

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 be receive a \$500 McCoy's Gift Card and will be announced at the 2009 THSRA State Finals.

## Back at the Ranch with the Daugherty Family of Region II

By Yvonne (Bonnie) Ramirez

MARATHON --- The agriculture industry is one that is all too often taken for granted. So many people do not understand the benefits they reap from the agricultural industry, whether directly or indirectly. Thankfully, because of families such as the Daugherty Family from Marathon, TX, the agricultural world is well represented.

The Daugherty Family operates Daugherty Ranch Company, south of Marathon, TX. The family includes Mark and Ann and children: 14-year old, Luke; 18-year old, Asa; and 21-year old, Alicia. The ranch was founded in 1883 by A.S. Gage, paternal great grandfather.

The nature of the family business includes a variety of ranching operations such as raising cattle, horses, a hand full of show goats, and as Ann stated, "an occasional litter of Australian Shepherd puppies." Day to day ranch responsibilities include breeding cattle, gathering, feeding, branding, fencing, and breaking and starting colts among all other aspects of running a successful ranching operation. When asked how the family works together to make the family business successful, Ann said, "We do just that. We work together, for as long as it takes, to get the job done." Everyone is actively involved in the day to day operations. Alicia, Asa, and Luke, the children, play a significant role with the ranch. "Nothing happens on this ranch that they don't know about or how to do," Ann commented.

Eighteen-year old, Asa, has applied his ranching skills in the rodeo arena, as well. Asa is currently THSRA's Region II President. He competes in the calf roping, team toping, and cutting events. Being involved with the THSRA, has positively impacted this ranch family. "We have met some great people. Asa has made some very good friends and is learning a skill, which will hopefully help him pay for college. It has given us (the family) a fun thing to do together," Ann said.

When in need of farm and ranch supplies such as materials for repairing trailer floors, working on fences, fixing water floats, and general ranch supplies, the Daugherty's head to the nearest McCoy's Farm and Ranch store in Alpine.

Families such as the Daughertys have a long and rich history in the ranching business. Because of their passion and devotion to this great industry, society will continue to have food on the table, be able to purchase clothing, shoes, cosmetics, etc.

"Agriculture is essential to the survival of our nation. We were blessed with the land and know of no other employment we'd rather be involved in. Many attributes: freedom, peace, Psalm 19:1-4 explains it well, self preservation..." Ann Daugherty, said. "We believe private land ownership is essential to higher morals, standards, and more incentive to achieve greater ideals."

Congratulations to the Daugherty Family of Marathon, TX, this month's McCoy's Farm and Ranch Family from Region II.

