

STONE GATE FARMS

OPTIMUM TRAIT GENETICS



You can always tell good cattlemen by the number of older productive cows in their herds. They understand the intrinsic value of longevity. Whether the females are bought or have been raised, there is an investment in time and money. It is natural to expect a positive return and what better way than to have a cow that will last for ten or more years. Longevity doesn't just happen, it takes time and a devout persistence in selecting for the traits that will assist in building an efficient cow.

Longevity has always been a priority for us. In our selection process for bulls that we want to use ourselves, a high standard is set. The bull's mother or grandmother and great grandmother need to have produced at a high level for a long time. Breeding good cattle takes time and if we are patient, time can be a great asset. It is very satisfying to see a cow produce year after year. Confidence is then established, so you start to build on that cow family because you have the predictability and consistency confirmed. As she proves herself year after year you can focus on the positives, but more importantly it gives you time to make sure there are no glaring negatives that pop up.

The mainstream beef industry has put an emphasis on producing a desirable set of numbers and in order to accomplish this, the generations need to be turned over quicker. Matching numbers to numbers from younger cattle will get to the desired goal faster, but what may look good on paper is still unproven.

For some breeders the ten year old cow has become a dinosaur. Her epd's aren't able to keep up with the so called genetic improvement of the younger generations so she is cast aside and forgotten. When in reality she is the mainstay of the industry. It is a fast paced world but we need to realize the basics of breeding cattle have never changed. We can utilize the technology available in harmony with long standing principles and produce a consistent, uniform and efficient animal.

We have an abundance of older cows in our herd that are producing at a high level, just like the twelve year old cow pictured. She has a 359 day calving interval on 10 calves with ratios of 105 at weaning and 106 at yearling. She certainly hasn't become irrelevant in our minds and her greatest value is in the handful of daughters we have kept to carry on her attributes of longevity.

ANNUAL FALL SALE MONDAY OCTOBER 24, 2022



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