

Ranchers' EXCHANGE

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U.S. Cattle Inventory Reaches 73 Year Low

by Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

Not many ranchers active today will remember the last time the U.S. cattle industry was this small. On January 1, 2024, the All Cattle and Calves inventory was 87.15 million head, the smallest total inventory since 1951. The All Cattle and Calves inventory is 1.9 percent smaller year over year and is the fifth consecutive year of declining cattle inventories, a total decrease of 7.65 million head or 8.1 percent since the most recent peak in 2019. The 2023 calf crop was 33.6 million head, down 2.5 percent year over year and the smallest calf crop since 2014.

The January 1, 2024 beef cow herd inventory was 28.22 mil-

lion head, down 2.5 percent year over year and a decrease of 3.47 million head or 10.9 percent lower, from the cyclical peak in 2019. The current beef cow inventory is the smallest beef cow herd since 1961. Table 1 shows that the top ten beef cow states, which currently represent 57.3 percent of total beef cows, accounted for 79.4 percent of the year over year decrease in total beef cow numbers and 67.7 percent of the decrease from 2019 to 2024.

The inventory of beef replacement heifers on January 1, 2024 was 4.86 million head, down 1.4 percent year over year. However, the 2023 beef replacement heifer inventory was revised down by 4.5

percent from the initial value reported one year ago. Thus, the 2024 inventory of beef replacement heifers is down 11.4 percent from the 2022 inventory and is the smallest beef replacement heifer total since 1950. Since 2001, USDA has provided the portion of beef replacement heifers that are expected to calve in the coming year. The current inventory of these bred beef heifers is 3.05 million head, the smallest in the data back to 2001.

The estimated supply of feeder cattle outside feedlots is calculated by summing the inventories of other heifers, steers >500 pounds and calves.

continued on page 4



WD Cattle Co., Floresville, exhibited the Grand Champion Pen of Females and First Place Pen of Certified F-1 Hereford x Brahman Pairs at the 2024 San Antonio All Breeds Bull and Commercial Female Sale.



B&C Cattle Company, Miami, exhibited the Overall High Grading Bull and High Grading Hereford Bull at the 2024 San Antonio All Breeds Bull and Commercial Female Sale.

As we move into spring, we have been blessed with some rain-fall. Although some areas have missed some needed rains, many are in good shape.

Cattle markets continue to have good runs and cattle are bringing a premium, so cattle producers are enjoying the results of their hard work. Cattlemen have been purchasing replacements to insure quality calves in the future. Since cattle numbers have been deteriorating nationally. Those who have endured the hardships of the weather and increasing production costs, should benefit.

I attended the San Antonio Livestock Show All Breeds Bull & Commercial Female Sale. It was a good event and I was blessed to see many friends and cattlemen who are very important to our livestock industry now and in the future.

Until Next Month,




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Nixon, TX

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Union Commission Co.

Hondo, TX

(11:00 am) • (830) 426-3383

TUESDAYS

Atascosa Livestock Exchange, Inc.

Pleasanton, TX

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Fredericksburg, TX

(Sheep-Goats 9:30 a.m.) • (830) 997-4394

Southwest Livestock Exchange, Inc.

Uvalde, TX

(Sheep-Goats 12:00 noon)

(830) 278-5621

WEDNESDAYS

Gillespie Livestock Co.

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(Cattle 12:00 noon) • (830) 997-4394

WEDNESDAYS

Cattleman's Columbus Livestock Auction

Columbus, TX

(11:00 am) • (979) 732-2622

THURSDAYS

Lockhart Livestock, Inc.

Lockhart, TX

(11:30 am) • (512) 398-3476

Southwest Livestock Exchange, Inc.

