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JANUARY 2024 • VOLUME 27 • NUMBER 1

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ACC	0.41	0.48	0.32	0.25		0.18	0.24	0.20	0.27	0.30	0.41	0.43
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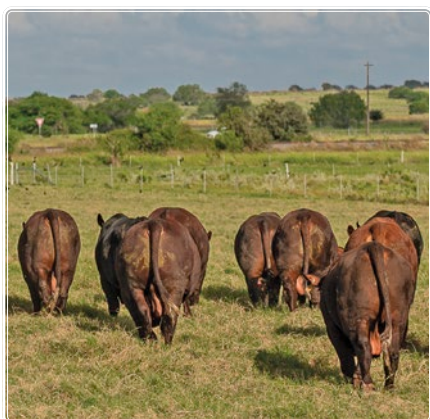
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Photo by Darren Richmond.

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Get on Board



This year marks 114 years since the inception of the Santa Gertrudis breed in 1910, and 74 years since the formation of the Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) in 1950. Over seven decades, the Santa Gertrudis breed has contributed to the beef industry primarily in developing cattle that can thrive in challenging environments.

The Santa Gertrudis breed was developed originally as a business venture to enhance quality beef on ranch land that was not suitable for British cattle, with the end goal of still providing pounds of consumer-acceptable beef.

Currently, we have been idle in the Santa Gertrudis breed in creating "critical mass." There is a cattle shortage as we are seeing the U.S. cow herd at a record-low 29.4 million beef cows. The beef industry will continue to grow, and there is great opportunity ahead for breeders who can supply quality bulls and females in volume. We have a strong foundation of a quality product that can be supplied in raising Santa Gertrudis walking stock, elite genetics, semen and embryos.

Santa Gertrudis will not remain viable as a major player in the beef industry without supplying critical mass to cattlemen. The breed cannot survive off a few purebred and STAR 5 sales a year that the majority of the cattle circulate among registered breeders. The number of registered cattle continues to decline among SGBI breeders as well as the equity in Santa Gertrudis cattle.

That said, I encourage breeders to re-invest in Santa Gertrudis genetics, cull harder and work to develop cattle that have marketplace value. Every operation should capitalize on trying to capture premiums where they can with elite genetics, show heifers sales, semen and embryo sales. However, the long-term success of Santa Gertrudis breeders will be achieved by producing good-quality, functional cattle that fit the beef industry.

I challenge Santa Gertrudis breeders to breed cattle for the beef industry in 2024! If your commercial cattleman down the road likes them, then you have achieved success in your breeding program. SGBI will soon have a new executive director, and we again will have great opportunities to impact the beef industry. In the meantime, we need every small, medium and large breeder to get on board with providing critical mass of quality Santa Gertrudis cattle. 🐄

CALL FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

The 2024 Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) Annual Meeting will be April 25-27 at the Embassy Suites Oceanfront Resort in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Elections for six seats on the association's board of directors will be conducted during the annual meeting. Terms are for three years and elections will be held for the following positions:

Eastern Region Director - 2 seats
Western Region Director - 2 seats
District 2 - At-Large Director
District 3 - At-Large Director

Active SGBI members interested in seeking a board seat and having their name placed on the ballot should contact Member Services Specialist Emma Ramirez via email at emma@santagertrudis.com by Jan. 29, 2024. A 300-word bio and picture are required, which will appear in *Santa Gertrudis Source* prior to the annual meeting. 🐄



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CONQUISTADOR

20223332 • 1524K11 • 2/6/2022 • Horned • Bull



	BW	WW	YW	MILK	TM	SC	HCW	REA	MARB	FT	INDEXES
EPDs	0.3	15	15	9	20	0.53	2	0.13	0.25	-0.002	Balanced: 15%
Acc	.37	.42	.37	.26	--	.15	.27	.34	.47	.50	Cow/Calf: 10%
% Rank	70%	35%	35%	1%	2%	15%	30%	20%	10%	55%	Terminal: 20%

CONQUISTADOR OF BRIGGS 1524K11 is one of the most balanced EPD herd sires you will ever find. He is a KR X Factor 912/18 son and out of one of the most famous donors in the Santa Gertrudis breed, Harris 1524, who has generated more than \$120,000 in progeny for Briggs Ranches. He ranks in the TOP 35% in 10 EPD traits. If you're looking to add milk into your herd, look no further as he ranks in the TOP 1% in Milk. He has 1.17 REA/CWT and scanned a 5 IMF.

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CattleFax Seminar Focuses on 2024 Cattle Market and Beyond

BY KELSEY POPE, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Headwinds and opportunities were the focus areas of the CattleFax 2024 Outlook & Strategies Seminar, held in-person and virtually on Nov. 28, 2023, in Denver, Colo. The annual seminar shared U.S. and global agricultural market trends and weather analysis. Common themes throughout the staff and guest presenters were inflation and interest rates, weather, volatility in cattle markets and the outlook for the cattle cycle.

Meat Demand

Consumer demand for beef from retail, foodservice and export sectors have been historically strong and stable today but is looking at headwinds tomorrow.

Mike Murphy, CattleFax chief operating officer, shared that our economic situation gives the consumers confidence, putting them in a position to buy more beef. The restaurant sector evidence suggests consumers are tightening their belts and scaling down to quick-service restaurants, which are expected to perform solidly in 2024.

The concerns for beef demand are the amount of debt the consumer carries today, the squeeze on consumers due to inflation and disposable income leveling off – all headwinds for consumers to spend money on goods and services in 2024.

Inflation is not nearly the problem it was a year ago, according to



Mike Murphy, CattleFax chief operating officer

Jan Lambregts, RaboResearch global economics and markets. “We’ve gone from rates of 8 to 10 percent in the [Consumer Price Index], now back to 3 to 3.5 percent, and that’s good news. Inflation is looking to further decline, yet still showing that the economy is cyclically weakening.”

Lambregts warned producers that, even with inflation lessening, higher interest rates are here to stay and to pay close attention to managing interest rate risk.

Weather

El Niño is here but will not last long. Meteorologist Matt Makens forewarned producers to “pump the brakes,” we are not at the peak of El Niño just yet.

Makens stressed that 1° F in the El Niño event can dramatically change the weather pattern across the country. In general, El Niño will bring drier conditions to the north and wetter condition to the south. However, these conditions can take time, which is why the drought numbers in Texas are still dominant. Strength of the event does matter.

