



BULLIS CREEK RANCH

Volume 10 Issue 1

February 2010



At Bullis Creek Ranch we proudly raise
Dedicated to producing purebred and crossbred
genetics for the commercial cattleman.

Balanced traits
Efficiency is required
Extrêmes are avoided
Focused on optimum production



Sandhills Cattle Association 2009 EP&C Contest Educational Performance and Carcass Contest

We placed well again this year in the Sandhills Cattle Association Educational Performance and Carcass test . Members of the association enter calves, either steers or heifers that are placed in a feedlot on a test that evaluates them for carcass gain, carcass quality, yield and profitability. All cattle are weighed, assigned a value at the beginning of the contest and at the end are sold on a premium grid with carcass data collected. We have participated in this contest for the last 12 years. We have done really well over the years and 08-09 was no exception as we had the 1st place steer in the carcass division. He was a LimFlex (Limousin x Angus) that had a 1267 lb. shrunk live weight and a 793 lb. hot carcass weight. He had a 14.51 sq. inch ribeye with .26 backfat and graded choice minus with a final adjusted yield grade of .4202.

In the past 4 years we have taken home a championship buckle and a reserve grand buckle and 2 years ago we had 3 rd overall heifer. We have both steers and heifers entered this year and look forward to getting the data back at the end of the contest.

Heart City Bull Bash

We had a pen at the 9th Annual Bull Bash in Valentine on February 13th. We have participated in this event since it's inception. If you are not familiar the main street of Valentine is blocked off and pens are set up for area producers to display their bulls. There has been many cold years and few nice warm Bull Bashes- unfortunately this year's wasn't very warm . In spite of the weather we still had a good day and got to see many friends and meet some new potential customers. If you are interested in more info on this event go to www.bullbash.com. Hope to see ya next year at the Heart City Bull Bash!

19th Annual Nebraska Cattleman's Classic



We consigned cattle to this years NCC in Kearney. We took 2 Red Angus and 2 Limousin. The Red Angus show was on Wednesday, February 17th at 11:00 a.m., with the sale at 3 p.m. We entered a March '09 heifer calf, BCRR Prize Anna Mulberry 929W (#1308559), that is as sweet fronted as they come with style and fancy to burn. Her dam is a really good "No Equal" daughter from the Prize Anna cow family and she is by the Canadian legend "Mulberry". She sold to Jason Anderson of Oberlin, KS for \$1,500. We entered a outstanding fall bull- BCRR Mulberry 8138U (#1297597). He is long as a well rope and a real eye catching individual. Also sired by "Mulberry", his dam is a really good "New Trend" daughter from the Foxy cow family. He would make an excellent herd sire for either a registered breeder or a top notch commercial man's bull. He was the Reserve Junior Champion bull in the show and sold for \$2,800 going to Lin Jeffries of Burwell, NE.



929W



8138U

In the Limousin show we consigned an awesome black LimFlex heifer by Connealy Danny 5398. She is "BRAW Ms Danny 8130U (LFF-1932753)", a fall born heifer out of a Night Rider dam and her maternal grand dam is a Lodestar. This gal is really fancy and sweet made . She was a class winner in the show, reserve junior champion and she sold to long time customer Jess Axline of Lowden, IA. Our second



8130U

entry, a April 5, 2009 heifer, by our herd sire Mags Cheyenne 1447S who is a Black Rulon son out of a Dakota daughter. Cheyenne is a flush brother to Mags Savage and 2 other full sisters were champion and reserve at the Limousin futurity several years ago. This good heifer is BRAW Ms Cheyenne 9111W (NPF-1942294) and she was a class winner and sold for \$1300 going to past buyer and friend Scott Knaub of Lodge Grass, MT.



9111W

If all your friends jumped off a cliff would you?

