

# WAGYU WORLD

July/August 2023





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Flatonio - Texas

**BRADY 2627A**

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**LAG HEARTBRAND 2627A**

**AAA # AF52168 | AWA # FB30265 | DOB 11/10/13**

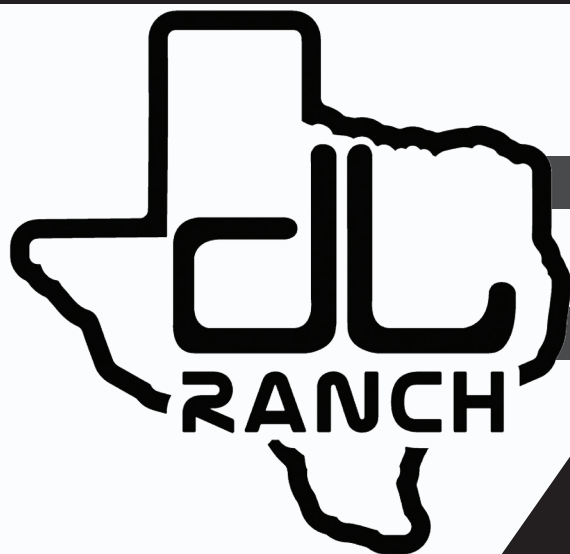
The value of a pedigree such as this is immeasurable here at Legendary. Brady 2627A is a complete outcross to three of our foundation bulls: Shigemaru, Tamamaru, and Hikari. We expect this deep, red, direct son of Rueshaw to inject the well-known marbling ability and angularity to rear skeleton of his father, as well as the maternal strength and longevity of his cornerstone dam, the "Z" cow. Brady modernizes foundation genetics and brings the mating versatility that the breed has been in search of.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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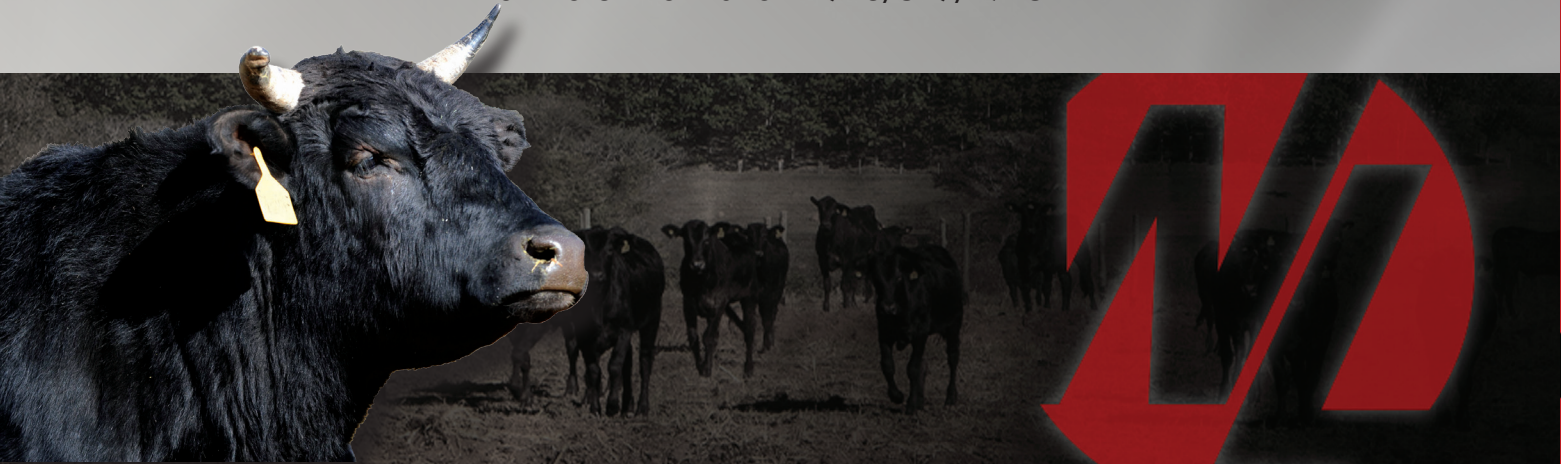
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July / August 2023  
Volume 9, Number 5



### 14 PROGRAM PROFILE

#### HP Wagyu

*We learn all about a large Fullblood and Purebred Polled program in Queensland, Australia and how one hard working family is behind this enormous multi-breed cattle operation.*

>> By Heather Smith-Thomas

### 24 OUT & ABOUT

*From the state of Kansas to Canada - this summer's sales led to a lot of travel. In Kansas the Bar V production sale took place while in Canada an international Wagyu celebration was what brought in folks from all around the world. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and sale of Wagyu Sekai was the talk of the summer - see all the results of both events and more.*



### COVER>>

Courtesy of: Wagyu Sekai & HP Wagyu  
Location: Ontario - Canada

## 34 PROGRAM PROFILE

### Winters Family Beef

*We head to the heart of Texas to meet George and Amy Greer. George and Amy began their Wagyu journey with no cattle experience at all in 2008. George was an X-Ray Technician and Amy was a Wildlife Biologist. They persevered and years later they've reached their goals and are ready to add new ones.*

*>> By Heather Smith-Thomas*

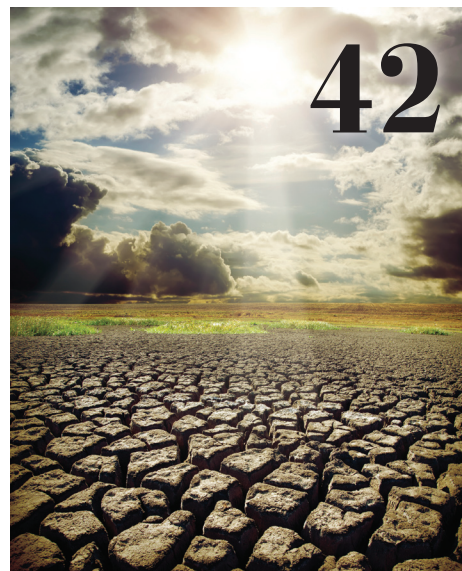


## 42 HEALTH & HUSBANDRY

### Drought & Cattle

*With a drought hitting a large area of the country, the affects on cattle can be more than just a lack of feed - the best in knowing what Wagyu cattle need covers the basics of how to care for your animals in drought conditions.*

*>> By Dr Jimmy Horner*



## 50 MARKET MATTERS

### EBVs & EPDs

*Which ever data you follow, this gives you the run down and description of both to better understand what your looking at when it comes to Wagyu pedigrees.*

*>> By Ronda Applegarth*

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# THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

This summer has flown by...like seriously. Not sure why but it could be that it seems like every day is beyond full and each week seemed to pass in a flash. Between work, family and all of the animals, every hour is encompassed with some sort of task. This summer we just added to the animal end of our responsibilities on our ranch with a new edition.

Right as summer really started to bloom, I get a text from my husband about a puppy found in the middle of the ranch north of us. One of the irrigators stumbled upon a small white female pup. Well, we couldn't just leave her there so we brought her home. Of course our six year old son falls in love with her, as well as my husband and next thing we know, we have 7 dogs. We have become those people – kind of like the crazy cat lady.

The poor puppy was starving and according to the vet, she was only a handful of weeks old. She had herself quite an appetite and as she ate, she grew... a lot. Every month she put on 10 plus pounds. Originally she was an indoor pet but that only lasted two weeks. Our current indoor dogs that were once much larger are now midgets next to her; especially when it comes to her paws. The paws is what made us want to do some investigating so we sent in DNA to help pinpoint what this lab faced white giant truly is.

Well, my husband brought home a giant – the puppy is 70% Great Pyrenes and the remaining 30% is Komondor and something else huge. This is definitely not an indoor dog and according to all my destroyed landscaping that I work hard at, she does not belong in the yard. What she is bred for is running around the ranch and protecting livestock and my child. She is doing just that but she is a handful that continues to grow at a rapid pace.

We love this pup and named her Suerte (Lucky in Spanish). She is a pain in the you know what and has for sure added more to our already very busy schedule adding to summer flying by so fast.



