



STLA NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH TEXAS LONGHORN ASSOCIATION

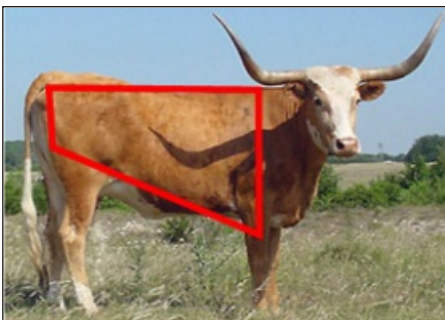
How Smart Are You When Checking Out Cattle?

Test your knowledge of cattle terms and your ability to recognize specific desirable (*and undesirable*) characteristics. Here's a listing of thirteen common bovine terms with a working definition of each. These terms are usually thrown around by judges in the show ring, but are relevant to anyone who is breeding cattle, culling their herd, or checking out cows for a possible purchase.

Thank you to experienced-breeder Anita Wappler for her time and work to compile this glossary and helping all of us sharpen our eyes for picking the most outstanding traits and characteristics in our Texas Longhorn cattle.

1 Triangulation

The visual outline of the animal as seen from a profile viewpoint. Longhorns, by breed character, are deeper in the front than in the rear. When visualizing the deepest area, then progressing along lengthwise to a lesser depth, this produces a triangular shape. Desirable triangulation would be without extreme of either end, and indicates a typical and desirable characteristic conforming to breed standards.



See more on page 5.



The Trophy Steers Show during the San Antonio Longhorn Show is known to bring out some of the biggest and best horns in the state . . . Here WOW KCC struts his stuff for the crowds & takes home the Grand Champion Steer honors!

Billed as a show of “Kids & Horns,” Longhorn lovers at the recent San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo on Feb. 2, 2008, were treated to the best of both exhibitions with an outstanding Youth Haltered Show and the always exciting Non-Haltered Show, that included the running of the impressive and big-horned trophy steers.

Entries were off slightly this season, but spirits ran way high with youth exhibitors from Pee Wee division up to high-school-senior age level competing in a full showing of heifers, mature cows, young bulls, and young steers. The finale for the morning youth show was the Showmanship competition where the performance of each exhibitor is judged rather than the animals they are



showing. Winners were awarded special San Antonio Show belt buckle prizes for first through third place wins in each age class.

The afternoon's Non-Haltered competition brought out some of the finest heifers, mature females, and grand trophy steers in Texas and the crowds enjoyed the chance to see these beauties as they were judged in the natural or “free” style in the show ring.

A complete listing of SA Show winners and full results for both competitions are available on the TLBAA's E-Trails at <http://www.tlbaa.org/E-Trails/ShowResults/ShowResults.html>.



Show judge, Dr. Ross Rost of Austin, sizes up a young cow during the Non-Haltered Competition at the San Antonio Longhorn Show on February 2nd.

Co-op Ad Program Now Offers Lower Prices for Ranch Ads

Because of a recent discount given to affiliates by the TLBAA for ad space, the STLA Board of Directors voted to pass that savings on to our individual ranch advertisers.

The next STLA Co-op Ad will appear in the July 2008 issue of the *Trails* magazine (this will be the A.I. Herd Sire issue) and individual spot ads will now cost only \$160, rather than the previous \$200 per ad space. Participation will remain limited to STLA members only.

The STLA Co-op Ad program was first launched in May 2005, with the first ad then appearing in the *Trails* that summer. Over the last three years, the four-color ad has consistently included between 12- 24 ranch spot ads with each run. The ad is published twice each year, usually in February and July.

Previous advertisers will receive their ad reservation forms in the mail by mid-April and the kick-off for booking ad space will be at the Field Day on April 26th. Deadline for reservations/payment is on May 20th. For more information and details, please contact Teresa Castillo at 512/ 856-2044 or e-mail at rcastillo2@peoplepc.com.