We all remember at one time or another one of our parents saying this to us. It usually had to do with one of our friends getting to go to a party, or maybe a new car or some such thing that we thought we wanted to. I can remember hearing this quite a few times when there was something going on that “all” my friends were doing and I had to be home by 11:00 and not stay out till 1 like all my friends got too. It was kind of hard to swallow at the time and I am sure I did not understand the cliff context and how it had anything to do with staying out a little later on Friday night. It sure makes sense today living through losing some friends along the way that jumped off the cliff so to speak. It takes a little age to understand the concept and to have kids of your own helps one understand the meaning of the phrase. I sure have been able to draw an analogy to this in the cattle industry and in life in general here lately. The buzz words in beef cattle production seem to be “efficient”, moderate, grass based and low input to hit on a few of the catch phrases being thrown around these days. Without a doubt these are all areas that are economically important to the beef cattle production. What causes me to wonder is watching some people go off the deep end with some of these concepts. I guess that the theory of “if a little is good a whole lot more is better”. I wonder if some of them actually stop and think about the consequences of the some of their actions. Especially when taken to extremes. Questions that need to be asked is how will this affect production, how will this affect my bottom line? If I give up X amount of sale weight will I still be producing enough to cover my operating costs? What will happen on the longevity of my cowherd and how will this change the salvage value of my cows at sale time? How will this affect the overall herd health of my cows and calves? How will this affect the performance of my cattle on down the chain? Will I be producing a product that still fits the industry standards? If I am producing a product for a niche market will I easily be able to realize a premium for my product? If I get a premium will it offset any potential increase in cost? How will this change what I need in terms of resources, will I be able to run more lbs. of beef per acre or less for a longer period of time? These are all questions one needs to analyze before jumping off the cliff. Act not react is a phrase that you hear quite often. Take a long hard look at what you are doing and sharpen up your pencil and really figure out where you are before you leap. I learned a good lesson several years ago when grain prices climbed due to the increased corn demand for ethanol. We usually creep fed our fall calves due to several facts such as lack of available forage and more energy requirements due to lower temperatures. I reacted to the high grain prices by not creep feeding the calves that year and it cost us a 100 lbs per calf. After it was all said and done I sat down and put a pencil to it and found out that we had lost out on close to \$50 extra income on those calves after we would have paid for \$280 a ton feed. Another thing we found out was that those calves didn't perform as well as past calf crops had. I attribute this to not getting adequate nutrition from birth to weaning.

We are trying to become more efficient in our operation. We have been weighing our cows at weaning and preg check time and we do a efficiency on our cows based on the actual weaning weight of the calf compared to the cow weight. We will be including this in our bull sale information this year as well . We have taken cows weights for at least the last 10 years and we have been using this as part of the criteria used in culling our cows. Without a doubt we have some cows that are too big and are inefficient and they are getting weeded out. Other things that we have been doing that have helped us out is weaning earlier than we used to do in the past. We calve in March and April and wean the 1st part of September. This allows our cows more time to regenerate for their next calf as well as it cuts down on the amount of grass that is needed per cow. Our cows are in better shape so they take less feed when it does get cold. We have utilized fence line weaning and it has worked really well for us. After the calves are weaned we run them on regrowth grass on our hay meadows. We ran cows on pasture without any supplemental feed till the 1st of the year. This year due to the cold we started in feeding them some hay every 2nd or 3rd day depending on the temperature and we have been giving them a couple of pounds of 32 % cake every other day since the start of the year. Had we not received the severe cold and storms we could have got by not feeding any hay till at least close to the end of January.

Another efficiency that producers can gain is to utilize the power of crossbreeding. Complementary crossbreeding is the closest thing to a free lunch that you will ever have. Do you want to gain real efficiency- a crossbred cow is 25% more efficient over her life time than a straight bred cow. Plus she will live longer as well. A crossbred calf will usually substantially out weigh his straight bred counterpart and he will be a lot more vigorous as well and is more likely to be resistant to disease than a straight bred calf. Look what we can do to maximize production and come closer to hitting targets for increased weaning weight, longevity, increased carcass quality and yield. Without a doubt crossbreeding is not being utilized to the extent that it should. This is an area that we have been leaving a lot of money on the table.

Most of us need to do a better job of managing our pastures. The power of rotational grazing yields big premiums in increased production. This is something that we are trying to implement on to our ranch.

