

How are fullblood, purebred, and percentage breeders important to the Braunvieh Breed?

806 words

There are many important aspects to a cattle breed, but the most important one is having avid fullblood, purebred, and percentage breeders in the association. They must all be progressively working together to improve the breed. Each of these breeding systems greatly impacts the promotion and advancement of the breed and recognizing these differences along with appreciating each kind of breeder is very important for the prosperity of the breed.

Percentage breeders promote and demonstrate the potential of what Braunvieh can do for others in a crossbred setting. Percentage cattle are the gateway to get other producers hooked on what the breed can do in a crossbred setting, often leading those satisfied customers to come back later for purebred and fullblood genetics. Percentage cattle can also be utilized as a part of the breed-up process to purebred status. Percentage breeders may focus on breeding cattle solely for the purpose of beef production and carcass traits or generating maternal replacement females for a strong cow base. Due to the maternal abilities Braunvieh possesses, percentage breeders may be advertising Braunvieh as great recipient cows. Braunvieh recipient cows have unique value to any type of breeder. Braunvieh exhibit good temperament and have good body condition scores, making them the perfect recipient cow. Breeders implementing Braunvieh into their crossbreeding strategies improves beef quality, efficiency, and profitability. Percentage breeders are crucial to spreading the Braunvieh breed and making a name for Braunvieh in feedlots and sale barns. Percentage breeders ultimately utilize beefbuilder cattle to demonstrate what the Braunvieh cattle can do in various crossbreeding settings to attract others into the Braunvieh breed.

Purebred breeders create the majority of the number of registered Braunvieh. These cattle are the most common type in any mainstream continental breed and are the core of the breed providing the ability to market a more commercially viable product. This includes the

introduction of valuable genetics like polled or black cattle and the ability to more quickly make progress in traits like calving ease and growth. These breeders are considered to be the genetic suppliers of the breed. Purebred cattle offer uniformity and superior genetics while Purebred breeders support the future of the breed. They strive to make Braunvieh cattle more commercially appealing and productive while building off of the traits the original cattle are known for. They utilize many tools such as documented pedigrees and estimates of genetic merit, like expected progeny differences (EPDs), performance recording technology, and residual feed intake (RFI) testing to drive the breed forward in pursuit of improved performance, profitability, and marketability within the industry.

It is important to have a foundation to go back to in case of purebred breeding going too far in one direction or if the inbreeding rate becomes excessive, making Fullblood breeders viable to the Braunvieh breed to protect the foundation of the breed and help improve and sustain the fullblood population. These breeders essentially help maintain Braunvieh's distinguishable characteristics and their history. The maintenance and improvement of the fullblood cattle in the herdbook can also help the purebred breeders maintain a higher percent of actual Braunvieh blood and maintain adequate breed character for buyers and future generations of cattle buyers. Fullblood breeders provide a major asset to the breed by providing a source of 100% Braunvieh cattle to build up percentage and purebred herds from. Having Original Braunvieh breeders keeps the breed's essence alive to continue to spread and grow the breed. Fullblood cattle are also utilized to produce true F1 crosses with Braunvieh cattle back on breeds like Angus, Brahman, Simmental, Simbrah, or Hereford. For example, producing true F1 crosses with Braunvieh cattle helps the customers benefit from more hybrid vigor. In particular, if a commercial customer buys a fullblood Braunvieh bull to use on Black Angus cows those calves

will benefit from 100% heterosis whereas if they used a purebred bull that is 85% Braunvieh and 15% Black Angus, those calves would only benefit from 85% heterosis. Not only does crossing to fullblood cattle amplify heterosis, but they also provide an extra safeguard the purebred breeders can go back to in the case that the purebred herdbook becomes excessively inbred or if we as breeders pursue improvement to the end of an extreme and lose too much ground on the traits this great breed is known for.

Ultimately, percentage, purebred, and fullblood breeders must work together to promote the breed and facilitate the growth and advancement for the Braunvieh breed. Each of these breeding systems are essential for the future and success of the breed. It is important for each of these breeding systems to work together as a team to help the Braunvieh breed continue to move forward. Braunvieh breeders must continue to contribute their part and collaborate with each other to make the Braunvieh breed's superiority be recognized by cattlemen all across the world.