



FARM & RANCH FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

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. One of the spotlighted families will be selected to participate in a McCoy's Building Supply Farm & Ranch photo shoot in San Marcos, Texas. 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 be receive a \$500 McCoy's Gift Card and will be announced at the 2009 THSRA State Finals.

The Johnson Family from Region IX

by Cassandra Bennett

Congratulations to Cal Johnson and his family of Region IX for being chosen as a McCoy's Farm and Ranch Family!

Tom, Spring and Cal Johnson live near Wortham, Texas and own and operated both 87 Ranch and Johnson Cattle Marketing. The 87 Ranch headquarters, which began in 1987, encompasses 1500 acres as well as other land that is under lease. On the ranch, the Johnson's run a cow-calf operation of about 250 head of Brangus and F-1 BXH. In a typical year, Johnson Cattle Marketing, running since 1992, sells 7,000 to 10,000 head of replacement females and 500 to 750 breeding age bulls. This is all done through auction and/or private treaty, and their customer base stretches from Arizona to Florida and from Missouri to Mexico.

As it is with most family businesses, the Johnson's work together to keep Johnson Cattle Marketing alive and running. Tom travels extensively, meeting with other ranchers and business men interested in selling or buying cattle. Cal helps with ranch work when he gets home from school and has even been known to have to leave school early in the winter to help pen and deliver a new baby during calving season. Cal also brings along a fair amount of veterinarian science knowledge from working at a veterinarian clinic in the past. Spring is left to man the office. This means having to be ready and alert by 6 a.m. when the first phone call comes in, and working into well after night fall.

The Johnson's put on 5 to 8 auctions throughout the year for individual ranches and also consignment sells with as many as 50 different ranches represented. At these sales, Brahman, F-1 BXH and F-1 BXA, Brangus, Hereford, Brangus Baldy, and Angus replacement females are represented. Each sale will have from 1250 to 1550 head. The cattle will begin to arrive at the sale facility as far out as 4

days prior to the sale and continue up until the day before. "These cattle are grouped to match, as peas in a pod so to speak, and sold in lots of 5 to 10 head. This is Tom's expertise finding excellent cattle, the people who want to sell them and the buyers who want to take them home."

Cal comes to the sale barn after school bringing the trailer loaded with panels, water troughs, water hoses and whatever else might be needed to ensure the cattle will be taken care of and the sale will run smoothly. Upon arrival he helps put out hay, makes sure all pens have water, moves cattle, pair calves that get lost from their mother, and checks pen numbers. There is much to be done to have a successful sale day and it all starts with the back and the cattle coming in and out of the sale ring, we have over 30 men in the back working and Cal is one of them. Spring, again, mans the office, keeping up with cattle coming in and the consignors who bring them. She matches health papers with pens of cattle, enters them in the computers and gets all of the buyers registered for the sale. "I have 2 girls that I depend on prior to sale and on sale day I have 6."

There is always something to do, whether it's spraying mesquite, mending fences, repairing water gaps, penning cattle, working calves or auctioning, but the Johnson's love every minute of it. In fact, doing what they do is a dream come true. "Tom worked for The Cattleman in Ft. Worth for 15 years. The Cattleman is a livestock publication of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. Our dream had been to move to the ranch and in 1991 with the help of faxes and other means of communication we were able to move. Tom would go to the office once a month at deadline, and thus allowed more time to become involved with ranching and the marketing end of our business. Soon this was our business and we loved it. So after 17 years with The Cattleman magazine Tom left and we became a fulltime ranching family."

With two sons, Josh and Cal, Tom and Spring Johnson wanted nothing more than to raise their kids in the country, growing up to know the ranching way of life. Both sons became members of THSRA. Josh competed in steer wrestling, tie down calf roping and cutting. He went to state steer wrestling and cutting, and later, won the THSRA scholarship and went on to Texas A&M in 1996 and graduated with a degree in Business/Marketing. Cal's event is steer wrestling. It is an event the whole family can practice together. "We look forward to Sunday rodeos and the traveling to participate. Steer wrestling is not an event that one person can practice and perfect, it takes at least 3. One tailing out the steer, one to open the chute and one hazing, so practice is an everyone involved event. We try to have several guys together at one time for practices."

Besides rodeo, the Johnson's love water sports. Whether hanging out at the lake or swimming in our back yard pool with friends and family, they always have a great time. They also enjoy traveling, seeing new places and meeting new people.

Congratulations again to the Johnson family of Region IX!








- FEEDERS
- SQUEEZE CHUTES
- STOCK TANKS
- T-POSTS
- CORRAL PANELS
- HORSE STALLS
- ROLLED WIRE
- GATES
- TREATED POSTS
- BARBED WIRE
- ELECTRIC FENCING