“If we continue in a strong El Niño this winter, we will have warmer-than-average temperatures in the north and cooler in the south,” Makens articulated. “If we are in a weaker event, warmer temperatures will be in the West and Southeast and cooler through the middle of the country. The separation of these two outcomes is a 1° F difference in temperature of the atmosphere.”

Makens added that the current atmosphere is not reacting as strongly to El Niño ocean conditions, posting the 17th strongest El Niño event in the atmosphere since the 1970s and the fourth strongest based on ocean conditions.

With El Niño coming into weaker conditions, Makens forecasts winter temperatures to be warmer in



Meteorologist Matt Makens

the West and north up into Canada throughout the Rockies – a problem for snowpack. Temps are cooler than average from Colorado down into the Southern Plains and Southeast. For the Central and Southern Plains, March is the biggest risk for cold extremes and increasing moisture.

The Corn Belt down through southern Mississippi will be dry through the winter, while more precipitation is expected through the Plains down to Texas and down both East and West coasts. The spring outlook shows the drought starting to take over again in the Southern Plains.

Beef Exports

The list of headwinds in the global protein market remains large, but Dan Halstrom, president and CEO of the U.S. Meat Export Federation, said opportunities remain strong, allowing exports to add value to the cattle business.

Coming off record beef export volume in 2022 (1.477 million metric tons), beef exports are expected to end 2023 down 10 percent from a year ago. Halstrom said several of the markets for U.S. beef started the year slow, but he sees numbers improving for year end. Beef export value is currently at \$396 per head, down from 2022’s record high of \$449 per head. Pork export volume is forecast to be

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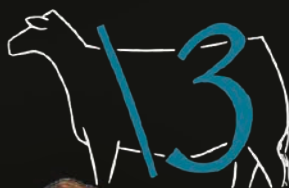
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2.92 million metric tons, up 9 percent. Pork export value is on record pace so far this year at \$63 per head.

Halstrom said that opportunities exist for exporting beef. "Pork production is down 20 percent so far this year in the EU, which is a huge void in the global protein market of pork. Why does this impact cattle producers? There is not enough protein in the world. This creates an opportunity for beef."

Cattle Supply

Kevin Good, vice president of industry relations and analysis at CattleFax, reported that U.S. beef cow inventories are on pace to be down 620,000 head on Jan. 1, 2024, compared to a year ago. This liquidation phase is expected for the next 12 months.

"Year-to-date in 2023, half of the nation's beef cow herd on average has been in dry conditions and a third in drought," Good said. "This is better than a year ago but is at a rate that would suggest drought is the No. 1 headwind."

Cow herd slaughter remains in a massive liquidation phase, down 410,000 head in 2023. Culling rate is on pace to be 12 percent, the third highest in the last 30 years. Cow slaughter is projected to be down 675,000 head in 2024, suggesting slight liquidation remaining in the beef cow herd. Heifer retention rates are telling the same story.

"We have not kept the heifers back out of this year's calf crop that we thought we would," Good said. "The percent of heifers on feed at 40 percent is the highest in 20-plus years." Beef replacement heifer numbers on Jan. 1, 2024, are expected to be historically low.

Even after five years of liquidation, Good said cattle-on-feed numbers are above year-ago levels. "Much of it goes back to drought: placing lighter cattle, placing heifers and importing more cattle from Mexico. By the end of this year, we'll bring in about 400,000 more feeder cattle from Mexico, and we would suggest that trend to continue in 2024."

As of Jan. 1, 2024, feeder cattle and calf supply are expected to be down

900,000 head, totaling 38.5 million. Cattle-on-feed numbers are projected to be up 200,000 head, near even with the five-year average. Fed slaughter is on pace to be down 1 million head in 2023. In 2024, look for fed slaughter to be down 800,000 head over the course of the year. Smaller fed and non-fed slaughter and lighter carcass weights all contributed to the trend of contracting commercial beef production, down 1.3 billion pounds in 2023.

Beef-on-dairy crosses are increasing rapidly as dairy producers are seeing more value across all weights of calves. "As long as that is an incentive, we would suggest the dairy industry will continue to adapt that technology of using beef genetics and making up a larger percentage of the slaughter mix."

About 50 percent of the dairy industry is using beef semen, with that progeny ending up in a beef feedlot setting. That equates to about 9 percent of the cattle harvested today are beef-on-dairy cross, with the potential of about 15 percent by 2026.

Maximizing Profitability

Murphy forecasted the average 2023 fed steer price at \$177 per hundredweight, up \$22 from 2022. Even with increasing year-over-year prices, Murphy warns producers that there should be a spot market decline from the first half of the year high to the second half of the year low.

Troy Applehans, CattleFax market specialist, covered profitability for cow-calf and stocker operators, revealing that an up-trending market for females is expected to continue. "The gap between female values and calf prices is expected to narrow due to higher interest rates and inflation," Applehans said.

As expansion is coming at a slower rate, higher cattle prices should be sustained. Regional bred cow prices shift when certain areas have more abundant or a lack of moisture.



Randy Blach, CattleFax CEO

"As a result, the total calf crop is not expected to grow as rapidly as the last cattle cycle," Applehans said. "This is expected to place more market leverage toward the cow-calf and stocker producer segments moving forward."

CattleFax CEO Randy Blach concluded the seminar with a positive but cautious outlook summary. With heifer retention not yet starting, Blach said the smallest harvest numbers and beef production are slated for 2025-2026 with prices expected to peak during this time.

Further complicating markets is the headwind of high interest rates and a lack of confidence in the market. Beef demand has proven to be resilient with solid Choice demand. There is some weakness in Prime or similar markets, and more weakness ahead as prices climb.

"Beef prices have anticipated the smaller production levels and have moved sharply higher from 2020 to 2023," Blach said. "2023 was the accelerated trend year in prices; 2024 and 2025 won't be as dynamic, but prices will still average higher."

Industry profitability will continue to swing in favor of the cow-calf producer as excess feeding and packing capacity chases a declining supply of feeder cattle and calves.

For more cattle market analysis and membership, visit CattleFax.com. 🐄

Factors Affecting Beef Herd Expansion

WEATHER - Improved in 2023, but still a headwind looking at 2024.

INPUT COSTS - Inflation, interest rates and labor availability and cost are a major headwind.

PROFITABILITY - positive in 2023 depending on moisture conditions; positive forecast for 2024; calf values higher, incentivizing some heifer retention.

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Reg Number: 20153072 Semen available through Hefte Ranch and Wendt Ranch.

