

Relationships Are a Fundamental Part of the STAR 5 Female Business

By Kelsey Pope, Freelance Writer

Santa Gertrudis cattle were largely chosen by Jim Corporry's father-in-law for their self-sufficiency. Today, Corporry Acres, operated in south central Texas near Schulenburg, is still a believer of Santa Gertrudis cattle with a long list of reasons to raise them.

Jim Corporry's family operation, Corporry Acres, is run with his son Rodney's herd, Pinnacle Cattle Co., LLC (formerly Dos Bros Ranch), where they share genetics and resources. His grandson also runs Pinnacle Whitetails where he breeds and raises whitetail deer.

In addition to the self-sufficiency attributes that got the family into the breed, Corporry has found many attributes in Santa Gertrudis cattle to keep them involved in the breed.

"They are excellent for crossbreeding, heat tolerance and hybrid vigor, to name a few," he says.

Corporry uses several tools and seeks the assistance of top cattlemen to continue his program's improvement and genetic advancements.

"The tools we believe in using to improve our cattle pedigrees include top genetics, extensive EPD analysis, focusing on conformation and phenotype and artificial insemination and



embryo transfers," Corporry says. "We also utilize analyst Brad Wright, RanchHand Analytics, who helps us analyze EPDs of dams and potential sires."

Corporry runs nearly 250 Santa Gertrudis females, half bred to purebred Santa Gertrudis sires and the other half to Hereford sires. They run their herd on approximately 1,200 acres of owned and leased ground that also includes hay production.

When the Corporrys started crossbreeding to create commercial, STAR 5 females, they chose Hereford sires for their hybrid vigor and growth. Many other producers in south central Texas appreciate this cross in their crossbreeding pro-

grams to put on Charolais, Brangus and Angus bulls.

"Several producers were asking us for a crossbreed, and we found that adding Hereford to our Santa Gertrudis cattle fit our program," Corporry adds.

They began advertising their cattle in local newspapers for a few years and then began marketing their cattle at consignment sales, such as the Bluebonnet Classic, Tri-Star Sale and the Houston Livestock Show. For the last decade, they have also consigned STAR 5 pairs annually to the San Antonio Livestock All Breeds and Commercial Female and Bull Sale. In 2015-2016, they earned Grand Champion Pen of Females paired with Angus calves, competing against 500 other crossbred animals.

It was at this San Antonio sale where Steve Smith and Marty Warren, Ravenswood Farm, Brentwood, Tenn., discovered Corporry and his quality females.

"We were introduced to Jim at the San Antonio sale, and we bought a



Steve Smith, left, and Marty Warren, center, of Ravenswood Farm, with Santa Gertrudis producer Jim Corporry, Corporry Acres, at the San Antonio Livestock All Breeds and Commercial Female and Bull Sale.

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set of first-calf heifer pairs from him,” says Marty Warren, Ravenswood Farm manager. “He took the time to get our information and say thank you. He’s the type of guy who shakes your hand and looks you in the eye and says, ‘thank you.’ He wanted us to be 100 percent satisfied or he’d make it right, whatever it took.”

Warren added that Corporryn always calls a week or two after the sale to make sure they made it home and to check on how the cattle are doing. This type of customer service is why Steve Smith keeps returning to San Antonio to buy replacements for his cattle herd.

“We really like STAR 5 cattle,” says Smith, Ravenswood Farm owner. “We don’t have a good scientific reason, but if we’re going to buy any cattle, we’d just as soon buy them from Mr. Corporryn. We also like San Antonio because it’s a good stop in the middle of winter.”

Smith is in the real estate business as a home builder but has raised Santa Gertrudis cattle and Tennessee Walking Horses for several years.

“I chose Santa Gertrudis cattle because I thought that’s what cowboys ought to have,” Smith adds. “It’s more about the cattle culture for me but also that they are good cattle and take care of themselves.”

Ravenswood Farm’s cattle have always been Santa Gertrudis-influenced. They started with purebred Santa Gertrudis but have moved to the crossbred STAR 5 cattle. Warren says the cattle from Corporryn are gentle, raise a good calf and are

good milkers that haven’t had udder problems.

“We appreciate the Hereford-influence in the Santa Gertrudis cattle for being gentle and raising good calves,” Warren says. “Disposition is a big thing to us because Steve and I enjoy working them and handling them. If they are mean or try to run you out of the pen, they are not a lot of fun, and that’s when we decide to cull.”

Warren grew up on a small farm and was hired by Smith 27 years ago to manage his horses and raise about eight to 10 foals per year. He then took over as manager of cattle and horses in 2000.

The Ravenswood Farm team runs approximately 60 females that they crossbreed to Sim-Angus, Chi-Angus or straight Angus because there is a better market in Tennessee for black-hided calves. With these calves, they will typically sell some heifers private treaty or keep the females and breed to a low-birthweight bull to sell as bred females.

“We try to keep our cattle uniform with the STAR 5 red-and-white-faced females, so we don’t keep any replacements since we are breeding to black bulls,” Warren says. “We keep heifers, then sell private treaty to other producers.”

The bull calves from their herd are castrated and sold either at weaning or after they are weaned and fed for a short period of time, then sold at a local livestock sale in Unionville, Tenn.

“We’ve tried several ways to market the calves,” Warren says. “We’ve put them in a cooperative, sent to a feedlot – it always depends on the market. Typically, we sell a short time after weaning.”

Warren adds that in the commercial beef cattle business, they are trying to raise a calf that pushes the scale down as fast as it can, trying to get to a number as quickly as possible with the least amount of expense.

Besides having growthy calves, Smith wants to have cattle that look good, too.

“Cattle in San Antonio are all fat and slick and look good, and that’s how we want our horses and our cattle,” Smith says. “We like the fat, slick, red ones with a white face. That’s the STAR 5 cattle from Mr. Corporryn.”

Since buying their first pen of STAR 5 pairs from Corporryn, Warren and Smith have returned every year to buy his cattle.

“We buy a pen of five pairs at the San Antonio sale as our replacements,” Warren says. “We enjoy going to the sale and buying something that is better to improve our cowherd.”

Corporryn goes above and beyond customer service to establish a relationship with his customers. He always sends a hand-written letter with a nice token of appreciation and makes follow-up calls to be sure Smith and Warren are satisfied.

“That’s another reason why we continue to keep buying cattle from Mr. Corporryn,” Smith says. “Number one, they are really good cattle, and number two, he goes above and beyond to ensure that we are happy with the cattle and he appreciates the business. It’s a pretty easy thing, but a lot of people don’t do that, and we appreciate that about him.” 🍀

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