mouth, gastritis, colic, scours and bloody

scours. Also, horses may place their muzzles in water, but do not drink and may have frequent attempts to urinate. Lack of normal urination or blood in the urine are also signs of cantharidin poisoning in horses. Thus, oral and intestinal ulcers may occur in ruminant livestock after cantharidin consumption.

Recommendations to avoid blister beetle contamination of hay are numerous, but are common sense. Control any blooming weeds next to the hay fields. Scout hay fields for blister beetles the day prior to cutting. Especially scout hay fields that are next to rangelands prior to cutting. Crimping and conditioning of hay will crush the beetles and retain the problem within the hay. A sickle bar or rotary mower would be better if you know blister beetles are in the hay field. These rascals should be gone by the time you bale the hay. Alfalfa hay producers need to pay the most attention as the beetles love blooming alfalfa, which is not a problem in my area because south Texas is not a good environment for alfalfa hay production.

So, although you may not have alfalfa hay fields, not many grasshoppers, and aren't in a drought situation does not mean you won't have blister beetles, because I did have lots of them. Keep an eye out for blister beetles this late summer and always get assistance from your Extension agent or veterinarian. 🐾



Photo courtesy IPM Images.

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CONTEMPORARY GROUPING: WHAT'S NEW?

Researchers Share Proposed Contemporary Group Guideline Revisions at 2021 BIF

By Grace Vehige, Contributing Writer

As it is true with anything in the cattle business, every producer has their own way of managing their cattle. When thinking of herd management, however, grouping cattle may not be the first item on the list. Nonetheless, contemporary grouping is just as vital to operational – and breed – success as tasks such as inputting data or simply providing mineral to the herd.

At the 2021 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Symposium, Matt Spangler, Ph.D., beef genetics specialist at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, presented research on behalf of himself and Mark Thallman, Ph.D., research geneticist at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC). The presentation was called “Proposed Guideline Revisions for Contemporary Groups.”

Contemporary grouping in cattle has been covered in detail across many boards, but the general overwhelming nature of them is reason enough for further coverage. After all, it is always good to add more knowledge to the toolbox.

If unfamiliar with contemporary grouping for cattle, or if you are not sure how contemporary grouping is best utilized in your herd, let us start from the beginning.

Square One

To fully understand contemporary groups, it is important to comprehend

the concept, and that starts with basic definitions. In a general sense, BIF has defined contemporary groups as “a group of cattle that are of the same breed composition and gender, are similar in age, and have been raised under the same management conditions.”

However, after thorough research over the topic, Spangler said he and Thallman discovered the term contemporary group has been inflated to mean a lot of different things. In an effort to provide clarity to producers, Thallman and Spangler provided various proposed definitions developed over time and with attention to the topic at hand. The researchers’ work helps producers and scientists alike better understand contemporary grouping and herd management.

The terms with proposed definitions are as follows: contemporaries, Contemporary Group Designation (CGD), Contemporary Group Identifier (CGID), Contemporary Group Effect (CGE), Management Level Code and Ranch ID.

As described in the BIF Symposium presentation, contemporaries are animals managed identically in the same pasture or pen over the timeframe most effective for the related traits. Contemporary Group Designation was defined by Thallman and Spangler as a temporary code provided to a breed association by a producer that identifies a group of contemporaries within a collection of performance data. Notably,

this code was once referred to as the Management Code.

Next, Thallman and Spangler discussed the concept of Contemporary Group Identifiers: codes formed from Contemporary Group Designation and batch ID that permanently identifies a group of animals as contemporaries within the breed association. Consequently, Contemporary Group Effect was explained as a term in which the genetic evaluation model accounts for the similarity of contemporaries relative to non-contemporaries.

Not to be left out, the researchers proposed a definition for what is called a Management Level Code, which indicates systematic differences between groups of contemporaries. Examples of these systematic differences include the management of first-calf heifers, feedlot management, show barn management and various other managing roles.

“It would be ideal to have some sort of standardized codes, but also enable readers to assign custom codes so that they can clearly differentiate these,” Spangler said about Management Level Code.

Spangler and Thallman also proposed the concept of a Ranch ID, which would be beneficial to producers whose operations are family run, although there are other situations this is applicable to as well.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22 »

As described in the BIF Symposium presentation, contemporaries are animals managed identically in the same pasture or pen over the timeframe most effective for the related traits.



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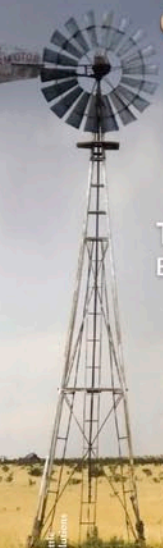
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Schedule of Events
Thursday, November 11th
4:00pm - Cattle viewing

Friday, November 12th
7:00am - Cowboy coffee
11:00am - 18th Annual Bull Sale
1:00pm - 18th Annual Commercial Female Sale
4:00pm - Tri-Star cattle viewing
6:00pm - Gathering & dinner

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Reports

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JULY 17, 2021 | BOWLING GREEN, KY.