Editor's Note

Rick Adams has served our association as President of the Board since May 2006. His term ends at the close of this business year for STLA (at the end of April 2008) and, after serving multiple terms, he has decided to not seek re-election to the board. Michele Adams has recently retired from her full-time career and the two are looking forward to some much-needed travel days and relaxation time. Rick will preside over his last meeting with STLA at our upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) in late April.

With the help of some very hard-working and forward-minded directors, the STLA has grown significantly in the last two years. Our overall bank account has tripled, the events we have become known for are admired by other organizations, and we continue to be regarded as not only the *oldest* affiliate of the TLBAA, but also the strongest and top affiliate.

Central and South Texas is the place to find some of the top breeders of Texas Longhorn cattle in the nation— and the majority of these folks are involved, on some level, with our association. Because of the shows we sponsor, the field days and ranch tours we offer, the scholarships we provide, our co-op ad program, our newsletter, our website, and the other ideas we bring to our membership, the STLA is the best you'll find out there!

Please help me in congratulating Rick Adams as he completes his term as president. When you see him, be sure to shake his hand and say “thank you” for his time, his efforts, and his patience to manage our association and our board of always “spirited” directors. It's a job only a few people will even consider taking. Whether you agree or not with his style, his leadership has made a difference for all of us. *Happy Trails to you, Rick!*

And, as all things must eventually change...this will be my *last* issue of the STLA NEWS. I produced my first issue of this newsletter back in April 2004. During the last four years, I've had the opportunity to do all kinds of wild & wacky things to pull together stories and information for this publication that has been published six times each year — I've chased the late Bevo XIII through the cedar breaks to get a photo of him in his own pasture, I got the shot of Sabrina in the sale ring at the the Red McCombs' Sale that ended up on the cover of the *Trails*, and I've met numerous experienced and savvy ranchers that have taught me more than I thought I could ever learn about raising Texas Longhorns. I hope I've been able to pass along some of that good information to you. It's been a real hoot for me... and the friendships made along the way are *priceless*. I will continue to serve in my board position and handle various other STLA projects during the coming year.

You're Invited to the

2008 STLA Spring Field Day and Annual General Meeting



Saturday, April 26, 2008

SEE LOCATION MAP ON THE NEXT PAGE ►

Hosted by
Kimble Cattle Company
Karnes City, Texas

Events of the Day

- 9:30 am Arrive at the Kimble Ranch / Meet & Greet
 - 10:00 am STLA Silent Auction Opens
 - 10:00 am Building a 30-Year Longhorn Breeding Program:
Looking Back on the Early Years with a
Walking Tour hosted by Dr. Joyce Kimble
to learn about the KCC foundation females
 - 11:15 am Hayride Ranch Tour led by Dr. Scott Kimble &
Dr. Janis Kimble-O'Brien focusing on the aspects
of the current KCC program and herd sires
 - 12:15 pm ---- Lunch served ----
 - 1:00 pm STLA Annual General Membership Meeting,
Special Presentations, Drawing for Door Prizes,
and STLA Board Elections
 - 2:15 pm ----- Break -----
 - 2:45 pm *"The Texas Connection to the American Revolution"*
Guest Speaker: Judge Robert Thonhoff
 - 3:45 pm A Look to the Future:
Moving to the Next Stage at KCC; *plus*
"Steered Straight" – Tips for developing your
Texas Longhorn trophy steer herd with a
walking tour to see the Kimble steers
and time for photos
 - 4:45 pm Silent Auction closes / High bidders announced
- Enjoy some Social Time following the afternoon events*

Lunch Buffet includes
Grilled Longhorn
Burgers

Please bring a salad, side dish, breads,
or a dessert to share with everyone

*Iced Tea, Water, Soft Drinks, and Coffee
will also be provided*

A Silent Auction of Longhorn Items
will run throughout the day!