*Mercedes Danekas-Lohse*

Mercedes Danekas-Lohse - Editor



"Perhaps one has to  
be....old before  
one learns how to  
be amused rather  
than shocked."  
~ Pearl S. Buck ~

The one thing about being a part of the Wagyu industry for a very long time, one is able to witness the changes and the subtle shifts over intervals that have brought the industry to the point were at today. A big part of that is technology, it plays an integral piece of the puzzle that has not only allowed us to follow an animal's performance it has played a key role in marketing the breed as well.

We can't ignore Covid, while it was a terrible time for America and the world, it would become the first time that a large segment of the US population would first hear about a cattle called Wagyu while they were searching for avenues to purchase meat. We quickly went on from being called Kobe Beef on the food networks to Wagyu with explanation's regarding the differences.

And we would like to think that this magazine you're reading right now has helped to spread the word as well. In this issue you're going to find a great read on HP Wagyu from Australia, along with recaps from the recent sales in Out & About. The Winter Family Beef article will take you on their personal journey raising Wagyu.

Hope you're having a great summer and looking forward to seeing many of you in the fall.



Sherry Danekas - Publisher



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# DISCOVERY

*This Issue's Three Contributors Share Themselves With Us.*



**HEATHER  
SMITH-THOMAS**  
Rancher/Writer



***As summer is beginning to come to an end, my best moment from this summer was...*** actually the many moments of realizing the love and support from family and friends after the tragic death of my 2-month-old great-granddaughter.

***If I learned anything from the cattle business it is...*** a wonderful life to be able to raise cattle but a hard way to make a living--and a person almost has to be fanatically dedicated to it as well as innovative to find ways to make it work

***My hardest day to date in the cattle industry has been...*** early on...realizing that the major players and some of our "leadership" in the industry are doing things that are not favorable to our grassroots producers who are the backbone of rural agriculture and the future of food production in this country.



**RONDA  
APPLEGARTH**  
Wagyu Breeder



***As summer is beginning to come to an end, my best moment from this summer was...*** there was no single best moment. I've loved watching my grandchildren grow so much in our ranch life. The girls both got horses big enough that they can keep up on a full day of riding in some pretty big country. The boys are finally big enough to drive the Ranger solo, run the calf chute and handle small jobs on their own. I'm so proud of all of them!

***If I learned anything from the cattle business it is...*** patience. Slower is better. It takes a minute for a cow to find the gate. It takes more than a minute for Wagyu to marble darned good!!

***My hardest day to date in the cattle industry has been...*** the summer we lost nearly a quarter of the herd to "the mystery illness". We'd never heard of anaplasmosis until that summer. It was devastating.



**DR. JIMMY HORNER**  
Nutritionist / CEO  
Protocol Technologies



***As summer is beginning to come to an end, my best moment from this summer was...*** watching my 2 children, their awesome spouses, and my 7 amazing grandchildren while sitting around the firepit during our last night of family vacation at a cabin in Broken Bow, OK and being overcome with a full heart because of God's goodness.

***If I learned anything from the cattle business it is...*** always focus on the cattle, not the politics!

***My hardest day to date in the cattle industry has been...*** the day I received word that my good friend, valued mentor, and the most passionate Wagyu breeder I've ever known, Mr. Yoshihisa Nakamura from Miyazaki, Japan, had lost his battle with pancreatic cancer.





# STAYWILD

'23

November | 4 | 2023 - Turkey, NC  
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**FEMALES - BULLS - PREGNANCIES - EMBRYOS**  
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# **HP** *australia*

By Heather Smith-Thomas



Hannah, Harry, Hugo, Pippa, Humphry, Molly & Cameron



**HP** Wagyu is a Fullblood, crossbred and Polled wagyu operation that has invested heavily to build a foundation of the best performance genetics from superior wagyu herds. Cameron Hewitt has been building the foundation for a top Wagyu breeding program for nearly 8 years, on 5 cattle stations in Queensland.

Cameron has spent his entire life with cattle, growing up on a cattle station at Taroom, Qld. “My brother and I started to help dad grow the business as we got older, and we bought another property in North Queensland which we used for breeding cattle. The soil there is not as rich; it is good for breeding pastures but not as good for fattening cattle. We bought Hanging Rock station in 2008 and ran a breeding herd there. We brought the steers from that herd down to Taroom, Qld—the station where we grew up and got our business started,” he says.

“Here is where we fatten them up to feeder weight and then send them to a feed yard to finish. In 2016 we decided we wanted to get into Wagyu cattle. Some friends of ours in far north Queensland had Wagyu and we realized these cattle could handle the harsh hot climate—so we thought we’d give it a go,” Cameron says.

“We went in search of some really great genetics and found the Mayura L0010 bull that was coming up for sale at Scott de Bruin’s Mayura Station, which is way down in South Australia the southern part of Australia. We thought that if we were going to do this, we needed to buy the best bloodlines that we could find. Mayura L0010 was the first son offered by Mayura that was by their super sire Itoshigenami Junior. He had over 1000 carcasses averaging marble score Ausmeat 9, which is the highest marble score percentage you can get in Australia on our Ausmeat grading scale,” Cameron says.

About that time, Cameron also bought Box Flat Station, another cattle property near Taroom, Qld. “We wanted to add more fattening country; we realized we were breeding too many cattle in North Queensland and didn’t have enough fattening pastures. Box Flat is where we based the fullblood herd (about 400 head) along with around 3000 steers. It is here where we produce bulls to go out into our commercial operation in North Queensland.”

The herd of fullbloods we built purely from proven outlier genetics from prominent fullblood herds that used performance data for their breeding decisions, we only bought high ranking elite animals and created our fullblood herd through embryo transfer. “We went to many other studs that have been in this game for a long time, and bought their best and most proven genetics, and built our fullblood herd around those genetics,” he says. Fullblood bulls produced from that small seedstock herd go to service the 4000 crossbred breeding females at Hanging Rock and the 7500 females at Springfield—a cattle station in far north Queensland purchased in 2020.

Springfield Station came with about 7500 Brahman cattle. “We are currently in the process of changing that herd out and replacing those cattle with a Wagyu purebred herd.” The Brahman cattle originally there were acclimatized to the extreme heat in that part of the country.

“It’s difficult to go out and find thousands of Wagyu cattle for sale and immediately change the herd over, so we are breeding this herd up from F1 to purebreds. [So the Brahman cattle were the base for the breed-up for these cattle?? Yes, they were]

“Our plan is to eventually have the entire commercial operation be a purebred herd. These cattle will also be adapted to the climate and the heat, up there,” he explains.

“If we were to buy some Angus-based F1 Wagyu cattle from



## FAMILY

Cameron and his wife Hanna have 5 children. Harry is 12, Hugo is 10, Pippa is 7, Humphrey is 5 and Molly is 2 ½ years old.

“The children enjoy the cattle and help out on the farm. They help me muster and draft the cattle. It’s a lot of fun being able to work together as a family.”



southern Australia (down where it is cooler) and tried to take them up north, they wouldn't survive." The purebreds in that area will be built up from the cattle that are already adapted to the heat and harsh environment.

"We will continue to grow our fullblood and Poll Wagyu herds for our seedstock and provide genetics for other breeders also. [There will be a premium for these animals. Probably remove this]. For the climate in north Queensland it suited us better to go for a purebred herd up there.

"Many of the bigger cattle companies in Australia have been going into Wagyu, They are doing the same thing we are; they had to breed up with animals that were already acclimatized. Wagyu cattle are resilient, and can do well anywhere in the world. It is amazing that these cattle can live in Canada at minus 40 degrees and plus 40 Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) in Australia."

Wagyu cattle can handle the heat better than most other Bos Taurus beef breeds "We've found that if you bought an Angus bull and took him to north Queensland, in the middle of the day he would be under a shade tree instead of out grazing or breeding cows. A Wagyu bull will be chasing cows around and doing fine. Even when we are walking them long distances, the Wagyu handle it a lot better than a lot of other Bos Taurus cattle." You wont find many British breed





cattle in North Queensland.

