

HISTORY OF IBBA

How It All Began

A review of the development of the Brangus breed would take us back beyond the founding of the American Brangus Breeders Association in 1949; however, registered Brangus descend from the foundation animals recorded that year or registered Brahman and Angus cattle enrolled since then. Much of the early work in crossing Angus and Brahman cattle was done at the USDA Experiment Station at Jeanerette, Louisiana -- the first crosses being made as far back as 1912.

During the same period, Clear Creek Ranch of Welch, Oklahoma, the Essar Ranch of San Antonio, Texas, and a few individual breeders in other parts of the United States and Canada were also carrying on private experimental breeding programs. They were looking for a desirable beef-type animal that would retain the Brahman's natural ability to thrive under adverse conditions in combination with the excellent qualities for which the Angus was noted.

The early breeders from 16 states and Canada met in Vinita, Oklahoma on July 19, 1949, and organized the American Brangus Breeders Association, later renamed the International Brangus Breeders Association, with headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri. One day following the formation of the American Brangus Breeders Association, the July 30, 1949 edition of the Vinita Daily Journal, Vinita, Oklahoma, published a front page article entitled "Pope is named president of Brangus Group." The article went on to read: "Other officers elected here as cattle organization is set up. Raymond Pope, co-owner and manager of Clear Creek Ranch in Northern Craig County was elected president of the American Brangus Breeders Association at the organization meeting for the group held Friday afternoon in Vinita. Representatives from 16 states named Pope to be the first president of the American Brangus Breeders Association at the organization meeting held Friday afternoon in Vinita. Other officers elected at the first business session held at the Vinita Country Club were: Terry Dalehite, Pearsall, Texas, first Vice President; Carl Colwick, Prichett, Colorado, Second Vice President; Jesse Dowdy, Sedalia, Missouri, Third Vice President; and Carlton Corbin, Pittstown, Oklahoma, Secretary-Treasurer."

On January 1, 1973 the IBBA began conducting business from its own office building. The ranch-style, rock building in San Antonio continues to serve as the permanent headquarters of the IBBA.

In 2005, the International Red Brangus Breeders Association became an affiliate association of the IBBA, and the IBBA herdbook was opened to include Red Brangus™. The IBBA herdbook now also includes Ultrablack® and Ultrared™ cattle providing IBBA members and their customers with seedstock choices unmatched by other breed associations. There are now members in nearly every US state, Canada, Mexico, Australia, Central America, South America and Africa.

Breeding Up to Brangus

The concept of developing a new breed by stabilizing the best characteristics of two proven breeds in a fixed proportion is unique to the International Brangus Breeders Association. Rather than top crossing on commercial cows, proven individuals of the two parent breeds serve as the foundation for establishing new bloodlines.

Registered Brangus must be 5/8 Angus or Red Angus and 3/8 Brahman, solid black or red and polled. Both sire and dam must be recorded with the International Brangus Breeders Association. Foundation Angus, Red Angus and Brahman cattle must be registered in their respective breed association prior to being enrolled with the IBBA. Intermediate crosses necessary to reach the 5/8-3/8 percentage are certified by the IBBA.

In recent years, the majority of Brangus cattle entered in the herdbook are from Brangus parents, but an increasing number of foundation Angus and Brahman are being enrolled as the breed achieves greater recognition. The herd book of the International Brangus Breeders Association is open in a unique way. Registered Angus, Red Angus and Brahman cattle can be enrolled as foundation stock for new Brangus bloodlines. The exact procedure for breeding up to Brangus consists of enrolling foundation Angus or Red Angus and Brahman, certifying the intermediate crosses (1/4 bloods, 1/2 bloods, and 3/4 bloods with the Brahman percentage always given first) and then registering the animals as Brangus when they reach the 3/8 - 5/8 level. The certified intermediate crosses are simply a tool to get to Brangus and are rarely crossed back to one another. It is possible to either breed 1/4 Brahman to 1/2 bloods, or 3/4 Brahman to Angus to get to Brangus. In the IBBA's program, the reciprocal crosses are equal so those developing new bloodlines can best utilize all their crosses. There are also opportunities to provide certified foundation cattle for breeding up to Brangus to those breeders who do not want to develop all the intermediate crosses themselves. The program for breeding up to Brangus is particularly appealing to the registered Angus breeder who can buy a 3/4 bull or use 3/4 semen to produce registered Brangus in the first generation. Those with Brahman and 1/2 bloods can raise 3/4 bulls for sale to Angus breeders and can also breed their 3/4 heifers to outstanding Angus or Red Angus bulls if they choose and start a Brangus or Red Brangus herd from 3/4 cows.