

Dear FBA and FJBA Members,

I hope you all are doing well and enjoying the nice spring weather we have been having across the state! I wanted to write this letter to explain my vision for the association and how the board and I would like to see this organization of great breeders improve this year.

First and foremost, thank you for choosing to be a part of our association. We are dependent on breeders like yourself to keep this operation afloat. With that being said, we are asking members as well as non-members for donations to benefit this association. As I am sure you know, we have the FBA Field Day and Sale each year in April, and we are currently taking Brahman Heifer consignments as well as donations for our silent auction. So, even if you do not have a heifer available to consign this year, you can still give to the association by donating items to the silent auction or raising your hand to buy a heifer! All members are welcome to contact us regarding consignments for both the sale and silent auction at – Jesse Sevall 352-494-3397 or Jody Counts 386-937-0736. In addition I would personally like to thank our Sale Committee members, Jody Counts (committee chair), Jesse Sevall (vice chair), Alyssa Beers & Marcia Armstrong as they have been working hard to make this a great sale during the Florida Brahman Association Field Day. Remember the sale and silent auction held during the Field Day is one of the only ways the FBA raises funds for both the FJBA and FBA to provide for our members.

Next, I would like to go over just some of the improvements we are making to the website in order to provide better resources for our members. We have revamped the website to include a number of things, like easier membership applications and renewals, a downloadable membership directory to make contact with other breeders a breeze, and even a locator map to see exactly which breeders are in a certain area! We also have a classified section where you can start listing cattle for sale and other agricultural-type items. Our thought was we could start sharing the classified items on our Florida Brahman Breeders Association Facebook page. So, if you have cattle or ag items for sale give the site a try – it is free for FBA and FJBA members! I certainly encourage each of you to visit the website soon. I hope you enjoy these updates and use them to get to know each other better.

And talking about getting to know each other better, we need all our current directors and past Presidents to send some info about themselves so we can add that to the website. Please send whatever you think is important to share (info about yourself, your ranch, how long you have been breeding Brahmans, why you think the FBA is important, if a past president when you were president, etc) via email to [info@brahmanjournal.com](mailto:info@brahmanjournal.com), as the team at The Brahman Journal is helping us with the website.

Lastly, we have made many improvements to our Facebook page. If you don't already follow us on Facebook I highly encourage you to do so. We make posts regarding news in the association, deadline reminders, and congratulate FBA and FJBA members on their accomplishments in and out of the showring. If you have any news you would like included, you can either contact me or simply send photos and info in a direct message to the page. We hope all members will see the page as a platform to encourage, converse, and interact with each other on all things 'Brahman'.

We have been working hard to make this association the best it can possibly be for you all, but if you have any suggestions or things you would like to see happen in the future, please let a board member know. I look forward to seeing you all at the FBA Field Day and Heifer Sale this April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Gainesville, Florida.

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