Please bring a special item to donate to the Auction
All proceeds go to the
STLA Scholarship Program

Please RSVP by April 20th

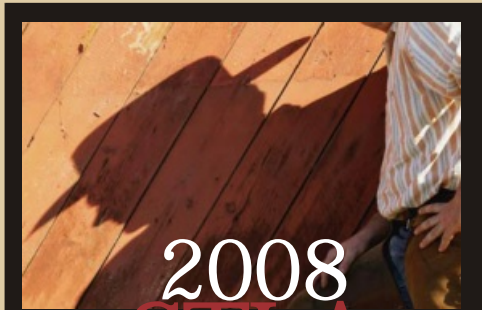
To Suzanne Perry
512/263-5313

e-mail to: suzanep@austin.rr.com



Don't miss seeing WOW KCC and KCC Ranger at the Field Day!

Enjoy a Fun-Filled Day of
Longhorn Looking
and Longhorn Learning

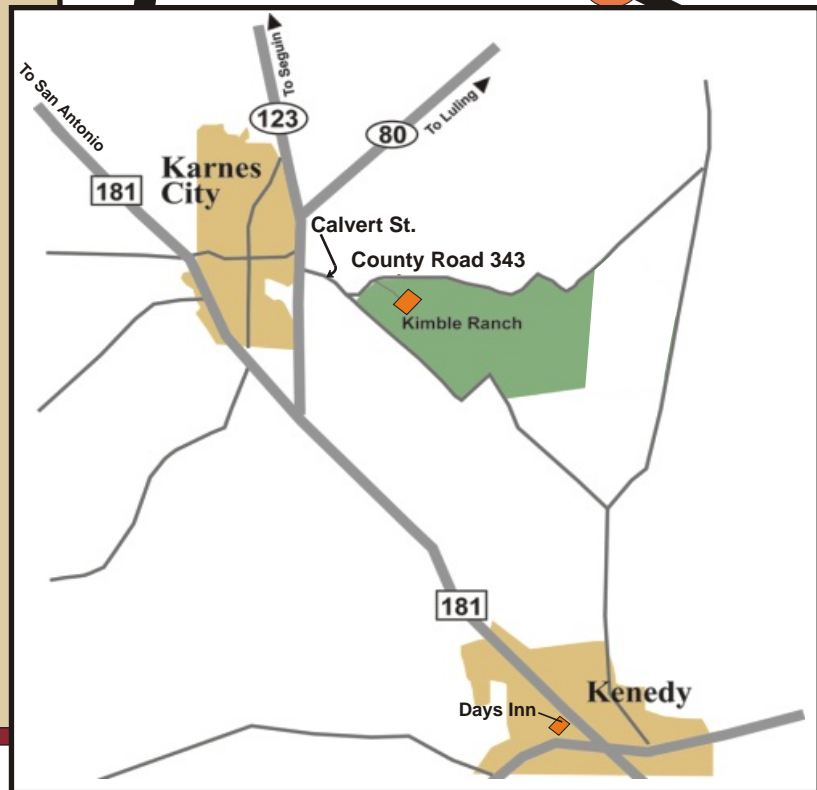
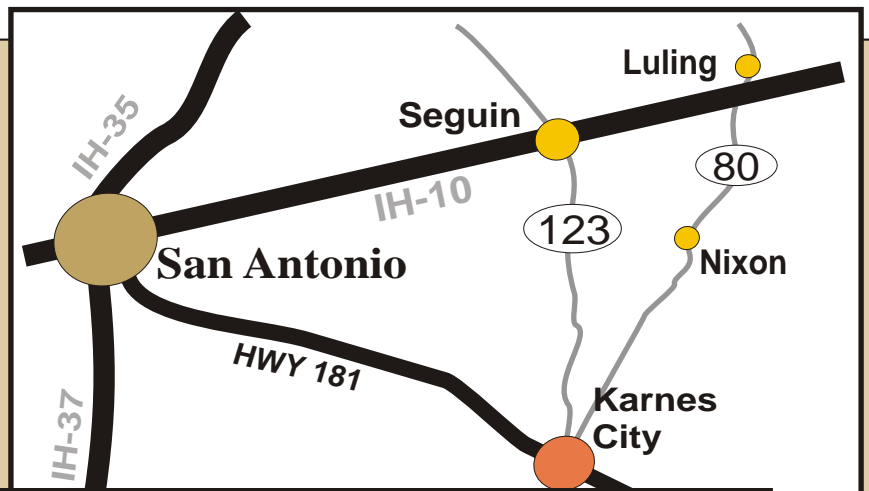