SALE AVERAGES

28 Registered Lots \$2,500
11 STAR 5 Lots \$1,575

The Kentucky National Sale was sponsored by the Kentucky Santa Gertrudis Association and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. The sale chairman was Nolan Taylor, the sale manager was Darren Richmond and the auctioneer was Greg Reynolds.

The high-selling female was consigned by Five J Cattle & Beef, Clayton, N.C., and was sold to Salter Farm, Milton, Fla., for \$4,800. The high-selling pair was consigned by Gracey Pitchford, Athens, Texas, and was sold to 777 Farms, Magnolia, Ark., for \$4,000. The high-selling bull was consigned by Bar M Farm, Lenoir, N.C., and was sold to Larry Crutcher, Hazel, Ky., for \$3,800. The high-selling open heifer was consigned by Pitchford Cattle Co., Athens, Texas, and was sold to WT Calk, Bowling, Texas, for \$2,800. The high-selling STAR 5 female was consigned by Tinney Farms, Hanceville, Ala., and was sold to Gary Thurby, Henderson, Ky., for \$2,500. The high-selling STAR 5 bull was 1

consigned by Heath Farms, Hodgenville, Ky., and was sold to Mattingly Farms, Brandenburg, Ky., for \$3,750. 🐾



JUNIOR LETTER CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

I hope everyone had an enjoyable junior nationals. We are already looking forward to next year! Forty-six of us juniors attended Gerts Ongoing Advanced Leadership Summit (GOALS) at the end of July, and we had an amazing time! GOALS is a great opportunity for juniors to meet people and improve their networking, build their leadership skills and experience a multitude of fun activities.

We have begun our new show year in Mississippi by attending our first point show, and we are gearing up for the fall show season. I look forward to seeing you in Dallas! 🐾

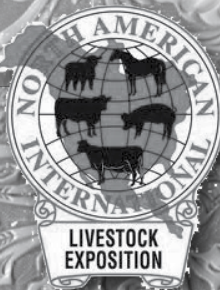
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Wiley Ranch	Gary Thurby	Blaine Patterson
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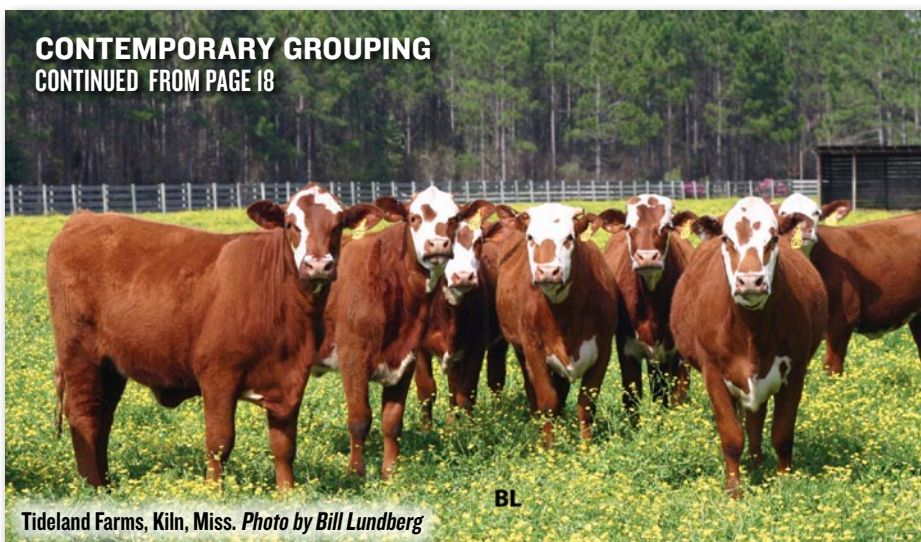
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Entry Deadline: Oct. 1, 2021

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CONTEMPORARY GROUPING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18



and accuracy surrounding contemporary groups and reporting data.

“For breeders, the take home is to correctly group animals. Do not force animals together to try to increase size in the hopes you are going to increase accuracy,” Spangler stated.

Ensuring High-Quality Data

Through these practices, among others, producers can contribute to the proper contemporary group formation and the record of high-quality data. Of course, there is looming question of what high-quality data entails.

“High-quality data would be accurately measured. It would be put in an appropriate contemporary grouping structure, and the way that it would be quantified is it is going to result in a lower residual variance,” Thallman explained.

Thallman defined lower residual variance as the variance that is due to measurement problems, environmental effects, incorrect models and anything else that we are not accounting for properly in our model.

