

NEWS & NOTEWORTHY

► 2008 BREEDER OF THE YEAR—DR. JOHN AND PATRICIA SPITZER

During the 2009 IBBA Awards Banquet, the 2008 Breeder of the Year Award was presented to Dr. John and Patricia Spitzer. Dr. Spitzer was introduced by his son, Ben Spitzer, and excerpts from Ben's introductory speech are included below.

"Doc as most everyone (including me) knows him, was born and raised in Western Pennsylvania. He immigrated to Colorado, entered Colorado State University and received a BS in Animal Nutrition in 1969. He was employed by Colorado State University as senior research technician for beef cattle until entering military service in 1970. In 1972, he returned to Colorado State University, where he was awarded the MS degree in Physiology and Biophysics in 1974 and the PhD degree in Reproductive Physiology/Animal Sciences in 1975."

"Doc was engaged in production consulting from 1975 to 1976. He worked with several large ranches in South Dakota and Nebraska, as well as coordinating various research trials with animal pharmaceuticals for G.D. Searle and Company. From 1976 to 1980, he was on the faculty at Texas A&M University and from 1980 to 2003, was a Professor of Reproductive Physiology in the Animal and Veterinary Sciences Department at Clemson University, where he retired as Professor Emeritus. He served from 2001 to 2006 as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences and a mentor for the Beef Cattle Production Management Series at the Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center, Clay Center, NE."

"Mom is a native of Fort Collins, Colorado and is a graduate of Colorado State University as well. Many of you have had the pleasure of meeting my mother, but unfortunately, many of you have not been able to get to know this amazing woman other than on the phone. Someone told me recently why this is: Doc's management strategy is 'never have more cows than your wife can manage.' So, most of the time, she is at home doing the work."

"Mom served as a program organizer for the South Carolina Farm Women's Forum for two years. She and Doc were superintendents of the Southeast Regional Junior Brangus Show for three years and supervised the Brangus Show at the South Carolina Junior Beef Round-Up for more years than they can remember. They were also Oconee County 4-H adult leaders for over ten years. Mom also served several years as chairman of the Southeast Brangus Breeders scholarship committee."

"They are the proud parents of three sons (Jason, a Dentist in Columbia, SC; Brian, a Veterinarian in Pratt, KS with his wife Loretta and children Hannah, Daniel, Haley Jo and Samantha; and myself, Ben, General Manager of Salacoa Valley Farms. They reside on the ranch just north of Fair Play, SC."

"Both of them have consistently worked at giving back to their community, their church and a host of professional and agricultural organizations. Doc was the recipient of the Southeast Brangus Breeders Association Award of Excellence and they were named South Carolina Purebred Cattlemen of the year in 2005."

"Their integrity and work ethic are to be commended and it gives me great pleasure to present the IBBA Breeder of the Year Award to two of the people I admire most in the world, my Mom and Dad, Dr. John and Patricia Spitzer." ■



BREEDER OF THE YEAR: PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

2007	JLS International
2006	Don Cox
2005	David Vaughan
2004	Garth Lunt, Dr. Donald Smith
2003	Vern Suhn
2002	Klaus Birkel
2001	Eddie Blazek
2000	Matt Syler
1999	Gayland and Patti Townsend
1998	Joe Reznicek, Bobby Steiner
1997	Chris Hardee
1996	John McKnight
1995	Norm & Chuck Sword
1994	Herb Murray
1993	Gary Bruns
1992	George Hinkle
1991	Austin Kenyon
1990	Joe Mims
1989	Dr. Robert Vineyard
1988	Ray Record
1987	Dr. Jack Cowley
1986	Herman Gardner
1985	Jim Eller
1984	Bob Dunlap