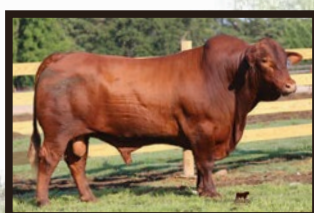
BW	WW	YW	CW	Act REA	Act Marb
-1.1	7	2	-1	13.94	4.09



HEFTE EL PRIMERO H04

Reg Number: 20197596 Semen available through ST Genetics.

BW	WW	YW	CW	REA	Marb
-0.8	34	34	10	0.18	0.30



HEFTE RANCH H83

Reg Number: 20202516

BW	WW	YW	CW	REA	Marb
-0.3	19	19	3	0.09	0.14



HEFTE 5JS JACK OF ALL TRAITS

Reg Number: 20202755

BW	WW	YW	CW	REA	Marb
-0.2	13	16	3	0.11	0.11



HEFTE RANCH H79

Reg Number: 20201438 Pictured is a top-selling daughter, typical of H79.

BW	WW	YW	CW	REA	Marb
-0.8	12	13	-1	-0.03	0.11



HEFTE RANCH JET STREAM J125

Reg Number: 20212125

BW	WW	YW	CW	REA	Marb
-0.4	16	12	-1	0.02	0.15



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PRIOR PROPER PLANNING PRECEDES PROFITABLE PURCHASES

BY BOB WEABER, PH.D., PROFESSOR AND HEAD, EASTERN KANSAS RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTERS,
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Make sure you know what traits you would like to improve in your herd and what breed(s) fits in your mating system. If you are using a crossbreeding system, make sure the breed's core strengths fit your objectives and are complementary to your existing cow herd.

As the bull-buying season gets underway, commercial cattlemen should do their homework to help ensure the bull(s) they purchase this year meets their needs. Preparedness is the key to making an informed purchase. Before you crack open the seedstock sale catalogs, there are a few resources and skills you should possess.

First, make sure you understand the use of expected progeny differences (EPDs) and selection indexes. While EPDs are not the only selection information you should consider, they are the most effective tools available to describe the genetic differences between animals within and across herds. EPDs are much more effective genetic predictors than actual or adjusted performance records. If an EPD is available for a trait, it should be used instead of an animal's own performance record for that trait. The EPD removes age and environmental effects that can bias a decision based on actual or adjusted performance records.

Not all EPDs are the same, so make sure you know the appropriate information for the breed of cattle you are purchasing. (See Santa Gertrudis EPD trait definitions on page 14.) For a useful reference on EPDs and other genetic topics, see the *Beef Sire Selection Manual* (<https://ebeef.ucdavis.edu/2021-nbcec-beef-cattle-sire-selection-manual>). Obtain the breed average EPDs and a percentile rank table available from the most current genetic evaluation for the breed of interest. Percentile rank tables can be found on most breed association websites. The percentile rank and averages for Santa Gertrudis are here: [https://](https://santagertrudis.digitalbeef.com/modules/_cattle_evaluation/new_nce_parsing/percentile_ranks_pdf.php)

santagertrudis.digitalbeef.com/modules/_cattle_evaluation/new_nce_parsing/percentile_ranks_pdf.php. These tools will enable you to compare the relative genetic merit of individual animals to other animals in the breed. Across-breed EPD can be computed using the USMARC adjustment factors (<https://beef-improvement.org/23acrossbreedepd/>) to make EPDs comparable across breeds.

Second, make sure you know what traits you would like to improve in your herd and what breed(s) fits in your mating system. If you are using a crossbreeding system, make sure the breed's core strengths fit your objectives and are complementary to your existing cow herd. Other factors to consider are keeping replacement heifers, endpoints for progeny marketing (weaned, backgrounded or in the beef). Assessment of these factors will help point you to the best breed for your needs and the combinations of maternal/growth/carcass traits that best fit your operation and environment. Be sure to apply selection to traits that have direct economic importance in your production system.

Third, set a realistic budget for bull purchases. Like most things in life, price is driven by quality. Evaluation of a seedstock supplier's prior year sale averages will give you an idea of what to expect in terms of purchase costs. That said, prices over the last 12 months indicate that seedstock purchases are substantially more expensive, some as much as \$500 to \$1,000 more, than in previous years. A good rule of thumb is that a quality seedstock bull costs roughly the same as the value of four to

Continued on 14 »



INCINERATOR



	BW	WW	YW	MK	TMAT	SC	HP	BB	HCW	REA	MARB	FAT
EPD	-2.3	16	13	-1	11	0.40	1.41	0.34	6	0.12	0.29	-0.02
ACC	0.43	0.46	0.33	0.25	--	0.13	0.24	0.20	0.26	0.30	0.44	0.48
%Rank	1	25	45	60	25	40	30	75	15	20	5	10

REG. NO. 20210008
DOB: 1/9/2021

BALANCED INDEX: 5% | COW/CALF INDEX: 20% | TERMINAL INDEX: 3%

SIRE: Red Doc ET Lumbre 8509 | DAM: Red Doc Vino Blanco 9070

RED DOC INCINERATOR 1005 is marbling and efficiency genetics in one great package. Red Doc 1005 is out of the second-calf heifer Vino Blanco 9070, who was offered high-marbling choice lot in last year's Red Doc Elite Donation Lot. The Vino Blanco cow scored an 8.41 IMF and had a 9.14 REA. This Red Doc bull is sired by the 2020 RHBS \$45,000 high-selling bull, Red Doc Lumbre 8509. Red Doc Lumbre brings bone, base and highly efficient GrowSafe genetics. Red Doc Lumbre has sold thousands of dollars' worth of semen to Australian breeders seeking profitable traits.

Owned with Five J Cattle, Heffe Ranch and Kade Thigpen.

SEMEN FOR SALE \$40/STRAW

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BLACKTIP CATTLE COMPANY

Celebration, FL 34747

Robert Walker | (954) 553-2733

blacktipemail@yahoo.com



Prior Proper Planning

Continued from 12

five feeder steers in the current market. A number of reputation seed-stock bull sales have averaged \$6,000 to \$8,000 this past fall. The increased bull cost is largely driven by increased development costs incurred by seed-stock producers. The added purchase cost makes it even more important to make a well-thought-out decision.