The USMARC research geneticist explained that breeders who are doing a good job separating contemporary grouping and reporting data will have data that fits the model a lot closer than if they exemplified higher residual variance. If this were to happen, Thallman said, “That will result in having high reported accuracies [for producers] and having expected progeny differences that are more accurate at helping you to make the correct breeding decisions.”

All in all, contemporary grouping is done to help producers, associations and others throughout the industry continue making progress through thorough recordkeeping. With countless studies conducted regarding the topic, the science behind contemporary grouping and data accuracy is advancing.

The recorded presentation “Proposed Guideline Revisions for Contemporary Groups,” published by the Beef Improvement Federation, can be found on YouTube. If you have further questions regarding contemporary groups, be sure to visit with association staff. 🐄

A Ranch ID is simply developed to distinguish cattle produced by the same breeder under similar conditions over multiple years. However, as stated by Spangler and Thallman, this tool is particularly beneficial in cases of comingled ownership within a contemporary group. In instances like this, a Ranch ID could be utilized to represent the group of owners that comeingle their cattle rather than having individual member IDs.

Reaching True Accuracy

During their presentation, Thallman and Spangler provided the audience with an in-depth look at the science behind contemporary grouping and what may or may not be advantageous. Often, a producer’s choice of contemporary grouping management may be made with good intentions, but receives a poor outcome.

The effects of these contemporary group choices can be seen through the differences in Model-Derived Accuracy and True Accuracy. Model-Derived Accuracy is, as it alludes, computed from a model and data structure. While, alternatively, True Accuracy is the correlation between Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) and true breeding value. (Ultimately, True Accuracy drives response to selection.

“Because [a producer] incorrectly grouped animals together, [they] could actually get lower True Accuracy,” Spangler said of contemporary grouping errors. “The point is, if you have animals that should not be grouped together, but you do so thinking you are creating an advantage in accuracy, you can actually be shooting yourself in the foot.”

Other common areas of misconception among breeders regarding contemporary

groups are the size of the contemporary groups themselves.

As Spangler continued to describe differences in data accuracies, he noted the size of the contemporary groups can be cause for variances in data alone as the bigger contemporary groups are not always better.

“Instead of combining a bunch of animals that come from different ranches together, or certainly if they were treated differently, if we can correct the account for this structure better, we can increase true accuracy,” Spangler stated.

Reporting Contemporary Groups

In the simulated studies conducted by Thallman and presented by Spangler, results show it is better to report separate groups that have been managed similarly as separate groups accounted for by random Contemporary Group Effect.

“It is equally important not to divide groups managed together into separate Contemporary Group Designations when breeders report them to breed associations,” Spangler said.

Spangler gave the following example. If the association communicates a specific contemporary group requirement or classification, Spangler said breeders might think that is the only definition to use when reporting contemporaries.

Additionally, Spangler shared a list of changes he and Thallman believe should be made to improve the science

“For breeders, the take home is to correctly group animals. Do not force animals together to try to increase size in the hopes you are going to increase accuracy.”

– Matt Spangler, Ph.D.



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GOALS 2021 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

timers, and all of them said they would return and were glad they attended. These kids truly love this breed, this association and the opportunities afforded them, and they learn wonderful leadership qualities through this program.

The GOALS 2021 youth and chaperones truly appreciate the support and financial contributions provided to help make this trip possible. Casey Jones and I truly feel that co-chairing and planning GOALS is a labor of love that we enjoy doing for and sharing with our juniors. We thank everyone who helped make GOALS 2021 possible and successful! 🐾



The 2021-2022 National Junior Santa Gertrudis Association Board at the closing dinner and banquet.

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THE VALUE OF ACCURACY IN BULL-BUYING DECISIONS

By Emily Stribling, Contributing Writer

With sale season quickly approaching, breeding stock selection is likely on your mind. You may feel like you have finally mastered factoring expected progeny differences (EPDs) into your genetic selection process, but are you actually taking accuracy values into full consideration?

At the 2021 Beef Improvement Federation Symposium, Matt Spangler, Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln, delivered a presentation titled “Understanding the Value of Accuracy” in which he discussed why simply selecting bulls with the highest accuracy on desired traits is not necessarily the best selection method and the economic impacts it could have on your operation’s bottom line.

To understand accuracy, it’s important to remember what an EPD value is: a prediction of how an individual animal’s future progeny are expected to perform relative to those of other animals within the breed. In other words, how you expect the average of the offspring of one animal to perform, not differences between every calf born to that animal. Accuracy can be simply defined as the relationship between the estimated and “true” EPD of the animal.

