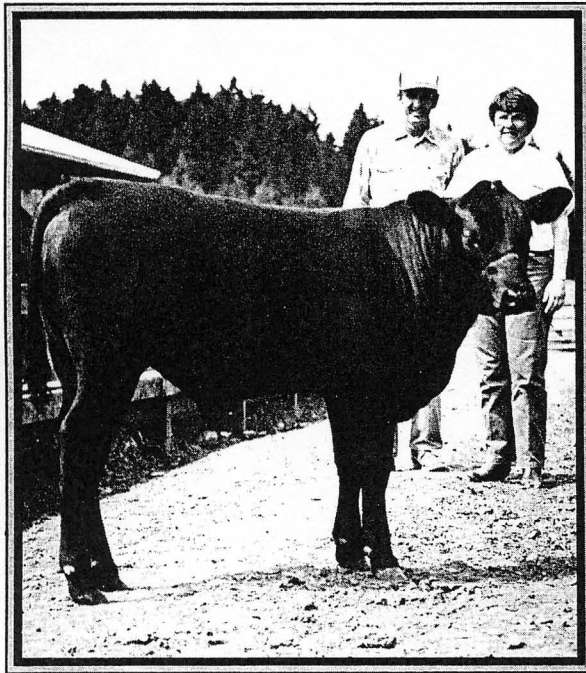




# GOSHEN HOLE RANCH

*Concentrated linebreeding with precision timing  
of outcross introduction yields success for  
Patricia Alexander's Goshen Hole Ranch.*



*GHR National Trust  
recently sold for \$147,000  
in Goshen Hole Ranch's  
"Angus Plus" sale.  
Herdsman Bob Bryant  
and Pat look at the product they  
have been striving for in  
the Goshen Hole program.*

**I**t doesn't take airing on a soapbox to show that Pat Alexander is a progressive woman and that she successfully owns and operates Goshen Hole Ranch, Junction City, Ore. She's got a plan and has been implementing it for 10 years—the past six in an official Goshen Hole program.

You might say she's had intellectual insight into developing a sound breeding program that provides fact, not falsity.

Pat and her husband Henry are originally from Georgia, and Henry taught first in California before moving to Junction City. Henry is a professor of philosophy at the University of Oregon.

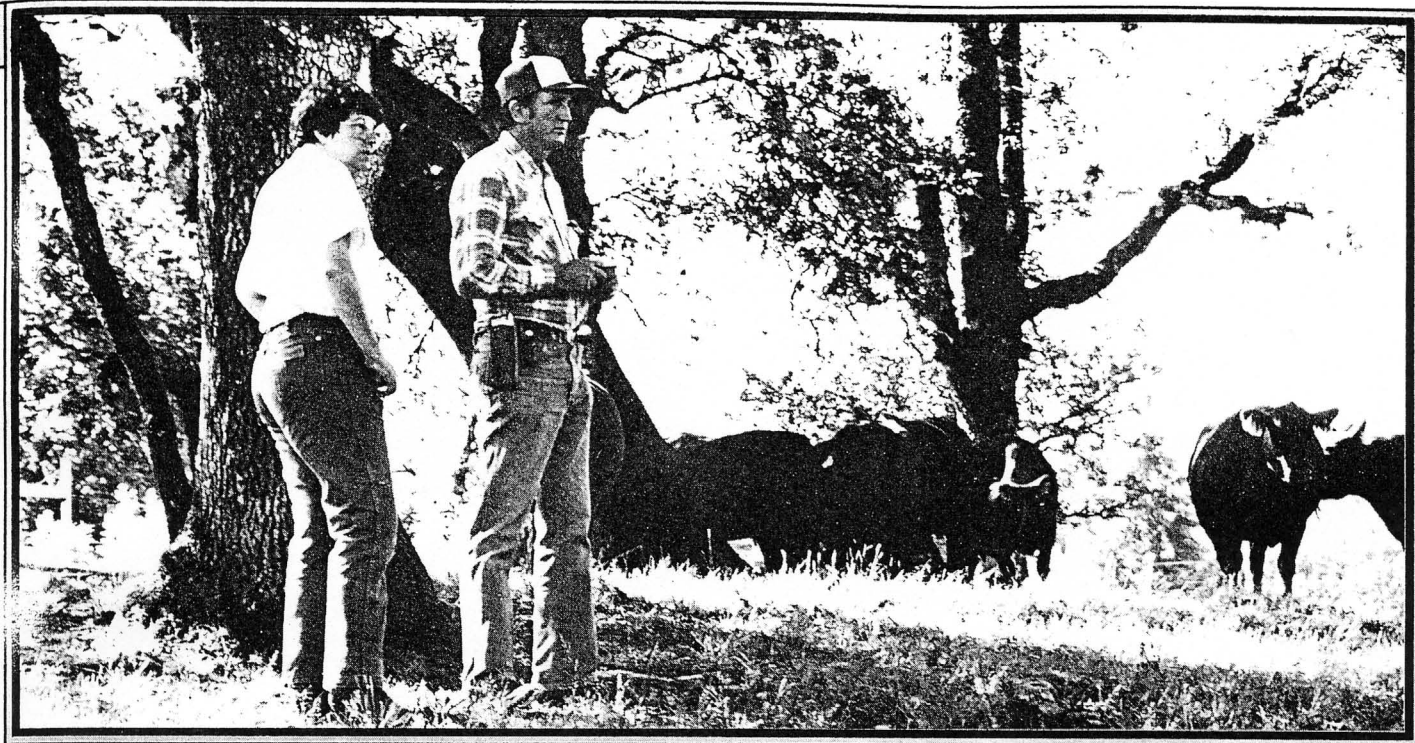
"When I first moved back here I started raising Prime beef. I got a little tired of that and decided to go into the registered business," says Pat.

