

# HEY NEIGHBOR

By Frank J. Buchman

## Red Matches Well With Purple For Chase County Ranch Family



"Red cows and purple shirts; that's the Mushrush family at Elmdale in Chase County.

"Busy all of the time, this week is their busiest of the year.

"It's harvest time," emphasized Joe Mushrush, admitting that might sound "out of season to many."

However, one thing about the even-more-than-usual hectic workload on this Flint Hills ranch is that there seems to be ample help.

Joe and Connie Mushrush, their six children, two daughters-in-law, two grandchildren and Joe's folks, Bob and Oma Lou, though well past retirement age, are all pitching in getting ready for the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Mushrush Red Angus Production Sale, advertised on 580 WIBW.

"Our year's work goes on the auction block Thursday (March 28) at 12:30 p.m., when we'll reap from our Red Angus operations," qualified Joe Mushrush.

"Is there someplace else besides K-State? Are there any other kind of cattle than Red Angus?" quizzically qualified the opening descriptive quote.

"Connie and I graduated from K-State, both of my parents did, and my grandparents attended K-State. Our oldest two sons have graduated, and our twins will this spring. We have another freshman there now, and Maddy plans to enroll after high school," Mushrush reflected.

Yes, there's "Purple Pride," but how'd the "red," become of equal significance in family portrayal?

Quickly, Mushrush summarized, "Red Angus is the blue collar breed that fits commercial cattlemen, working efficiently for all phases of the beef industry. We have a purebred herd, but our Red Angus cattle are handled like commercial operations, our seed stock buyers."

With more than 550 registered Red Angus cows, Mushrush Red Angus is one of the top ten recorders of the breed in the country.

Their children are Daniel, Casey, Cole, Laura, Chris and Madelyn. Daniel and his wife, Christine, have two daughters, Sadie and Isabella. Casey's wife is Ericka.

"Our children have been involved in all phases of the ranch, active in 4-H and school functions, and leaders in junior Red Angus programs," credited Mushrush, who recently completed a two-term presidency of the Red Angus Association of America.

"While total national cattle inventory has declined, several purebred organizations have struggled. Red Angus popularity and registrations have grown, because of their fit to the commercial beef industry," Mushrush reiterated.

"It is most flattering and quite scary at the same time, when all six of our children have contended they want to come back and be a part of the ranch after college," Mushrush admitted.

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