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# CATTLEMAN'S CONNECTION

Welcome to the new Beefmaster newsletter for the commercial cowman



## SALE CALENDAR

- January 9 — Live Oak Bfm Breeders Assn Bull Sale, Three Rivers, TX
- January 16 — Violeta Ranch Bull Sale, Hebronville, TX
- February 20 — Gulf Coast Area/Coastal Counties Bull & Female Sale, Edna, TX
- March 13 — Agri Services E6 Female Sale, Taft, OK
- March 20 — Texoma Bull Sale, Ardmore, OK
- April 2 — Mid Atlantic E6 Sale @ GA Beef Expo, Perry, GA
- April 25 — BBU National E6 Replacement Female Sale, Columbus, TX
- September 15 — Lasater Ranch Bull Sale, Matheson, CO
- October 2 — Isa Cattle Co. Bull Sale, San Angelo, TX
- October 16 — Beef "ON" Forage Bull Sale, Brenham, TX
- November 20 — Collier Farms Bull Sale, Brenham, TX
- December 4 — Lone Star Bfm Breeders Assn Bull Sale, Sulphur Springs, TX

*For additional information visit [www.beefmasters.org](http://www.beefmasters.org) or contact us at 210.732.3132*

# BEEFMASTER E6 FEMALES

## Essential to Success for Chaparrosa Ranches

by Trey Scherer

Lush green pastures, ample rainfall, and a moderate climate are definitely not the keys to success for Chaparrosa Ranches, which find themselves located in some of the hottest and harshest environments within the U.S. and Mexico. With annual rainfalls averaging 18 inches or less, temperatures that fly past 100 for most of the summer, and drought-stricken rangelands overwhelmed with native brush and prickly pear, it takes a tough breed of cattle and a well-managed program to succeed under these conditions. For Chaparrosa Ranches, this breed is Beefmaster.

Headquartered near La Pryor, Texas and Muzquiz, Mexico, Chaparrosa Ranches are commercial cattle operations focusing on the production of high-quality replacement females and efficient preconditioned stocker steers. For the past several decades, Chaparrosa Ranches have used some of the finest registered Beefmaster bulls available to create hearty, high-quality replacement females for use within their own herds and for sale to other demanding ranchers. The ranch currently markets exceptional replacement females and several hundred preconditioned steers annually.

A relaxed conversation with cattle manager, Bill Howell, will quickly portray the challenges the ranch faces on a daily basis. Because of the harsh terrain and dry climate, Chaparrosa Ranches find themselves in need of hardy, heat-tolerant cattle that will maintain themselves efficiently, raise strong heavy calves, and keep breeding back year after year. For them, the answer has been a systematic crossing of various breeds with

Beefmaster being the key essential in all of these crosses. "In the past, we used Beefmaster bulls on F1 Braford cows to produce exceptional females and big growthy steers," says Bill Howell. "Now we're putting Angus bulls back on those Beefmaster cross cows to produce not only a fancy female, but an industry-leading feeder steer as well." Additionally, Howell comments, "Then we are going back with Beefmaster bulls on the Angus-Beefmaster cross females. An ideal cross for us and our customers would be about three fourths Beefmaster and a quarter Angus."

When asked, "Why Beefmaster?" the answer comes rather quickly from manager Bill Howell. "No other breed has done for us what Beefmaster has accomplished. The Beefmaster steer calves are heavier, the heifers have a higher replacement value than other crosses, and the mama cows are cheaper to maintain and last longer than any other breed or cross we've run," states Howell. According to Bill Howell, the ranch once used Charolais bulls on the Beefmaster cows with great success raising terminal cross feeders, but needed to keep replacements as well. So within the last several years, they have been using Angus bulls on the Beefmaster cows instead. "When we went to Angus bulls from Charolais, we lost an average of 75 to 100 pounds per weaned calf, but when we put Beefmaster bulls back on the Angus-Beefmaster cross females we gained back 100 to 115 pounds on average," remarked Howell. Quick math will show that the three quarter Beefmaster calf actually out-weighted the original Charolais crosses.

In addition to the increased weaning weights, Chaparrosa ranch also realizes the greater replacement female value of the Beefmaster cross heifers and the cows they then become. "I feel that the Beefmaster cross heifers are easily worth \$50 to \$75 more than other heifers, and that premium increases as they become older and closer to brood cow status," says Bill Howell. In order to achieve these premiums, Chaparrosa Ranch uses the Beefmaster Breeders United's (BBU) E6 female program. The ranch was one of the first to begin use of the program and continues to use it to their benefit today. One of the many other benefits Howell sees in the production of Beefmaster cross females is the relative ease and low cost of production. "Producing good E6 Beefmaster females is a lot easier and cheaper than producing F1's," Howell points out. "We also have better udders and more consistency in the product." Manager Bill Howell also stated that from their experience, the Beefmaster cross steers brought more than the true F1's by 5 to 10 cents per pound.

If you're still wondering where Chaparrosa is headed for the future, Bill will point that out as well. "We plan to keep running Beefmaster bulls from reputation programs back on the Angus-Beefmaster cross females as long as people want high-quality replacement females and the best feeder steers available." Using Beefmaster genetics within demanding commercial operations continues to be one of the key components to profitability, especially when surrounded by unforgiving environments both geographically and economically speaking.

# BEEFMASTER STEER CLOSEOUTS

Below you will find a recent closeout from straight Beefmaster steers. It has been long perceived that Beefmaster cattle cannot grade and will not yield high enough to be profitable. We believe that Beefmaster cattle can be profitable when fed correctly and good genetics are used.

These are steers that originated in the southeastern U.S. Notice how healthy these cattle were with no deads or hospital cattle and how well they gained. These cattle prove how well Beefmasters can grade while maintaining very good yield grades.

With the high input costs that face feedlot operators today, conversion and efficiency is very critical to reaching a profit or falling into a loss for every lot fed. As you can see Beefmaster cattle can work in the feedyard and can even reach some of the premiums when sold on a proper grid basis.

This data speaks for itself, as stated by the feedyard manager that feeds these Beefmaster steers "They are really going to ring the bell at the top of the pole".

Keep in mind that this is the steer side of the Beefmaster story. We cannot forget the females that are produced, either straight Beefmaster or Beefmaster crosses; they are some of the most sought-after females in the market.

Next time you are looking for a way to help generate more pounds without sacrificing feeding ability, while producing amazing replacement females, make sure you take a hard look at Beefmasters!

Gain/HD/Day	DM Conversion	Deads	Hospital HD	QG	YG	Beefcam Score
<b>4.04</b>	<b>5.37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70% CH</b>	<b>2.4 No 4 or 5s</b>	<b>100% Tender</b>