



Stephen Smith (l) and Marty Warren (c), with Ravenswood Farm are pictured with Jim Corporryn at the San Antonio All Breed Bull and Commercial Female Sale. Ravenswood Farm are repeat Star 5 females customers for the Corporryn Family.

Relationships Are a Fundamental Part of the STAR 5 Female Business

By Kelsey Pope, Freelance Writer,
Reprinted courtesy of Santa Gertrudis USA

Santa Gertrudis cattle were largely chosen by Jim Corporryn's father-in-law for their self-sufficiency. Today, Corporryn 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 Corporryn's family operation, Corporryn 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, Corporryn 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.

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

Corporryn 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 Corporryns 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 programs 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," Corporryn 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 Bull and Commercial Female 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, Tennessee, discovered Corporryn and his quality females.

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

"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 handwritten 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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New name, same commitment

For a number of years, we have operated under the name of Corporryn Acres-Dos Bros Ranch. Dos Bros reflected Jim Corporryn's sons, Randy and Rodney's operation.

Rodney and wife, Barbara and son, Connor have established Pinnacle Whitetails and now will be operating their cattle program under Pinnacle Cattle Co. and Randy will continue his cattle under Hidden Antlers Ranch in south Texas that he has always maintained.

"I've joined my family in the operation and we are pleased to not only provide top quality Santa Gertrudis cattle, but also Whitetail deer. We are moving full speed ahead with raising the quality in our herd through embryo transfer, EPD data evaluation and quality herd selections," explained Connor Corporryn.

Jim Corporryn, the patriarch of the family, stresses that the same level of commitment to customer service, quality and breed promotion and expansion will continue from both divisions and that by sharing genetics they can further accelerate their genetics.

Visit us on the website, www.corporronacres-pinnaclecattle.com or come to the ranches, located within minutes of each other and evaluate our cattle and programs.

Also look for this logo in the future for The Rodney Corporryn family's program.



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Females that Fit

By John Ford
Santa Gertrudis Breeders International
Executive Director

The thermometer outside my office window indicates it is currently a warm 104-degree June day in sunny South Texas. The abundant rainfall witnessed in the fall and spring is now just a memory, as is the lush green grasses it produced. Unusual? No, just another South Texas summer that is capable of lasting between 10 and 12 months. Unfortunately, many cattlemen do not consider the environment and the impact it has on productivity when making mating and selection decisions. This has certainly been evident the past 20 -25 years as the national trend has been toward a cowherd that is straight bred and black-hided, resulting in cattle that do not necessarily fit all environments, especially in the Southern United States where the mercury often tops the century mark and summer forages are sparse and have limited nutrients.

Each beef cattle genotype has a different and characteristic zone of comfort where they are the most efficient. Science has established that under heat stress conditions, Bos indicus breeds, and their crosses have better heat regulatory capacity than Bos taurus breeds, due to differences in metabolic rate, food and water consumption, sweating rate, coat characteristics and color. The Bos taurus zone of comfort ranges between 39 degrees and 75 degrees, temperatures seldom seen for any extended period of time in the southern half of the U.S. On the other hand, the zone of comfort of Bos

indicus influenced breeds is 50 degrees to 81 degrees, making them much better suited to southern beef production patterns. This information clearly confirms that incorporating Bos indicus influenced Santa Gertrudis genetics into a breeding program is a profitable alternative option to the heavily Bos taurus influenced, black-hided breeding program adopted by so many of the nation's Southern Cattlemen. Santa Gertrudis cattle perform profitably in a wide range of environmental conditions, from the lush improved pastures of the Mid-south to the challenging arid conditions of the desert Southwest.

The foundation for a profitable cow herd is a balanced efficient female. More is not always better – avoiding extremes and matching cowherds to the operation's forage resources will almost always result in a profitable set of cows well-adapted to the ranch's environment. Mismatches between cow type and environment affect reproductive performance which is a function of age and weight at puberty, conception rate, length of gestation, calving ease and longevity. These components are directly influenced by milking ability, mature body weight, body condition score and calf weight, all of which are influenced by environment. A female that remains in good body condition throughout the year, breeds back quickly and brings a healthy heavy calf to the weaning pen each year, doing it all by grazing the ranch's available forage with minimal supplementation, is a keeper and is one that is truly an environmental fit.

Today's industry demands females that are productive for an extended period, females that wean a heavy and healthy calf, females that are flexible enough to fit into a variety of breeding schemes and most importantly, females that are profitable in a wide range of environmental conditions. Santa Gertrudis influenced females fit the bill and fit the environment.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CORPORYN ACRES-PINNACLE CATTLE CO. VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR VISIT WITH US AT THESE EVENTS

August 5-7-Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course, College Station, Texas. We will have a booth in the trade show.

October 4-19-Santa Gertrudis World Congress, Texas

November 8-Briggs Ranches Bull and Commercial Female Sale, Bloomington, Texas

November 9-41st Annual Tri-Star Sale, Bloomington, Texas