

Alabama Beef Cattle Conference 2024

Panelist Bios



Randa Starnes

We truly are a family operation at TRM. Randy and Kelly Owen are very involved in the daily hustle and bustle with the ranch life along with John and Randa and their 2 children, Harper and John Owen Starnes. Working side by side toward our dreams and goals is something we are blessed to do, day-in and day-out. The Hereford and Angus cattle at TRM have never been better, with each new calf crop outdoing the last. With daily changes and new trends in the cattle business, we pretty well stay middle-of-the-road, and let the "extremes" pass us on both sides. TRM cattle are

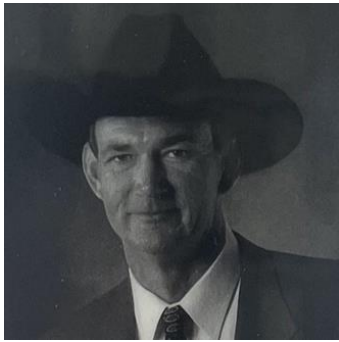
bred with longevity in mind so as to have adequate EPD profiles, but still be functional cattle that can perform in real-world environments. That means, moderate, stout, easy-doing, docile and SOUND. We are our own worst critic when it comes to sorting through and culling the herd. What works, what doesn't, what do our customers need/want, and what direction are we headed?



Chuck Madaris

Growing up, Lowndes County Cattleman and past ACA Vice President Chuck Madaris called many places home, as his father was a career Air Force officer. From Selma to Japan, Chuck has lived in the most diverse of places, but none pulled on his heart quite like the community of Braggs in the southernmost part of Lowndes County. He was first introduced to farming by his grandfather and set his desire to be a cattleman from a young age. He purchased his first few cows in 1968 after returning back to the farm from a military stay in Japan, and spent years developing his

knowledge of the industry from hauling loads to seedstock operations in Texas and working at both Hooper and Uniontown Stockyards. After graduating from Auburn University in 1976, Chuck landed a job with the Ned Ellis family of Circle E Farms in Fort Deposit where he was exposed to Chianina cattle and got the opportunity to travel to shows, sales and operations around the country that opened his eyes to all the industry had to offer. However, what he thought was just a job, turned into the family business when he fell in love with the farmer's daughter, Katie, whom he married in 1989. It was then that the couple purchased land in Hope Hull, and CK Cattle was born



Eric Smith

Eric Smith of Reform grew up on a farm in Stansel where he graduated from Pickens Academy. He played football at the University of Mississippi and got a degree in business. Smith returned to the family farm where today he operates a large stocker cattle program and broiler operation. Smith served as president of the Pickens County Cattlemen's Association. He completed a three-year term as regional vice president of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association and was elected President of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association in 2006. Smith is a very active leader in the county serving on numerous boards including Alabama Farmers Federation and the Industrial Development Board. He also served on the board of directors for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, vice chair of the Policy Division of NCBA and completed a three-year term to the Cattlemen's Beef Board. He currently serves as the Political Action Committee (PAC) General for Region 2 which is the southeastern states for NCBA. He is a member of the Saint Roberts Catholic Church. Eric and wife Erin have three sons - Wyatt, Mark and Judson.



John E. Harrell

Born and raised on a diversified farm in Hayneville, Alabama where 75 year ago his father began breeding Registered Angus Cattle and where 104 years ago his grandfather began a Honey bee apiary that grew to the largest bee operation in the USA at the time of his death in 1971. He has managed his families operation, was former Performance Director of Lovana Farms , who in 1982 purchased the famed Angus bull 'Lovana' for a record \$320,000 at the Auburn bull test sale, has been a successful entrepreneur, and had a 25 year successful commercial Banking career where he concluded as Regional President of Charterbank in Lee County. In 1998 he and his wife of 47 years, Ann established Highlander Ranch in Lee County where they raise Registered Angus and AQHA horses.

The emphasis has always been on maternal strength and performance and the herd has produced numerous test station high indexing bulls and sale topping females. They have sold cattle and horses into 22 states. John has served as President of the Alabama Angus Association, been Treasurer of the Lee County Cattleman's Association, elected and served two terms as a National Director of the American Angus Association where he was also Board Chaplain and Chairman of the Angus Foundation. His passion, along with breeding top seedstock, is in helping new breeders establish successful herds.