## TEAM EFFORTS

With the various stations to run, Cameron has a good team to help him. "Right now it's just a small team and we want to grow in numbers. It's really difficult in Australia to find staff; it's hard to find the right people and even more so since COVID. We are slowly growing but we have 11 permanent staff members over the 5 places with a combine area of roughly 290,000 acres. Four of our team are at Springfield Station and we hire contract staff in to help do our big musters and process the cattle."

It can take 6 to 8 weeks to do a full mustering round at Springfield Station. "This station is 170,000 acres and one of the biggest paddocks is 60,000 acres. We use helicopters to help locate and push the cattle to stock watering points. Then we have horseback riders that take the mob and walk them down a road towards the yards, and the helicopters keep bringing more cattle in. The same process happens at Hanging Rock Station. With such a big areas it is hard to ride every part of that paddock in one day," Cameron says.

Cattle in this large area can be seen and located easier with the helicopter and the cattle get used to being herded by chopper. "They just run toward the mob and are then happy to walk with the horseback riders toward the yards. They know the drill. It usually takes about three days from the time they are gathered in the muster until they get back to the home paddock," he says.

"We bring them in and process them—and give them parasite treatment and vaccines. North Queensland has cattle ticks, so we put the cattle through a plunge dip, which is like a large swimming of treated water that they jump into and removes the ticks and lice off them. Then they are processed and the calves branded, and then they go back out into the paddock with their mothers. The bigger weaning-age calves are taken off and weaned, and then the steers are taken by truck on road trains—the trucks that pull 2 or 3 trailers. They can haul about 40 cattle to a deck and they take 6 decks, so one road train can haul about 240 head of weaners."

The steers are hauled about 1300 kilometers (807 miles) to where they are fattened. "We fatten them on pasture down here, and sometimes we use grain pellets to assist them, depending on the season. When the weaned steers get to 400 kilos (about 880 pounds) we send them off to the feedlot. They continue to be fed there, for 300-plus days. After the feedlot processes them they send us all the kill data on how well they performed. This enables us to make informed breeding decisions. If we can see that one sire's progeny are not grading very well, we cull that sire and bring in new younger bulls to replace the older ones," Cameron says.

"If an older bull is performing really well—if his progeny are at the very top—we collect semen from that bull and use him as an AI sire. Our goal is to eventually AI every breeding female and just mop up with a few bulls afterward." This will spread the top genetics farther.

"We get a premium for those steers—the ones that the buyer knows will perform well. The buyer is happy to pay a premium if he can see data that shows that the steers from that sire will perform really well. It's less risk for the buyer."

The cows are processed at Springfield Station where their calves are weaned. "The weaning process takes a week or two. After the heifer calves are taken off the cows and accustomed to being horseback mustered and worked through the yard, they go to a heifer paddock to grow until they are of age to breed.



*Road trains bringing steers from Springfield Station*



*New cattle yards being built at Springfield Station with two squeeze chutes to artificially inseminate 600 females a day*



*Mustering cows into yards at Box Flat*  
Wagyu World | July/August 2023 17





All the steers are sent south to be fattened. Up north is the breeding operation and down south is where we fatten steers and have our seedstock operation to produce the bulls."

When he bought Mayura L0010 originally, we only intended to purchased him for our own herd use but stumbled upon a unexpected opportunity to start marketing genetics outside of Australia as well as beef cattle. "We flew over to America and met up with many wagyu producers and were lucky enough to attend some of the American Wagyu Conferences, which was great meeting other fellow wagyu breeders and broadening our wagyu knowledge and network. We started a marketing campaign to try and market genetics from this top bull. He was the record selling Wagyu bull in Australia and maybe even in the world, at the time we bought him. We paid \$105,000 for him. The previous top price record in Australia was only \$16,500," Cameron says.

"When we first started marketing

genetics, I don't think very many American's knew about Itoshigenami Jnr and that Mayura L0010 was the first progeny of this Australian wagyu carcass legend. As he got more recognition and gained a reputation, he became more popular. Now L0010 has progeny in many herds, and nearly every sale catalog in America has some of his bloodlines.

He has done really well and recently won at the Paddock to Palate competition in Australia; with his pen of steers that had the best average daily weight gain while on feed and then also the highest value pen of steers in the competition."

"His Angus F1 progeny have averaged over marble score 8, with more than a 500-kilo carcass, which would be 1100 pounds. This is a incredible result on Angus F1 carcasses" says Cameron.

"We started with that bull in 2016, and as we started growing our seedstock business we got more and more animals and now sell semen on

many other bulls as well. Last year we had our first sale in Australia, called the Marble High Sale. We have the sale alongside Macquarie Wagyu and Arubial Wagyu. Our three herds come together and we present a small offering from each herd—which amounts to about 70 lots in total. We put our best genetics out there; the point of the Marble High Sale is to be a prestigious sale featuring only the very top animals," he says.

"We rarely put anything under a genomic marble score 2 in the sale. The only exceptions would maybe be animals from a rare genetic line that would be sought after. Our sale was the highest averaging cattle sale of any breed last year. It broke records with a rough sale average of \$49,000 per lot. We sold a top-price female there—a daughter of Mayura L0010 for \$240,000."

Our goal at HP Wagyu is to produce Wagyu cattle with balanced traits, from maternal to carcass, an animal that does it all from F1 to Fullblood. 🍖





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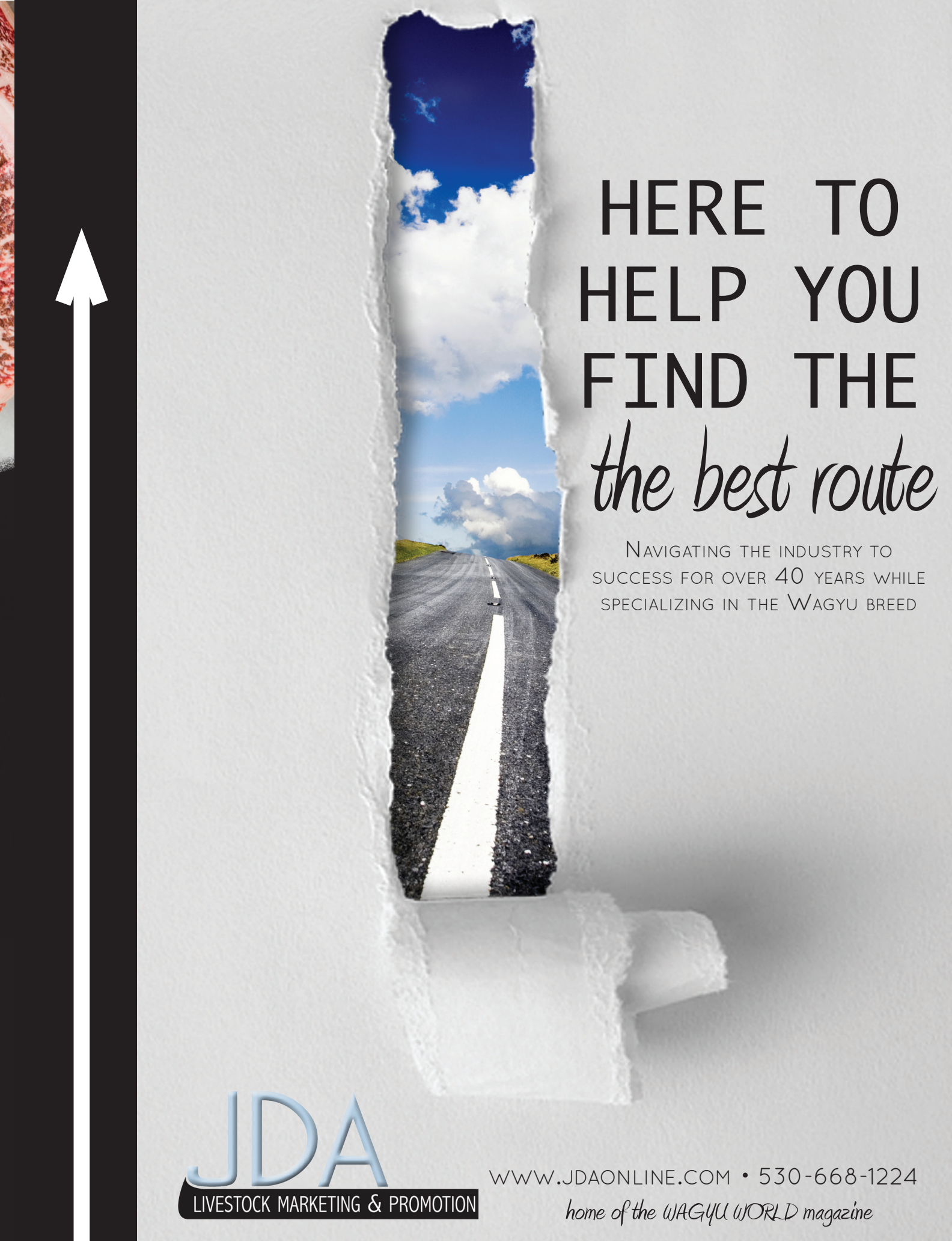
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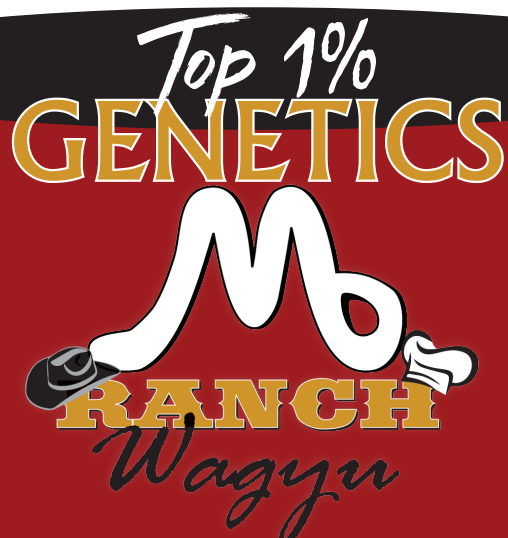
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#1 \$SRI Sire in the WORLD

