

## **IRBBA 2015 BREEDER AND MEMBER OF THE YEAR GARY MARKHAM**

International Red Brangus Breeders Association (IRBBA)'s 2015 Member and Breeder of the Year was Gary W. Markham alongside Tim Mikolajchak, of Markham Cattle. Markham says he has been raising Red Brangus cattle since about 1994. "We are primarily a purebred Red Brangus breeder," Markham explains, "but we sell our lower-end cattle commercially."

His passion for the cattle business and industry was deeply rooted to his youth, as he was raised in the Texas panhandle in a town called Matador. Markham says his hometown was surrounded by big ranches filled with cattle.

"I bought my first property at Manvel in 1991, and I bought some sale barn calves to put on it," Markham explains, "then I just kept buying property that bordered mine and buying more cows." He says he firmly believes Red Brangus cattle are best for his climate. Markham also says he is happy to have appealing cattle in his pasture.

Markham says he believes his IRBBA membership goes back to 1995, while his International Brangus Breeders Association (IBBA) membership dates back to 2005. While his membership in these associations is highly valued, it is not the extent of his involvement.

"I was elected a director of the IRBBA about 11 years ago," Markham recalls, "and I've also been the IRBBA treasurer for going on three years now." In addition to his leadership, Markham has participated on multiple committees in the IRBBA and IBBA. His committee participation includes working on shows and commercial marketing.

"Being IRBBA Breeder and Member of the Year was a surprise to me," Markham admits, "I am very happy to have been chosen." He adds that he has acquired many cherished memories from his time with the IRBBA.

"Being involved in the IRBBA has been an important part of my life," Markham says. "I have made many good friends among my fellow IRBBA members and breeders."