Uvalde, TX

(Cattle 12:00 noon) • (830) 278-5621

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Beeville, TX

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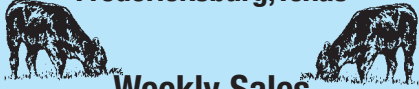
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Links to these area auctions (that have websites) are available on our website.
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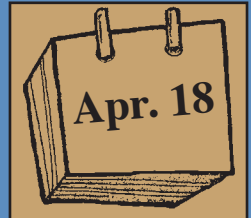
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U.S Cattle Inventory
continued from page 4

The smaller cattle inventory is projected to result in a decrease of about five percent in total beef

production to roughly 25.5 billion pounds in 2024. That's three times as much beef as was produced in 1951, the last time the total cattle inventory was this small; impressive growth in productivity in the

beef cattle industry. Nevertheless, the current ability to produce beef is smaller than market potential today and the industry will look to rebuild numbers and increase beef production when conditions allow.

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Jasik Hay Farms., Pleasanton, exhibited the Reserve Champion Pen of Females and First Place Pen of Brangus Pairs with Angus calves at side at the 2024 San Antonio All Breeds Bull and Commercial Female Sale.

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Cross F Cattle, Willow City, exhibited the Reserve High Grading Bull and High Grading Brangus Bull at the 2024 San Antonio All Breeds Bull and Commercial Female Sale.



Flying Diamond Ranch, Pleasanton, exhibited the High Grading Brahman Bull at the 2024 San Antonio All Breeds Bull and Commercial Female Sale.



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Justin Collins, Asst. Manager
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jcollins@deancluckfeedyard.com



Donnell Ranch, Fowlerton, exhibited the First Place Pen of Brahman Pairs with Polled Hereford calves at side at the 2024 San Antonio All Breeds Bull and Commercial Female Sale.

Highlights From An Interesting Cattle Report

Source: David P. Anderson, Professor and Extension Economist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

USDA released its much anticipated Cattle inventory report on January 31st. The report revealed an expected decline of 1.9% in the total number of cattle in the US on January 1, 2024. The 87.2 million hd. was the fewest since 82 million in 1951.

While the total number of cattle gets a lot of headlines, some of the other categories are more meaningful for the direction of cattle markets in coming years. The report indicated that there were 28.2 million beef cows in the US on Jan. 1. That is the fewest number of beef cows since 27.3 million hd. in 1961. The 2.5% decline was pretty much in line with pre-report expectations.

continued on page 10

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CATTLE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING – 8 AM
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DINNER – 6:30 PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

BULL SALE – 12 PM

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*Interesting Cattle Report
continued from page 8*

The beef cow inventory was even smaller than following the drought of 2010-2013. Cow numbers hit

their previous low of 28.96 million on January 1, 2014. While the national beef cow numbers were fewer than those following the drought that was not the case in Texas. Texas' cowherd did decline by 4.3%, a larger percent decline than the national herd, to 4.115 million hd. the herd remains larger than following the drought.

The number of heifers held for beef cow replacement declined again, down 1.4%. As a percent of the cow herd, it does not appear to be a large enough number to suggest herd expansion. There were some significant revisions to heifer replacements in the previous year's report but, the revisions don't change the overall picture of herd numbers.

The report includes an estimate of the number of stocker cattle out on small grain pastures, like wheat pasture. The data includes the

states on Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. It indicated that there were 1.59 million head on small grain pastures. That was the fewest since 1.5 million in 2018. The number of stockers on wheat pasture over the last decade has totaled 1.73 million, so this year's figure is smaller than average. This number certainly fits with more cattle on feed than a year ago as cattle were likely placed earlier rather than put on pastures. Fewer stockers on winter grain pastures combined with data on calves still on farms and ranches gives an estimate of the number of feeder cattle outside feedlots, adding to our information on available feeder cattle supplies. Feeder cattle supplies outside of feedlots was calculated to be 24.2 million head, 4.2% fewer than last year and the fewest in decades.

The number of cows gives a better estimate of calves to be born and future beef production.

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Allyson Runnels, Hondo, concludes her Junior Show career at the 2024 Medina County Jr. Livestock Show. She had Supreme Champion Heifer, Champion American Heifer, Reserve Champion American Steer, Reserve Champion British steer and Champion Senior Showmanship. She will continue her education at South Plains College. After 20 consecutive years, beginning with her sister, Linay, that's a wrap on showing at the Medina County Junior Livestock Show.