“Generations of Predictability 9” Spring Sale

April 6, 2009- Burwell Livestock Market- Burwell, NE- Auctioneer Mike Baxter

A severe winter storm hit the Midwest on Saturday the 4th causing the postponement of the female sale from Sunday the 5th to Monday the 6th following the scheduled bull sale. Monday dawned with a clear sky and fair weather. A storm shortened crowd was on hand to bid on a stout set of bulls followed by the dispersion of the fall calving cowherd along with a select group of fancy open heifers and a group of May calving registered Red Angus cows. The demand was good and bidding active on the bulls and the females sold with a high number selling over the internet and on order due to reduced travel brought on by the recent blizzard.

Bull Sale Results

Fall Limousin bulls- 9 head

grossed \$22,200

averaged \$2,467.

BRAW Prize 7140T sold to Wes Winter Lincoln, NE for \$3,200. BRAW Heartland 7141T sold to Martens Little Valley Ranch Lovell, WY for \$3,000.

Spring Limousin Bulls- 13 head

grossed \$28,000

averaged \$2,154

BRAW Muscleman 824 sold to Wes Winter Lincoln, NE for \$3,500 for ½ interest and Possession. BRAW Mags 877U sold to EJ Steinke Ranches Idaho Falls, ID for \$2,900. Steinke Ranches was a volume buyer with 4 head and Scott Glinn, Keystone, NE with 4 head. Martens Little Valley Ranch Lovell, WY purchased 3 head.

Fall Red Angus bulls- 12 head

grossed \$35,700

averaged \$2,975

BCRR Ridge 7113 sold to Matt Fowler Arcadia, NE for \$3700. BCRR Mimi 7143T sold to Lyle Staudenmaier Harrison, NE for \$3,300

Spring Red Angus bulls- 22 head

grossed \$52,300

averaged \$2,377

BCRR Ol' Hickory 8107U sold for \$5,900 for ½ interest and possession to Paul Angus Farm Albany, MO. BCRR Proof 837U sold for \$2,900 to Donald Jensen of St Paul, NE. Volume Red Angus bull buyers were Kilday Ranch with 5 head and Donald Jensen with 4 head.

56 bulls

grossed \$136,000

averaged \$2,428

Female Sale Results

Fall cows with heifer calves- 8 pairs

grossed \$19,200

averaged \$2,400

BCRR Precisely Foxy 486P sold to Jeff Grill Edgemont, SD for \$3,300 and her calf by Mulberry 26P went to Mark Howard, Kentucky for \$1,600. CWK BC 5842N sold to Jeff Grill, Edgemont, SD for \$2,100 and her heifer calf by Optima 423 went home with Liberty Ranches of Plainville, KS for \$950.

Fall calving cows- 20 head

grossed \$26,950

averaged \$1,347

BCRR Foxy Mimi 6111S sold to Michael Booth of Veteran, WY for \$2,200. BCRR Opal 3122N sold to Jeff Grill Edgemont, SD for \$2,100. BCRR Opal 5102 sold to Eric Ravenscroft Nezel, NE for \$2,100.

Spring Bred Cows- 9 head

grossed \$13,275

averaged \$1,475

SJRA Harmonia 566 sold for \$1,650 to Mike Hein Valley, NE. BCRR Pretty Fox 320 brought \$1,600 from Faylor Red Angus of St. Francis, KS.

Spring 08 Open Heifers- 13 head

grossed \$15,825

averaged \$1,217

BCRR Surprise 803U commanded a bid of \$2,300 from Bar G Red Angus of Beaver, OK. BCRR MS M 825U sold for \$2,000 and was purchased by Gordie Ludens of Viborg, SD.

Volume female buyers were Liberty Ranch Plainview, KS with 9 head and Eric Ravenscroft of Nezel, NE purchasing 6 head.

65 Females

grossed \$76,575

averaged \$1255



High Selling
Limousin Bull
Wes And Logan Winter
Linclon, NE



High Selling
Red Angus Bull
Paul Angus Farms
Albany, MO

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"Generations of Predictability 10" • Burwell Livestock Market • Burwell, NE

70 Bulls Sell Monday, April 5, 2010 at 1:00 pm

Red Angus ~ Limousin ~ LimFlex

35 "Dual Tested"
Fall of '08 Bulls

Evaluated for Forage & Feed Gain

35 Spring of '09 Bulls

Rob and Brenda Brawner
HC 68 Box 1 • Wood Lake, NE 69221
(402) 967-3060 • www.bulliscreek.com



Business end of last years bulls prior to sale day.