Knowing what she wanted and where to get it, she made major purchases from Kenneth A. Clark's Craigie-Ingle-side, Alderson, W.Va., and Gibbet Hill, Groton, Mass. In essence, she secured linebred cows as close to Wye- or Craigie-bred females as possible.

"I wanted to start a cow herd with as few genetic defects as possible, and also begin with very closely related cattle," says Pat. From this point she began to develop the Prideta cow line.

Producing a female from a Craigie-bred dam mated to Father of Wye, Pat came up with Prideta of Goshen Hole 108F, a cow that she considers number one in her herdbook of linebred Wye breeding.

by Lori Riffel



*Pat and Bob have standard criteria for the ones that are good enough to perform in the Goshen Hole herd of predominantly linebred Wye breeding.*

Pat's rigid selection of foundation females has influenced the consistency of maternal traits, color, soundness and structural pattern characteristics that have held true in Goshen Hole's linebred program.

After a few years of concentrating the herd program on linebred bloodlines, Pat opted for a change. She chose a market segment that would hopefully offer the most returns—the "show" market.

#### **Time for change**

"We had to change not the style of our cattle, but rather the height," says Pat.

Breaking into the "show" market can be a teeter-totter affair. Pat is determined, though, and fully intends to make her mark in this market, realizing the chances she must take.

"I don't think you're in this segment of the registered business unless you are extremely lucky—and you spend lots of money," comments Pat. She knows also it is more than money. Success depends on sound judgment and wise decisions.

She looks at the Goshen Hole breeding program in two ways. One, the physical animal produced and, more importantly, the genetic input to that animal. She stresses the need to develop a breeding program that can with-

stand the test of time and overpower weaknesses that can create genetic havoc.

"Most important here at Goshen Hole is production of a cow I can live with as far as the bloodlines are concerned, with as few faults as possible. She must meet the criteria of the industry—the part of the industry we are selling to," says Pat. "We're trying to sell to a very, very small part of the industry—probably only a half of a percent."

Goshen Hole's 39-head inventory provides the setting stone for an operation carried out totally through artificial insemination and embryo transfer. First- and second-calf heifers initially enter into production by raising A.I.-sired calves before being considered for a donor cow position.

#### **Outcross, the option**

Pat first introduced outcross bloodlines to her program four years ago with the A.I. service of Bon View Connection, then later used Blacklock McHenry 13Y ("Great Northern") and PS Sasquatch 904, in whom Goshen Hole retains an interest. Pat dubs "Sasquatch" as one of the really great maternal bulls in the country.

"Two and a half years ago we made the decision there were two reasons to

use different sires," says Bob Bryant, Goshen Hole's herdsman. "It was plain and simple. One, marketability. We needed those sires that were desirable, ones people wanted calves out of. Second, as tightly wound (bred) as our cattle were, we wanted to achieve a hybrid vigor situation by outcrossing."

Pat saw promise in a young calf and in 1982, she acquired an interest in Pine Drive Big Sky and implemented him in their A.I. program. Later additions to the Goshen Hole roster include Silver Plume Lil Abner and HAR Bang 1774. Fairfield Hi Guy and QLC Target have also made contributions to the ranch's calf crop.

"Both Bob and I are really interested in breeding cattle and the show ring is important to us because we want to produce a great animal," says Pat.

Producing a winner at Goshen Hole will not happen by chance, but through delicate timing of genetic unison. Pat has carefully molded her cow herd to provide a maternal power base for any calves dropped at Goshen Hole.