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BRANGUS CATTLE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MONDAY, MARCH 18TH

2:00 PM Bulls & females available for viewing

TUESDAY, MARCH 19TH

8:00 AM Bulls & females available for viewing

9:30 AM South Texas Cowboy Brunch

11:00 Texas Alliance Bull Sale

Commercial female sale to immediately follow

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SCAN ME

NCBA Continues to Push for Death Tax Relief

WASHINGTON – The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) strongly supports the Death Tax Repeal Act, led by Reps. Randy Feenstra (IA) and Sanford Bishop (GA). The Senate companion bill is led by Sen. John Thune (SD). Repealing the federal estate tax, also known as the Death Tax, is

a top priority for NCBA.

“It is unconscionable for cattle producers to face a tax that forces them to sell all or part of their family’s farm or ranch due to the death of a family member. With the cost of farmland rapidly rising, the Death Tax presents a significant threat to the future of family farms

and ranches,” said NCBA President and South Dakota cattle producer Todd Wilkinson. “Most cattle producers have significant assets but are cash-poor and operate on thin margins, leaving them with few options when they are saddled with an unexpected tax liability. Some producers are forced to sell off assets including land, livestock, farm equipment, or even their home. This is an incredible loss, and it starts a vicious cycle where future generations continue to face punitive taxes their ancestors paid multiple times. Rural America needs a tax code that promotes multi-generational, family-owned businesses instead of chopping them up.”

Current Death Tax relief is set to expire at the end of 2025, and it is vital that Congress acts soon and provide permanent relief for our family operations. If the federal estate tax exemption reverts to pre-2017 limits, coupled with the rapid inflation of farmland values, many more families will be subject to the Death Tax.



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Madison Speer (right) took Grand Champion Senior Interview while her sister, McKenzie, followed with Reserve Champion Interview. McKenzie also took Grand Champion in Senior Cookies. Both had pens of heifers in the commercial heifer show and sale. A busy stock show for these two at the 2024 Uvalde County Jr. Livestock Show.



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1 P.M. AT THE RANCH
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SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024



MT MR. THOMAS 227/2
 DOB: 6/20/2022 • Sire: BT Mr. Thomas 232/6
 BW: 80 • ADJ WW: 803 • ADJ YW: 1477
 REA: 18.51 • %IMF: 5.79 • SC: 40



MT MR. THOMAS 242/2
 DOB: 6/28/2022 • Sire: MT Mr. Thomas 99/6
 BW: 81 • ADJ WW: 760 • ADJ YW: 1534
 REA: 17.10 • %IMF: 6.41 • SC: 42



BT MR. THOMAS 212/2
 DOB: 6/22/2022 • Sire: TT Mr. Thomas 263-2
 BW: 75 • ADJ WW: 722 • ADJ YW: 1416
 REA: 17.97 • %IMF: 4.77 • SC: 42



TT MR. THOMAS 223/2
 DOB: 6/25/2022 • Sire: MT Mr. Thomas 99/6
 BW: 77 • ADJ WW: 742 • ADJ YW: 1468
 REA: 18.70 • %IMF: 5.02 • SC: 39



BT MR. THOMAS 230/2
 DOB: 6/20/2022 • Sire: MT Mr. Thomas 99/6
 BW: 81 • ADJ WW: 758 • ADJ YW: 1521
 REA: 23.22 • %IMF: 4.56 • SC: 40



MT MR. THOMAS 241/2
 DOB: 6/19/2022 • Sire: BT Mr. Thomas 232/6
 BW: 80 • ADJ WW: 711 • ADJ YW: 1469
 REA: 17.93 • %IMF: 4.21 • SC: 40



RT MR. THOMAS 244/2
 DOB: 9/25/2022 • Sire: LCOC Ledger P072F
 BW: 75 • ADJ WW: 838 • ADJ YW: 1391
 REA: 17.25 • %IMF: 5.21 • SC: 38



BT MR. THOMAS 55/3
 DOB: 2/1/2023 • Sire: SF Three D 3070D2
 BW: 78 • ADJ WW: 855 • ADJ YW: 1481
 REA: 18.40 • %IMF: 5.11 • SC: 42

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Are Record High Beef Prices on the Horizon?

