

SOUTH POLL GRASS CATTLE ASSOCIATION

SOUTH POLL
The Southern Mama Cow Breed

WINTER EDITION, 2015

Sumners assemble South Poll herd in Marshall County, Ala.

In 2005, Stanley Sumners attended the DeKalb County Fair in Fort Payne, Alabama, where he saw Teddy Gentry sitting at a booth about cattle. Stanley talked to Teddy and found out that Teddy had started the South Poll breed of cattle at his farm, Bent Tree Farms, and what that breed of cattle was generally about.

Stanley lives in rural Marshall County in northeast Alabama with his wife Helen. This is where he grew up and has continued with his own farming practices.

Stanley owns two layer hen houses and he has also owned commercial Angus cattle.

Stanley's son, Andy, helps regularly on the farm, as well.

He helps his dad with the daily cattle operations.

Stanley and Andy, both, work full-time jobs outside of the farm. This makes farm life a little bit hectic at times, but they manage it. As the herd began to grow, Andy went into full partnership on the cattle operation to share with the work load and benefits of the farm.

Stanley and Helen are members of Beulah Baptist Church, where Stanley is a deacon.

Both of the Sumners' children, Andy and Tisha, and their families attend Beulah Baptist Church, also.

In the spring of 2006, Stanley called Dave Roberts, herdsman at Bent Tree Farms, and dis-

cussed the cattle that they had for sale. Bent Tree Farms had a set of 20 young heifers and two older heifers. After looking over and discussing these cattle with Dave, Stanley decided to purchase all of these heifers and begin their South Poll herd. Later in 2006, Stanley and Andy attended the meeting at Teddy's farm that officially started the SPGCA.

In addition to this new South Poll herd of cattle, Stanley and Andy continued to raise commercial Angus cattle and run two separate herds for a while. Eventually, with a little push from Andy, they raised only South Poll cattle.

In the spring of 2007, the first

group of South Poll calves was born. Stanley and Andy kept in close contact with Teddy and Dave throughout the early stages of raising South Poll cattle to learn grazing techniques that have worked for them, as well as, trying to implement these techniques.

As the breeding season has come and gone for 2014, Stanley and Andy now have close to 75 momma cows. Many of these momma cows are the same ones that they started with in 2006.

Stanley and Andy do what works for them and their schedules. They implement strip grazing, but not as much as they would like and hope to be able to do more as the time allows. They



Stanley and Andy Sumners with a group of bred heifers.



A good set of bred heifers, above and below, on the Sumners' Farm

continue to feed hay during the winter months because there is not enough winter grazing available.

Many people have a misconception that South Poll cattle will only work if you can strip graze or mob-graze the cattle, but that is definitely not the case according to the Sumners. Whatever your situation may be, the South Poll breed will work for you the Sumners say.

Andy has recently become a board member of the SPGCA and says that he is committed to making this breed grow. The SPGCA's members will help you in any way that they can and answer any of your questions, Andy says.

The Sumners thank Teddy Gentry and Dave Roberts for their continued support of the association and its members. The Sumners believe that this will be a great breed of cattle for many years to come.

The Sumners invite you to visit them at their farm or on the web at www.sumnersfarm.com.



An outstanding first-calf heifer and her daughter.

**Save the Date of Friday, June 26 and Saturday, June 27
for the seventh annual SPGCA Field Day and Auction
to be held at the home of board member John Lyons and his wife Andra Lyons in Piedmont, Alabama.
*Watch the newsletter or our website for details.***