

## **CB Farms Family Partnership**

**Owners and Managers: Berry, Carla and Brandon Bortz  
Preston, Kansas**

A week after Berry and Carla Bortz graduated from Kansas State University in 1982, they got married and began farming in eastern Pratt County near Preston, Kansas. They started with two irrigated circles, two dryland quarters and about 300 acres of grass, which they used to background calves. Their family began in 1986 with the birth of their son Brandon, followed by their daughter, Amber, in 1987 and son, Darnell, in 1991. As the kids grew, so did the farm. In 2001, they started their cowherd and reduced the number of cattle purchased per year. Brandon and his wife, Cari, returned to the farm in 2012.

Today, they farm 19 irrigated circles, 2,500 acres of dryland and 2,000 acres of native grass. They have 550 spring-calving cows, of which 150 are registered Black Angus. They also operate a 1,500 head feed yard. They grow corn, wheat, soybeans, milo, sunflowers, cotton, alfalfa, bermuda and feed. They finish all their calves at home along with some calves they purchase from their bull customers. The calves are marketed through U.S. Premium Beef (USPB).

They believe that if the beef industry is going to survive and be something besides a niche in the protein market, operating costs must be reduced in all sectors of the industry. Their mission is to deliver a desirable product to the consumer from which they can derive an acceptable standard of living. To do this, they are going to control or participate in as many practices as they can from solar interception to product delivery on the plate.

The Kansas Livestock Association is proud to nominate CB Farms Family Partnership.

## **Hansen Family Ranches**

**Owners: Circle Ranches – Ed and Marilyn Hansen**

**Lone Pine Livestock – Carl and Debbie Hansen**

**Quarter Circle Lazy H Ranch – Chris and Janeth Hansen**

**D Dart Ranch – Cheri and Scott Dent**

**Managers: Hansen Family**

**Livermore, Colorado**

The Hansen Family, from Livermore Colorado, is a fifth-generation family ranch originally purchased in 1940 by Sam and Castor Hansen; father and grandfather of Ed Hansen and grandfather and great-grandfather of Carl, Cheri, and Chris. The ranch headquarters have been located in Livermore, CO since 1940. In 1994, the Hansen family acquired a summer ranch in Grover, CO, replacing summer forest permits. The Grover Ranch consists of approximately 15,000 acres and provides reliable pasture and more flexible management. Currently, the herd consists of 250 head of Angus cattle.

Three years ago, due to extreme drought, the family was forced to reduce one third of the herd. They raise grass hay, between 700-800 tons, to use for winter feed and sell for supplemental income. They also raise replacement heifers. The calving season runs between January 15th and March 15th. What makes the Hansen's unique is that they implement a 100% AI breeding program. They raise their own clean-up bulls and purchase high quality bulls which they collect semen from and then use for inseminating the herd. This allows them to spread bull costs over more cows, and consequently, pay a higher dollar for quality sires. The cow herd spends from June 1st through October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Grover ranch where calves are sold and shipped. The cows spend the balance of the year at the home ranch in Livermore for calving and breeding. There are three generations involved in showing livestock at various expositions throughout the state.

Hansen Family Ranches is proudly nominated by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and Colorado State University.

**James Kean**  
**Owner/Manager: James Kean**  
**Louisa, Virginia**

James Kean runs a 300 head fall-calving cow/calf beef operation in Louisa, Virginia. James has a reputation for having high quality beef cattle with his calves always bringing a premium in the local state graded sales or Central Virginia Cattlemen Association (CVCA) special tele-auction sales. James has always paid special attention to maintaining high quality genetics in his herd through the use of AI with his heifers, as well as using top quality bulls many times from the Beef Cattle Improvement Association (BCIA) sales on the cows. The cow herd consists primarily of Angus and black baldy cows. James also raises small grain and corn row crops on his operations, which is used primarily for feed resources in his cattle operation.

James is a leader for the local farming community serving on several boards of directors. James has been an active member of the Louisa Farm Bureau Board of Directors for over 25 years serving as President for several years. He has been a director on the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District for the past eleven years. James served on the Orange Madison Coop Board of Directors for 20 years. He has been a member of the CVCA since it started in the late 1980's and served on the board of directors since January of 2011. James is also a 4-H volunteer and has helped with the Louisa Agriculture Fair for the past 15 years.

James is married to Dr. Kate Hussman who recently retired from being a large animal veterinarian in Louisa County. James has two sons Brian and John.

The Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association is proud to nominate James Kean.

**XA Cattle Company**  
**Owners: Bill, Marie and Levi Farr**  
**Manager: Bill Farr**  
**Moorefield, Nebraska**

Bill, Marie and Levi Farr have lived at their current location in Lincoln County Nebraska for the past 7 years. Before that, they lived between Stockville, and Farnam, but, ran their cows there in the summer time. Currently, their operation consists of around 700 Balancer® cows and 150 registered Hereford cows; they also farm 2,000 acres of a combination of dry and irrigated corn, soybeans, and wheat.

Their heifers start calving in February and the cows the last week of March. In November they gather their cattle out of the hills and begin weaning the calves. The calves are backgrounded at their headquarters in their feedlot and then sold the end of February or the first week of March, depending on weather and markets. The cows run on winter pasture until they are worked. They are then moved to stocks until calving time. The replacement heifers are grown and developed there at the ranch and developed to gain 1.5 pounds per day.

XA Cattle Company is proudly nominated by the American Gelbvieh Association.