**ARUBIAL UNITED P0342**

74	3.6	2.6	0.45	\$417	\$412	\$333	\$305
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#1 \$F1TI born in the USA

**GMNY GOLD FINGER T27**

16	12.9	3.5	0.46	\$279	\$318	\$307	\$306
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**OLIVE GROVE WAGYU S033**

53	5.1	2.9	0.57	\$334	\$351	\$299	\$278
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**GATEWAY GATE KEEPER**

37	5.8	3.6	0.59	\$317	\$344	\$286	\$269
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**GATEWAY G113 GUARDIAN**

42	6.7	3.2	0.56	\$291	\$331	\$305	\$298
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**MAYURA L0010**

44	5.7	2.8	0.32	\$285	\$288	\$278	\$257
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**ARUBIAL BOND Q007**

6	15.4	3.2	0.46	\$211	\$253	\$252	\$260
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#1 \$SRI, \$FTI & \$WBI Sire born in the USA

**M6 ITOSHIGENAMI R073H**

62	2.7	2.3	0.34	\$339	\$309	\$272	\$224
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#2 \$F1TI Sire born in the USA

**M6 ITOSHIGENAMI R0128H**

29	4.5	2.6	0.35	\$259	\$275	\$262	\$248
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MORE DETAILS TO COME

*Save The Date*

SCIENCE IS ON OUR SIDE





31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2023

# Poll Wagyu Premier Sale

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# OUT & ABOUT

*Wagyu Sales, Shows, and Other Happenings*

*Sales*

## 2023

### Bar V Wagyu Production Sale SALINA, KANSAS



June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023





## >> *The Results*

### Bar V Wagyu Production Sale

#### Averages

34 FEMALES	\$6,551.00
39 BULLS	\$5,222.00

#### Top Females

**Lot 13: LMR MS MAYURA 0542H**, 7/26/20 sired by MAYURA L0010; **\$29,500** to **Troy Leith**, Abilene, Kansas.

**Lot 1: BAR V MS BOND 32K**, 1/29/2022 sired by ARUBIAL BOND Q007; **\$29,000** to **Laura Carter**, McArthur, California.

**Lot 14: LMR MS MAYURA 0561H**, 7/29/20 sired by MAYURA L0010; **\$16,000** to **Jim Howard**, Salina, Kansas.

**Lot 2: BARV MS TYDDEWI 51K**, 6/22/22 sired by TYDDEWI N4431; **\$9,000** to **Crown River Ranch**, Fort Worth, Texas.

#### Top Bulls

**Lot 49: BARV LMR TYDDEWI 70J ET**, 8/28/2021 sired by TYDDEWI N4431; **\$13,500** to **Union Hill Wagyu**, Arlington, Texas.

**Lot 6: BAR V 5U POLL L10 49J**, 9/18/21 sired by MAYURA L0010; **\$10,000** to **LaRocque Cattle Company**, Belcourt, North Dakota.

**Lot 15: BAR V POLL 5U BOND 12K**, 2/07/2022 sired by ARUBIAL BOND Q007; **\$10,000** to **Roughride Cattle Services**, Hughes Springs, Texas.

**Lot 8: BARV UNITED MARBLE 75K ET**, 9/15/2022 sired by MYM ARUBIAL UNITED P0342; **\$8,500** to **Anthony James**, Hugoton, Kansas.

**Lot 17: BAR V POLL 5U BOND 11K**, 1/31/22 sired by ARUBIAL BOND Q007; **\$8,250** to **LaRocque Cattle Company**, Belcourt, North Dakota.

A Friday night pre-sale social kicked off the Bar V Wagyu production sale. Folks gathered at the Greyhound Hall of Fame and museum in Abilene, Kansas and enjoyed a fantastic dinner provided by Bar V Wagyu that included sliders from a polled breed legend – Bar R 5U. The sale itself was enjoyed by many and in the end; bulls, females and/or frozen genetics went to all parts of the country; KS, TX, IA, NE, ND, CA, MO, OK, ID, NC, SC, WY, OR, PA, CO, WI, GA, FL and even Canada!

**Managed By: James Danekas & Assoc., Inc.**  
**Online Venue: LiveAuctions.tv**



Celebration & Sale

# 2023

## Wagyu Sekai 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event PUSLINCH, ONTARIO



July 5 - 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023









## >> *The Results*

### Wagyu Sekai 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sale

#### Averages

21 FEMALES	\$28,000.00
8 BULLS	\$29,000.00

#### Top Females

**Lot 27B: WSI CHIYOKO**, 2/18/21 sired by MAQUARIE WAGYU N0100; **\$57,000** to **Wilders Wagyu**, Turkey, North Carolina.

**Lot 10: WSI KITAYASUGUNI**, 12/05/2020 sired by GENJIRO; **\$52,500** to **Corey Alsobrook**, Royse City, Texas.

**Lot 9: WSI OKUMIFUKU**, 6/02/22 sired by YASUKANE 3; **\$40,000** to **Durham Ranch**, Simpsonville, South Carolina.

**Lot 16: WSI SUZUTAN**, 8/01/16 sired by WORLD K'S KANADAGENE 100; **\$40,000** to **Silverback Cattle Co.**, Alberta, Canada.

**Lot 1: WSI OKUHANA 429**, 4/29/21 sired by WSI ITOSHIGEZAKURA; **\$35,000** to **Winters Family Beef**, Brady, Texas.

**Lot 5: WSI REINA**, 6/02/22 sired by MAYURA L0010; **\$35,000** to **Silverback Cattle Co.**, Alberta, Canada.

**Lot 6: WSI RUMIKO**, 3/22/14 sired by ITOSHIGENAMI; **\$35,000** to **Haygreg Cattle**, Ontario, Canada.

**Lot 2: WSI SATSUKI**, 6/18/21 sired by TYDDEWI N4431; **\$34,000** to **Durham Ranch**, Simpsonville, South Carolina.

#### Top Bulls

**Lot 13: WSI KITAYASUGUNI**, 7 /13/2021 sired by YASUKANE 3; **\$60,000** to **Mayura Station**, Australia.

**Lot 11: WSI OMEGA T514**, 8/19/22 sired by WORLD K'S KANADAGENE 100; **\$40,000** to **Mayura Station**, Australia.

**Lot 7: WSI RIZEN T504**, 7/07/2022 sired by YASUKANE 5; **\$30,000** to **HP Wagyu**, Australia.

**Lot 4: WSI SENZUKO T506**, 7/10/2022 sired by KOUSYUN; **\$30,000** to **Mayura Station**, Australia.

**Lot 17: WSI SHIGESUZUNAMI**, 7/05/22 sired by ARUBIAL BOND Q007; **\$20,000** to **Silverback Cattle Co.**, Alberta, Canada.

