

COUNTRY VIEWS

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BEEF ISSUE

Horsing around all business for these beef producers

by Mike Kolbe, General Manager

KIRKMAN — Gabe and Cindy Hanson, along with their three girls, Nicole, 20, Morgan, 17 and Katlynn, 13, live the classic farm life among rolling hills four miles east of Kirkman. Along with a cow/calf herd of just over 50 head, Gabe farms approximately 1,000 acres between his and his parents' (Karl and Cindy) ground, while Cindy and the girls breed, raise and show horses across the country.

Not enough farm experience? Mix in a good dose of 4-H, FFA and Shelby County Fair activities and the chore bucket stays full.

Gabe comes from a cattle family, and the couple started with a few cows to get the girls started showing in 4-H. They expanded the operation with the purchase of Gabe's father's herd in 2018. "If we're checking five head, we just as well check twenty," Gabe told Cindy at the time. The herd has continued to grow since that time.

Hanson's cattle herd today is comprised mostly of Red Angus cows, many of which are bred with a Charolais bull. "We have had good luck and really like the 'mellow yellow' cross," Cindy said. "Those calves have really hit the ground ready to grow."

Black Angus bulls run with the other cows in a second pasture.

Cindy (Juelsgaard) grew up north of Kimballton and met Gabe during the Shelby Co. Fair. "The cattle have always been in Gabe's family, but I only had a calf for fair," Cindy said.

She worked at a vet clinic in Audubon for several years where her love for cattle grew. "Caring for them can be challenging, but there's nothing better than a momma cow loving her baby," she said.



The Hanson's raise a mixture of Red Angus, Black Angus, Black Angus Cross and "Mellow Yellow" cows and calves.

"We need to feed the world, and every cattle producer is doing the best they can," Cindy said. "Feed costs are high, pasture is hard to find, and I don't think you will find a harder working life than that of a cattle producer."

Gabe and Cindy met at the Shelby County Fair twenty-seven years ago, which has evolved into their beautiful family of five. The fair still holds a vital place on their annual calendar. The girls usually show steers from the family herd, earning high praise and awards for their efforts.

"Those were all home raised, giving us pride in feeding and raising those calves," Cindy commented.

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