

BUCK CATTLE COMPANY:

A Story of Success

Jirl Buck, owner of Buck Cattle Company, has worked hard to develop a strong Maine-Anjou cattle operation. With the use of an extensive embryo transfer program, along with dedication and special attention to customer service, the Buck family has experienced success in many aspects of the cattle industry.

Jirl was raised on a ranch in Madill, Okla., and showed steers and heifers in 4-H and FFA. Upon graduation from high school, Buck attended Murray State College, as well as Oklahoma State University. During his academic years, he worked for various purebred operations and also gained some experience in trading club calves.

The true beginning of the operation was in 1987, when he began building a cowherd of primarily Maine-Anjou females. The first Fall Premier Sale was held in 1995 and the first Spring Edition Sale occurred in 1996.

“Without embryo transplant Buck Cattle would not be where it is today. We do not have the financial resources to own enough great cows to meet our demand for quality. With embryo transplant 20 donors can meet our demand.”
-Jirl Buck

Currently, Buck Cattle Company consists of 150 Maine-Anjou cows and produces 150 embryo calves each year. In 2009, they began adding a few elite Hereford females to their program. Each year, Buck Cattle Company markets and sells 300 females, as well as 125 bulls in both their annual sales as well as private treaty.

One thing that brings customers back to Buck Cattle Company year after year is exceptional customer service. “Customer service is number one,” said Buck. “We want to see our customers have success, whether their goal is to win in the show ring, produce top selling offspring, or to add performance to their commercial calf crop.”

Embryo Transfer and In-Vitro Fertilization have played a big role in Buck’s operation. With the use of embryo transplant they have been able to take our top producing females and generate a larger return. IVF in particular has been successful in many different instances. First, when older donors have reached the end of their career, IVF has enabled Buck Cattle Company to achieve production that they would have

never received with the traditional process. Second, they have utilized IVF to produce larger numbers of embryos in a shorter period of time on some of their top-producing females.

A specific case of IVF success occurred in 2005, when Pannell Miss 4072, a cornerstone in their program and one of the top producing females in Maine-Anjou history, shut down in embryo production. In the fall of 2006, Buck sent her to Trans Ova Genetics in Iowa. With the use of IVF, in the fall of 2007 and the spring of 2008, Pannell Miss 4072 had 22 calves born. Those calves generated \$241,000.

The success of embryo transfer and IVF doesn’t end with the Maine-Anjou operation. In 2003, Buck formed a partnership with Dillon and HD Page, the owners of D&H Cattle Co., to start a bucking bull program. Pages were well-established producers of great bucking bulls, but had done very little embryo work at that time.

When the Buck family became involved, they stepped up the program with the production of 100 plus embryo calves born that year, as well as for five more years following. “The entire Page& Buck partnership herd was built through embryo transplant,” Buck said. “Our partnership herd now consists of 150 females and 90” of them are products of embryo transfer. We now produce 60 embryo transplants each year for the bucking bull program.”

The partnership has two bucking stock sales each year selling cows and yearling bulls in the Bred to Buck sale, held in June, as well as a bred heifer sale in September.



Jirl and his wife Brenda, have a 17 year-old daughter Bailey. Bailey is involved with showing cattle and markets a few calves of her own in their production sales. Jirl and Brenda enjoy working with youth and are the junior advisors for the Oklahoma Maine-Anjou Assoc.