America's families might soon see record-high beef prices at the grocery store, thanks to the lowest cattle inventory in more than 70 years. American Farm Bureau Federation economists analyzed the USDA inventory report in the latest Market Intel.

There were 87.2 million cattle and calves in the United States as of Jan. 2, 2024, 2% lower than the same time in 2023. It's the lowest inventory since 1951. Just four years ago, there were almost 95 million cattle in the U.S.

Farmers have been driven to sell off cattle because of severe drought conditions and the rising cost of supplies needed to support their herds. There are now fewer female cattle available for breeding, which means it will take time to restock the cattle population.

"The latest cattle numbers are a stark reminder of the challenges facing America's farmers and ranchers," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Severe weather, high inflation and geopolitical uncertainty are taking a toll on farmers across the country, and families will see the effects in their grocery bills."

"Fortunately, America has one of the most robust food supplies in the world, thanks in part to strong agricultural policies outlined in the farm bill. We encourage lawmakers to pass a new farm bill to ensure farmers can survive the tough times and continue to stock the pantries of America's families."

There are currently enough cattle in the supply chain for pro-

cessing, which will help to stabilize prices in the short term. However, the Market Intel explains that as the cattle on feed supply begins to shrink based on fewer calves, processors will have to compete for cattle, which could lead to higher costs, especially in the second half

of 2024. Consumers could see record high beef prices toward the end of the year and into 2025.



Corporron Acres, Schulenburg, exhibited the First Place Pen of Santa Gertrudis/Gert. Cross Bred Heifers at the 2024 San Antonio All Breeds Bull and Commercial Female Sale.



Jackson Family Farms, Waco, exhibited the First Place Pen of Brangus Open Heifers at the 2024 San Antonio All Breeds Bull and Commercial Female Sale.

Big Drop Ranch, Hondo, exhibited the First Place Pen of Beefmaster/E6 Certified Open Heifers at the 2024 San Antonio All Breeds Bull and Commercial Female Sale.



Hermann Cattle Co., Caldwell, exhibited the First Place Pen of F-1 Hereford x Brahman Open Heifers at the 2024 San Antonio All Breeds Bull and Commercial Female Sale.



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Can you save too much for a rainy day?

submitted by Ed McClure,
Financial Advisor, Edward Jones

“Save for a rainy day” is an old piece of advice — and a good one. But is it possible to save too

much?

What sort of events could qualify as a rainy day? It could be any number of things — a temporary loss of employment, a major home or car repair, a large medical bill, and so on.

If you didn't have the money available to meet these expenses, you might have to dip into your 401(k) or other retirement account,

incurring taxes and possible penalties. That's why it's a good idea to keep up to six months' worth of total expenses in a liquid, low risk account.

But many people put too much money into their emergency funds. While this isn't the worst financial move to make, it could result in missed opportunities.

For one thing, while your emergency fund will likely protect your principal, it won't provide much, if any, growth. So, you might consider adding any excess money to your growth-oriented investments for increased growth potential.

In any case, if you decide your rainy-day fund is abundant, use any “overflow” in a way that can help you keep moving toward your financial goals.

This content was provided by Edward Jones for use by Ed McClure, your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor at 3308 Broadway Suite 400, San Antonio, TX 78209 or 210-229-0398.

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American Simmental's 56th Annual Meeting and Board of Trustees Election

Bozeman, MT — The American Simmental Association (ASA) held its 56th Annual Meeting in January.

The Annual Meeting highlighted each committee's minutes for the previous year, and reflected on the successes of 2023, including the continued expansion of ASA research projects, data collection, funds raised by the American Simmental-Simbrah Foundation (ASF), the breed's presence at national events in 2023, and more. Each committee's full report will be available in print and online in the March 2024 edition of the Register magazine.

During the Annual Meeting, new and re-elected members of the

ASA Board of Trustees were formally seated. In the South Central Region, Greg Walthall, Windsor, MO, was elected for a first term; and **Victor Guerra, Linn, TX**, was elected for a second term. In the North Central Region, Tim Clark, Turtle Lake, ND, was elected for a second term. In the Eastern Region, Mark Smith, Picayune, MS, was elected for a first term; and Chris Ivie, Summertown, TN, was elected for a second term. In the Western Region, Chad Cook, Walsh, CO, was elected for a second term.

