

# Seedstock Producer Award Nominees

## **Brink Livestock**

**Owners/Managers: Bob and Marilyn Brink  
Piedmont, Kansas**

Bob and Marilyn Brink of Brink Livestock raise Braunvieh cattle on their ranch near Piedmont, Kansas. The Brinks entered into the registered Braunvieh business in 2000, and in 2005 relocated the operation to a grass-based ranch in the Flint Hills near Piedmont, Kansas.

They have a herd of approximately 100 registered Braunvieh cows, calving in both spring and fall. Brink Livestock markets cattle in a number of outlets. They are a founding member of the Braunvieh Herd Builder Group and have sold cattle in all 13 of the group's annual sales. They also promote and sell their Braunvieh cattle at regional and national livestock shows, and have been proponents of performance testing their Braunvieh bulls. Bob and Marilyn have each served two terms on the Braunvieh Association of America's Board of Directors, and have been strong supporters of youth in the Braunvieh breed.

The Brinks utilize native tallgrass prairie as their primary grazing source, and have worked extensively to be good caretakers of the land through rotational grazing and resting pastures, by controlling invasive species in the range and by improving water quality for livestock and wildlife. Bob grew up on the family farm and ranch in northeast Kansas, which included a herd of registered Hereford cattle as well as crop and haying operations. Marilyn was raised on a farm in Illinois and worked for 17 years with the American Polled Hereford and Hereford Associations.

Brink Livestock is proudly nominated by the Braunvieh Association of America.



## **Hunt Limousin Ranch**

**Owners: Charles and Nancy Hunt  
Managers: Charles Hunt and son Daniel Hunt  
Oxford, Nebraska**

"Conserve the land for the future generations, keep current and knowledgeable on the leading cattle issues, high quality cattle for a fair price, and treat people with honesty and integrity." The Charles Hunt Family operation began in the 1960's after Charlie attended the University of Nebraska. With a love for God, family, the land, and cattle Charlie and Nancy were ready for the opportunity to do then what they still enjoy doing today, over 56 years later, raising cattle.

Currently, the 6,500 acre diversified operation consists of dryland and irrigated corn, soybeans, alfalfa, wheat and grass land which supports 300 cows, private treaty bulls, and replacement females. Genetics have been placed all over the globe, including Canada, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand. Bulls have been on display at the National Western Stock Show for the past 31 years and the Hunts have attended many BIF, NCBA, and numerous other Ag conferences. Charlie has been the recipient of many awards including the first ever Commercial Marketing Supporter Award from the North American Limousin Foundation. One of the most prestigious awards was being inducted into the Nebraska Cattlemen's Hall of Fame.

The customers and acquaintances the Hunts have met in the beef industry have become some of their best friends. Hunt Limousin Ranch has hosted tour groups and individuals from foreign countries who want to learn the "Hunt Way". All visitors are welcomed with a homemade meal and hot cup of coffee. Hunts take pride in making bull selection a relaxed, low-stress experience.

Charlie and Nancy have four children; David, Susan, Sally and Daniel and nine grandchildren. Their family is always ready to offer a helping hand on the ranch. One of their greatest honors is to have Dan, his wife Melinda, and their children Jenna, Adeline, and Houston living and working beside them, benefiting Hunt Limousin Ranch and the beef industry.

The Nebraska Cattlemen and the North American Limousin Foundation is proud to nominate the Hunt Limousin Ranch.





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## **Little Creek Farm**

**Owners: Dr. Mikell and Mary Cheek Davis**

**Manager: Alex Gardner**

**Starkville, Mississippi**

Little Creek Farm, LLC is located in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi near the city of Starkville. Twelve cows (four Polled Herefords, four Purebred Simmentals, and four Fullblood Simmental) were purchased in 1992. Two Full Fleckvieh Simmental heifers were purchased in 1993. Those two heifers began the Fleckvieh journey that continues today.

Red Angus cattle were added to the operation in 2004 with the primary intention to breed the cows to Fleckvieh bulls to demonstrate the impact of Fleckvieh genetics in a crossbreeding program. They made the strategic decision to maintain a Red Angus herd along with the Fleckvieh herd and to produce the Fleck-Angus crossbreds with the goal to retain the crossbred females as recipients for their embryo transfer program.

Little Creek began with a 57-acre home place location. Since 1994 six parcels have been purchased which resulted in a total of 850 acres, of which 100 acres are dedicated to hay production.

Little Creek maintains a two-hundred cow herd: 50 AI quality Fleckvieh cows, 35 AI quality Red Angus cows, and 115 embryo recipients. Embryo donor cows are selected from the two AI herds based on the cows' conformation, structural correctness (with emphasis on feet, legs, and udder), maternal qualities, ease of maintenance, and the quality of their offspring.

The Mississippi Beef Cattle Improvement Association is proud to nominate the Little Creek Farm.



## **Mill Brae Ranch**

**Owners: T.D. Steele, Roger Steele, and Mark Nikkel**

**Manager: Mark Nikkel**

**Maple Hill, Kansas**

Mill Brae Ranch is located in the Flint Hills region of eastern Kansas near Maple Hill. Comprised mainly of warm-season grasses, this region is a portion of the last tallgrass prairie left in North America.