Fourth, get to know your seedstock

supplier and make sure he/she knows you and your operational goals. Seek out recommendations from your supplier well in advance of the sale. Once you receive the sale catalog, make a short list of bulls (approximately two to three times more than you intend to purchase) that fit your specifications. Arrive at the sale site early to inspect the bulls on your short list. Shorten this list of candidates based on conformation and updated data

to identify your purchase candidates. Keep the sale order in mind. Stay focused on the bulls you selected earlier. Sticking to your plan will avoid impulse purchases. Remember: Failure to plan is planning to fail. 🐄

Santa Gertrudis EPD Trait Definitions

BIRTH WEIGHT (BW) - expressed in pounds, is a predictor of the ability to transmit birth weight to progeny.

WEANING WEIGHT (WW) - expressed in pounds, is a predictor of weaning growth in progeny adjusted to 205 days of age and for age of dam effects.

YEARLING WEIGHT (YW) - expressed in pounds, is a predictor of ability to transmit body weight adjusted to 365 days of age (yearling) to progeny.

MATERNAL MILK (MK) - expressed in pounds of adjusted weaning weight; a predictor of an animal's genetic merit for milk and mothering ability as expressed in daughters.

TOTAL MATERNAL (TM) - expressed in pounds of adjusted weaning weights; this represents the total genetic contribution of an animal's daughters to calf weaning weight from both direct growth and maternal genetic effects.

SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE (SC) - expressed in centimeters, is a predictor of ability to transmit scrotal size to progeny.

HEIFER PREGNANCY (HP) - expressed in percentage of yearling heifers conceiving during defined breeding season.

BREED BACK (BB) - expressed as percentage of 2-year-old females that bred back, given they were palpated pregnant as yearlings.

CARCASS WEIGHT (CW) - expressed in pounds, is a predictor of body weight growth to a carcass endpoint.

RIBEYE AREA (REA) - is a predictor of the difference in square inches of ribeye area of a progeny carcass.

MARBLING (MB) - expressed in degrees of marbling; a predictor of the difference in a progeny for USDA marbling score (a measure of intramuscular fat) in the ribeye muscle associated with USDA Quality Grade.

FAT THICKNESS (FAT) - expressed in inches; is a predictor of the difference in carcass fat thickness at the 12th rib.

BALANCED INDEX (BALANCED) - Reported in dollar differences per calf sired; this index assumes that replacement females are retained within the herd and that calves are either 1) marketed as carcasses on a value-based grid or 2) that buyers of their feeder calves base pricing on feedlot and carcass performance. Most large cow-calf operations fall into this category.

COW/CALF INDEX (COW/CALF) - Reported in dollar differences per calf sired; this index assumes replacement females are retained in the herd and that calves are marketed at a weaning endpoint. Many small to mid-sized commercial operations would fit into this production scenario.

TERMINAL INDEX (TERMINAL) - Reported in dollar differences per calf sired; this index assumes no replacements are retained in the herd (i.e., no economic weights on maternal traits) and that calves are marketed as carcasses on a value-based grid. 🐄

EVENT CALENDAR

January

- 14 Stockyard Showcase Sale, SC Online Sales
- 15 National Santa Gertrudis Show, Fort Worth, Texas
- 31-Feb. 2 Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show, Orlando, Fla.

February

- 1 Premier Santa Gertrudis Association Sale Entry Deadline
- 13 Santa Gertrudis Show at the Dixie National Livestock Show & Rodeo, Jackson, Miss.
- 17 Wendt's Super Santa Sale, Online

March

- 1 Mid-Coast Santa Gertrudis Association International Super Sale, Houston, Texas
- 19 Texas Alliance Sale, Bloomington, Texas
- 23 Purple Reign III Sale, Magnolia, Ark.

April

- 5 Rocky Mountain Elite Cut Sale, Belen, N.M.
- 6 Red Hot Bull Sale, Belen, N.M.
- 6 Rocky Mountain Spring Runoff Sale, Belen, N.M.
- 13 Wiley Spring Bull Sale, Effie, La.
- 19-20 Santa Gertrudis Bluebonnet Classic Sale, Hallettsville, Texas
- 20 Crimson Classic Sale, Hanceville, Ala.
- 25-27 2024 SGBI Annual Meeting, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

May

- 1 NJSGBS Ownership Deadline - All Other Classes
- 2-5 Premier Santa Gertrudis Association Sale, Annual Meeting & Junior Warm-Up Show, Gainesville, Texas
- 11 Breeders of the Carolinas Sale, Monroe, N.C.

June

- 10-13 Beef Improvement Federation Annual Symposium, Knoxville, Tenn.
- 16-27 National Junior Santa Gertrudis Show, Little Rock, Ark.

July

- TBD Kentucky National Show & Sale, Bowling Green, Ky.

September

- 13-14 District 6 Halted Heifer Show & Sale, Corydon, Ind.

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Red Doc Fuego 1032

The Justiss family is excited to announce the addition of *Red Doc Fuego 1032* to the 4J herd sire battery. We believe Fuego is one of the most modern-built bulls in the Santa Gertrudis breed. His clean underline, moderate frame and exceptional thickness make him the perfect fit for today's beef industry. Fuego's Balanced Index score of 2 is supported by a 20 Cow-Calf Index and a Terminal Index score of 1, highlighting that this exceptional young sire will strengthen any operation. Thanks to the Fuego 1032 LLC for the opportunity to utilize this sire in our program.

Red Doc Fuego 1032 Semen Sales:
Danny Casillas (530) 392-0152
Manny Casillas (530) 559-7698

Fuego 1032 LLC – Ernie Montoya, Richard and Marilyn Cordova, Manny and Melinda Casillas, Albert and Caroline Keck, Bobby and Connie Casillas, Scott Kines, Steve Mehalakis, Danny and Beth Casillas



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2023 SGBI HIGH POINT STANDINGS 2024

Please note that point totals below are through the 2023 Hot Gert Show. Remaining Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) point shows include Cattlemen's Congress, National Santa Gertrudis Show/Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo (double points), Dixie National Show, Florida State Fair, San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo and Houston Livestock Show. SGBI High Point Awards will be presented at the 2024 SGBI Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

HEIFER CALF

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. 5J's G70 Peaches 01/23, Bar M Farm/5J's Cattle Co., Lenoir, N.C. | 44 |
| 2. XL's Glitter and Gold, Excell Santa Gertrudis, Santa Fe, Texas | 35 |
| 3. Miss Grandview 5121K, Gracey Pitchford, Eustace, Texas | 27 |