What an epic celebration!!! The Wagyu Sekai 30th anniversary event was a huge success. This legendary program sold 30 lots to commemorate 30 years in the Wagyu business. The celebration began on the Wednesday prior to the sale with a tour of Niagara Falls for all who were in town for the event. The next day included a tour of Fradon Flush Center; the facility that is utilized by Wagyu Sekai. After the tour and speakers, the group made their way to the farm to view the offering and enjoy Wagyu Sekai hamburgers and hot dogs and refreshments. That evening the festivities moved to a steakhouse where all in attendance wine and dined. Sale day, Friday, included Wagyu lunch and of course the elite 30 lots on offer. The auction ended up breaking a record in North America for the highest average per lot and grossed \$1,255,727 CAD. Many countries were represented both in person and online. This event was a moment that will go down in the Wagyu history books.

**Managed By: James Danekas & Assoc., Inc.**  
**Online Venue: DLMS**



# OUT & ABOUT

Wagyu Sales, Shows and Other Happenings

## *Save the Date* Upcoming Events

2023

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 Lone Mountain Ranch Bull & Frozen Genetics Sale**  
*WagyuLive.com*
- 11-24 AU Wagyu Association International Tour**  
*Canada & US*
- 21-23 AWA Conference**  
*San Antonio, Texas*
- 24-29 World Wagyu Conference**  
*Texas*

### OCTOBER

- 8 M6 Ranch Wagyu Frozen Genetics Sale**  
*WagyuLive.com*
- 21 DL Ranch Texas Production Sale**  
*Montgomery, Texas*

### NOVEMBER

- 4 Stay WILD 2023 - Wilders Wagyu Production Sale**  
*Turkey, North Carolina*
- 11 TWA Fall Harvest**  
*Luling, Texas*

2024

### FEBRUARY

- 16 The Invitational**  
*Sonoma, California*

### MARCH

- 2 A5 Wagyu Production Sale**  
*Virginia*
- 16 Triangle B Ranch Production Sale**  
*Stigler, Oklahoma*

### APRIL

- 6 M6 Ranch Bull & Female Production Sale**  
*Alvarado, Texas*
- 27 Booth Creek Wagyu Production Sale**  
*Oldsburg, Kansas*

### MAY

- 25 Bar R Wagyu Production Sale**  
*Pullman, Washington*

### JUNE

- 8 Passion For Prime**  
*Salina, Kansas*

### SEPTEMBER

- 19-21 AWA Conference**  
*TBD*

### OCTOBER

- 19 JDA Auction**  
*Houston, Texas*

### NOVEMBER

- 2 Stay WILD 2024 - Wilders Wagyu Production Sale**  
*Turkey, North Carolina*
- 9 TWA Fall Harvest**  
*Luling, Texas*

2025

### MARCH

- 8 FushimiSake Southern 300**  
*Bowie, Texas*
- 15 Triangle B Ranch Production Sale**  
*Stigler, Oklahoma*
- 29 Deep Oak Ranch Wagyu Production Sale**  
*Lincoln, Texas*



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*Sale*



# Thank You!



High Selling Female - Lot 27 - Purchased by Wilders Wagyu (pictured)  
Photo also includes HP Wagyu, Mayura Station and Macquarie Wagyu  
(programs behind the genetics of Lot 27)  
Ken Kurosawatsu (Wagyu Sekai) & Mercedes Danekas-Lohse (JDA, Inc)

- |    |  |    |   |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1  | Winters Family Beef                              | 16 | Silverback Cattle Co.                             |
| 2  | Durham Ranch                                     | 17 | Silverback Cattle Co.                             |
| 3  | Hammond Farms                                    | 18 | Corey Alsobrook                                   |
| 4  | Mayura Station                                   | 19 | Silverback Cattle Co.                             |
| 5  | Silverback Cattle Co.                            | 20 | Birds Hill Farms                                  |
| 6  | Haygreg  | 21 | Silverback Cattle Co.                             |
| 7  | HP Wagyu Pty Ltd                                 | 22 | Russ Hobbs  |
| 8  | Mayura Station                                   | 23 | Corey Alsobrook                                   |
| 9  | Durham Ranch                                     | 24 | Winters Family Beef                               |
| 10 | Corey Alsobrook                                  | 25 | Heritage Wagyu                                    |
| 11 | Mayura Station                                   | 26 | Horner Legacy Wagyu                               |
| 12 | Triple P Wagyu                                   | 27 | <b><u>Wilders Wagyu - high selling female</u></b> |
| 13 | <b><u>Mayura Station - high selling bull</u></b> | 28 | Swanson Cattle Co/ Wackel Farms                   |
| 14 | Max Stevens                                      | 29 | Bird's Hill Farm Wagyu                            |
| 15 | Toro Wagyu                                       | 30 | Mayura Station                                    |





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# WINTERS FAMILY BEEF

*By Heather Smith-Thomas*



**G**eorge and Amy Greer are the 6th generation to operate Amy's family ranch—the Winters-Wall Ranch—just outside of Brady, Texas. “The name of our business is Winters Family Beef because Wall was my great-great-grandmother’s maiden name, and Winters was my great-grandfather’s name. So this is the name of our family that has been here so long,” Amy says.

“In 2006 my dad, Dickie Winters, started asking my brother and me to come home and help him run the ranch. He was getting too old to do it by himself. My brother opted to stay in Huston and keep his good-paying job where he had access to many good restaurants. My husband George was the one who actually convinced me that we should come back to the ranch and give it a try. He had been working as an x-ray technician and I was working as a wildlife biologist. We finally made the decision and moved home to run the ranch in the summer of 2008,” she says.

“George is always up for a new adventure, so we made the move. When we got here, my dad was extremely helpful to get us started. Even though I was a wildlife biologist, I didn’t have very much livestock experience. I didn’t grow up at the ranch; my parents got divorced when I was a kid and I didn’t live here.”

She had some familiarity with the operation, but not enough. “George had been coming with me for a few years to help my dad work cattle, but that was his only experience with cattle. So for the first couple of years my dad was an incredibly huge help and taught us the ropes.”

She and George started out by doing what the family had always done, with a commercial cattle operation. “We quickly figured out that there wasn’t any way to make money in this kind of business. It’s rough. Having come from the Austin area, we were very familiar with farmers’ markets. We decided that we would get out of commercial cattle (selling the calves to feedlots) and start going direct to consumers with our beef.” This is where the real profit can be—producing a product the consumer wants, and getting full value for it, without the middleman of feedlot, packer, etc.

“So this is what we did. We stopped implanting our calves with hormones and restricted our antibiotic use. We decided that our niche would be long-term dry-aged steakhouse-style beef. We did that with our commercial cattle herd for a couple of years and retained a bunch of heifers,” Amy says.

“We knew that we needed to put something with them other than a big Angus bull for their first calves. We heard about Wagyu and had been doing some research—and decided that a nice Wagyu bull would be a great heifer bull, with the reputation for calving ease.”

They met with Jim and Joan Chisholm and Ralph Lee. “We ultimately bought a young bull from Jim and Joan Chisholm. He was JC Yasutani 068 Tex 8121 but we always called him Sensei. He was a great heifer bull, and when we took the hide off some of his offspring, we realized what an incredible difference that Wagyu influence had on our commercial cattle. It was at that point we decided to move forward with Wagyu.”

When they first brought that bull home, however, Amy’s father wasn’t very impressed. “He’d always been a commercial cattleman and we’d made this decision independent of him and were very excited about our new bull. We picked him out all by ourselves and brought him home. My dad came out to look at him and he said, ‘What in the hell is that! I have never seen such a hatchet-ass animal in my whole life!’ It’s hard to adjust to how they look, compared with a traditional beef animal.

