

Herb was born in Pryor and lived here all of his life except while attending college at NEO A&M & Oklahoma State University as well as when serving in the Military. Herb's father, Herb Hammer, Sr., and his uncle, Clarence Hammer, had a livestock buying business at their Stockyards in north Pryor on Hwy. 69. Herb helped load cattle & hogs on rail cars starting at an early age. They later moved the Scale House to the ranch se of Pryor in 1967 where they continued that business until 1988. Herb would go to several livestock auctions weekly to buy stock, especially hogs, which would then be sent to packing plants in the north. Herb & his father maintained a cow herd consisting mostly of Hereford & Angus cattle. Herb was the daily caregiver loading square bales & sacked cubes to feed the cattle in winter. Summers were spent spraying pastures for weeds & putting up hay which was mostly square bales. Herb purchased a round baler in 1982 and put in overhead grain bins which greatly changed the way the cattle were fed. Renee was born in Sioux Falls, SD, to parents that had emigrated from Holland and wanted to find better opportunities in the USA in agriculture. Renee was raised on a farm where her father had cattle & sheep as well as crops. When Renee was just 4 years old her mother would dress her warmly & her father would set her on the top of the fence to watch the ewes while they were lambing in winter. It was so cold at the time that the mommas could not lamb outdoors but needed to be moved into the barn to save the babies from freezing. Whenever an ewe began the birthing process, Renee would run and get her father wherever he was working to have him put the ewe indoors. It was then that Renee realized she wanted to be an animal doctor. She would go on to graduate from Kansas, OK, High School & attend OK State University graduating in 1981 with her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Renee moved to Pryor after graduation & started working at Pryor Veterinary Hospital. She made farm calls out to the Hammer Ranch & worked at the Sale Barn where she met Herb and they became friends. A year or so later they started dating and were married in 1984. Renee started her own mobile vet practice. At that time they started using Limousin bulls on the cow herd to produce bigger & better gaining calves. They went from there to Simmental cattle & eventually crossing them keeping heifers back with Brangus & Angus bulls to produce the largest & most desirable calves which were sold each year in August. Herb then started keeping his steers & purchasing more stocker cattle to go with them. These cattle are grown to 850-900# & sold as feeder cattle or sent to the feedlot to be finished beef. They recently got back into the cow/calf sector & have enjoyed buying quality bulls to put with their cows. Renee has a busy small animal Veterinary Practice & continues to do what she loves every day. Herb & Renee attend Cowboy Gatherin' Church & are active in its functions. Renee has taught etiquette & cooking classes to the youth & Herb has served on the board when not working. Herb & Renee enjoy fishing, traveling, & spending time with friends & family and attending bull sales.