

The folks at McCoy's Building Supply understand that it takes a lot of hard work and the whole family pitching in to get things done on a farm or ranch. That's why we'd like to take some time out to salute Texas High School Rodeo Association families who are farmers and ranchers. In our monthly Farm & Ranch Family Spotlight, we'll feature one family, sharing their story of how they work together as a family to make their farm or ranch successful. The spotlight will run for 10 months; each month will feature a different region. Each Regional McCoy's Farm and Ranch Family will receive a \$100 McCoy's Gift Card. The McCoy's Farm and Ranch Family of the Year will receive a \$500 McCoy's Gift Card and will be announced at the 2011 THSRA State Finals.

The Pruett Family of Region VII

The Pruett family of Region 7 lives in Cedar Lane, Texas. Kassidy, 16, and Kylie, 13, work in the family ranching business along side their parents Todd and Heidi. Pruett Cattle Company is a family run business that is made up of four operations: cattle, horses, hay and pecans.

Kassidy, who is a THSRA member, competes in barrel racing, pole bending, breakaway roping, goat tying and cutting. She rides two horses that were raised and trained on the ranch, her roping horses Dolly and her barrel horse I.T.

Kylie, who is a TJHRA member, competes in barrel racing, breakaway roping and ribbon running. Both of the sisters work cattle on all of the horses that they compete on; the Pruett's have found that this gives the horses a clear head and better minds in the rodeo arena.

Heidi works with the girls teaching them how to train their own colts, as well as helping other kids by training and coaching them on speed events. She also manages an Equine Rehabilitation and Conditioning Center in Bay City, Texas, which helps keep



the girl's horses in peak condition.

On the ranch, the Pruett's run a cow-calf operation of 600 head of F-I Braford and Brangus females and Charolais bulls, 1000 head of stocker cattle and 20 head of quarter horses. Their day-to-day business entails receiving, feeding and doctoring cattle, exercising and training event horses, baling hay, watering and harvesting crops. The cows are worked twice a year in the fall and spring, Thanksgiving and Spring Break, so that the girls can help pen, work and wean calves. This saves on hired labor if they work when the girls are out of school.



In addition to the cattle business, Todd grows coastal hay that is used in the cattle and horse operations. Feeding hay is a daily chore of the girls. They load, haul and feed hay to the horses and newly received cattle.

Native pecans are a big crop for the Pruett's. The pecans are harvested from November to January, weather permitting. Todd runs a picking crew during the

day and a cleaning crew at night, which means this is not an 8 to 5 job.

It takes the whole family to make the ranch operate. With a McCoy's being only 15 minutes from the ranch in Brazoria, Texas this makes it their most frequently shopped supply store. They purchase plumbing supplies, fencing supplies, post, lumber, concrete and many more products.

Both Todd and Heidi grow up in ranching and farming families, so it was the reason they chose to raise their girls on the ranch and continue this family tradition. Rodeoing is what they do as a family activity and it keeps them extremely close. Being involved in THSRA and TJHRA has pushed the girls to practice and reach for the next level of competition. This makes it possible to meet other kids all over the state and nation that live the same kind of lifestyle.

"I believe that TJHRA is one of the best organizations you can be involved in. Since serving as TJHRA Vice President, I have worked with some of the most impressive young people. This makes me extremely proud to be part of this organization and work with such a great Board of Directors and Secretary that truly are in it for these young people. I would also like to thank McCoy's for their sponsorship, company's like this make it possible for us to do what we love to do." said Heidi Pruett.

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