2008
STLA ★
Spring
Field Day
and Annual
General
Meeting

Saturday, April 26, 2008

Overnight accommodations
are available in Kenedy, Texas
(approx 5 mi. South of the Kimble Ranch)

Days Inn / Kenedy (830) 583-2521
The 505 Bed & Breakfast (830) 583-9404
Please check individual websites for info on each



Field Day Guest Speaker

Robert Thonhoff is a retired educator, retired County Judge, a noted author, emcee, historian, and community leader in the south Texas area.

Thonhoff was an original researcher for the Institute of Texas Cultures in 1967-1968, and, representing the German heritage of Texas, he has been an emcee in the character of "Professor Katzenjammer" at each of the Texas Folklife Festivals from 1973 until just recently, when he "hung up his lederhosen" in 2006.

Thonhoff has written four books on Spanish/Texas history and is a five-time winner of the prestigious *Presidio La Bahia Award*, given annually by the Sons of the Republic of Texas for best works on Spanish colonial history.

As part of our field day event, Judge Thonhoff will speak on the little known connection of Texans and Texas Longhorn cattle to the American Revolution.

2008 Scholarship Deadline is April 15th

Graduating seniors wanting to apply for the 2008 STLA Scholarship program must have **all application materials completed and returned to STLA by April 15, 2008.**

Full details about the scholarship awards and the application forms can be found on the homepage of the association's website at www.stla.org. Any additional questions, please contact Steven Zunker at 210/827-3940 or by e-mail to boxzranch@msn.com.

This year's essay topic for the "Breeder of Tomorrow" Scholarship is "The Art of Texas Longhorns" and the topic for the "Kids & Horns" Scholarship applicants is "Why Do You Show Texas Longhorn Cattle?"

May is the Time for Dues!

Your annual dues for STLA are payable in May of each year. **A Membership Renewal form is provided for your use on the website at www.stla.org.** Please fill out the necessary information requested on the form and include your check for your dues. Dues can also be paid at the Field Day.

The STLA Board voted in 2007 to offer additional categories of membership that will make keeping track of your yearly dues much easier and convenient. You can now pay for a 1-year, a 5-year, or a 10-year membership with STLA, all based on \$25 per year. If you have more questions, please contact Allen Perry, Membership Chair, at 512/ 970-3793 or e-mail to aperry@pearl-longhorn-ranch.com.

by: Heather Smith Thomas,
for CattleToday.com

SEEN & noted

Sexed Semen is Now a Reality for Cattle Breeders

The use of sexed semen is now a reality for many cattle breeders. The early research on this technology was done by the USDA more than 15 years ago. The first sex-selected calf conceived by using frozen sexed semen and AI was born in 1999. In 2004, this process became commercially available through a company called Sexing Technologies with labs in Texas, Ohio, Wisconsin and Brazil.

Gustavo Toro, Marketing Director for GRI (Genetic Resources International) and sister company Sexing Technologies, says that the research was done by Dr. Larry Johnson from Colorado State University, in conjunction with a grant from the USDA. Johnson developed a method for staining sperm, to facilitate sorting, and worked closely with Mike Evans (Sexing Technologies) to develop the instruments needed to visualize the sperm. "We are the largest company dealing with sexed semen. Our headquarters in Navasota, Texas is where we do all the research and training. We also produce sexed semen for individual customers as well as the big AI centers," says Toro.

In Texas, some of the private customers include producers of rodeo stock, like Vernon Guidry and Bucks by Design. "We have done several of the bucking bulls, and I think this will become a very important tool in that industry. It is growing rapidly," he says. Use of sexed semen in the beef industry is also starting to catch on. The dairy industry is using this technology the most, however,

because almost all of those breeders utilize AI. Only 6% of the beef cows in this country are bred by AI, compared with almost 90 percent of the cows in the dairy world, says Toro. "We have now produced sexed semen for 18 different breeds. Interest is increasing daily.