It can be hard to sell them in a traditional market, if people don’t know what they are. “At one point we needed to sell a group of F1 calves—maybe because they’d had antibiotics or something—some reason we couldn’t market them with our other calves, and we took them to the auction. That was a mistake. They got severely discounted by the cattle buyers because they didn’t know what they were looking at,” Amy says.

She and George had decided to blaze their own trail by raising Wagyu cattle that would always be free from antibiotics, steroids and added hormones. “It is ‘clean’ beef, but we do vaccinate our cattle against common diseases and the mama cows do get sprayed for flies or get fly tags in their

ears because the flies become really bad here,” she says. Their animals have free-choice feed in the pasture and are never in feedlots.

Educating people about Wagyu beef has been an interesting process, especially in their part of Texas. “There are less than 10,000 people in this whole county—McCulloch County. It is very rural with many long-term ranch and farming families. When we started doing this, George and I hired a few cowboys to help us on big workdays. All of them are much older than we are and they’ve been in this business forever, and were very surprised at what we were doing. They were not familiar with Wagyu. They, and several other producers in our county thought we were getting into the emu business! They thought we were a little kooky at first,” she says.

“Here we are, 10 years later, and now there is a second Wagyu producer in the county! We have local customers who really like our beef. We finally unloaded the last of our cattle that are not 100% Japanese black Wagyu. We have nothing but full-blood breeding cows in our herd, with the exception of about 100 calves that are currently in our beef program. About 2/3 of those are F1 and F2 calves and the remainder are 100%. Once we work our way through all of those beef animals, we will be offering nothing but 100% fullblood Japanese black Wagyu beef and it will always be 30 days dry-aged. We know this is a niche we want to stay in,” Amy says.

Their ranch is about 5,300 acres and a little southwest of Brady, Texas, which is the geographic center of the state. “This is why they call it the heart of Texas. This is rough country, semi-arid, and we sit on the edge of the Texas hill country—right where it starts to merge into flat West Texas. The habitat is mostly mesquite and live oak woodlands.” She and George do the beef business and also operate hunting leases as additional income for the ranch. As a wildlife biologist, Amy really enjoys this aspect of the operation.

“We rotationally graze the cattle, and give the calves some supplemental feed free-choice in the pasture. We’ve worked with Jimmy Horner of Protocol Naturals to develop a growing ration and a finishing ration that would be ideal for Wagyu in this part



of the state," she says.

"We don't irrigate any land for growing feed for our animals. Water is very limited in this region, so we decided not to do that. So we buy hay, but try to buy it from our neighbors as often as possible. Droughts are common here, however, so it can become a big expense at times," Amy says. The ranch does have well water in multiple places, to provide water for the cows.

She and George were recently in Canada for the Wagyu Sekai cattle auction. "We were very excited to have an opportunity to buy from Ken Kurosawatsu; he has been our mentor in this business ever since we got started. He and Kevin have been a huge help to us. We were lucky enough to buy two cows at that auction and we are very excited about. They will be our source for some incredible genetics that we didn't have access to in the past," she says.

"We will be doing embryo transfers from those two cows; one of them is in Canada and will stay there for a while, and the other cow is in Australia. Our goal is to do a lot of embryo transfer work and we are very excited about

this. We finally feel like we are starting to 'put on our big boy pants' in the Wagyu business!"

She and George have been producing beef for a long time now. "We sell our beef predominantly at farmers' markets in Austin on the weekends. Before the pandemic we sold whole sides of beef to a couple high-end restaurants in Austin, but then COVID hit and that avenue came to a halt," Amy says.

Yet the pandemic was also a good thing, because it increased the demand for direct-to-consumer beef, and made people more aware of where their food comes from. "COVID was actually very good for our business. In Texas, farmers' markets early on during the pandemic were considered essential businesses and were allowed to stay open. The markets we go to never closed. The grocery stores had problems getting meat, so our business—our average sales for the weekends—tripled for about 6 months." The grocery stores didn't have much meat, so people had to find their beef somewhere else.

"Many of those shoppers are now

our regular customers at the farmers' market. Before COVID, they had no concept of the difference in quality between what they could buy commercially and what they could buy direct from the farmer," Amy says.

George says that currently they've had to re-imagine how to function in their visits to the farmers' markets each weekend. "During the pandemic we were hauling three coolers full of beef—which is all we can fit, in conjunction with all the other stuff we need to have for the market. I was showing up at the end of the Saturday farmers' market, taking three empty coolers from Amy and giving her three full coolers for the Sunday market. This is essentially what will be happen from this point on. Every weekend I will show up on Saturday afternoon to take all the empties and give her several full coolers for Sunday," he says.

"We are at a point now where we will be selling beef from about two cows every weekend at the farmers' market, and that amount used to be almost unimaginable," George says. They plan to continue doing these markets and don't figure on slowing

[ We are at a point now where we will be selling beef from about two cows every weekend at the farmers' market, and that amount used to be almost unimaginable ]








down any time soon.

"I am 53 and George is 48 years old, so we can't do this forever, but now that we have come this far, our long-term goal is to produce very high quality genetics as well as beef. We want to market genetics and live animals," Amy says. This should be a strong market in the future, as well.

"There will always be people with expendable income, and they know what they want to eat! This is an exciting time for us, as we are finally making the transition we've been working on for 10 years. We have purchased some live animals, but we built our herd mainly from buying embryos and transferring them into our own cattle—growing our fullblood herd that way," she says.

"Being surrogate mamas was a great use for our Angus cows. They generally milk better than most of the Wagyu cows. The first time we had fullblood Wagyu babies born from the recipient cows, we went out to the pasture to check on them and saw three Wagyu calves nursing the same Angus mother, all at the same time! I'd never seen that before! She was a very tolerant mama!" 🍀





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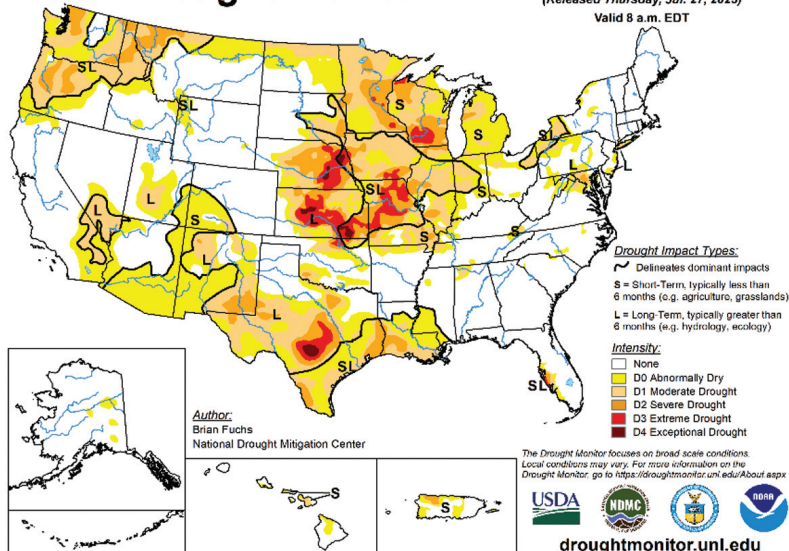
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**T**hough you may be one of the fortunate few not dealing with drought conditions and extreme heat currently, a significant number of cattle producers are and have been for months now (see map on next page). Some recent reports have indicated the U.S is now experiencing the hottest temperatures across the country in more than 50 years. In extended drought conditions, cattle producers not only face a reduced supply of feedstuffs and forages which are often lower quality, but also must contend with the possibility of plant toxins/poisonings as well. Proper supplementation obviously becomes more critical when forage/pasture supply and quality suffer, but this discussion will focus primarily on those hidden nutritional risks confronting cattle during times of extremely hot and dry conditions.



