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Why did I choose to show a Brahman/invest in Brahman Cattle  
and knowing what I know now would I make the same choice?

To be honest, showing Brahman cattle was not initially my choice. Truth be told, it was destiny. It was LBA great; the late Mr. H.R. Williams who introduced my family to the breed, particularly my older brother, Andrew. Watching Andrew, then my sister Ali, show and WIN with Brahman cattle, I couldn't wait my turn to get involved. Even though I did not really have a say, there was no doubt Brahman were the way to go!

What has been super rewarding for me and my family is that we have bought and shown Brahman cattle with superior genetics that are now beginning to produce offspring that we as a family are proud of. We have culled some animals that we have bought to show because of traits that did not fit our liking. We have also bred my brother, my sister and my own show calves because of traits that better fit our kind. My dad says that we are in the beef business first, and further down the line and less important is showing them. But, I love to show. Even though Brahman breed is by nature a docile animal, one of our most important traits that we have culled for has been docility. In order for us to handle and feed the animals' everyday they have to have a temperament that is desirable to us. After that, but not any less important, is good bone structure with as much meat on their bones as possible. In recent years we have been able to purchase and collect semen from bulls we have selected to help us obtain these traits. Our close friends, Mr. Jeff Smith's family (mainly, Mr. Jason ) has worked with my dad, flushing some of our cattle and artificial inseminating the rest of our herd. This has allowed us to work toward our goal to make better Brahman beef cattle.

Last year, my parents bought me my first show animal- Mr. LMC LF Polled Ace 4/4 (P). This was the new genetic trait we are introducing into our herd; POLLED. I immediately bonded with Ace and loved showing him. Ace was perfect with a docile personality, good bone structure with lots of meat on him, and he was polled. In his pedigree it showed one and a half generations back on his dam and sires pedigree to be polled and because of that we thought he would be the perfect bull for us. Sadly and without warning Ace died in the pasture before we got to use his genetics. Besides heart break, his passing was unfortunate because I dreamed of great things from my bull.

Prior to him dying, we had flushed one of our cows to a Polled Bull that we bought semen on and from this mating we were blessed with both a smooth Polled Bull (Bazooka) and a smooth Polled Heifer (Bubblegum) that I am showing this year. We are hoping for good things to come of these two and this mating. Just last week we had Polled Bazooka and Polled Bubblegum ultrasound tested and we are hoping for good results; hoping to prove good Inter Muscular Fat (IMF) in our animals. This will help us to know if we are making Brahman with tastier meat.

Although we no longer have Ace, my whole family and I have built good friendships with Mr. Carlos Guerra and Mr. Luis Flores and their families. We just bought more polled semen from them and flushed our matriarch cow CLF- JS Mildred 846/8 to him and we praying for good results through this mating.

My Grandfather, Bob Simon, who has always had an interest in the industry says, “ it’s a good time to be in the beef business”. We are working hard to make better Brahman Beef Cattle and hopefully we will continue to improve our Brahman breed. This is why I hope to continue to show the kind of animals we are breeding and selling some of them along the way too. Last year I made a sale that covered all expenses with my baseball team!

As recent as 2014, the Daily Nation noted the Brahman Beef Cattle as “head and shoulders” above other breeds. Noting all traits that we have grown to love; likability, heat tolerance, size, and ease of care as well as their long reproductive frame of 15 to 18 years, Brahman make excellent investments for farmers. **There is no question that if I was given a choice I would remain showing and breeding Brahman Cattle.**