

TLBAA SPECIAL AWARDS

IT'S TIME TO VOTE!

The TLBAA special awards will be presented Friday, January 16, 2027 as a part of Texas Longhorn Weekend. Nominators provided background information on each nominee. **All active TLBAA members in good standing are encouraged to vote for one fellow breeder in each of the categories for the special honors.** Votes can be emailed to awards@tlbaa.org. If unable to email you may fax to the TLBAA office, and it will be forwarded to the awards committee.

Deadline for votes: December 18th, 2026, 5pm CST, no late ballots will be accepted. Only the official ballot with member name and TLBAA # included will be accepted.

Dave Evans Breeder of the Year Award



**Brian Brett
Brett Ranch**

Brett Ranch started their longhorn venture back in 2009 and quickly rose to a top tier breeding program.

Brian Brett has devoted his longhorn breeding career to studying and analyzing elite bulls and cows, resulting in some of the most respected genetic lines

in the industry. The BR brand is widely known as a symbol of excellence. Top bulls associated with his program include BR Cracker Jack, BR Real Deal, BR Jungle Jim and BR Carbon Copy, a 2021 HSC Grand Champion winner. While many breeders rely on futurity accomplishments to validate their breeding program, Brian's stellar reputation has been built on consistent production of outstanding cattle. By design, none of these outstanding bulls have Cowboy Tuff Chex genetics. Brian's focus on producing top outcross bulls has helped strengthen and diversify the industry's genetic pool.

Today he is utilizing IVF in his herd, improving his genetic footprint in the breed, as well as mentoring and growing other herds across the industry.

Some exceptional cows produced in the BR program include BR Jenny Belle, BR Nova Scotia, BR Dream On, BR Dee Nile, BR Becca Bella, BR Cracklin' Rose and BR Poco Nova. All have contributed significantly to the success of his program through their horn growth, size and conformation. Over the years, he has also identified, purchased and bred influential females such as TTT Jammin Jenny, Awesome Nova, I-IL Casanova's l-atie, AM Rose's Ruby (the dam of BR Real Deal) and Star's Dream Catcher (the dam of BR Dream On).

An example of the respect Brian has earned came in August 2026, when an elite ranch purchased 16 heifer embryo calves from multiple BR matings. Such a transaction reflects the confidence that fellow breeders place in his breeding philosophy. At auctions and events, breeders frequently seek Brian's insight and advice, reflecting the high regard they have for his knowledge and judgement. It appears everything is coming together for

Brett Ranch as you see the BR brand so frequently in the pedigrees of today's top animals.

Brian's likability and approachability have helped numerous breeders understand the attention to detail that it takes to be a top breeder. Brett Ranch is the result of countless hours of studying genetic pairings and evaluating bloodlines that span many generations. His understanding of pedigrees allows him to trace and explain the genetic traits behind his cattle. His breeding accomplishments, industry influence and willingness to help fellow breeders make him deserving of the Dave Evans Breeder of the Year Award. ★



**Chad & Janell Smith
Smith Longhorns**

Chad & Janell Smith of Smith Longhorns are truly deserving of the title Breeder of the Year. They have built a program founded on quality, consistency, and a genuine commitment to preserving and continuing the traits

and characteristics that define the breed. Not only are Chad & Janell exceptional breeders, but they also give selflessly to the industry repeatedly. From offering top notch consignments and providing sponsorships, to stepping in wherever is needed. The Smiths are never afraid to get their hands dirty. Whether it is working behind the scenes, helping haul animals, lending a hand, or simply offering words of encouragement, they consistently give their time and resources to support others and strengthen the industry. One of the Smiths' greatest contributions is the countless hours they have devoted to mentoring new breeders. They genuinely want to see others succeed and are always willing to answer questions & offer sound advice to new breeders. Within their own program, Chad & Janell continue to breed with purpose and consistency. They stay committed to honoring the original traits and characteristics of the breed while making thoughtful decisions to continually improve the quality of their herd & the industry. They support a strict animal husbandry and DNA their animals, proving the importance they place on responsible breeding, sound management, and supporting exact records for the future of the breed. Overall, Chad & Janell Smith exemplify what a Breeder of the Year should be. ★



Scott & Megan Pace
Pace Cattle Company

Scott and Megan Pace of Pace Cattle Company are deserving candidates for the Dave Evans Breeder of the Year Award because their dedication to Texas Longhorn cattle reaches far beyond their own breeding program. Their experience, success, and willingness to invest in others have left a lasting mark on the breed and on countless programs from coast to coast.

We have experienced their generosity firsthand. From the health of our cattle to selecting our first herd sire, Scott and Megan have mentored us through some of the most important decisions we have made as new breeders. They have helped us prepare for shows, opened their facilities to us, and shared their knowledge without hesitation. Whether we have a question about an animal, need advice, or simply need reassurance that we are headed in the right direction, they are always willing to answer a call or text.

Their hospitality is just as memorable as their mentorship. You never leave Pace Cattle Company without being offered a snack or a meal, and you always leave having learned something. They make people feel welcome, valued, and part of the Longhorn family. That generosity creates relationships that extend well beyond the sale of an animal or a day spent at the ranch.

