

IRBBA MEMBER OF THE YEAR TRACEE BUFFALOE-PRICE

The International Red Brangus Breeders Association (IRBBA) honored Tracee Buffalo-Price at its annual meeting, in April, with the Member of the Year award.

"The Buffalo family has raised cattle for many generations. My paternal great-grandfather, Ed, and his brother, Frank, raised registered Brahman cattle, and my paternal grandfather, Gene, had a commercial herd my whole life," Price explained about her family's operation, Buffalo Cattle Company. "It wasn't until [my grandfather] passed away that my dad, Bruce, and Grandma Wilma really started to get big in the Red Brangus breed." The Buffalo family has had Red Brangus cattle since 1986. The Buffaloes have had an IRBBA membership since 1994.

Involved in more than membership with IRBBA, Price is the chairwoman of IRBBA's Scholarship and Foundation Committee, and she helps coordinate the IRBBA's annual meeting each year.

"When my Grandma Buffalo passed away, the breeders wanted to do something to honor the oldest IRBBA member. They started a scholarship in her memory," Price said about the scholarship program. "It was then that I stepped up my participation within the breed to help keep her memory alive."

Members, like Tracee, with a passion for involvement in the association help to make IRBBA prosperous. Price said she makes a point to ensure the Red Brangus breed is well represented.

"She was a school teacher for over 25 years, and her passion to help students learn is what keeps me so involved," Price said of her grandmother. Price said she has been involved since April of 2009, when IRBBA first awarded scholarships in her grandmother's memory.

"It was very emotional, and I know she would have been so honored to know that because of her hard work a student was going to be furthering their education," said Price. "It was just a very special time for our family to be able to remember her like that." Price said the privilege of awarding the first Wilma Buffalo Scholarship is her most cherished memory.

"This award was a huge shock," Price said, in regard to being honored with the IRBBA Member of the Year award. "I had absolutely no idea that my fellow breeders thought I was doing such a good job. The reason I push the scholarship program and committee so hard is because I love that I can give back to today's

students."

Price is a Texas A&M University alumna and what she considers a "die-hard Aggie." She also has a passion for volleyball, and she has enjoyed coaching varsity athletes for over six years. Price said her family is of utmost important to her. She and her husband, Vince, and children, Luke and Paige, spend their time in Port O'Conner fishing and in Vanderbilt getting their farm ready for harvest.

"The IRBBA, to me, is much more than five letters; it's people I can call family and friends," stated Price. "It's a tradition I hope I can keep passing on in my family as well."