New members of the Executive Committee were also officially seated during the Annual Meeting. Chris Ivie will serve as the Chairman of the ASA Board of

Trustees. **Victor Guerra** will serve as Vice-Chairman, and Scott Trenpohl will serve as Treasurer. Position #1 and #2 were filled by Chad Cook and Ryan Thorson, respectively. Doug Parke, Paris, KY, will serve as the Immediate Past Chairman.



Victor Guerra



Thompson Ranches, Pearsall, were named Champions of the 2024 San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Ranch Rodeo. Six teams, from some of the great ranches in Texas, made up of five cowboys each were invited to participate in various ranch events at the prestigious San Antonio Ranch Rodeo. Photo courtesy of Scott Foley.

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Dr. Milton (Milt) G. Thomas

Obituary

Dr. Milton G. Thomas
12.23.65 - 02.15.24


Dr. Milton G. Thomas, 58, of Weesatche, passed away February 15th. Milton was born in Lubbock, TX to Charles G. and Ruby Peggram Thomas on December, 23, 1965.

Since 2022, Dr. Thomas had been leading a new research program in beef cattle systems at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center in Beeville. He was a graduate of University of Missouri and Texas A&M University and had been a Professor and the Gerald Thomas Chair in Food Production and Natural Resources (1997 - 2011) at New Mexico State University and a Professor and the John E. Rouse Chair of Animal Breeding at Colorado State University. He was a highly regarded friend, colleague, teacher, mentor, and researcher whose many students are now professors are in agricultural universities and colleges across the U.S.

His current research at the Texas A&M Beeville Station was a collaboration with the USDA's project known as germplasm evaluation (GPE) and focused on evaluating Brahman-crosses, Beefmas-

ter, Brangus, and Santa Gertrudis cattle in a subtropical environment. The project would have also studied the genetics of grazing traits. The goal of the project was to increase knowledge of fitness traits of Brahman-influenced cattle in the Texas Gulf Coast region. Dr. Thomas was a visionary animal scientist who understood beef production in tropical environments.

Dr. Thomas is survived by his wife Dora Vasquez Thomas, two sons, Joshua Glen Thomas (Crystal) and John Flores (Caitlyn), his father Charles G. Thomas, and two sisters, Donna Truitt and Julie Loudon. Funeral services were held in Victoria on February 24th. A scholarship fund will be established in the name of Dr. Milton G. Thomas at Texas A&M in the near future.



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Yancey Newman “Y.N.” Strait Inducted Into 2024 Santa Gertrudis Hall of Fame

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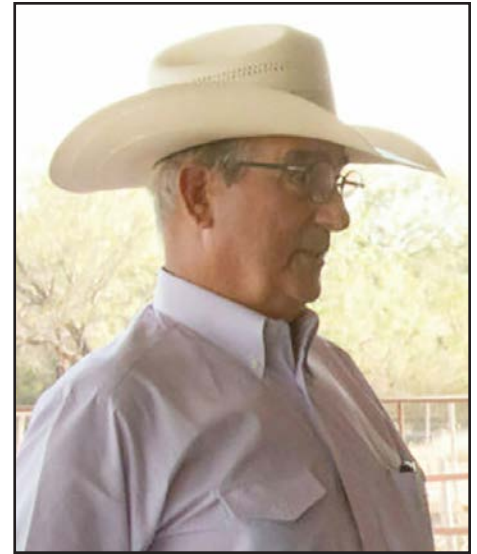
Yancey Newman “Y.N.” Strait, Sr., was born in 1950 in Cotulla, Texas, to a South Texas ranching family that has spanned five generations. His great grandfathers, grandfathers and father were ranchers, operating in South Texas since the early 1900s. Strait Ranches, historically referred to as Strait Brothers, was initially operated by Yancey Clarence (Y.C.) Strait and his brothers. Strait Brothers started ranching in Dimmit County, Texas, in 1913 and came to the area from Yancey, Texas. Like most, the brothers faced tough times during the Great Depression, and each pursued their own ventures as the economy recovered. Y.C. and his wife, Marle Vesper Strait, remained in ranching and chose to add the Santa Gertrudis breed to their cattle operation because of the benefits they provided to cattle producers in the region. Y.C. Strait became a member of Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) in 1951 and maintained a herd of commercially managed, purebred Santa Gertrudis.

