

Albert and Joan Thorne

A.W. Thorne Land and Cattle, Inc.

Mayes County Farm Family of the Year 2022

Thorne Ranch was established in Mayes County in 1963, when the Thorne family purchased 1,500 acre ranch three miles northeast of Adair, OK. Primarily purchased for summer grazing for stocker feeder cattle, they kept a full time employee, Pat Spaulding for twenty years. Albert (Abbie) grew up on the family ranch roping and doctoring calves near Canadian Texas and graduated from Texas Tech with a Ag Ed Degree. Abbie was back and forth between Thorne Ranch in Texas and Oklahoma until 1983, when he moved permanently to Oklahoma. He continued raising stocker feeder steers that were shipped to feedlots in the Panhandle of Texas. They kept around 5,000 head on feed. In 1993, he purchased 500 head of Beefmaster Cross cows due to a drought in Texas. He had intentions of feeding and shipping. He found most to be bred, so began his cow calf operation. He was searching for Simmental bulls when he came across the Braunvieh Breed. He purchased several bulls and loved the hybrid results. So well that he traveled to Canada and Switzerland researching the Braunvieh Breed. He purchased donors and built a herd with embryo transplant. It became a big part of his life. The Beefmaster cows became recipients for Fullblood Embryos. Abbie was elected to the Braunvieh Association Board, and that is where he first met, Joan in Kansas City Missouri. Joan was Office Manager for the Association in Lincoln, NE. Joan pronounced, Joann a native of the Sandhills of Nebraska has always been involved in the cattle industry. She grew up exhibiting stocker feeder steers in 4-H and riding her horses on her families Hereford Ranch in North Central Nebraska. She was instrumental in providing horses and cattle for her four daughters to show in 4-H. She was also a 4-H Leader for 10 Years. She was Office Manager for Bassett Livestock Auction while the girls went to Grade and High School. In 1995, she made a life changing move to Lincoln Nebraska and went to work for the Braunvieh Association of America, where she met Abbie. they were immediately attracted to each other because of their mutual love for the cattle industry and agriculture. Abbie knew feed and nutrition and Joan understood marketing and pedigrees. They made a perfect combination. Abbie and Joan built a herd of Braunvieh, Simmental, Angus and Maine-Anjou cattle that were utilized in their Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transplant

Program. They hosted nine production sales at the ranch from 1997-2002. They sold and loaned show heifers to 4-H and FFA kids to show with an option to purchase or receive credit towards another animal. Always involved with kids and cattle, they sent trailer loads to Junior Nationals in many States. They supported Premium Sales at Mayes and Rogers County. Thorne Ranch exhibited their cattle at the Majors including; Tulsa, Denver CO, Kansas City MO, Louisville KY, Ft Worth, Houston and San Antonio Texas. In 2010 they hung up the show halters and focused on building a Simmental and Maine Herd with a few Braunvieh cattle. They stacked up several honors; Show Breeder of the Year, Runner Up Show Breeder of the Year, Show Bull of the Year, Show Sires of the Year, Show Dams of the Year and Show Heifers of the Year with the TLC Herd Code. They retired AI and Embryos work and utilized their Herd Sires and purchased Simmental and Sim/Angus Bulls to increase and improve the herd integrity. Today they run half the acres and manage a Spring and Fall Calving Herd, with their objective to keep; good udders, maternal, fertility and great dispositions in their herd of 200 Black and Black White Face Cows. They keep all their replacement heifers and offer a few bulls and replacement heifers private treaty. Daughter Dee and granddaughter Olivia live and assist on the ranch. Olivia is in Adair FFA and made the Mayes County Premium Sale last year. She loves agriculture and is building her own herd for the future.

Abbie and Joan love showing their cattle to visitors to their program. They will celebrate 26 years of Marriage in 2022. Their motto; “You will only be a stranger once at Thorne Ranch.” Visit them anytime at their website <http://www.thornecattle.com>