

Why Do I Use The *Brahman F1 Cow?*

ABBA F1 Program Members Speak Out About America's Cow!

For some, it is longevity and efficiency; others, heat tolerance and health. Some like the fancy coloring of F1 tiger stripes or the uniformity of a black baldy. Whatever the reasons, the popularity of the Brahman F1 hybrid female is at an all time high. The *American Brahman Review*™ takes a glimpse at three successful Brahman hybrid operations and asks: *Why Do You Use the F1 Cow?*



FOR BILL CRAIN, IT'S:
**INCREASED WEANING WEIGHTS,
FERTILITY & LONGEVITY**

Bill Crain has been utilizing Brahman F1 hybrids since 1971. As the ranch manager of Rutherford Ranch in Pearsall, Texas, he realizes that there is no better cross for his environment. Bill has been a firm believer in this cow for over 40 years.



Bill Crain runs 1100 head of tiger stripe Brahman hybrid females, getting anywhere from a 92 to 96% calf crop on his ranch in south Texas.

“I guess you could say I’ve been fooling with cattle my whole life,” Crain says. When he joined Rutherford Ranch in the early 1970s, the ranch was breeding purebred Herefords and averaging weaning weights of 450 lbs. When Crain came on board, his task was to increase the herd’s production. So, he began crossing the purebreds with Charolais bulls, which resulted in an increase in weaning weights but still wasn’t the ideal cross for which he was striving.

Crain’s grandfather had used Brahman bulls, and he was familiar with what Brahmans could do. He convinced the ranch owner to breed Brahman bulls, which have been the mainstay at Rutherford Ranch ever since.

Rutherford Ranch now runs 1100 head of tiger stripe Brahman x Hereford females. They breed approximately 600 head to Charolais bulls and the remaining 500 head to Angus bulls. The ranch breeds their cows

in December, March and April, and they wean their calves in June and July. Their last two calf crops have averaged 700 lb. weaning weights, and were marketed through Superior Livestock, with each load averaging \$1.95/lb. Crain couldn’t be more pleased with the F1 cow at Rutherford Ranch.

“We’ve had real good luck with our F1 cows,” he states. “They’ve stayed with us. We’ve got cows that are 14 or 15 years old still raising as good of a calf as they ever did. We run anywhere from a 92 to 96 percent calf crop on a 25,000 acre ranch in south Texas. So we’re very pleased, to say the least.”

FOR JIM MCCORD, IT'S:
**LONGEVITY, ADAPTABILITY,
MATERNAL EXCELLENCE**

Growing up in east Texas, **Jim McCord** left his family ranch to attend Texas A&M University, where he received a degree in engineering. Though it was his engineering company that initially sparked his professional career, McCord always had a desire to follow his family’s lifelong passion: cattle ranching. Today, he owns JM Ranches, headquartered in Gause, Texas. The enterprise owns 3500 acres of ranchland in Brazos and Milam counties, and is home to 600 head of Golden Certified Brahman F1s.

“I’ve been in the cattle business for 30 years,” McCord states. “Twenty-five of those thirty years I’ve been using Brahman F1s.”

McCord chose to use a Brahman x Hereford cow base, because of the life expectancy of the females. “My cows stay in production usually up through 15 or 16 years old,” McCord says. He also cites the F1s adaptability to the hot, humid conditions in Texas as another incentive, as well as their good milking ability, even during drought conditions.

McCord’s competitive business spirit inspires him not to just raise any old F1s, but to raise the best. That’s why he chooses golden certified F1s, because he knows their value. And value is something that is of utmost importance at JM Ranches.

“We try to add value to every phase of our operation,” McCord explains. “We’ve added a preconditioning program and a replacement heifer program and we’ve found that quite simply: quality pays.”

To McCord’s delight, the ranch has had very little calving trouble, he even claims his cow herd to be virtually trouble free. He prefers to use Brangus bulls on the F1 females, resulting in calves that are very uniform. The ranch uses different management programs for heifer calves and steer calves, McCord explains. Their goal is to wean calves at 8 to 9 months old, usually weighing between 600 and 650 pounds.

“It’s our goal to wean off calves that weigh 50 percent of their mother’s weight,” McCord states. “We have no trouble doing that on our Brahman F1 cows.”

After weaning, steers go into a preconditioning program, which usually adds an additional 100 lbs. His steer calves are 7/16 Brahman, and according to McCord he can market them “anywhere, with no trouble.”

After 25 years experience using Brahman hybrids, McCord readily admits that with complete certainty, “the F1 cow is the best for us!”

FOR FRANK REZNICEK, IT'S:
**SURVIVAL SKILLS, ADAPTABILITY,
EFFICIENCY, HEALTH**

For over 100 years, cattle have roamed the pasture at **Kachele Ranch** in Wallis, Texas. But after visiting their ranch, one might be surprised to see cattle thriving in the harsh conditions, typically rice fields filled with thousands of mosquitoes.

“When you ranch in rice country, there is very little grass,” says Frank Reznicek, manager of Kachele Ranch. “I use the F1 cow because she is a survivor. That cow can withstand weather and insect problems, and live on anything.”

The ranch has based their very successful cattle operation around



Jim McCord’s been using Brahman hybrids for 25 years, and admits with complete certainty... “The F1 cow is the best for us!”

the Brahman hybrid cow, because she gives the best results with the least amount of effort. "Of all the cows we have on the ranch, the F1 will always raise the heaviest calf....always."

Kachele Ranch holds their cattle to some pretty stringent standards. They expect their cows to have a calf on the ground at 24 months, breed back, wean a heavy calf, and work easily. In fact, Reznicek thinks that ease of handling is one of the biggest benefits of using Brahman hybrids.

"Time means a lot to me," he says. "Our F1 cattle are so easy to train and work. You let that F1 cow see the gate, and she's gone. It takes us only about half the time to work our F1s than it does our quarter-bloods or purebreds."

Like McCord and Crain, Reznicek believes in quality. He likes to buy thick, beefy Brahman bulls to put on his purebred Hereford cows. And, he's willing to pay for the quality. "I always end up paying a little more for my bulls than maybe I wanted, but when I see the calves, it makes it all worth it."

Reznicek's plan is to wean his calves in August, then background them for 45 days. They raise their own replacements, and he loves the mothering ability in his F1 cows.

"We have a lot of problems with coyotes on the ranch, and we will not lose a calf out of an F1 cow. They will protect that calf 'til the end," Reznicek praises.

Kachele Ranch also keeps the F1 steer mates and retains ownership of the steers through the feedlot. His F1 steers generate the most profit out of any of the steers on the ranch, Reznicek says, because of their health and efficiency.

"Our F1 steers are the healthiest calves on the place," Reznicek boasts. "We've had F1 steers gaining over 4 lbs. a day."

WHAT IS IT FOR YOU?

The list of benefits for using the F1 cow goes on and on. If you agree with Reznicek, McCord, and Crain, sound off by voicing your opinions on *The American Brahman Review's* facebook page. Share your story and let others know why YOU use the F1 Brahman female. ©TABR



Frank Reznicek loves the mothering ability of the Brahman F1... "We never lose a calf out of an F1 cow... they protect that calf 'til the end!"

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