

Participant Information:

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Division: Senior(Age 20)

AJBA/ABBA Membership Number: 72216

Could not find the electronic paperwork, so here is all of my information

There are a few things that come to mind when I think about how the Brahman Foundation can spend the money raised. I personally feel that the Brahman Foundation can be used as a catalyst for developing connections between various junior members. I wish the American Junior Brahman Association offered a few more diversified outlets for junior members. This is where the Brahman Foundation can step in, due to the fact that they are a separate organization that can focus completely on the junior members.

Aside from the ANIMO award, I believe the Brahman Foundation can use money to help provide new scholarships to youth who are excited about the Brahman breed. Instead of creating scholarships just for high school students perhaps we can create scholarships for students in college. We can create two different recipients. One majoring in an Agriculture related subject (ex. Animal Science, Agribusiness, Ag Education), and another majoring in a non-Agriculture related subject.

In order for someone to be considered they need to submit an application, college transcript, resume, and a short essay that should describe why they chose their major, and their plans for the future. This information would then be looked over by judges and scored as if the student was applying for college again. Each scholarship could be valued at a minimum of \$500, and if decided various tiers of the scholarship could be created. Say for example if three levels were created, each level could award different monetary amounts (e.g. \$500, \$750, \$1000) the highest scholarship would be to the most qualified individual. In all it could be similar to a competition where first place receives a scholarship valued at the highest amount, and as the placings go down the amount decreases as well.

Another idea is to try to create a youth based semen sale program. Even though the AJBA has a program already set up, it only awards a set number of straws to a single recipient. As a youth member I am currently struggling to find bulls to use on my small herd. If a program was created different breeders could nominate bulls that, at the beginning of the year, could be used for semen sales. Such program could help offer discounted semen on bulls, or even make high quality semen available to only junior members.

For example, Bob's Brahman Ranch nominates their bull BR Manso 20/1, and they decide to offer 300 units of semen on that bull for the year with a minimum order of 5 straws. Junior members would then contact that breeder about the availability of semen on that bull. If straws are still available the junior places an order for semen. The semen can either be stored at a collection facility(e.g. Bovine Elite,

Sexing Technologies, or Elgin Breeding Services.) A list for the available semen could be released in February/March and run through the end of the year. The main cost for the program would be marketing of the program and possible awards to be given to the various ranchers who nominated bulls.

This program will give a large number of juniors the opportunity to improve their genetics, as well as produce revenue for ranchers who seek to help youth whom are eager about the Brahman breed.

Next I propose the idea for a Youth Leadership Conference. Here juniors from across the country can come together to learn more about the Brahman breed. Attendees would spend about three to four days staying at a ranch or at a college that has programs that study Brahman cattle. The only thing would be an age requirement which should be at least 16 years old. This is due to the fact that youth would be rooming together with the same gender. This would give members the chance to get to know new people. Over the course of the next few days speakers can come in and talk about animal nutrition, health, judging, breeding, meat and carcass standards, and various speakers who know about the Brahman breed.

The Brahman foundation could transport attendees to local Brahman ranches where they could see live demonstrations and learn from breeders. For example, if the conference was held in College Station youth can go tour Sexing Technologies, Kallion Farms, Meduna Estate, or even going to Brehnam to visit Bulls Eye ranch.

I got the chance to go to a leadership conference for Boer goats and there we saw the whole process of gate to plate. We judged the animals, processed the animals, and then ate the animals during the last day. Attendees could pay for the cost of the conference; this would cover food, lodging, transportation, etc.

The last proposal is to set up a Youth Advancement Program. Here juniors can obtain points by doing different task. Members would end up having a year to complete various tasks and turn in the required paperwork to the Brahman Foundation. Age groups would be created separating youth. This way the Brahman foundation can create easier task for the younger participants and harder task for the older participants.

Once again a tier system could be created. Each task completed awards different points. At the end of the year youth with 3000 or more points are awarded a banner, 2000-2999 points a buckle, 1000-1999 a plaque, 900-999 a rosette, and further down as points decrease. The various tasks could include attending shows, field days, seminars, participating in contest at the All American, and things at home like essays, working with ranchers, volunteering, or creative tasks. This program could give youth a chance to shine even if they don't show.

In all there's a lot the Brahman foundation can do for junior members, and I'm excited for the next few years. As the Brahman Foundation develops and grows I can see great things that can help junior members.