



International Brangus Breeders Association
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BRANGUS OPERATIONS TOP BEEF IMPROVEMENT FEDERATION SEEDSTOCK PRODUCER OF THE YEAR AWARD

(San Antonio, Texas) Founded in 1968, the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) is an organization dedicated to advancing and coordinating all segments of the beef industry. The organization began as a link to connecting science and industry to ultimately improve beef cattle genetics. Each year, producers and supporters are recognized at the BIF Annual Symposium through category specific awards. This year, the BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year Award was topped with two of three finalist operations raising Brangus® cattle, and won by Yon Family Farms of Ridge Point, South Carolina.

Yon Family Farms is a family-owned operation whose primary purpose is to raise high-quality Angus, SimAngus, and Ultrablack cattle. The Yon family consists of Kevin and Lydia and their three children: Sally (Reid Harrison), Drake (Nicole), and Corbin. After college, the Yon's began their career in the beef industry by managing a registered seedstock operation near Columbia, South Carolina. Over seven years later, when the operation dispersed, they purchased their own operation. In 1996, the Yon family began their farm running primarily Angus cattle on 100 acres. Since then, their operation has expanded to over 2,000 acres, maintaining approximately 800 head of registered brood cows and 200 commercial cows. Over time, their southern commercial customer base began requesting a broader bull base. Thus, the Yon's began incorporating Brangus and Simmental genetics. The Yon's will host both a spring and fall production sale where they will sell 400 registered bulls and 200 commercial cows. Their operation is forage based and focuses on producing cattle for their customer base which is made up mainly of progressive commercial cattlemen.

Also, a top three finalist for the BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year Award was Town Creek Farm of West Point, Mississippi. Town Creek is dedicated to producing registered Brangus and Ultrablack cattle, hay, and wildlife management. The operation was initially founded in 1993 by Milton Sundbeck. Today, the cow herd consists of 500 Brangus and Ultrablack cows; 90 Brahman, three-quarter Brahman, and Vigormax™ cows; and 250 commercial Brangus cows, and is complete with a bull development program and sale facility. Town Creek's primary goal is to produce functional bulls for commercial cattlemen. Traits ideal for the Mississippi operation include carcass quality, fertility, forage efficiency, longevity, and efficiency traits. Alongside a strong staff, the operation prides itself on a strong international business, marketing live animals, semen, and embryos into Australia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Thailand.

“The International Brangus Breeders Association (IBBA) is extremely proud that two of our breeder members made the final three roster for BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year,” states IBBA executive vice president, Darrell Wilkes. “The Yon Family of South Carolina has responded to the needs of their customers by including Brangus in their seedstock operation and they were appropriately recognized for their excellence by receiving top honors. Town Creek Farms of Mississippi is a highly respected Brangus breeder and also made the final three; we are very proud of both operations. Producing top quality beef in harsh environments requires a special kind of cattle and a special kind of people. It is pleasing to see Brangus breeders recognized for their significant contributions to beef improvement.”

Continuing the tradition of using science to benefit producers, the BIF is now the capstone for developing programs for improving the efficiency, profitability and sustainability of beef production. The BIF three-leaf-clover logo symbolizes the link between industry, extension and research.

The IBBA, headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, has a mission to empower members to advance the quality, reliability, and value of Brangus and Brangus influenced cattle; to provide innovative programs and services which enhance the economic well-being of members and commercial customers. Founded in 1949 as the American Brangus Breeders, the organization has since evolved into the IBBA. The IBBA's purpose is to enable its members to produce quality beef for the commercial cattle industry and its consumers. For more information about the IBBA, visit gobrangus.com.

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