In 1954, when Y.N. was just 4 years old, his father died. After his death, Y.N. started a cow herd with remnants of his father’s herd. Then in 1972, when Y.N.’s grandfather, Y.C. Strait, passed away, Y.N. took over the Strait Ranches operations.

He graduated magna cum laude from Southwest Texas State University in 1972 with a degree in animal science and a minor in chemistry. Y.N. started his career working for Devine Nuts, the family-operated, peanut-processing business. Y.N. married Cynthia Ann Wooley in April 1976 in San Marcos, Texas. Y.N. and Cynthia had

two children, Yancey and Callie. The Strait family moved to Carrizo Springs in June 1984 and quickly immersed themselves into the community. Y.N. worked in agricultural finance in Carrizo and Uvalde until he retired in 2011. Y.N. served on the Dimmit County Appraisal District Agricultural Advisory Committee, was a district director of the local Soil and Water Conservation District for more than 30 years and was highly involved with the Dimmit County Livestock Association, serving in every capacity from director to president. He was also a longtime member of the First United Methodist Church in Carrizo Springs. Y.N. received an Advanced Ranch Management degree in 2009 from the King Ranch Institute of Ranch Management. While attending the ranch management courses, Joe Paschal, Ph.D., livestock specialist for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service, wanted to know why Y.N. was going to school – he thought he should be teaching the class.

Y.N.’s passion always resided in his cattle operation, Strait Ranches. Y.N. raised commercial Santa Gertrudis-influenced cattle until the early 1990s when Strait Ranches began raising Santa Gertrudis seedstock with production philosophies heavily rooted in the commercial cattle sector. Strait Ranches cattle are not only evaluated by the collection of data (weights, gain tests, ultrasound measurements), but are also tested by the environment. For the last 30 years, Strait Ranches has focused on continuous improvement and superior genetics, all while fighting



Y.N. Strait

drought conditions and cattle market volatility. Strait Ranches is focused on raising fertile, functional, efficient beef cattle that maintain balanced performance across all measured traits. The Strait Ranches cow herd has been strongly influenced by Pat Welder and Winrock Farms’ genetics and, most recently, by the purchase of Olivarez Ranches’ females. Genetics used and/or developed in the Strait Ranches breeding program includes some of the greatest bulls in the breed such as UV Mason 0/72, SR Genesis 75/3, KR Catalyst 531/15, SR Arkoma 30/0, SR Hazel 23/7, SR Paradigm 135/7, SR Paramount 30/H4, SR 87/7 “Wickham,” SR MPact 30/F2, SR Marksman 33/19, SR 68/F2, SR Advantage 5235/J among many others. Today, Strait Ranches is one of the premier Santa Gertrudis breeders in the United States.

In early 2021, Y.N. and Cynthia moved the Strait Ranches headquarters and their cattle operation to Streetman, Texas. Being rooted in South Texas, this was not an easy decision or transition but one that they felt was necessary to continue the legacy of Santa Gertrudis genetics that they had worked so hard to

continually improve and that the Strait Ranches family is so passionate to continually improve and that the Strait Ranches family is so passionate about. Y.N. was a revered cattleman, but above all, he was a family man. Y.N.'s most cherished time was with his family and that time typically centered around the cattle. Yancey and Callie raised and showed throughout their grade school years. Y.N. loved sharing his passion with his grandchildren, Avery, Arden, Piper and Nellie, and watching them become involved in Strait Ranches and show cattle across the state.