## U.S. Drought Monitor

July 25, 2023  
(Released Thursday, Jul. 27, 2023)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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## NITRATE POISONING

Drought conditions result in greater accumulation of nitrates within plant tissues. In normal growing conditions, plants normally absorb nitrogen from the soil in the form of nitrate regardless of the source of nitrogen fertilizer (including manure) applied. Very little nitrate accumulates in plants when growth is normal since the plant stem and leaves rapidly convert nitrate to amino acids and protein. Under drought conditions this balance may be disrupted with the roots taking up nitrate faster than the plant can convert the nitrate to protein. Some plants are more likely to accumulate nitrate under adverse conditions than others. These plants are known as nitrate accumulators

and include corn, small grains, sudangrass and sorghum. Weeds capable of nitrate accumulation include pigweed, lambsquarter, sunflower, bindweed and many others.

Under normal conditions, nitrate ingested by cattle is converted to ammonia and then to bacterial protein in the rumen. The typical conversion process is as follows:

### Nitrate > Nitrite > Ammonia > Bacterial Protein (Amino Acids, Peptides)

In this process, nitrate is converted to nitrite faster than nitrite is converted to ammonia. Consequently, when higher amounts of nitrates than normal are consumed, an accumulation may occur in the animal's rumen.

Nitrite will then be absorbed into the bloodstream and convert hemoglobin to methemoglobin, which is un-

able to transport oxygen. Thus, when an animal suffers from nitrate toxicity, it is due to a lack of oxygen. The likelihood of nitrate toxicity can be challenging to predict as nitrate levels can change rapidly in plants and the actual toxicity of nitrate varies greatly among cattle depending on prior exposure, age, health status, and diet. Concern should certainly be raised

**Table 4. Guidelines for use of feeds with known nitrate content.**

Nitrate content on 100% dry matter basis <sup>1</sup>		Comment
NO <sub>3</sub> -N	NO <sub>3</sub>	
ppm		
<1000	<4400	Safe. A 1000-pound cow consuming 20 pounds of dry matter would consume about 9 grams of NO <sub>3</sub> -N or less than 1 gram per 100 pounds of body weight.
1000 to 2000	4400 to 8800	Generally safe when fed balanced rations. Best to limit it to half of the total dry ration for pregnant animals and also be sure water is low in nitrate.
2000 to 4000	8800 to 15000	Limit amount to less than half of total dry ration. Be sure ration is well fortified with energy, minerals, vitamin A.
Over 4000	Over 15000	Potentially toxic - do not feed.

<sup>1</sup> If nitrate content of a feed is reported on an "as is" basis, convert to 100% dry matter basis to compare it to levels in this table. Example: If a corn silage sample with 50% water contains 600 ppm NO<sub>3</sub>-N on an "as is" basis, it contains 1200 ppm on 100% dry basis; thus it fits the second group in this table.

when plant growth has been less than half of normal or nitrogen application more than twice recommended. Symptoms of nitrate toxicity may include poor appetite, weakness, abortions, poor growth and general unthriftiness. The ensiling process diminishes plant nitrate levels as some nitrate-nitrogen volatilizes as silage gas or nitrogen dioxide. A sudden change to a high nitrate forage fed as the primary feed is often when problems are observed. Most of the time, depending on the nitrate level contained, high nitrate forage or feed ingredients may still be fed but may need to be limited or diluted by feeding other feedstuffs. Also, based on personal experience, I have found the use of live yeast supplementation has also reduced nitrate toxicity. This most likely results from the yeast cells slowing the conversion to nitrite and reducing their accumulation in the rumen. Most importantly, producers need to test any suspect forage or feedstuffs for nitrate levels at a reputable laboratory in order to be able to manage the situation and protect their cattle. The following table contains guidelines for use of feedstuffs with known nitrate content.



## MYCOTOXIN TOXICITY

Extreme temperatures and stress on plant growth increase the risk of mycotoxin problems in feedstuffs. Though over 400 various mycotoxins have been identified, those with the highest prevalence in the U.S. are Aflatoxin, Vomitoxin (DON), Fumonisin and Zearalenone (see table below). Among these, aflatoxin is of greatest concern to cattle producers in drought conditions. Molds by themselves do not typically cause problems for livestock, but the toxins they can produce may cause significant issues.

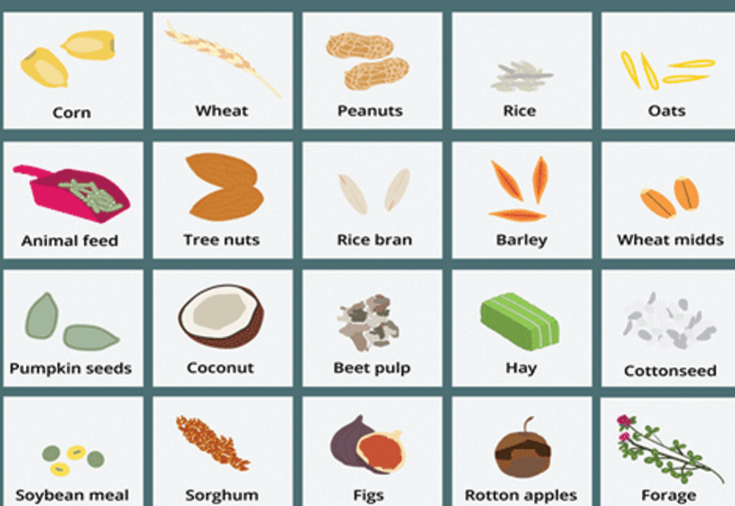
Prime conditions for aflatoxin (a fungal toxin) development in plants are days when temperatures are greater than 70°F at night and grain is in the latter stages of development during drought stress. The two most common fungi that produce aflatoxin are *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus*. Aflatoxins can be of major concern to producers as they are not only harmful to livestock but can prove fatal at high enough levels and with long-term exposure. The most common aflatoxin, aflatoxin B1, is also carcinogenic to both animals and humans. When ingested in high concentrations, this aflatoxin cannot only harm the animal but also may show up in meat and milk. Reputable grain elevators, feedlots and feed manufacturers usually do not accept corn with aflatoxin levels above 20 ppb (parts per billion) per FDA guidelines though slightly higher levels are actually allowed for beef cattle (less than 100 ppb for breeding cattle and less than 300 ppb for finishers).

In addition to corn, aflatoxin may be found in a variety of feedstuffs (see below). Most commonly, aflatoxins negatively impact feed efficiency, reproduction and immunity. Once absorbed by the animal's intestine, the liver which acts as a filter, is tasked with removal of the toxin. This can result in severely impaired liver function and reduced performance. Producers should ensure their feed suppliers or feedlots are not feeding off-grade, aflatoxin-tainted grain which can lead to greater days on feed, reduced carcass quality and higher death loss. There are commercial feed additives available to help mitigate harmful effects of aflatoxin and other mycotoxins. Since the FDA does not allow product claims to actually bind toxins, many of these products may be sold as anti-caking agents. Potential additives include calcium aluminosilicates (most often recommended by our firm), zeolite and sodium bentonite. Some calcium aluminosilicates have shown 100% binding affinity for aflatoxin which means the animal never has to deal with the actual toxin since it is bound in the intestine and subsequently excreted, never being absorbed and processed by the liver. Other potential mitigants include yeast

### Summary of Common Mycotoxins in Livestock in Midwest

Toxin	Mold	Animal Affected	Clinical Signs
Vomitoxin or DON (deoxynivalenol)	<i>Fusarium graminearum</i> , <i>F. culmorum</i> and others	Swine, immature animals, ruminants, poultry	Feed refusal, poor weight gain, vomiting, diarrhea
Zearalenone	<i>Fusarium graminearum</i> and others	Swine, cattle, sheep, goats	Hyperestrogenism, abnormal estrous, swollen vulvas
Fumonisin	<i>Fusarium verticillioides</i> , <i>F. proliferatum</i>	Equine, rabbits, swine, catfish, ruminants	Horses – brain lesion and death Swine – lung edema
T-2 and HT-2 toxins	<i>Fusarium sporotrichioides</i> , <i>F. poae</i>	Cats, poultry, pregnant animals, all livestock	GI ulcers and bloody diarrhea, reduced egg laying, abortions, death
Ochratoxin and citrinin	<i>Aspergillus ochraceus</i> , <i>Penicillium verrucosum</i> , <i>P. citrinum</i>	Swine, poultry	Kidney damage Ochratoxin – potentially carcinogenic
Ergot alkaloids	<i>Claviceps purpurea</i>	Cattle, horses, pigs, poultry	Peripheral gangrene, poor lactation, reduced reproduction
Dicoumarol (Sweet clover poisoning)	<i>Penicillium</i> spp, <i>Mucor</i> , <i>Aspergillus</i> spp.	Cattle, sheep, horses	Hemorrhage
Penitrem A, roquefortine	<i>Penicillium</i> spp.	Cattle, dogs, sheep, horses	Nervous signs, tremors, seizures
Aflatoxins (produced under hot, dry conditions)	<i>Aspergillus flavus</i> , <i>A. parasiticus</i>	Poultry, pigs, dogs, cattle, sheep, immature animals	Liver damage, immune suppression, carcinogen

### Feedstuff Commonly Contaminated w/ Mycotoxins



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cell wall extracts (MOS and glucomannans) and some enzymatic products which may sequester the toxin and render it less bio-available.

