

He's Golden

Beefmaster enthusiast Donnie Kasper receives one-of-a-kind honor

by Chel Terrell

Successful organizations are built upon a solid foundation, grounded in a common vision and relying on the stability of its leaders to guide the path forward with purpose and in the best interest of the group as a whole.

Nearly 50 years ago, the groundwork for the Live Oak Beefmaster Breeders Association (LOBBA) was laid, led by then vocational agriculture science teacher Donnie Kasper, Three Rivers, Texas. Kasper saw a growing interest in Beefmaster cattle in the county and had a vision to help breeders capitalize on this opportunity. From helping form the organization to raising funds to build the Live Oak County Fairgrounds barn, organizing sales and innumerable other efforts, Kasper has been a stabilizing force within LOBBA and an invaluable part of its success.

"Donnie has been special to Live Oak for many years and is the bedrock of the association, from the foundation to present day," said Melvin Scherer Jr., LOBBA president.

Not only has Kasper served as LOBBA secretary since its inception, he is known as the "go-to" for all

things related to the association with his ability to rally support for ideas, find answers to questions, and motivate others to accomplish tasks – all with a focus on LOBBA's success.

"He's a pleasure to work with, and I don't know of anyone else that has contributed and dedicated as much time to the association as Donnie has," Scherer said. "He's been a major help to me all along, providing new ideas and giving his honest opinion. He's just solid and doesn't get involved in politics, tells you like he sees it, weighs things out, and is a good mediator."

To show gratitude for his many years of selfless service to LOBBA, the association surprised Kasper with the special Golden Legend

Award during this year's bull sale in January. This is the first – and possibly only – such award to be given to an LOBBA member.

"We wanted to give Donnie something extremely special," Scherer



Donnie Kasper, Three Rivers, Texas, received the first-ever Golden Legend Award for his many years of leadership and service with the Live Oak BBA. Pictured above are Peggy and Donnie Kasper and Melvin Scherer Jr., Live Oak BBA president.

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said. Kasper received the prestigious LOBBA Legend Award in 2004. "He may be the first ever and last ever to receive a 'Legend' award twice. That's why we call it the Golden Legend Award."

"Donnie has been the best ambassador for Beefmaster in that whole community and within the entire industry. He personally gets credit for starting the Live Oak association and is probably one of the most stabilizing forces in the association," said Anthony Mihalski, longtime friend, auctioneer and LOBBA sales manager. "He has more knowledge about Live Oak and the community than anyone out there. The fact that he is always so willing to do whatever it takes to get something done has been a blessing."

Lighting the Beefmaster Fire

It started over a cup of coffee. After considering the number of Beefmaster breeders in Live Oak County and future possibilities, Kasper sat down with breeders Raymond Weiding and Joe Yarbrough to discuss forming a Beefmaster association in the county. With a plan in mind, Kasper set out mailing letters to 34 breeders, asking them to attend a meeting. In October 1974, that group of breeders met and founded the Live Oak Beefmaster Breeders Association, electing Yarbrough its first president.

"I thought they had everything here in Live Oak County to start a Beefmaster association, have sales and promote the cattle and the breed. I told them they'd have a lot of interest," Kasper said. He was right, as LOBBA just celebrated one of its most successful annual graded bull sales with 125 premier lots consigned.

The association also hosts sales in the spring and fall, all held at the Live

Oak County Fairgrounds in a barn built thanks to the generosity of LOBBA members. On Jan. 11, 1977, 22 members signed a \$50,000 note to build this barn, with Kasper and other members lending their labor efforts to help with the building process. The first sale in the new facility was held shortly after building completion. LOBBA donated the barn to the fair association in 1984, with an agreement that they can host three sales a year at the facility.

"The success of LOBBA over all these years has truly been a joint effort among members," Kasper emphasized.

No Slowing Down

Kasper purchased his first Beefmasters in 1977 and has maintained a small, quality herd with a good mix of breeding lines from some of the top cattle in the breed. He continues to actively consign cattle to LOBBA sales throughout the year, proudly consigning the 4th place bull in the January 2019 bull sale.

"You try to put them together right, feed them right, and get them there right. I've been happy with the way some of my bulls have done," he said.

You'd be hard-pressed to meet a more humble contributor to the long-term success of LOBBA than Kasper.

"Live Oak's intent with this Golden Legend Award is to recognize Donnie above other awards. He's earned it and deserves it. Of everybody out there, he's the one guy that has worked the hardest and completely unselfishly," Mihalski said.



Kasper overseeing digging of post holes during an expansion phase of the Live Oak barn.

"Through my work with Live Oak all these years, anytime somebody needed something done or didn't know the answer, the first go-to guy was always Donnie Kasper. He would never have expected an award of this nature."

"I'm very appreciative and surprised with this award because they caught me off guard. I was not even thinking of such a thing," Kasper said. "It's been an incredible adventure for my family and me, and we've enjoyed every bit of it. It takes a lot of hours, but they're good times. I have thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful people in the Beefmaster family and helping with the association."*



Kasper thoroughly enjoys raising Beefmasters.

EMBRYOS		SEMEN FOR SALE	
# Units	Cost/Unit	# Units	Cost/Unit
10 - Cavalier X Destiny (Infinity X Temptation)	\$ 175	30 - Cavalier (EBS Stored & Checked, etc)	\$ 250
6 - Black Jack 21 X Virginia (Painted Tiger X Cherokee Lee)	\$ 175	20 - Infinity	\$ 200
		20 - Sugar Britches	\$ 350
No Limit			
		Ace in the Hole (Black)	\$ 55
		Ace of Spades (Homozygous Black & Polled)	\$ 100
		Black Bayou (Black & Polled)	\$ 150
		Black Jack 21 (Black)	\$ 100
		Bullet Proof	\$ 100
		Bullseye	\$ 55
		EMS Captain Britches	\$ 45
		EMS Headliner	\$ 35
		EMS King George	\$ 35
		Fire & Smoke	\$ 55
		Fire House	\$ 100
		Galveston	\$ 75
		Generator	\$ 55
		Goldstrike	\$ 100
		Kang (Black & Polled)	\$ 35
		Lights Out (Homozygous Black & Polled)	\$ 75
		McAlester	\$ 65
		Mr. Coffee (Black)	\$ 150
		Raisin Cain	\$ 100
		Red Bayou	\$ 55
		Rio Grande (Black & Polled)	\$ 45
		Smith & Wesson	\$ 45
		Tiger Britches	\$ 55
		Tupelo	\$ 65
		Who Dat	\$ 35

Call for more information or to consign cattle.

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