



From Youth Project To Ranch, Wildcat Creek Is Top Red Angus Operation



"Our children are actually the ones responsible for starting our Red Angus herd."

While that's not real uncommon, few if any operations have grown as rapidly in size and quality as Wildcat Creek Ranch of Peabody.

Clarifying the initial remark, owner Klee Robert Watchous at his Newton headquarters office, said, "We got into the Red Angus business, along with horses, hogs, even rabbits, really, because our children wanted to show animals in 4-H."

It was just a bit more than three years ago when Watchous' oldest son, Kale, then 11, was at a Red Angus sale with his grandpa Dale Phares and called Dad to see if he could buy a pair of heifers.

Verifying that Phares, his father-in-law, approved, Watchous gave the okay. Those females are the foundation for a herd that has grown nearly 350 times.

"We love the Red Angus breed. These are exceptional cattle, and the people in the breed are equally exceptional," Watchous contended.

Clarifying his lifelong involvement in the oil business, Palomino Petroleum, which continues today, Watchous initially had little livestock background.

However, he explained, "We had some land, but those two 'show heifers' soon grew to three cows, then four and just continued to increase. We soon needed more land to accommodate our rapidly growing herd."

Watchous found out the White Ranch, between Florence and Peabody, was going to be sold at auction. With his wife, Jennifer, Watchous was the successful bidder at the October 19, 2010, auction of 6,800 acres. Later procurements have increased the ranch to 8,100 acres.

Just a few days earlier, Soo Line Cattle Company in Canada had a Red Angus herd dispersal. "We bought approximately 100 head of their top females, as well as the sale topping bull, Red Cockburn Ribeye 308U, whose silhouette will soon grace the Wildcat Creek Ranch sign."

Additional purchases have been made from elite herds across North America, according to Watchous, who tallied there are in the neighborhood of 600 Red Angus cows now. "We've also added about 100 black Angus cows. This is strictly a purebred registered operation," he noted.

"We're having our second production bull sale, with several heifers, on Thursday, March 28, at the ranch starting at 6 o'clock," said Watchous.

In addition to Kale Robert, now 14, the family includes Lane Reyburn, 12; Victoria "Tori" Lyn, eight; and Tessa Kathleen, four, who couldn't be there when they showed this champion bull, WCAT Snyder 016Z, which is the first lot in their sale, advertised on 580 WIBW.

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Frank J. Buchman

Marketing Consultant

Direct: 785 - 228 - 7259

Cell: 785 - 499 - 3063

frank.buchman@morris.com

PO Box 1818

1210 SW Executive Dr.

Topeka, Ks 66615

Padre says:

***"All is not
butter that
comes from
the cow."***