YEARLING HEIFER

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. PC Miss Forgotten One 332K, Lennon Cattle Co., Alba, Texas | 42 |
| 2. XL's That's Gold, Excell Santa Gertrudis, Santa Fe, Texas | 33 |
| 3. QVF Ms Paradigm 11K, Noland Heard, Centralia, Ill. | 24 |

SENIOR FEMALE

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. CLB 2221 Tana Marie, Tripp Nichols, Axtell, Texas | 98 |
| 2. Miss Grandview 205J2, Bar M Farm, Lenoir, N.C. | 41 |
| 3. Miss Grandview 9115J12, Red Dawn Farm, Gallant, Ala. | 24 |

BEST OF POLLED FEMALE

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. 5J's G70 Peaches 01/23, Bar M Farm/5J's Cattle Co., Lenoir, N.C. | 5 |
| 2. Miss Grandview 9115J12, Red Dawn Farm, Gallant, Ala. | 5 |
| 3. Kubecka 18/21, In The Red Ranch, Eustace, Texas | 2 |

OVERALL HIGH POINT FEMALE

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. CLB 2221 Tana Marie, Tripp Nichols, Axtell, Texas | 98 |
| 2. 5J's Peach 01/23, Bar M Farm/5J's Cattle Co., Lenoir, N.C. | 44 |
| 3. PC Miss Forgotten One 332K, Lennon Cattle Co., Alba, Texas | 42 |

HIGH POINT BULL CALF

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. XL's Pendleton, Landon Stem, Plantersville, Texas | 60 |
| 2. OLC Jessie James, Osborne Livestock Co., Lathrop, Mo. | 47 |
| 3. M Rock Shuga Bear, M Rock Farm, De Kalb, Texas | 27 |

HIGH POINT YEARLING BULL

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. 777 Candyman, 777 Farms/Wendt Ranches, Magnolia, Ark. | 90 |
| 2. Creech 438-2, Morse View Farm, Mountain Grove, Mo. | 48 |
| 3. QVF Paradigm 117K4, Bar M Farm, Lenoir, N.C. | 38 |

HIGH POINT SENIOR BULL

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. 777 Kash, 777 Farms, Texarkana, Texas | 71 |
| 2. MVF Never Before Dynamite, Morse View Farm, Mountain Grove, Mo. | 51 |
| 3. HCC J33, Hurricane Cattle Co., Weatherford, Texas | 28 |

BEST OF POLLED BULL

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. XL's Pendleton, Landon Stem, Plantersville, Texas | 8 |
|--|---|

OVERALL HIGH POINT BULL

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. 777 Candyman, 777 Farms/Wendt Ranches, Magnolia, Ark. | 90 |
| 2. 777 Kash, 777 Farms, Magnolia, Ark. | 71 |
| 3. XL's Pendleton, Landon Stem, Plantersville, Texas | 60 |

HIGH POINT STAR 5 BULL

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. MVF Rip, Morse View Farm, Mountain Grove, Mo. | 10 |
| 2. SF Michelob, Top Shelf Cattle Co., California, Mo. | 8 |
| 3. DK Salty Chupacabra, Crey Cummings, Batesville, Ark. | 7 |

HIGH POINT STAR 5 FEMALE

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. MVF Maggie May, Morse View Farm, Mountain Grove, Mo. | 16 |
| 2. Copperheads Ms Assignment, Gracey Pitchford, Eustace, Texas | 9 |
| 3. HCC Lola H05, Tripp Nichols, Axtell, Texas | 6 |

PRODUCE OF DAM

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. RAR Miss Abigail, Excell Santa Gertrudis, Santa Fe, Texas | 21 |
| 2. 777 Miss Kitty, 777 Farms, Magnolia, Ark. | 11 |

GET OF SIRE

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Midas, Excell Santa Gertrudis, Santa Fe, Texas | 10 |
| 2. 777 Honeybadger, 777 Farms, Magnolia, Ark. | 4 |



LEADING HIGH POINT BULL

777 Candyman



LEADING HIGH POINT FEMALE

CLB 2221 Tana Marie

Happy New Year!

THANK YOU TO ALL IN 2023!

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in Fort Worth!*

STOCKYARDS

Showcase



January 14th, 2024



**SHE SELLS AT
FORT WORTH!**

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Hefte Ranch H47 x Miss Grandview 7019G2



Hefte Ranch H47

KR 191/13 x Hefte Ranch C53



Hefte Ranch J125

F14 Tomcat x Hefte Ranch C54



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Are Genome-Edited Cattle in Your Future?

This may be old news for those folks “in the know,” but animal scientists at UC Davis produced a bull calf designed to produce 75 percent male offspring. The genome-edited bull calf, named Cosmo, was born in April 2020. The genetic editing occurred when Cosmo was just an embryo. These research results were presented this past summer at the American Society of Animal Science meeting.



The genome-editing technology is known as clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR or also known as CRISPR-Cas9). A palindrome is a word, number, phrase or sequence of DNA that reads the same backwards as it reads forwards (Ex. mom, civic, noon, pop, 2002 or A Santa at NASA). The CRISPR technology uses a natural DNA-snipping enzyme used by bacteria, called Cas9, to target and edit particular genes. The specific sequence of DNA to be edited by Cas9 is recognized by a matching gene sequence on a “guide RNA” molecule carried alongside the Cas9 enzyme. Thus, the bacterial enzyme brings with it a “Google Maps app” for directions. This enzyme then allows

modified forms of a gene to be pasted into a genome. This technology and method, as well as other Cas family member enzymes, has endless applications to both humans and livestock, especially in curing diseases caused by mutations in one or a few specific genes (Ex. muscular dystrophy and possibly cancer therapy).

Genetic researchers have coined the term “gene knock-in” for the ability to successfully insert a gene into the genome. This phrase is a play on another older technology known as “genetic knock-out” research animals that have had a specific gene removed from the genome when the animal was at the embryonic stage. Currently, in an experimental setting, a researcher can remove a gene from an embryo and then observe the physiological effects during growth/development and at maturity (mostly using mice). This technology is now commonplace, and you can actually order and receive specific knock-out mice for medical research purposes.