“Think of accuracy as representing the confidence in the reported EPD,” Spangler said. As accuracy increases from zero to one, confidence increases in the reported EPD value. “Accuracy does not tell us anything about the consistency of the offspring,” Spangler reminded breeders. In fact, high-accu-

racy bulls will have offspring just as variable as low-accuracy bulls.

Just as EPD values change as an animal produces more offspring, so will the accuracy. The main factor for increasing accuracy is increased progeny data, regardless of trait heritability; therefore, an older bull will have a higher accuracy than a younger bull. Other factors impacting accuracy include pedigree, which has little to no impact as progeny numbers begin to increase, and genomic data. Genomic-enhanced (GE) EPDs help enhance accuracy, especially in young, non-parent animals. Genomic data does not, however, replace the need for progeny records and can only impact accuracy so much. By increasing accuracy on young animals, the generation interval can be reduced, thus leading to faster rates of genetic change.

On the surface, it seems as though you’d always want to select for higher accuracy on desired traits. While increased accuracy can result in faster genetic progress, selecting only higher accuracy bulls comes with its own risks. It takes time to produce enough progeny to begin honing in on the most accurate EPD values; therefore, there’s a time delay as to when accuracy will actually be gained. With genetic trends changing more rapidly than most animals can produce these large numbers of offspring, a “proven,” high-accuracy bull may be outdated by the time high accuracy is reached.



“On average, younger bulls are different, presumably better, than older bulls are. So, if you make the decision to only select highly accurate bulls, you understand there are younger bulls that should be better,” Spangler explained.

Choosing a younger, lower accuracy bull with impressive EPDs may offer the opportunity to find a superior sire with the newest genetics, but it’s important to remember that EPD values can change drastically as progeny data are received and accuracies increase, so risk and reward must be weighed.

There can be instances when selecting an animal that has more desirable EPD values with lower accuracy is worth the risk. For example, if you’re purchasing a single yearling bull for use on heifers and your current death loss due to dystocia is 0 percent, you may not be as concerned about the accuracy of his calving ease EPD and the fact that the bull’s true calving ease EPD might be far from his published EPD. However, if your current level of death loss due to dystocia is 2 percent, the upper and lower bounds of what the true calving ease EPD is could cause a much greater economic impact and not be such a simple decision – calving ease EPD accuracy might matter more in this scenario.

The amount to which accuracy factors into your selection decisions varies by individual and operation. As a seedstock producer, “the value of accuracy is relatively simple to quantify,” Spangler said. “You must consider the trade-offs with generation interval.”

The value of individual trait accuracy for commercial producers, on the other hand, is slightly more involved.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29 »



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RS Miss 56H, shown by
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Heaths Black Diamond, shown by
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GRAND CHAMPION BULL AND BEST OF POLLED BULL

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Circle H Josie, shown by
Circle H Farm, Wrightsville, Ga.

THE VALUE OF ACCURACY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

Individual risk tolerance should be evaluated as well as assessing on a trait-by-trait basis, considering current performance and breeding objectives. If a producer is slightly more risk tolerant, it may pay off to choose a lower accuracy bull with stellar EPDs, even though they know that the bull's true EPD may fall within a relatively wide range of the reported EPD.

One last point to consider with the previous example in mind is increasing accuracy through the mean – the effect of selecting multiple bulls on mean EPD of the group.

"As I increase the number of animals in a group, I have more confidence in the average of those individuals. If I turn out a larger group of bulls in a pasture, it's not the individual genetic merit that I'm really interested in; it's the average of their genetic merits and the accuracy of that average that will always be exceptionally high," Spangler explained.

With this concept in mind, a producer can take advantage of including individual bulls in the group that are lowly accurate, because the accuracy of the average of the entire group will

be higher, thus mitigating the risk of introducing new, unproven genetics.

In summary, understanding accuracy more completely and how it can be of value in your decision-making process can improve your operation from both a

production and profitability standpoint. However, you must evaluate the tradeoffs that come with selecting younger, lower accuracy bulls and determine the level of risk tolerance for your operation. 🐄

SGBI

Need to Know

Progress continues to be made with the much anticipated pedigree platform. In the spring meeting of the board of directors, a partnership with DigitalBeef was approved as the association's new pedigree platform provider.

DigitalBeef is widely regarded as the most user-friendly industry platform, with some of the most advanced registry features available. We have been working diligently to provide the needed information for the DigitalBeef team to complete the Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) platform. To date, we have a working test site that we will continue to monitor and adjust in-house to meet our members' needs. Once complete, a beta test will be run among members, with the final version expected to be rolled out to the entire membership by the end of year.

"We feel members will enjoy the ease of use within the DigitalBeef platform," says SGBI Executive Director Webb Fields. "The new registry platform should allow a new member to easily pick up the process of registering, transferring and managing animals with ease, while providing even our most seasoned platform users more freedoms and advanced tools that will make managing their herds a breeze."

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