



 *A Day in the Life*

# Tehama Angus Ranch

The California foothills provide the backdrop for Angus cattle, almond and walnut groves, and this family business.

*Story & photos by Mayzie Purviance, intern*

►Tehama Angus is owned and operated by the Borrer family of Gerber, Calif. Founder of Tehama Angus and former chairman of the American Angus Association Board of Directors, Bill Borrer started his herd in the 1940s and has since expanded the Borrer family herd while passing down a love for the breed amongst four generations.

The passion for producing quality beef is evident the moment your feet hit the ground at the Tehama Angus headquarters. Here is a look into the unique daily lives of the Borrer family.







►Tehama Angus is home to 550 mother cows and has expanded more than 600 acres of pasture and mountain land throughout California and Oregon. The Tehama Angus headquarters is split into four sections. Each section has a barn/corral, hay barn, feed and water troughs, and a breeding barn. Every five to six months, cattle are rotated to a new section.



►Another aspect unique to Tehama Angus is the massive orchard of almonds and walnuts on the property. In 1983, the Borrer family planted a crop of almond trees, which has since turned into their greatest source of income.

Four variations of almonds and walnuts are grown at Tehama Angus Ranch. What you see here is a cluster of walnuts on 10-year-old walnut trees. Also on the property are 12-year-old almond trees. The Borrer family saves the almonds and walnuts. Both are harvested in the beginning of August and are then sent to a huller. The hulls are given back to the Borrers to be used as roughage for their cattle.

►In the California cattle industry, one of the biggest issues is the foothill abortion tick. According to Bill and grandson Bryce, this tick takes out about 15% of a herd and some people have lost up to 40% of first-year calves. The tick originates on deer and makes its way to cattle while they are grazing in the foothills. If a heifer or cow is bitten by the foothill abortion tick, she will have an immunity for three years. It's a safe bet that a cow will be bitten every year, therefore they stay immune. Tehama Angus is currently working with the University of California–Davis on a vaccine to guard against foothill abortion. The cattle pictured above were given a test vaccine this past year.



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► In 1975, Bill hosted California's first private bull sale. He speaks of the Hereford dominance in that time, and jokes, saying, "They would dock you a nickel a pound if you took black cows to the sale barn." Currently, Tehama Angus hosts a yearly bull sale.



► Now that he is retired, Bill spends his time creating beautiful pieces of wooden furniture. He uses resources from the farm, and uses wood from the orchard for his creations. Although Bill primarily spends his time in his woodshop working on furniture for this family, he says he has sold "a few pieces here and there." The last rocking chair he sold brought \$4,000.



► **Below:** Tehama Angus is managed by (from right) Bill; his sons Kevin and Eric Borror; and Kevin's son, Bryce. Bill is now retired. Kevin takes the lead in overseeing daily cattle operations, while Eric oversees farming. Kevin suggests that the success of Tehama Angus has continued because it has been passed down for generations. "We're very fortunate to be where we are," he says, "and it's time to pass it down."