The UC Davis researchers successfully knocked-in (inserted) the cattle SRY gene into Cosmo when he was an embryo. The SRY gene controls the initiation of male development in the conceptus. This phenomenal result was the first time a large sequence of DNA was inserted into a bovine embryo. This research has taken UC Davis scientists a long time (more

than five years) to complete. Originally, the project involved attempting to insert the SRY gene into the X chromosome. If successful, then 100 percent of Cosmo’s calves would have been male. Both the XX and the XY genotype calves would be born as bull calves. How crazy is that? However, in the end, it was chromosome 17 chosen as the safest and most functionally predictable location to insert the SRY gene. These UC Davis researchers expect Cosmo to sire 75 percent male offspring – the normal 50 percent XY calves + 25 percent XX calves, which inherit the inserted SRY gene (phenotypic bull calves) and the remaining 25 percent normal (XX genotype), heifer calves.

In the future, any calf sired by Cosmo that inherits a copy of his SRY gene is expected to grow and look like a bull calf, regardless if the calf is XY or XX. At present, the Food and Drug Administration regulates all gene-editing livestock (or any other animals) as if they were drugs, thus neither Cosmo nor any of his calves will ever enter the food supply.

What motivated these scientists to partake in such a task? Possibly to allow commercial beef producers to predictably produce more steer calves while generating quality replacement heifer calves from the same superior sire each calving season, every year. 🌧

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**2024 SGBI
ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 25-27, 2024
Myrtle Beach, S.C.**

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73RD ANNUAL MEETING

Santa Gertrudis: Oceans of Opportunity

April 25-27, 2024

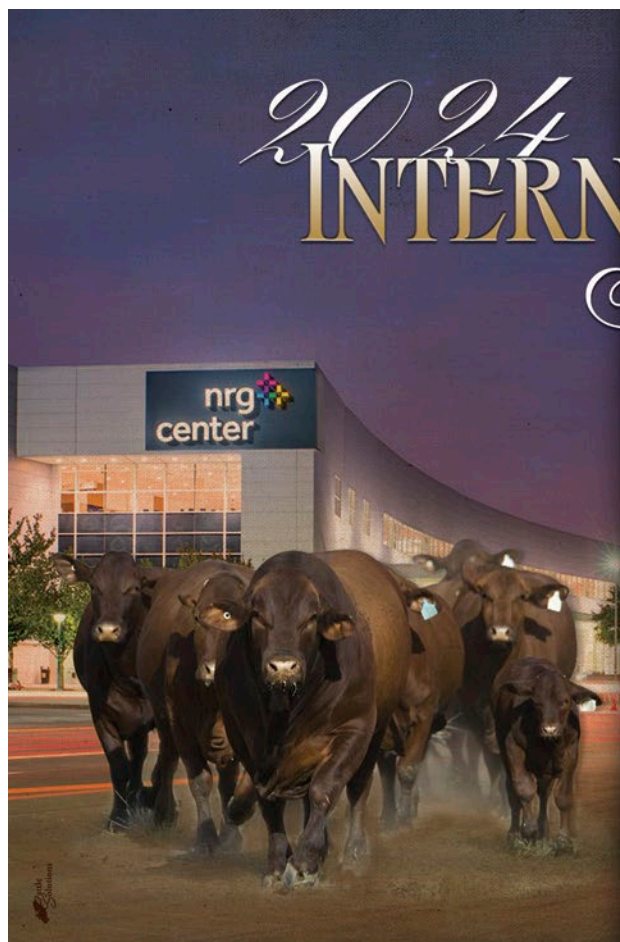
Join your fellow Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) members for the 2024 SGBI Annual Meeting, April 25-27, 2024, in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The event will kick off on Thursday with a guest speaker, committee meetings, SGBI Board meeting and welcome social. Friday's schedule includes area tours and a dolphin cruise followed by the Awards Banquet. The event will conclude on Saturday with the SGBI Annual Meeting, educational speakers, SGBI Board meeting and Hall of Fame Banquet. More information, including a schedule and registration information, will be included in future issues of *Santa Gertrudis Source*, but mark your calendars and save the date.

For more information, contact Mickey Bowman at (336) 669-5771 or rockinbrowdyroosters@yahoo.com. 🐔

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Group code: SGB



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MARCH 1, 2024

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NRG CENTER EAST ARENA

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Managing Herd Nutrition During Winter

BY JESSICA WESSON, CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Winter is a harsh time for beef producers, especially when it comes to nutrition. Nutrition can become scarce, therefore cattle might struggle to meet the requirements through the colder temperatures and wet weather.

Low-Quality Forages

Kacie McCarthy, beef cow-calf specialist for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), says it is important to pay attention to pregnant heifers and cows.

“As we move into winter, most of our cattle are moving from mid to late gestation,” McCarthy says. “This is where we will see our cow energy and protein requirements increase by 25 percent and 10 percent, respectively. It will be important to have a nutrient analysis of your forage resources to get a game plan for supplementation needs, and inventory forage resources by quality.”

Forage quality is determined from crude protein (CP) and total digestible nutrients (TDN). As the forage ages, the crude protein level declines, making it less nutritious for cattle. McCarthy explains that winter might be a good time to consider a high-protein supplement.

UNL suggests these protein supplements have a crude protein content greater than 20 percent. It should also be offered in a variety of methods, including cubes, pellets, meals and blocks. According to experts at UNL, “Supplementing with a high-quality protein source will increase forage intake and digestibility of the low-quality forage.”

McCarthy explains the supplements could be flexible for each producer’s schedule.

“The nice thing about protein supplements is that they can be offered to cows daily, three days per week or as infrequently as once per week and still maintain animal performance,” McCarthy says. “As a rule of thumb, feeding 0.3 to 0.6 pounds of crude protein per day during late gestation to mature cows maintains cow performance and fetal growth.”

McCarthy also suggests categorizing cattle into groups based on their nutritional needs.

“This allows producers to strategically manage those groups appropriately and match forage resources to those nutritional needs groups,” McCarthy says. “It also lets them determine supplementation needs, balance diets, use body condition scores as a guide and monitor throughout the winter, then adjust supplemental energy for cold stress or thin cows.”

Bull Nutrition

The whole herd needs a nutrition plan, but herd sires present unique nutritional challenges. McCarthy recom-



Red Doc Farm, Belen, Texas

mends that bulls should maintain a body condition score of 5 to 6. Bulls have higher quality semen at these numbers, but there should be different nutritional guidelines based on the bull’s age.

“Most mature bulls in good condition can get by on a 100 percent forage diet if producers have hay that consists of roughly 7 percent CP and 50 percent TDN,” McCarthy says. “A daily intake of 1.5 to 2 percent of body weight, which is about 40 pounds of dry matter, per day should be targeted.”

