

2007 Beef Improvement Federation 39th Annual Meeting

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Dancigers Honored as Pioneers

Release provided by **Beef Improvement Federation**

FORT COLLINS, COLO. (June 7, 2007) — The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) honored David and Emma Danciger of Tybar Ranch with its Pioneer Award June 7 during the organization's 39th annual meeting in Fort Collins, Colo.

The award recognizes individuals who have made lasting contributions to the improvement of beef cattle and who have had a major role in the acceptance of performance reporting and documentation as the primary means to make genetic change in beef cattle populations.

The Dancigers have long had an interest in producing high-performing, environmentally adapted beef cattle. David graduated from Harvard with a degree in economics after serving with the Army Air Force in World War II. He began in 1950 with a ranch located south of Dallas, Texas. There he started breeding Angus cattle and eventually became a life member of the American Angus Association.

David was a scientist at heart, and he continually focused on improving his Angus herd. Early on he attended schools on artificial insemination (AI), eventually setting up bull collection facilities and a laboratory on his Cedar Hill Ranch.

In 1980, David and Emma moved to Carbondale, Colo., bringing 50 young heifers with them from the Danciger Tybar Angus Ranch. They felt the move to a different environment was like starting over again, learning to cope with cold weather, altitude and intensive land management.

Early in that experience they learned of brisket disease, or high-altitude disease, something they never experienced in Texas.



► David and Emma Danciger of Tybar Ranch, Carbondale, Colo., were awarded the 2007 BIF Pioneer Award. Pictured are (from left) Joe Danciger; Emma Danciger; Mark Nieslanik, manager; and Mike Goscha, assistant manager.

The challenge of breeding cattle adapted to high elevation led David to voluntarily put his bulls in a research program testing for brisket disease.

Since those original tests, Tybar has tested every animal for high-altitude disease at one year of age and continues to select animals adapted to the high-altitude environment. Working with Colorado State University, Tybar data was used to develop expected progeny differences (EPDs) for pulmonary arterial pressure or PAP, which is an indicator of brisket disease susceptibility.

Tybar continues to work closely with Colorado State University, producing EPDs, using those in their selection program, and supporting further research into this problem.

David's motto was "Life is a learning experience," and he continued to act upon that motto until age 81. Since David's passing, Mark Nieslanik has continued to manage the ranch and pass on David's love of cattle and research.



Editor's Note: This release is adapted from a news release provided by the Beef Improvement Federation. It is available for redistribution. For more information about BIF, visit www.beefimprovement.org.