

For Immediate Release
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The Logic Behind The BRANGUS CROSSBRED Mother Cow And A Brangus X English Rotational Crossbreeding Program (PART 2)

Spitzer Ranch has been promoting a very simple Brangus X English (Hereford or Angus or Red Angus) two breed rotational crossbreeding program for years. This system works very well for all except those who reside on the Gulf Coast who probably require a crossbreeding program with more Bos Indicus influence because of the environment. But no one should ignore the tremendous advantages and increased profitability gained through a planned crossbreeding program; and if done correctly, there are no downsides.

To get started (no matter what breeds are represented in your current cow herd) initially use two generations of Brangus bulls. That is, breed Brangus sired cows again to Brangus bulls to produce $\frac{3}{4}$ Brangus cows. Next use the English breed of your choice (Hereford in this example) to breed to your $\frac{3}{4}$ Brangus cows. Then begin the two breed rotation using Brangus bulls to breed Hereford sired cows and Hereford bulls back on Brangus sired cows.

By the sixth generation of a Brangus and Hereford Rotational Crossbreeding system the cow herd will be either $\frac{2}{3}$ Brangus- $\frac{1}{3}$ Hereford or $\frac{1}{3}$ Brangus- $\frac{2}{3}$ Hereford each being bred to bulls that are not the breed of their sire. Simple, workable and you don't have to segregate heifers as there are calving ease bulls available in both breeds. This two breed, rotational crossbreeding program allows you to capture a tremendous amount of individual and, more importantly, maternal heterosis.

Graham DuBose, DuBose Cattle Company, runs about 200 commercial cows near

Rembert, SC. He began such a program many years ago using Spitzer Ranch Brangus bulls on either Hereford or Angus commercial cows and, going forward, chose to use Brangus and Angus in his operation. He began collecting and monitoring data on both the $\frac{3}{4}$ Brangus calves out of $\frac{1}{2}$ Brangus cows bred again to Brangus bulls and the $\frac{3}{4}$ Brangus cows with Angus sired calves. Steer calf weaning weights in three consecutive years were 654 pounds at 233 days, 675 pounds at 221 days and 698 pounds at 226 days of age. Calves were backgrounded for 48, 70 and 65 days in the three years and went to the feedlot at an average age of 9.4 months weighing 840 pounds, 845 pounds and 874 pounds. With prices for backgrounded age and source verified calves being as high as they have been the past 5 years, no carcass data were collected on these cattle. This is certainly a real world testament to the power of the Brangus X English crossbred cow.

While the Brangus influenced commercial female is highly regarded in the beef industry, the Brangus crossbred feeder calf excels as well. Spitzer Ranch bull customers have routinely feed cattle and collected carcass data. A set of straight bred Brangus heifer calves went to slaughter at 11.5 months of age, had 44% yield grade 1s or 2s and 56% yield grade 3s. Quality grade on those calves was **89% Choice and 67% received premiums for CAB**. A pen of Brangus sired steers out of English crossbred dams were processed at 14.5 months of age grading **95% Choice and 23% received premiums for CAB**. And finally, a small group of Angus sired calves from $\frac{3}{4}$ Brangus cows graded **100% Choice at 14.5 months of age and had a CAB percentage of an outstanding 64%** with no yield grade 4s.

If you want a scientific opinion of the value of Brangus genetics in a crossbreeding program, go to www.srbulls.com and click on the SALES AND NEWS page. Look under Educational Videos at the three part series by Animal Geneticist Dr. Dan Moser of Kansas State

University. He gives an unbiased review of the literature concerning the value of Brangus from a Carcass Traits and crossbreeding perspective.

The 2012 SPITZER RANCH PROFESSIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BRANGUS BULL SALE is on tap for Saturday, February 25, 2012. Please make plans to be there. They also extend to you a personal invitation if you wish your name 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. Also, be sure to visit them at www.srbulls.com and follow their posts and QUOTE OF THE WEEK on Facebook.

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