Scott and Megan's success in the breed is a reflection of years of dedication, thoughtful breeding decisions, and a genuine commitment to producing quality Texas Longhorn cattle. Their influence can be seen not only in their own herd, but in the many breeding programs that have benefited from their genetics, experience, and guidance. They understand that bettering the breed means helping others succeed, and they consistently put that belief into action.

The Dave Evans Breeder of the Year Award recognizes breeders who have dedicated themselves to the betterment of Texas Longhorn cattle through their breeding program. Scott and Megan embody that purpose through their accomplishments, their mentorship, and the legacy they continue to build. They are the kind of breeders who make the Longhorn community stronger by sharing what they have learned and encouraging the next generation.

We are grateful to call them mentors and friends. We are proud to nominate Scott and Megan Pace for this award, and we believe their contributions to the breed, their generosity, and their lasting impact make them truly worthy of this recognition. ★

Elmer Parker Lifetime Achievement Award



Justin Rombeck
Bar R Cattle Co

We would like to nominate Justin Rombeck for the 2026 Elmer Parker Lifetime Achievement Award. Justin's dedication to preserving, promoting, and advancing the Texas Longhorn breed has made a lasting impact on our industry. In 2005, Justin founded Longhorn Opportunities, helping breeders with genetics and herd performance to enhance desirable traits and honor the breed. His ability has helped many programs improve their breeding decisions. Justin's nationally recognized photography has also brought attention to the beauty of the breed and introduced many new people to Texas Longhorns. He chaired the HSC Committee for five years, giving countless hours to elevate the event and its success. In 2020, Justin and his wife, Amanda, founded Herdsman Legends Auctions, LLC, doing business as Legends Longhorn Sale and Futurity. This event has achieved tremendous sale averages and offered some of the largest prizes in the industry. Justin has also successfully organized and campaigned several syndications for outstanding sires and dams. Through his leadership, knowledge, vision, and willingness to help others, Justin has forever affected the Texas Longhorn breed for the better. We believe he is exceptionally deserving of the 2026 Elmer Parker Lifetime Achievement Award.★

Jack Phillips Award



Jim & Becky Rombeck
JBR Longhorns

We would like to nominate Jim and Becky Rombeck for the Jack Phillips Award. This remarkable couple embodies the spirit of this award through their quiet yet powerful presence and nearly 30 years of dedication to the TLBAA and the Texas Longhorn breed.

Jim served for several years as a TLBAA Vice President and has completed multiple terms on the Board of Directors. He is also a co-creator of the Midwest Texas Longhorn Affiliate and the sale it hosts in Marysville, Kansas. Becky founded Genetically Defined, helping breeders with herd management, website photo updates, and DNA processing. Together, Jim and Becky have also been val-

Voting Rules:

- Must be an Active or Lifetime member in good standing
- The Official ballot must be used. Please do not just email names
- Only one vote each per membership number
- Only select one person for each of the four awards

Nominees continue on next page

Thank you to everyone who participated in nominating their fellow breeders.

ued members of the HSC measuring team, ensuring that data is right and dependable. For almost three decades, Jim and Becky have quietly worked to promote, preserve, and strengthen this amazing breed. Jim and Becky represent the true spirit of the Jack Phillips Award; dedicated, dependable, selfless, and committed to making the breed better for generations to come. They are truly deserving of this honor.★

MEL RALEY RISING STAR AWARD

Brittany Fellows & Kale Pierce-Broken Oak Ranch



Brittany Fellows & Kale Pierce of Broken Oak Ranch have proven the grit, determination, and commitment that truly define a Rising Star. They have been willing to learn, invest, listen, and most importantly, put in the work. They have taken the time to educate themselves, research pedigrees, study the breed, and make intentional decisions. Brit-

tany & Kale have also shown tremendous support for fellow breeders. They recognize that a strong industry is built by people who are willing to support one another, and they have embraced that philosophy while continuing to grow their own program. Their purchases of quality cattle reflect their commitment to surrounding themselves with genetics that can contribute to the future of Broken Oak Ranch and the breed. What stands out most about Brittany & Kale is that they have carefully selected females with strong maternal lines, bulls with proven production. Allowing them to breed pairings designed to continually raise the bar for quality within their own herd and the breed. Brittany Fellows & Kale Pierce embody the spirit of a Rising Star through their dedication, willingness to learn, commitment to quality, and determination to build a program with a legacy. ★

TLBAA SPECIAL AWARDS BALLOT

Official Online Ballot available at
www.tlbaa.org/tlbaa-special-awards/



Scan For Ballot

All TLBAA members are encouraged to vote for one fellow breeder in each of the categories for the special honors. One vote per membership number. Online submissions are preferred. Ballots can also be e-mailed to awards@tlbaa.org or mailed to the TLBAA office: PO BOX 4430, Fort Worth, TX 76164

Deadline for votes:

December 18th, 2026 5pm CST

No late ballots will be accepted.

DAVE EVANS

BREEDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

- ☐ Brian Brett, Southlake, TX
- ☐ Chad & Janell Smith, Killdeer, ND
- ☐ Scott & Megan Pace, Oktaha, OK

ELMER PARKER LIFETIME AWARD

- ☐ Justin Rombeck, Axtell, KS

JACK PHILLIPS AWARD

- ☐ Jim & Becky Rombeck, Marysville, KS

MEL RALEY RISING STAR AWARD

- ☐ Brittany Fellowes & Kale Pierce, Weatherford, TX

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