



**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Preserving the Texas Longhorn Heritage**

The Texas Longhorn cattle breed is most famously known around the world for exactly what its name indicates- its long, masculine horns. However, this is not the only beneficial quality this rare breed possesses.

Texas Longhorn cattle have developed strong survival instincts by overcoming much adversity. This self-sufficient breed is recognized for its adaptable characteristics to harsh, dry environments much like what is found in the southwestern U.S. regions. Their hardy, aggressive behaviors are used for defense and the longevity to survive with little water and food. Longhorn bulls can be used to breed with first year heifers due to the fact the breed is known for producing low birth weight calves. This breed's unique traits make it a positive consideration for crossbreeding with commercial beef herds.

Longhorn cattle breeder Trigg Moore of Hico, Texas, said he has always admired the breed. When they were an undomesticated animal in the wild, nature culled out the animals with the weaker genes. Moore explained now through controlled breeding, a better animal is produced. Moore also said the Longhorn's most beneficial characteristic is its diversity.

"Not only are they the leanest beef, but we can sell the hide, the skull and the culls can be used as ropers in the roping market," Moore said. "They are just a versatile breed."

Moore said most people misunderstand the Longhorn to be wild animals when actually they are the most docile of cattle breeds. Breeders breed cows and bulls to enhance confirmation, horns and color. These animals are used to mainly increase structural soundness and confirmation in the breed. Steers are

primarily bred for their horns and color. Steers are useful in their attractiveness, protecting young heifers and leading the herd.

Moore indicated the Longhorn has much to contribute to the cattle industry. "This exceptional breed is easy to raise, disease resistant and does not require much care which could easily help lead someone into the cattle industry."

When the breed began diminishing, the federal government began protecting the Longhorns from extinction in 1927 to preserve our unique western heritage. It is the only cattle breed which is truly adapted to America without the influence of man.

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