She explained that young bulls that lost weight during the season and are still growing will need to gain 2 pounds or more per day to regain and add weight during the off season. This should also be considered if the bull is older or thinner.

“Young or thin bulls need a diet that consists of roughage at about 2 percent of their body weight and enough grain to make the total diet consist of about 7.5 to 9 percent CP and 55 to 65 percent TDN,” McCarthy says. “Typically, about 3 to 6 pounds of most grain products will help meet this requirement.”

While the feeding regimen will help high-risk bulls gain weight, the best thing producers can do is monitor their progress and adjust as needed.

“It is common for bulls to lose upwards of 10 to 15 percent of their body weight during breeding season,” McCarthy says. “Monitoring them and their weight loss will be important to management during reconditioning after the breeding season. When bulls are done for the breeding season, this is a great time to evaluate their condition, feed and manage them so that we can get back to a moderate condition by the beginning of the breeding season.”

Providing Protection From the Elements

Sometimes the best nutritional plan includes components other than feed. McCarthy explains that good shelter and bedding are essential to help cattle maintain body condition.

“Ensuring that our cattle have appropriate housing, bedding and feed to progress through the winter is key for future success in the spring and moving into the breeding season,” McCarthy says.

Specifically, bulls need sufficient protection from colder temperatures to ensure their virility.

“Tissue damage due to frostbite will appear as a scab, discoloration and/or sloughing of the lower portion of the scrotum,” McCarthy explains. “Scrotal frostbite will hinder the bull’s ability to raise or lower the testicles for proper thermoregulation, which ultimately will affect sperm production and result in reduced fertility.”

She recommends preventing frostbite with heavy bedding such as straw.

“Bedding is important to help mitigate the cold by providing insulation from the frozen ground or snow and keeps cattle clean,” McCarthy says.

Bitterly cold temperatures and windy conditions are obvious situations that require shelter, but there are less extreme circumstances that still call for diligence.

“Perhaps less obvious as a cause of weather stress are the moderately cold, windy storms with rain, ice or wet snow that lead to wet hair coats on cattle,” McCarthy says. “Wet hair, like clothing, cannot insulate effectively. Providing protection from wind and cold temperatures can help cattle maintain body condition rather than using provided nutrition to maintain body temperatures.”

Water Access

McCarthy warns that lower temperatures could freeze water and restrict access.

“Cattle require water for optimal health and performance,” McCarthy says. “Ensuring that your cattle have access to fresh water is important. Producers should check waterers often to ensure that animals are drinking regularly.”

“It is common for bulls to lose upwards of 10 to 15 percent of their body weight during breeding season. Monitoring them and their weight loss will be important to management during reconditioning after the breeding season.” - Kacie McCarthy

If the water source is not easily accessible to check daily, there are solutions to keep water from freezing.

“There are options to provide insulation and heat to the water tanks to prevent ice; however, if you do have ice, ensuring that ice is broken and removed to allow access to water is important,” McCarthy says. “Portable waterers can be powered by solar, wind or a generator to be heated and supply cattle with water. When air temperatures are colder than 29° F, cattle require 2 to 3 pounds of water per pound of dry matter intake.” 🐄

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Captain King calves

INDEXES

Balanced: 4%
Cow/Calf: 15%
Terminal: 3%

#20212115

	BW	WW	YW	MK	TM	SC	HP	BB	CW	REA	MB	FT
EPD	-0.7	16	27	-9	3	0.41	2.13	1.95	10	0.20	0.37	0.00
ACC	0.36	0.42	0.33	0.31		0.19	0.29	0.25	0.26	0.31	0.42	0.43
% Rank	25	25	15	>95	85	40	15	5	5	10	3	55

Louisiana State Fair



GRAND CHAMPION BULL
777 Kash, 777 Farms,
Magnolia, Ark.



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION BULL
777 Candyman, 777 Farms and
Wendt Ranches, Magnolia, Ark.



BEST OF POLLED BULL
XL's Pendleton, Landon Stem,
Plantersville, Texas



GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE
XL's Glitter & Gold, Excell
Santa Gertrudis, Santa Fe, Texas



**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE
AND BEST OF POLLED FEMALE**
XL's Sheza Star, Excell Santa
Gertrudis, Santa Fe, Texas



GRAND CHAMPION STAR 5 BULL
SF Michelob, Top Shelf Cattle Co.,
California, Mo.



GRAND CHAMPION STAR 5 FEMALE
Copperheads Ms. Assignment,
Gracey Pitchford, Eustace, Texas



**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION
STAR 5 FEMALE**
Miss TOCR Molly 643,
Landon Stem, Plantersville, Texas

NO PHOTO
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION
STAR 5 BULL**
MVF Rip, Morse View Farm,
Mountain Grove, Mo.

A logo for the 9th Annual South Texas Heritage Sale. It features a map of Texas with several photos of cattle inside it. The text reads: "Many Thanks!", "9th Annual", "SOUTH TEXAS HERITAGE SALE", "NOV 18, 2023 | ROBSTOWN, TX", "Richard Borchard Fairgrounds", "Selling 60+ Registered and Commercial Santa Gertrudis".

*To the 2023 South Texas Heritage Sale buyers
and to everyone who supported the sale.*

Cunningham Ranch	Wendt Ranches
Reese Ranch	LeGrand Farms
Marshall Saiz	Brian Langham
San Jose Cattle Co.	Texas Oaks Cattle Ranch
Townsend Cattle Co.	JTP Cattle
Red Doc Farm	Rose Hill Ranch
Buena Vida Ranch	Strait Ranches
Jesse Annis	Lazy JV Ranch
Passion Farms	Wunderlich Farms
Pohl Ranch	Four J Cattle
Simpson Ranch	Ellis Livestock Corp.
Hefte Ranch	Urbanosky Ranch
Ballenger Ranch	El Paisano
D Bar Z Cattle Co.	Diamond G Ranch
Travis & Sara Janak	Jana Justiss

SOUTHTEXASHERITAGESALE.COM

Hot Gert Show



**GRAND CHAMPION BULL AND
BEST OF POLLED BULL**
Wendts Dreamboat 9852,
Kinsley Kubecka, Bay City, Texas



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION BULL
XL's Pendleton, Landon Stem,
Plantersville, Texas



**GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE AND
BEST OF POLLED FEMALE**
Kubecka 18/21,
In the Red Ranch, Eustace, Texas



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE
KK Flirty Girl, Kalli Kimble,
Kingsbury, Texas



GRAND CHAMPION STAR 5 FEMALE
Red Doc Vanilla 2112,
Red Doc Farm, Belen, N.M.



