

CGA LIBRARY

DEVOTION MAKES A FARM STRONGER

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Melissa's story was the winner of the Literature Section of the Photography, Art and Literature Competition at the 2007 National Junior Show.

Devotion can be a powerful tool used in farm work. The operation of Carroll Creek Cattle Company, my family farm, uses this characteristic to get the jobs done around the farm. These jobs can include that of; feeding cattle, halter breaking cows, cleaning the barn, fencing the back of the farm, getting cattle ready for shows, as well as planting and harvesting crops. When realizing that farm work is more than just sitting on a tractor, but actually hard manual labour one will want the best animals that they can prosper from, and this is where Gelbvieh cattle are strategically used.

Throughout our journey of farming the breed that we found to do the best are Gelbvieh cattle. Gelbvieh cattle possess a wide range of characteristics, which allow them to fit into a herd, with ease. Their docile, good nature allows them to be comfortable with human interaction. The cool temperament of the Gelbvieh cattle is a key factor in any smooth operating farm. A farmer will be more willing and content at the end of the day, realizing that the hard work has paid off. The Gelbvieh cattle's tranquil personality also allows them to be great for halter breaking and being shown as 4-H projects. By having calm cattle one is able to use this to their advantage when showing, as the judge will notice them as a unison pair, and this guarantees one a second look in the show ring. Therefore, by having an even-tempered Gelbvieh cow, farm work becomes easier and the dedication is wanted to be put forth.

By having Gelbvieh cattle at our farm, it has made them the breed of choice for us. Gelbvieh cattle have vast characteristics which can make them fit everyone's need on the farm. Even looking back at where the breed has come from, the Northern Bavaria area of Germany, their name was more of a description since in German 'gelb' means yellow and 'vieh' translated to cow. In this time frame, the Gelbvieh breed was considered a dual purpose breed, excelling in both milk production and performance. The Gelbvieh cattle's dual purpose helped it in exceeding in the beef industry today, as beef cows need to have a high milking rate to produce high performing offspring. With excellent quality offspring the return rate for the farmer for keeping the cow has a better pay-off. When cross breeding, Gelbvieh cattle compliment and precede those of other breeds. With this in mind, Gelbvieh cattle fit perfectly into any crossbreeding program. Gelbvieh play a major role in producing profitable animals for today's beef cattle producers. Select crosses can prove a profitable outcome. The hybrid vigor when mixed with Gelbvieh cattle is proven to make outstanding offspring, making them yet again the breed of choice.

Furthermore, Gelbvieh cattle are the breed of choice for our farm as they offer all the traits that we look for when purchasing replacement females. Farmers devoted to other breeds usually tell of how their respective breed excels in calving ease, maternal traits, weight gain, fertility or even carcass quality. Unlike other breeders, Gelbvieh enthusiasts know that their cattle possess all of these traits in one eye appealing package. This shows that Gelbvieh stand out in a wide range of profit orientated traits. Gelbvieh cattle have the advantage at every stage of cattle production, and is the choice for any farmer looking for proven attributes in today's cattle industry. When the Gelbviehs' traits come together not only the cow will succeed, but so will the farmer.

As a result, the breed of choice for any beef farm world wide is Gelbvieh, as it is the primary backbone of any valuable animal. For that reason, if one is willing and wanting to spend their time farming the only breed of choice is Gelbvieh.