Although we lost Y.N. in August of 2021, he left a lasting legacy of superior genetic improvement, purposeful stewardship of the land, cattle and relationships, and a strong work ethic that was hard to match. Ranching was a way of life for Y.N. and a total commitment to a heritage that has many challenges and sacrifices, but also great fulfillment. He is missed by his many friends and his commitment to the beef cattle industry.

McClure Named Santa Gertrudis Breeders International Executive Director

KINGSVILLE, Texas – Santa Gertrudis Breeders International (SGBI) announces Chris McClure as its executive director, effective immediately.

“SGBI welcomes Chris McClure as our new executive director,” says SGBI President Adolfo Sanchez. “He brings tremendous beef industry knowledge to the San-

ta Gertrudis breed as well as strong business experiences.”

As executive director, McClure will lead the association’s staff at SGBI headquarters in Kingsville, Texas, serve as a liaison between the board of directors and members, and lead the advancement of one of the beef industry’s most versatile purebred breeds.

“I am excited to be joining Santa Gertrudis Breeders International,” McClure says. “Although my experience and background have been focused on commercial aspects of cattle production – rather than the registered and purebred seedstock business – I have long been interested in Santa Gertrudis cattle, which, I believe, have tremendous, underutilized potential to positively impact today’s beef production industry.”

McClure’s background is rooted in the agriculture industry and includes extensive experience in agricultural finance, business consulting, animal health distribution and livestock diagnostics.

For the past nine years, McClure has worked as a business con-

sultant for various clients, where he helped businesses raise capital, develop business plans, maintain customer relationships and more. He has also previously worked with AzTx Cattle Company, Texas Heritage National Bank and Gold Standard Labs.

“I see a bright future for America’s original beef breed because it is the right breed to meet the challenges of the future,” McClure says. “We have a great group of breeders who are poised and ready to fill the demand for these true ‘business-focused’ cattle.”



Chris McClure

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Gene "Primo" Walker

Obituary

Gene "Primo" Walker, Jr.
08.22.57 - 01.29.24
Laredo, Texas

Gene Simeon "Primo" Walker, Jr., 66, joined our Lord in His heavenly kingdom on Monday, January 29, 2024.

Gene was a proud graduate of TCU Ranch Management, where he honed his passion for the

cattle industry. Gene's life revolved around his love for cattle trading. Known throughout the industry for his integrity and commitment, he served as a Director of the TSCRA, where he dedicated his time and expertise to the betterment of ranching and cattle trading practices. Gene's word was his bond, earning him the respect and trust of his colleagues and friends.

Beyond his professional achievements, Gene was a devout follower of Jesus Christ, finding solace and strength in his faith. He cherished the teachings of the Bible, and John 14:6 held particular significance in his life.

However, Gene's greatest joy came from his family. His wife, Jean Carllyn Walker, was his partner in life, providing love and support throughout their journey together. Gene found immense happiness in the presence of his children and grandchildren, who were the light of his life. The time spent with his family brought him great delight, providing a sense of warmth and love that Gene cherished deeply.

He was preceded in death by

his parents, Gene Simeon and Mary Katherine Walker; his mother-in-law, Jean Murray De St Germain; his brother James Patrick "Rick" Walker, Sr.

Left to cherish his memory is his beloved wife Carllyn Walker; his children, Jeffory Carl Walker, Cathy Elizabeth (Kevin) Walker Reed, Kandy Elaine Walker, and Marygene Walker; his grandchildren, William, Rheya, Michael, Memphis, Wyatt, Rayce, Virgil, Genie, and Gene, III.; his siblings Elizabeth Walker, and Kathleen "Kandy" Walker; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, extended relatives, and friends.

A Celebration of Life was held at the Laredo Country Club on February 2nd.

Honorary Pallbearers included: Jim Kollman, Roberto Gonzalez, Clark Rossi, Jeffory Riddle, Mike Corn, Greg LaMantia, and William Baize.

A private Rite of Committal and Interment followed at the family plot of the Walker Ranch.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that you consider



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James "Rick" Walker, Sr.

Obituary

James "Rick" Walker, Sr.

07.10.60 - 01.29.24

Laredo, Texas

James Patrick "Rick" Walker, Sr., 63, joined our Lord in His heavenly kingdom on Monday, January 29, 2024.