T.D. and Roger Steele purchased the ranch in 1986 in an effort to expand their operation and bull sales. In the spring of 1987, Mark Nikkel was hired as herdsman for Mill Brae and three years later he assumed the day-to-day management of the ranch. In 2001, the Steele family offered Mark and his wife, Janice, the opportunity to join the operation as partners and Mill Brae Ranch LLC was formed. Mark and Janice's daughter, Taylor, is actively involved on the ranch when she is not in school or participating in school, 4-H/FFA or junior breed association activities.

Today, operating on 5,000 acres of owned and leased land, Mill Brae Ranch runs a spring-calving herd consisting of 400 registered Angus and SimAngus cows and 150 commercial cows. The foundation females for the registered Angus cow herd trace back to the highly productive dams the Steele family used to establish their original cow herd in 1950. SimAngus genetics were added in 2013, in response to the needs of their commercial customers.

The registered cows are synchronized and artificially inseminated (AI) to proven high-accuracy bulls that rank in the top 15% in the breed for birthweight and weaning and yearling growth traits. Their main focus is to produce low birthweight, high-growth seedstock, with acceptable carcass traits, excellent udder quality and structural correctness. A portion of the commercial cow herd is used as recipients for the embryo transfer program. About 70 embryos are put in per year out of only highly proven donor cows, which allows them to duplicate their most superior genetics.

Mill Brae Ranch is proudly nominated by the Kansas Livestock Association.





### **Shaw Cattle Company**

**Owners: Shaw Family**

**Managers: Greg, Tucker and Sam Shaw  
Caldwell, Idaho**

The origin of Shaw Cattle Co. began with a Hereford heifer. Tom Shaw worked weekends and summers throughout high school for a neighbor. After high school and upon his return from the U.S. Navy, the heifer was given to Tom as payment for his summers and a thanks for serving his country. The registered Hereford heifer became the foundation of Shaw Hereford Ranch in 1946. By 1959, Tom had married Mary, started a family and purchased a home near Notus, Idaho. The family moved from the original Shaw homestead to the current headquarters and continued to build a cow herd and raise a family.



Tom and Mary's youngest son, Greg, officially joined the operation after graduation in 1968 and married Cleo two years later. In 1988, the Shaw cow herd was divided into three herds. Greg and Cleo, remained on the original home place at Caldwell to raise their three children Tucker, Sam and Jaime, and subsequently, formed Shaw Cattle Co. The third and fourth generations are continuing the tradition of raising reputable performance cattle. In 1990, Shaw Cattle Co. diversified the Hereford cow herd and added Red Angus genetics. In 1996, black Angus cattle were added to the herd. Today, Shaw Cattle Company maintains over 1,500 registered cows encompassing three breeds. The Shaw's continue to improve the cow herd through the diligent selection of breed leading genetics with a keen eye toward performance, science and technology.

Greg and Cleo's son, Sam, returned to the ranch in 1999, after graduating from the University of Idaho. Sam and his wife, Janel, are raising their three daughters on the ranch. After graduating from the University of Idaho and working in the private sector, Tucker returned with his wife, Angie, in 2003, and are raising their five children on the ranch. Greg and Cleo's daughter Jaime, husband Kelley, and two daughters live in Eugene, Oregon, and enjoy helping out on the ranch when they can.

The American Hereford Association is proud to nominate the Shaw Cattle Company.

### **Turner Farm**

**Owners: J.B. and Barbara Turner, Jr.**

**Manager: J.B. Turner, Jr.  
Harvest, Alabama**

Turner Farms is a diversified family operation, producing cattle and vegetables and is located in Madison County, Alabama. Turner Farms is owned and operated by J. B. Turner, Jr. and family, and has a firm commitment to producing high quality Angus and SimAngus seedstock and also F-1 Hereford/Angus cross females.



Their breeding program consists of approximately 80 mature cows and utilizes proven AI sires and embryo transfer to accelerate genetic advancement. Genetic selection emphasizes balanced EPDs along with visual appraisal to produce cattle with longevity and performance. Donor selection is an intensive, ongoing process involving analysis of a potential donor's pedigree, production record and performance of her progeny. The American Simmental Association's Total Herd Enrollment program and also the American Angus Association's AHIR program are used for performance evaluation and analysis.

Turner Farms takes advantage of both a fall and spring calving season to meet the farm's overall marketing goals. Turner Farms has evaluated the performance of their genetics through the Alabama BCIA North Alabama Bull Evaluation for the past 7 years. Top quality commercial replacement heifers from Turner Farms have been a highlight of the North Alabama BCIA Heifer Sale for the past 10 years.

J. B. Turner is a steadfast conservationist and has applied many USDA NRCS programs within his operation since the 1980s. His application of rotational grazing, cross fencing, improved water facilities and nutrient management has increased the land efficiency of his acreage. His commitment to operating in an environmentally sustainable manner was recognized with the honor of the 2016 Alabama NRCS Small Farmer of the Year and the national USDA NRCS Lloyd Wright Small Farmer of the Year Awards.

The Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association is proud to nominate the Turner Farm.