Cost – The cost of processing sexed semen is about \$35 to \$60 per straw, depending on the quantity being done. Dr. Bob Everett at Cornell University did a study to show the economic return to producers using sexed semen. In several instances, having a calf of the desired sex from a certain cow/bull combination will more than pay for the cost, and may even return several hundred dollars on that investment.

The Technology Used – "The way the process is done is based on the fact that the x chromosome has 3.8 percent more DNA than the y. The machines used in the process can read that difference in the DNA content," says Toro. The semen is stained with a fluorescent dye and then passed through a flow cytometer that can sort the sperm as it goes by in a stream of single droplets. The female producing sperm with the x chromosome shines brighter than those with the y markers, because the x chromosomes are 3.8 percent larger and have absorbed more dye. A laser in the sorting machine determines the gender of the sperm based on the amount of light it emits.

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How Smart Are You?

Continued from page 1.

2

Breed Character

Denotes the traits specific to a breed. Usually relative to the head shape, jaw structure, horn size and shape, frame type (without extremes in either direction), and coloration /color patterns historically applicable to that particular breed, or a family within a breed.

3

Stifle

The knee joint in a bovine – surrounded by synovial tissue, fluid, and sheathed by stifle muscle. A primary component of proper stance and structure, this is especially relative to functional travel and subsequent longevity.

4

Deep in the heart

The vertical line from top to bottom of the chest wall, directly between and slightly behind the forelegs. Depth of this area can be a determining factor for maximum development of the heart and circulatory system. It is also important to have ample "deep in the heart" area since unborn calves typically take up much of the forward abdominal capacity of the female.

5

Spring of rib

The barrel effect of the ribs as they spring from the vertebrae of the back bone and carry down over the abdominal area. This "spring" – or arch – can be observed by viewing an animal head on or from directly behind...and is relative in both males and females. The spring of rib obviously factors in with great importance for both carrying capacity in females and overall depth of body.



Continued on back page

All shows are TLBT / TLBAA
sanctioned and World Qualifying

STLA Show Schedule

April 4-6, 2008

Rockdale Triple Show Rockdale, Texas

The third annual Rockdale 3-Day Show to include youth competition in three separate world-qualifying shows on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, along with one Open Haltered Show on Saturday only, and one Trophy Steer Show to be held on Saturday evening. The annual three-day event is sponsored by STLA and the Heart of Texas affiliate.

Complete details and entry forms are available on the STLA website. Contacts: Tammy Tiner (HOT Affiliate) at 979 / 696-3707 or Louis Christa (STLA) at 210 / 863-7003.

All shows will be held at the Fair Park Arena complex in Rockdale.

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Sexed Semen Now a Reality for Cattle Breeders

The X-bearing sperm are sorted off in one direction, the Y-bearing sperm in another. The sorted sperm are then frozen in .25 cc straws to be used for AI breeding.

One advantage to the sorting process (which also helps make the sexed semen more successful in low dosage than regular sperm) is that damaged or dead sperm are sorted off. A normal ejaculate always has a certain amount of dead, dying or damaged sperm cells, so when it's sorted by the sexing process, these are eliminated – making the remaining sperm more viable.

Today, advanced reproductive techniques such as in-vitro fertilization (where the egg is fertilized in the lab and then used in embryo transfer) make sexed semen even more practical, since only a tiny amount of sperm is needed for fertilizing a large number of eggs. Sexed semen works well (with highest success rates) in a well managed AI or ET program in which timing of insemination is optimum for proper fertilization of the egg, but probably works best in an IVF program.

Benefits of Using Sexed Semen –

When using sexed semen, the results are predictable about 93 percent of the time. It

“Get-a-long Little Dogies....”

Time to Round up the Texas Longhorns at Big Bend Ranch State Park

PRESIDIO, Texas—

Big Bend Ranch State Park's most popular program— the Texas Longhorn Cattle Drive is on the horizon! The spring round-up of the park's State Longhorn herd will be held this year on the weekend of April 3-5. Twice each year, Longhorn enthusiasts and “city slickers” from across the state and around the nation come to participate and experience a piece of Texas' cultural heritage. The three day event gives each participant the chance to experience life as a cowboy out on the open range and the opportunity to lasso a lifetime of memories.

