

Kimberly Ratcliff Manager Caney Creek Ranch

by Maxine Session

Kimberly Ratcliff is a thirty-seven year old graduate of Long Island University and Texas Christian University who manages a 25,000 acre ranch. She recently hosted more than one hundred farmers and ranchers and agrilife and natural resource conservation staff at a workshop held at the Caney Creek Ranch.

She manages the Caney Creek Ranch, is president of the 100 Ranchers Inc., an organization of East Texas Farmers and Ranchers, takes part in presenting workshops across Texas on all aspects of hay season, testing for embryos and producing and marketing cattle. Caney Creek Ranch is owned by Westly and Marie Ratcliff, Kimberly's parents. Westly is from Leviston, Texas and Marie is from Houston, Texas. They are both graduates of Prairie View A & M University.

Kimberly graduated from Carmel High School in New York. She earned her Bachelor degree from Long Island University. After living and working in Bloomburg, New York, ten years, she came to Texas to help manage the ranch. She attended Texas Christian University for ranching management.

The thirteen year old, 25,000 acre Caney Creek Ranch produces a large selection of breeding age Charbray bulls and females for sale. This breed of cattle is adaptive to the extremes of Texas and southern state climates.

In research at Texas A&M, McGregor, Texas, Charbray outperformed all other breeds tested for a 180 day weaning weight - both as a straight breed calf and when Charbray bulls were used on seven different breeds of dams.

Kimberly says the goal of Caney Creek Ranch is the continuing tradition of producing

Charbray bulls and females that possess superior performance, carcass, fertility and pedigree.

They offer many other services to the small or partime rancher and farmer, custom springing service for both Tiffian 85 and Jiggs hay and embryo services. They take their best cows out of production and flush them to their superior bulls.

Following a full morning of workshops a barbeque lunch was served to the participants.

Some of those in attendance were: Kanand Brooks, Assistant State Conservationist Zone 4, Kenya Nicholas, USDA 2501 Program Director and Outreach Coordinator, Willie Brown, Billy Lawton, Horace Hodge, Willie Holmon, Outreach Specialist of Lufkin, Erica Blakemore, Soil Conservationist, David Henderson, Soil Conservationist, Dr. David Daniels, Program Specialist Co-operative Extension from Texas A & M, Lavern Manning of B. & L. Ranch and other local farmers and ranchers from as far away as Houston County were in attendance.

The Texas AgriLife Extension Department at Texas A & M and Prairie View A & M are composed of faculty helping farmers and ranchers learn about Agrilife through teaching research-based technologies throughout the state and nation. Their specialists are based in eight different regions of Texas. They are available to help Texans learn about areas such as beef cattle, dairy cattle, goats, horses, meat and other foods, sheep, and swine.

Kimberly, does her part in providing information and grants to assist farmers and ranchers through workshops, grants and 100 Ranchers, Inc. which she heads as president.



Charbray cattles used for demonstrations at workshop.



Dr. Dough Steel Director of US Department of Agrilife from Prairie A & M University and Kimberly Ratcliff, manager of Caney Creek Ranch.

