

Minnie Lou Bradley is 2014 Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery Inductee

April 17, 2014

Officials of the Kentucky State Fair Board have announced that the 2014 Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery inductee is Minnie Lou Bradley of Childress County, Texas. For those involved in animal agriculture, this selection is a very high honor. It is bestowed by the Saddle and Sirloin award committee based on service to and impact on the livestock industry. The portrait gallery is the livestock industry's hall of fame and is housed at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Minnie Lou Bradley is a rancher, a progressive land steward, a purebred Angus master breeder, and a renowned livestock industry leader.

Mrs. Bradley and her husband, Bill, purchased 3,300 acres in the Texas Panhandle in 1955 and began the Bradley 3 Ranch. Today, the expanded 10,000 acre Bradley 3 Ranch continues under the management of her daughter, Mary Lou, and son-in-law, James Henderson.

Beginning in 1997, Mrs. Bradley embarked on a land improvement program that began with brush and weed control and water management. Eventually, analysis of herd grazing habits using GPS information was implemented. The program of adding water sources, rotation grazing and brush and weed reduction has resulted in significant ranch resiliency in the face of recent record droughts. Her ranch has been recognized as a model of stewardship by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and by Dow Agri Services, among others.

Mrs. Bradley has been honored as a Master Breeder by Oklahoma State University and is one of the nation's Top 50 U.S. Beef Industry Leaders, according to *BEEF* magazine. Her Bradley 3 Ranch's DNA identification program, begun in 1994, has made their Angus bulls highly sought after by commercial producers looking for superior genetics with proven carcass merit. In 2013 the ranch was recognized with the Beef Improvement Federation's Seedstock Producer of the Year Award.

Her lifelong habit of leadership began at an early age. In 1949, Mrs. Bradley was the first woman to major in Animal Husbandry at Oklahoma A&M, and she went on to earn her degree. She was the first woman to win the high individual overall award at the National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest. She served as American Angus Association board member (1997 to 2003) and went on to be the AAA vice president in 2004. She then became the first-ever female president of the association in 2005.

The Saddle & Sirloin portrait presentation will take place on November 16 at the 41st annual North American International Livestock Exposition. The expo, which is held annually at the Kentucky Exposition Center, is scheduled for November 9 through 21 in 2014.

The Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery is curated by the Kentucky State Fair Board and is displayed throughout the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville, Kentucky. The

collection includes nearly 350+ oil paintings and dates back to the turn of the last century.