**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION
STAR 5 FEMALE**
H2 Annie G14, Elizabeth Janak,
Rockport, Texas

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777 Kash, 777 Farms,
Magnolia, Ark.



RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION BULL
OLC Jessie James,
Osborne Livestock Co., Lathrop, Mo.



GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE
Miss Grandview 5121K,
Gracey Pitchford, Eustace, Texas



**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION FEMALE
AND BEST OF POLLED FEMALE**
Five J's G70 Peaches, Five J's
Cattle Co. and Bar M Farm, Lenior, N.C.



GRAND CHAMPION STAR 5 FEMALE
Copperheads Ms Assignment,
Gracey Pitchford, Eustace, Texas



**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION
STAR 5 FEMALE**
MVF Maggie May, Morse View
Farm, Mountain Grove, Mo.

NO PHOTOS
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION
STAR 5 BULL**
DK Salty Chupacabra,
Crey Cummings, Batesville, Ark.

GRAND CHAMPION STAR 5 BULL
MVF Rip, Morse View Farm,
Mountain Grove, Mo.

FIELD REPORT • Darren Richmond
SGBI Member Services Representative

50 Years of NAILE

Mid-November means North American International Livestock Expo (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky., and this year was its 50th anniversary! A big thank you to all the Santa Gertrudis breeders and exhibitors who brought cattle to the nation's largest livestock show for a chance to show cattle and have a champion on the green shavings of Freedom Hall!

Santa Gertrudis cattle have been represented at NAILE since the early 1980s. Without the support of the Kentucky Santa Gertrudis



Association, this would not have been possible. A big thank you goes to this group, and their support and efforts to keep the Santa Gertrudis breed represented at this show! 🐄

SALE **REPORT**

SOUTH TEXAS HERITAGE SALE

Nov. 18, 2023 • Robstown, Texas

• SALE AVERAGES •

Open Heifers: \$3,229 • Bred Heifers: \$3,012
Open STAR 5: \$1,723 • Bred STAR 5: \$2,183
Santa Gertrudis Pairs: \$3,978

The 2023 South Texas Heritage Sale was held Nov. 18, 2023, at the Richard Borchard Fairgrounds in Robstown, Texas.

The high-selling open heifer, Lot 19, Hefte Korban L116 ET, was consigned by the Hefte/Korban Partnership, Hondo, Texas, and was sold to Red Doc Farm, Belen, N.M., for \$10,000. The high-selling bred heifer, Lot 9, Double G Farms 203, was consigned by Double G Farms, Edinburg, Texas, and was sold to Cunningham Ranches, Robstown, Texas, for \$7,500. The high-selling pair, Lot 12, SJ Lady 190E 109, was consigned by San Jose Cattle Company, Kingsville, Texas, and was sold to Cunningham Ranches for \$6,500. The high-selling STAR 5 females, a set of twins, was consigned by Passion Farms, Luling, Texas, and was sold to Buena Vida Ranch, Kingsbury, Texas, for \$3,750 each.

San Jose Cattle Company was awarded the Heritage Breeder Award for their years of support to the South Texas Affiliate and the Santa Gertrudis breed. 🐄

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Q: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE NJSGS CONTEST AND WHY?

A: One of my favorite National Junior Santa Gertrudis Show (NJSGS) contests is the Brain Bowl. I have been participating in this event since my first NJSGS in Lake Charles, La. Every year I look forward to Brain Bowl day.



I remember studying with my parents and siblings to make sure I knew every answer to every question because I wanted to be sure I pulled my weight on the team. I remember the feeling of not placing first that year, and going home to study even harder so we would win the following year. The whole team did the same because we encouraged each other throughout the year. The effort paid off, as the team won every year after until the last NJSGS in Gonzales, Texas. I was upset at first, but as I reflect, I'm appreciative for having the opportunity to gain all of the knowledge I now have because of the Brain Bowl contest. I also realized the members on the winning team were my friends and were deserving because they were prepared.

Ultimately, this contest taught me so much about the cattle we all love because of how much I studied and how motivated I was to win. I now know so much more because of the Brain Bowl. I have always been known to have

ACTIVE

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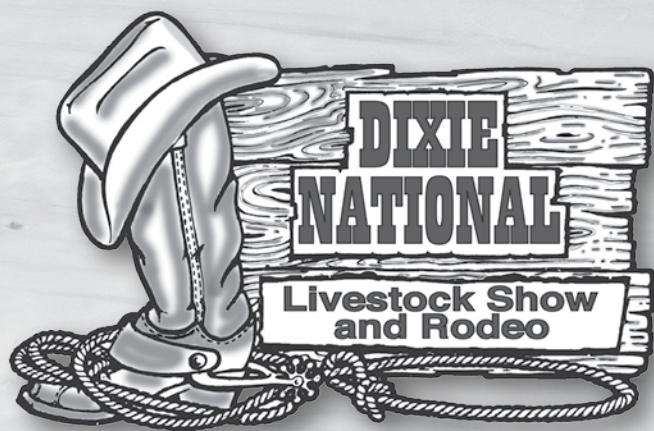
Junior Members

Christopher Owens, Brazoria, Texas
Moxie Ferguson, Huntsville, Texas
Carly Robinson, Coldwater, Miss.
Aubrey White, Fort Meade, Fla.

Commercial Members

Milner Farm, Streetman, Texas
Scott Inmon, Powell, Texas
Z4 Cattle Company, Caldwell, Texas
Andy Howard, Locust Grove, Ga.
Mike and Melody Irwin, Baker, Fla.
Dean C. Galbraith, Steeleville, Mo.

a competitive spirit, and the Brain Bowl is what I am most passionate about. The day is always fun, and the stakes are high, but the best part is finishing and knowing so many of the junior members possess a wealth of knowledge about these cattle. I highly encourage all junior membership to give not only this contest but every contest at junior nationals a try. The lessons I have learned through these contests are priceless and will pay off for the rest of my life. 🐾



For complete information please contact:

Dixie National Livestock Show

Phone 601-961-4000

Greg Young 601-214-1344 • greg@mdac.ms.gov

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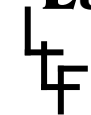
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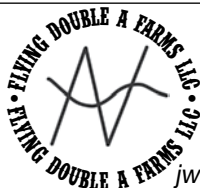
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