The offspring developed from insistent maternal breeding (the Prideta line) and outcrossed with Fairfield Hi Guy have provided Goshen Hole with popular young bull calves such as GHR In



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The Black, 1984 Western National Angus Futurity reserve junior calf champion, and GHR National Trust, who recently made his debut at Goshen Hole's Angus Plus sale. (He gained the attention of breeders east of the Rocky Mountains—enough that they laid down \$147,000 for an interest.)

### Maternal qualities first

"Maternal traits have always been the most important with us. We cull for fertility and physical female characteristics," says Pat.

Even while using the outcross to further enhance the quality of her herd, Pat still remains a believer in her linebred program.

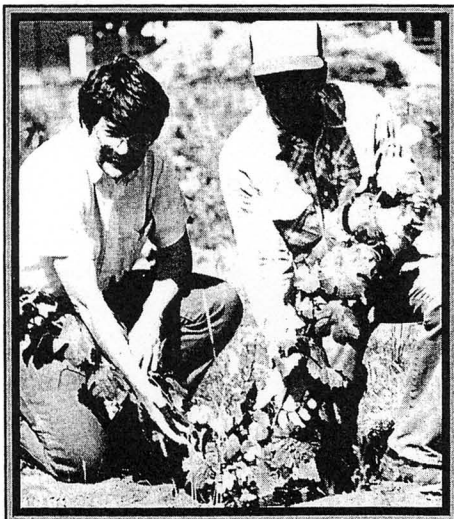
"If I could continue with the same bloodlines forever and ever, using Wye bulls or Craigie bulls or whatever to linebreed and have the height we need, I would never change," states Pat.

### No false illusions

Pat is adamant in her requirements of cattle that receive her stamp of approval for a breeding program. She will not offer up for sale anything she would not place in her own program.

Bob agrees. "They have to have an acceptable frame score, weaning weight and be completely correct," he summarizes. "In other words, they have to be good, and if there is any questionable markings, they go." Goshen Hole

*Wine grapes are also a part of the business at Goshen Hole.*



also makes a policy of culling any bull with white on their testicles, and refrains from using any bull with white in their A.I. program.

"We don't want to sell anything under false illusion," said Pat.

"Last year, approximately 50 percent of our bull calves went to John Holden of Westwind Ranch, Valier, Mont., for range bulls," said Bob. "That was the second year we had sold to him and because of our criteria, he was willing to take bulls down to 5.5 (frame). Because we were using the Missouri frame score, he felt they would work fine."

About 10 percent of the frame 6 and up bulls are marketed at range bull sales. Most Goshen Hole frame 6 bulls go to Montana breeders.

Pat explains that they would like to be able to sell bulls directly from the ranch to an Oregon region, however she indicates it is not a range bull area. Within 50 miles of Goshen Hole, there are 25 people who have less than 50 cows each.

"In fact, you notice people that sell everything within a 50 mile radius, we sell everything within a 3,000 mile radius," says Pat.

### Sale a success

Besides the six-figure bidding on GHR National Trust, Goshen Hole cattle stirred great demand at the recent "Angus Plus" offering.

"We're very happy with the sale, and of course the bull calf was the highlight of the sale," said Bob. Goshen Hole is also proud of the fact that their recent Oregon State Fair champion female (a daughter out of an Aman of Wye cow and by Pine Drive Big Sky) produced a flush that sold for \$8,000 and an embryo that earned a \$3,400 bid.

Goshen Hole Angus graze on varieties of white clover and orchard grass, and a carrying capacity of two cow-calf pairs per acre makes the ranch's 250 acres plentiful. Pat elects to keep the cow herd numbering around 40, while also supporting the pregnant recipient



*Henry and Pat Alexander both enjoy their professions and are greatly supportive of one another. Henry is a professor of philosophy at the University of Oregon.*

herd that consists mainly of Holsteins and a group of Angus cows.

Goshen Hole also has 41 acres where Angus don't graze. Planted on a gently sloping hillside west of Goshen Hole barns is a stand of young grape vines. In this new business, Goshen Hole plans on producing three major varieties, cabernet sauvignon, white riesling and chardonnay. Pat has a contract with a winery in Dundee, Ore., for the production of her wine.

### The bottom line

Showing a profit remains the vital factor here. To make the pen write black in past years, Pat has had to sacrifice prospects of future hopefuls.

"We've sold some of the best animals we've ever produced. Not because we wanted to, but because we had to. Last year was the first year we didn't have to sell all of our progeny," says Pat.

Tough seasons haven't dampened the spirits of Goshen Hole's woman in charge. You'll find Pat out in the physical elements amongst the cows, or in the office updating records and making future contacts. She's in on the happenings day in and day out.

"I'm the boss and I like being the boss," proclaims Pat. **AJ**