Throughout his life, James was actively involved in various charitable organizations, including the TLMA, Wounded Warriors, and the Veterans community. He believed in making a difference in the lives of those who had served their country. His commitment to these causes was unwavering, and his impact on the veteran community will be remembered for generations to come.

Not only did James dedicate his time to helping others, but he was also passionate about environmental conservation. His involvement in soil conversion projects demonstrated his commitment to preserving and improving the land.

James understood the importance of sustainability and worked tirelessly to leave a better world for future generations.

One of his most cherished accomplishments was hosting the Annual Hero Hunt, where veterans were given the opportunity to engage in therapeutic and healing activities. James believed in the power of nature to restore the spirits of those who had sacrificed so much for their country.

In his free time, James found solace in flying, ranching, and forging activities that allowed him to connect with the natural world. Whether he was soaring through the sky or tending to his land, he found joy and peace in these pursuits.

Above all, James valued spending quality time with his children, grandchildren, and his beloved dogs. He understood the importance of family bonds and treasured every moment shared with them. His love and devotion to his family were evident to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gene Simeon and Mary

Katherine Walker; his daughter Krysta Dahlia Walker; his brother Gene Simeon "Primo" Walker, Jr.

Left to cherish his memory is his fiancé, Karen M. Schafman; his children, James Patrick (Janet) Walker, Jr., Amanda Emma L. (Dustin) Walker Hayes, Sarah (Jordan) Nelson, and Whitney (Joey) White; his grandchildren, Travis Walker, Mira Hayes, Jiana Hayes, Nova Hayes, Vivian Nelson, Miles Nelson, Bryson White, and Jackson White; his siblings Elizabeth Walker, and Kathleen "Kandy" Walker; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, extended relatives, and friends.

A Celebration of Life was held at the Laredo Country Club on February 2nd.

Honorary Pallbearers will be: Fletcher Cooper, Burt Benavides, William Raney, Charles "Pinky" Saenz, Ronnie Koonce, and Dustin Hayes.

A private ceremony will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that you consider making a donation to: Wounded Warriors.



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U.S. Cattle Inventory Reaches 73 Year Low

by Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

Not many ranchers active today will remember the last time the U.S. cattle industry was this small. On January 1, 2024, the All Cattle and Calves inventory was 87.15 million head, the smallest total inventory since 1951. The All Cattle and Calves inventory is 1.9 percent smaller year over year and is the fifth consecutive year of declining cattle inventories, a total decrease of 7.65 million head or 8.1 percent since the most recent peak in 2019. The 2023 calf crop was 33.6 million head, down 2.5 percent year over year and the smallest calf crop since 2014.

The January 1, 2024 beef cow herd inventory was 28.22 million head, down 2.5 percent year over year and a decrease of 3.47 million head or 10.9 percent from the cyclical peak in 2019. The current beef cow herd since 1961. Table 1 shows that the top ten beef cow states, which currently represent 57.3 percent of total beef cow numbers and 67.7 percent of the decrease from 2019 to 2024.

The inventory of beef replacement heifers on January 1, 2024 was 4.86 million head, down 1.4 percent year over year. However, the 2023 beef replacement heifer inventory was revised down by 4.5 percent from the initial value reported one year ago. Thus, the 2024 inventory of beef replacement heifers is down 11.4 percent from the 2022 inventory and is the smallest beef replacement heifer total since 1950. Since 2001, USDA has provided the portion of beef replacement heifers that are expected to calve in the coming year. The current inventory of these bred beef heifers is 3.05 million head, the smallest in the data back to 2001.

The estimated supply of feeder cattle outside feedlots is calculated by summing the inventories of other heifers, steers >500 pounds and calves.

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WD Cattle Co., Floresville, exhibited the Grand Champion Pen of Females and First Place Pen of Certified F-1 Hereford x Brahman Pairs at the 2024 San Antonio All Breeds Bull and Commercial Female Sale.

B&C Cattle Company, Miami, exhibited the Overall High Grading Bull and High Grading Hereford Bull at the 2024 San Antonio All Breeds Bull and Commercial Female Sale.

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