

February 1, 2012

Spring fever is breaking out at Three Trees Ranch with Stan and Carole Thomas expecting their ninth grandchild in the near future and grass starting to green up as Georgia and the entire Gulf Coast and on into Texas begins the process of healing from multiple years of drought and adversity. With lowest population of beef cows in America in more than five decades and record high prices for finished cattle, feeder cattle and Angus bulls, the remainder of the second decade of this millennium should be an exciting time to be in the beef business!

Anticipating the rebuilding of the national cow herd and the heifers that will need to be bred for that to happen, we have renewed our focus at Three Trees Ranch on creating bulls that combine a moderate birth weight with the exceptional growth and carcass excellence evaluated in calculating \$B index so that our customers can get the full benefit of the historically high difference in value between a USDA Choice and USDA Select carcass and the even higher differential between a USDA Prime and USDA Choice carcass. For more details on what those spreads can mean in dollars, please review the linked ad for Three Trees Double Design who really does everything that an Angus bull should do!

With over half of our expected 1,100 calves on the ground since early November, we have begun breeding cows and heifers to create our next calf crop. The only genomic-enhanced EPD values in the beef industry and the new database sorting tools provided by the American Angus Association logon makes mating decisions more fact-based than ever before. Since we want to create bulls that can breed virgin heifers without giving anything else up, we focus our efforts on owning and using sires that combine a BEPD below breed average with as much growth and carcass merit as we can find. If you are interested in the sires we have chosen to use in 2012, please refer to the linked spreadsheet sorts for Active Sires and Non Parent Bulls that are below breed average for BEPD as of 2-10-12.

To add to our 2011 natural service selections of EXAR Enhanced 966 and EXAR Profile IG who both come right to the top of our non parent bull sort, we have purchased possession interests in the exciting young sire produced by Steve Hillhouse and raised by Steve Knoll at 2 Bar, 2 Bar Star of Texas 0104 SJH who is easy to find on our sort and we have joined Don Katzenmayer of C Bar D in exploring the outcross potential of C Bar D Alternative K903 who offers a different pedigree profile for our herd along with the great combination of moderate birth weight and superior growth and carcass we require of our other herd sires.

We are using a great deal of semen this season from the bull with the Number 1 \$B index in the breed, Rito 9Q13 and we already have more than 70 calves on the ground by the Number 2 \$B bull, G A R Ingenuity with another 50 or more by him expected this spring.

From the active sires sort, we are making A.I. and embryo calves by A A R Ten X 7008 S A, SydGen Trust 6228 and P A Power Tool 9108 and planning to use Three Trees Right Step this spring.

Our best Angus and Angus Plus calves from last year's calf crop are progeny of Three Trees Double Design and we encourage you to study the information about him and join us in growing his valuable influence in both the Angus and Brangus breeds. We have an Angus Plus son of Three Trees Double Design from MS Brinks Captain 291P who offers one of the top ten IMF EPD values in the Brangus breed. The young stud we call TTR Heatseeker Y6056 passed a breeding soundness exam at ten months of age and although he won't be a year old until April, he is already at work breeding daughters of our Number 3 Brangus herd sire for IMF EPD, Lambert of Brinks 317R3.

Our embryo transfer efforts in 2012 are focused on daughters of from our greatest foundation donors by Connealy Forward, SydGen Sure Bet, SQ Credence 67S and C R A Bextor. We have evaluated these young cows using the HD50K technology to generate genomic-enhanced EPD values. Below you will find a link to a list of some of the young cows that are serving as Three Trees new generation Angus embryo donors. In addition we are flushing a two year old Brangus female that is one of the best young beef cows of any breed that we have ever seen to create heat tolerant high marbling cattle that will meet the needs of our operation and those of our Southeastern and Gulf Coast customers.

Mark your calendar now to be with us at Three Trees Millarden near Woodbury, Georgia on Sunday and Monday, November 4th and 5th. On Sunday afternoon Diane will be cooking prime rib for dinner that evening when we will have Dr. Kent Andersen of Pfizer Animal Genetics, Bill Bowman, President of Angus Genetics, Inc. and Mark McCully, Asst Vice President of Supply Development of the Certified Angus Beef program on hand to help us all learn to use the new GeneMax DNA testing product jointly offered by Pfizer and the American Angus Association to assist commercial cattlemen in making better selection and marketing decisions with their Angus-sired calves. On Monday, November 5, 2012, Three Trees Ranch will offer Angus, Brangus and Black Charloais purebred bulls along with Black AnChar and Angus Plus hybrid bulls that have been bred for carcass and growth excellence, evaluated with the latest DNA technology and developed in a practical manner for optimum longevity and reproductive and structural soundness – all backed by the BEST customer satisfaction guarantee in the industry!

Thanks for your interest in our web site and our program!

Sincerely,



Dick Beck
General Manager

If you would like assistance with bull selections, please feel free to call any of these team members:

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