

For Immediate Release  
FAIR PLAY, SC  
June 10, 2011

Contact: Doc or Patricia Spitzer  
[spitzeranch@mindspring.com](mailto:spitzeranch@mindspring.com) or  
(864)972-9140 or (864)710-0257

## **Choestoea Farms BRANGUS sired calves score in the feedlot and in the meat.**

Choestoea Farms, owned by the father and son team of Jack and Reid Arnold, is situated in the beautiful Choestoea Valley about as far northwest as you can go and still be in South Carolina. They purchased their first Spitzer Ranch Brangus bulls in 2003 to use on a cow herd that had become a mixture of numerous breeds and a rainbow of colors. Becoming serious advocates of establishing a disciplined two breed rotational crossbreeding program, they retained as many  $\frac{1}{2}$  Brangus females as possible which were again bred to Brangus bulls to create  $\frac{3}{4}$  Brangus cows. Eventually the  $\frac{3}{4}$  Brangus females will be bred to Angus bulls and then a rotation alternating between Brangus and Angus bulls.

Jack and Reid would both tell you that switching to Spitzer Ranch Brangus bulls while shortening the calving season from five months to about 75 days has solved a variety of performance and management problems. Now 95% + of the cows are black hided, they breed back at a much higher percentage and they wean calves well over 100 pounds heavier than previously. After seeing several years of progress in cow herd performance the Arnolds wanted to see where their calves fit in the feedlot and beyond to carcass characteristics.

They scored big! Sixty Brangus sired steer calves (about two-thirds were  $\frac{1}{2}$  Brangus and one-third were  $\frac{3}{4}$  Brangus) were sent to Decatur Beef Alliance, Oberlin, KS. The truckload of calves arrived in Northwest KS November 11, 2010 weighing 770 pounds off the truck. Calves were fed for 149 days and had a finished weight of 1266 pounds. These steers gained 3.35 pounds per day with a feed to gain of 6.44 pounds and zero death loss. Sold "in the meat" the

steers graded **2% PRIME, 57% CHOICE and 41% SELECT with 30% receiving Certified Angus Beef (CAB) premiums. Sixty two percent were Yield Grade 1s and 2s with an overall average YG of 2.32** on the 60 head. Carcass weight was 803 pounds which calculates a dressing percentage of 63.4 and these calves averaged a 13.5 square inch rib eye area. To say they did well is a dramatic understatement. When the dust settled and all the premiums for Prime, CAB, Percent Choice and superior yield grades were paid, these Brangus sired steers netted a \$200.98 per head return.

Data such as this on Brangus sired calves has become pretty standard. Dan Dorn, Supply Development Manager for Decatur County Feedlot supplied the following information on four loads of calves from South Carolina and Texas fed at Decatur in the winter of 2010-2011. Averaging the entire 4 truckloads of calves revealed a gain of 3.05 pounds per day with a feed efficiency of 6.20 pounds of feed per pound of gain with a death loss of only 0.72%, well below industry standard. “What can I say? These calves were fed in the fall and winter. There were several days in February that were well below zero with snow and ice. The Brangus steers did fine. While some “ear influence” calves may have a problem, it’s a myth that Brangus sired calves will not feed in Northwestern Kansas during the winter”, says Mr. Dorn.

These four truck loads of Brangus sired calves had super overall carcasses averages of **1% PRIME, 65% CHOICE and 34% SELECT with 35% receiving CAB premiums and 59% were Yield Grade 1s and 2s.** Dan Dorn further commented, “Thirty five percent CAB! That is above the national average.” “But, all four groups of these Brangus sired calves are from producers that pay attention to GENETICS and the cattle are sure able to keep up with the best of the “northern calves” in all of the traits that produce profit”, said Dan. However, these producer profits don’t come by accident or chance. Profit minded commercial cattlemen using Brangus

genetics must use seedstock producers supplying data. “Demand real world data prior to buying any seedstock (bulls)”, emphasizes Dorn. He says, “Find a Brangus Seedstock operation that keeps pushing the envelope for grade, muscle and most importantly feed conversion. Most do not know what they have and need to be feeding their own calves as well as customer’s calves in order to improve their genetic offerings.”

If you desire to be profitable, if you desire to put together a crossbreeding program that is simple and optimizes heterosis, if you need to find a Seedstock operation that has real world data backing up their cattle; why not contact Spitzer Ranch. Whether you sell all your calves at weaning or are interested in profit potential beyond your farm gate they can assist you with the right genetics. Real data, complete data from birth weights through carcass traits with no hype, no flash and no misinformation are foundational to their program.

The 2012 SPITZER RANCH PROFESSIONAL CATTLEMEN’S BRANGUS BULL SALE will be **Saturday, February 25, 2012**. Please make plans to be there. They also extend a personal invitation to be added to their mailing list for a printed copy of their Newsletters. These Newsletters always provide current Bull Test Performance Reports as well as educational tips, inspiration and insights into a wide variety of timely topics of interest to those cattlemen whose goal is increased profitability. Call 864/972-9140, write SPITZER RANCH, 1511 HWY 59, Fair Play, SC, 29643 or send an email to [spitzeranch@mindspring.com](mailto:spitzeranch@mindspring.com). Also, be sure to visit them at [www.srbulls.com](http://www.srbulls.com) and follow their posts and QUOTE OF THE WEEK on Facebook.

\*\*\*END\*\*\*