“If you are looking for a genuine taste of the Wild West's cowboy life” says Colorado travel writer, Christine Loomis, “the Big Bend State Park cattle drive is about as *real* as it gets.” Participants have the opportunity to see cattle in the rugged and remote pastures of this 300,000-acre ranch, learn how the herd is moved with horses, and will be able to help drive the historic Longhorn herd back to ranch headquarters where they can take part in branding calves,

recording lineage, and practicing those nostalgic traditions familiar to the American cowboy culture.

The park supplies all necessary tack, horses, and gear along with park wranglers/guides. People from all walks of life and with little horseback riding experience have participated in the round-up festivities. Guests have traveled from as far away as Australia, Canada, and England to experience this legacy of the Old West.

The cost of the three-day round-up event is \$975, which includes your horse and tack, park entry fee, lodging/camping fees, meals, and the assistance of experienced park wranglers.

Big Bend State Park is located northeast of Presidio, off Texas Hwy 170. Reservations are required. To find out more information about participating in the upcoming cattle drive, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/big_bend_ranch/ or you can call the Big Bend Ranch State Park headquarters at 432/358-4444.

Reprinted from a news release from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin Texas

can be a handy tool to increase your heifer numbers or steer numbers. This option is very useful for the dairy industry, since there is always a market for heifer calves, but not for the bull calves. In the beef industry, it is handy to be able to select the gender of calves if the producer wants to keep replacement females from certain cows/bulls, or wants just steers from a terminal cross.

In any given herd, the option of sex determination could be useful for reducing calving difficulty in first calvers (since heifer calves are typically smaller at birth than bull calves), or for cows to

producing a higher number of good females to choose from as replacements if you are wanting to expand your herd size without buying outside cattle. If you want your best cows to all have heifers, this can give you faster genetic progress. Seedstock producers may have bloodlines they are selecting for maternal qualities for brood cows and others they are hoping to use for marketing bulls. This technology gives producers the choice,

For more information on sexed semen, you can contact GRI or Sexing Technologies by visiting their website at www.griglobal.com.

El Castillo Ranch

Rod & Teresa Castillo
LEXINGTON, TEXAS

Our El Castillo Ranch was established in 1996 and is located in the northwest corner of Lee County, about 15 miles southwest of Lexington, Texas. Ranch hands are Rod & Teresa, along with their children, Mariana and Xavier.

When we purchased our 63-acre ranch, the previous owners were leasing this property for grazing to a herd of Texas Longhorns owned by the late Pat Beach and partner, Cal Monger. We became friends with the couple and continued to lease the land to CalPat Longhorns. The first two years' lease payments were made in cash, and that third year, Pat allowed us to choose a heifer from her new calf crop.

That ol' Pat got us hooked for sure! Our first registered Longhorn cow was born on our place and was a freckled, red-headed heifer that we named Tarman's Pecosa. Before we knew it, another year went by and we were selecting another pretty heifer for the lease payment. Eventually, Cal and Pat moved their cattle off the place and our small herd started to grow. We have met a lot of good people through Cal and Pat, and learned quite a bit about the legends and traditions of the Texas Longhorn cattle.

Within a few years, our kids, Mariana and Xavier were showing in the Pee Wee division and this got us involved in exhibiting some of our cattle in haltered shows. We currently exhibit cattle in non-haltered shows across the state. We began to get involved with the STLA and TLBAA and, eventually, our pretty freckled heifer, Tarman's Pecosa, sold for \$36,000 to Mountain Creek Longhorns at the Legacy II Sale in 2006. We have retained two of her great-looking heifers, for our breeding herd, Pecosa's Patricia and Blanca 103, and her steer, Perdido, is our resident trophy steer. We also have a



Big-horned trophy steer, Perdido, does his best to keep a close eye on those younger ranch hands, Xavier and Mariana, down at the El Castillo Ranch.

couple of Pecosa's granddaughters, Victoria 401 and La Reyna Isabella in our herd.