The best advice I can offer is if you suspect mycotoxins in your feedstuffs or if you have observed mold, then test it before feeding to determine if mycotoxins are present and which one is most prevalent. I have dealt with several Wagyu operations through the years whose reproductive efficiency and embryo transfer programs were negatively impacted by mycotoxin contamination in feed or forage and the damage could have been avoided with testing. Mycotoxins can be a very stealthy, hidden culprit in your herd if not managed properly. I should also mention that in addition to drought causing issues with increased exposure to mycotoxin, extreme moisture or improper storage and handling can also lead to potential mycotoxin challenges.

## ACORN/OAK POISONING

Those of you with oak trees on your property likely already know that acorns and oak leaves can be attractive to cattle during periods of drought and scarce forage. All parts of oak trees contain tannins and phenols and are potentially toxic. Young oak buds emerging in the spring contain the highest levels of tannins. Poisoning is most often associated with ingestion of large amounts of buds, leaves and acorns over several days. Symptoms may vary but initially, cattle stop eating altogether, becoming lethargic and developing ruminal and intestinal shutdown. Excessive thirst and frequent urination may occur. Early on, manure may be hard and dark, but black, tarry diarrhea occurs later. Abdominal pain may be manifested in grinding of teeth and a hunched back. Both severe liver and kidney damage occur with acute poisoning and animals often only live for 5 to 7 days after the onset of clinical signs. Hay may be expensive during times of drought, but not nearly as expensive as losing Wagyu cattle. Plenty of forage in the form of hay, silage or haylage is the best prevention for acorn/oak poisoning. 🌱





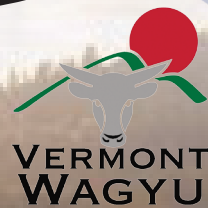
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# EBVs

# EPDs

*By Ronda Applegarth*

Although EBVs and EPDs are both evaluations of animals within contemporary groups, they are not the same thing. EBVs, or Estimated Breed Values, are an expression of the performance of the animal itself and EPDs, or Estimated Progeny Difference, is what we expect this animal will pass on to its progeny. The EPD is half of an EBV as the animal will pass on to its progeny half of its own performance.

Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs)

**B** REEDPLAN is the genetic evaluation system adopted and used by the Australian Wagyu Association that uses pedigree, performance data and genomic information to determine a range of genetic breeding and production traits. It is published twice a month to assist members with timely EBV data on their cattle to assist in management decisions.



An EBV is a value which expresses the difference (+ or -) between an individual animal and the herd or breed benchmark to which the animal is being compared. EBVs are reported in terms of actual product e.g. days, kg of weight or mm of fat depth, etc. The purpose of EBVs is to bring all the cattle within a herd or breed onto a common platform so that those making selection decisions can know they are comparing like with like.

There are several types of data collected including maternal traits such as milking ability, calving ease and birth weights. Growth traits are also collected including 200, 400 and 600 day weights. Additionally, carcass traits such as marble score, marble fineness, ribeye area and yield are collected.

The accuracy of the EBVs is dependent on the volume of the data entered and the genomic relationship with other animals. In essence, the more data in BREEDPLAN for an animal the better its genomic relationships can be determined, the better the EBV accuracy. Less than 50% is low accuracy and should be considered a preliminary estimate. 50-74% is medium accuracy and is usually based on the animal's own records and pedigree. 75-90 is medium-high accuracy and usually includes some progeny information becoming a more reliable indicator of the animal's value as a parent. 90% and above is high accuracy. In addition, BreedObject \$Indexes indicate the relative profitability of a sire or dam in different production systems using input from multiple EBVs.

Using data collected, four BreedObject \$Indexes have

been developed specifically for Wagyu including the Wagyu Breeder Index, the Self-Replacing Index, the Fullblood Terminal Index and the F1 Terminal Index. Each of the \$Indexes are targeted specifically to a defined Wagyu production and market scenario. Producers should identify and use the index that best suits their purpose. It is not appropriate to compare index values of different \$Indexes as they are based on different production model assumptions. It is not the index with the highest \$ value that you should use, it is the index that best reflects your production system. Self-Replacing Breeding Index or SRI can be used to select fullblood bulls that will produce more profitable females when these are retained in fullblood or purebred herds. Fullblood Terminal Index or FTI has an increased weighting on the marble score EBV and can be used to select bulls to produce profitable slaughter progeny where none are retained for breeding. The Wagyu Breeder Index or WBI can be used to select fullblood bulls that will produce more profitable females with high genetic merit for growth and breed average slaughter progeny for marbling. The WBI is suited to the production of steer progeny for high feedlot entry weight and higher growth replacement females with larger calves in a low-input, grass based pastoral environment. The F1 Terminal Index for F1I has an increased weighting on the marble score EBV and can be used to select bulls to produce profitable F1 slaughter progeny where none are retained for breeding.



EPDs is the genetic evaluation method adopted and supported by the American Wagyu Association. The Wagyu National Cattle Evaluation (NCE) compiles the data collected and reported by Wagyu breeders, as well as the more recently collected genomic results, into the best possible predictions of each animal's genetic merit. Genetic evaluations estimate the portion of genetic potential an animal passes down for various traits through statistical analysis. An EPD is an estimation of how future progeny of an animal are expected to perform relative to the population used in analysis. EPDs are especially effective for comparing cattle across herds and years (even within the same herd), a task not possible with phenotypes alone. Recent advancements in genomic technology have enhanced the accuracy of genetic predictions resulting in a breeder's ability to make more accurate selection decisions. It's important to know that EPDs are only comparable within the population that the EPDs were computed in.

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Helpful information for every animal is available on the EPD detail screen. The EPD is listed across the page for birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, maternal milk, total maternal, carcass weight, ribeye area, fat thickness, and intramuscular fat index. The EPD is an estimation of how future progeny of an animal are expected to perform in a particular trait relative to other animals in the same analysis. The +/- Chg is the possible change value. ACC is the accuracy and is an indication of how close genetic estimates are to an animal's true genetic breeding value as a parent. % Rank is the percentile rank of the animal compared to other animals in the evaluation. Finally, Prog/CG is the number of progeny meeting all edits and used in the genetic evaluation and the number of contemporary groups those animals are represented in.



Both EBVs and EPDs can be valuable tools in making herd management decisions but numbers from one platform should not be compared to numbers in the other. They are very different tools. Both the Australian Wagyu Association and the American Wagyu Association offer additional information on their respective genetic evaluation tools on their websites. Breeders are encouraged to visit the breed association websites to learn more. 🐾

Credit:

The Australian Wagyu Association website <https://www.wagyu.org.au/>

The American Wagyu Association website <https://wagyu.org/>

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# SANTOS PATRONOS

THOMAS RANCH

SEGUIN, TX



M6 Ranch Itoshigenami, also known as **Mr. Universe**,  
is the record selling bull, Top 1% in all Indexes.  
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Santos Patronos Ranch exploded  
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After a years-long process of perfecting genetics, our distribution, our brand and our mission, we have arrived. At Iron Table Wagyu, we have an immense level of pride in the Wagyu beef we produce, as well as the thoughtful animal husbandry required to cultivate our cattle's premier genetics. From our farm to your plate.

**IRON TABLE - A DIFFERENT BREED.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jay Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