In November 2006, El Castillo Ranch purchased a young bull, El Muy Bueno ECR, from the El Coyote Ranch in south Texas. Our new herd sire is a red and white genetic "gold mine" with outstanding sires in his pedigree like Emperor, Phenomenon, Don Julio, Houston Solution, and VJ Tommie. We like lots of horn on our cattle and the addition of the El Coyote genetics to our herd will surely add confirmation, temperament, pretty color, and of course "horn." "El Muy's" first calves



have started to arrive this spring, bringing about high expectations from all of the ranch hands.

In addition to raising Texas Longhorn cattle, Rod and Teresa maintain full-time jobs. Rodney is the Director of Recruiting with Titan Solutions in Austin, and Teresa teaches 8th grade American History at Lamar Middle School in Austin. She also currently serves on the STLA Board of Directors.

We have met a lot of good people and developed many great friendships in the Texas Longhorn business. We look forward to watching our herd grow as we work to expand our breeding program.

You can find the Castillo family hard at work at their ranch near Lexington, Texas. Their phone number is 512 / 856-2044 or you can visit them at their new ranch website by logging on to www.elcastilloranch.com

How Smart Are You When Checking Out Cattle?

Continued from page 5.

6 Parrot mouthed

The term for an undershot lower jaw. This is denoted by an overbite of the upper jaw and can impair ability to forage properly, because bovine normally cut their forage using an upward motion of the lower jaw.

7 Sickle hocked

An irregular slant of the lower portion of the rear legs. Rather than the feet sitting squarely underneath the legs, the rear feet will sit slightly forward, thereby causing a subsequent slant forward of the lower portion of the leg. In time, the strain on ligaments and tendons can cause discomfort and create mobility problems.

8 Pigmentation

Coloration (melanin) of skin beneath the hair (or hide). In lighter colored animals, some pigmentation is desirable as it offers some protection from exposure to the sun. Often pigmentation can also be seen in nose and muzzle areas, on the underbelly, and in udders and scrotums. Pigmentation, acting as a thermal insulator and enhancing overall eye appeal, is considered a strong attribute in Texas Longhorn cattle.

9 Hooks & Pins

Hooks are the large-jointed hip bones. Pins are the bones at the rear, or the tail bones. A natural slant (or angle) from hooks to pins is desirable, with the pins being acceptably wide and slightly lower than the hooks. This configuration is important, not only for effective breeding, but for ease of calving, and enables good hygiene and proper defecation.

10 Pones or “rounds”

The deposits of excess fat particularly noted in the tailhead area. By the time pones are observed here, an excess amount of fat usually has already been stored in the udder and reproductive organs, which can adversely affect both fertility and milking ability. This over-fatted condition can affect bulls as well, wherein excess fat may also surround the testicles and be deposited in the scrotum. The resulting damage in both males and females can sometimes be permanent and can be manifested in inefficient breeding, missed cycles, delayed calving, difficult calving, and reduced milk production.

11 Pliable Skin / Hide

Denotes the health and elasticity of the hide. Supple, able to ripple, palpable with the finger tips. Show judges will sometimes pull or stretch hide and skin between fingers to check its pliability and overall health.

12 Tractable

Describes disposition with manageable traits. An animal can be more tractable at some times more than others, such as when their calves are almost grown and independent rather than when having new babies at side. Tractable dispositions can be heritable in both males and females – and the reverse can probably be found true also – the heritability of difficult, or non-tractable, dispositions.

13 Wry nose or tail; and rat tail

A twisted or off-center nostril area or a tail which is not properly centered over the anal area. Longhorns with this defect are no longer frequently observed, since breeding practices and culling have, for the most part, eliminated this structural defect. The “rat tail” refers to an extremely short tail with minimal hair and switch. Rat tail is a heritable trait and can be passed through several generations.



South Texas Longhorn Association
c/o Suzanne Perry | 1004 Lisa Drive | Austin, Texas 78733

**STLA Spring Field Day
on April 26th**
SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFO

