

Bridging Work Through



Brotherhood

The Sparrow family centers around improving its cattle herd and working as a family.

Story & photos by **Bridget Beran**, editorial intern

At Bridge View Angus, improvement is the name of the game. Brothers Cory, Kip and Kyle Sparrow changed the direction their dad, Roger, had originally set for the farm. Roger and his wife, Susan, raised Brown Swiss dairy cattle while they lived in Buffalo, Ky., starting in 1974. They moved back to the Frankfort, Ky., area to be closer to Susan's family and operate the family ranch. In 1996, their sons made the shift from Brown Swiss to registered Angus cattle.

"We started out by selling off the commercial cows we had and bought a small herd of registered Angus cows," Roger explains. "We began artificially inseminating (AIing) and selecting for better genetics. Over time the boys bought some select animals from sales to build up the herd we have today."

During the last 20 years, Cory, Kip and Kyle have been dedicated to improving their herd and doing whatever it takes to make it the best it can be.

"I think that's the thing I'm the most

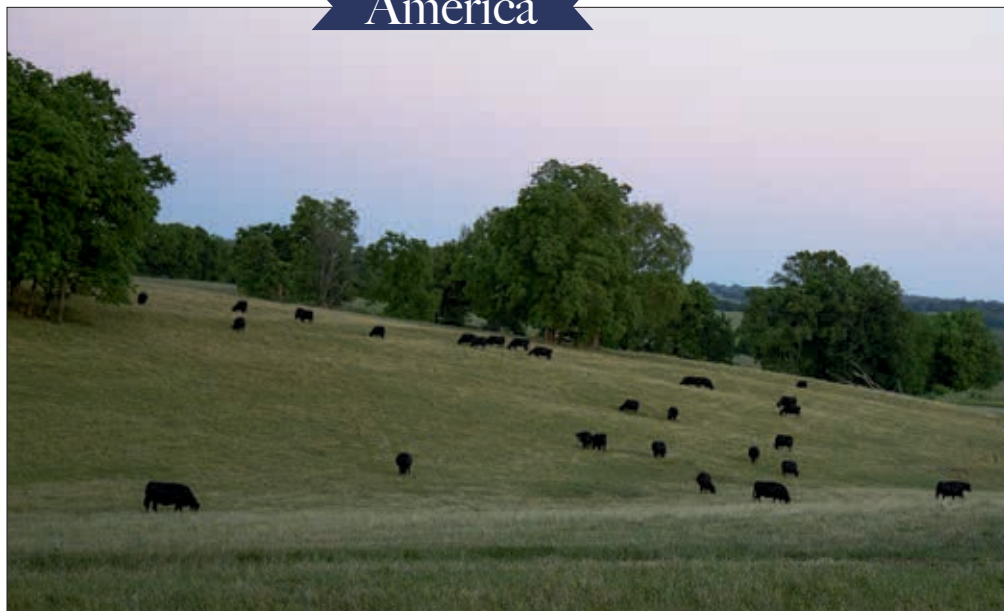
proud of at this ranch. From where we started to where we are now, there is a big difference," Cory says. "We started with some cattle that were ok, but they weren't where we wanted to be. We've taken the time and worked really hard to make our herd into some really good females."

Kip agrees, saying, "We've

grown leaps and bounds from where we started. Everything gets AIed, and we try to use an assortment of bulls. The biggest

challenge we have is finding the right bull to match up with each cow."

They've expanded to around 300 mother cows and have been hosting a production sale since 2007.



► **Above:** The Sparrow family includes (from left) Lisa, Casey, Cory, Austin, Rachel, Shelby, Taylor, Jay, Kylie, Micah, Susan, Roger, Jaime, Kyle and Kip.

► **Right:** Bridge View Angus is nestled in the northern hills of Kentucky.

Specialization

Cory and Kip focus on the cattle genetic decisions, while Kyle and Roger focus on the crop side of the business. This balance of duties helps the Sparrow family keep all of the ranch operations marching along. While getting everyone to agree can sometimes present challenges, working together is a strength for Bridge View Angus.

“We all know each others’ strengths and we try to utilize everyone in the best way possible to move toward the same end goal,” Cory says. “We’re a family-oriented operation.”

While they each have their areas of focus, getting work done is a family affair. Everyone pitches in, especially during crunch time.

“Everyone gets together and knows what they need to get done,” Kip explains. “Cory and I do a lot with the genetics — trying to study up and knowing what’s going on in the breed, but I still put in a lot of tractor time in the summer, and sometimes there are long days or late nights.”

Though cattle come first in their hearts, all three of the brothers have jobs off the ranch. Their off-ranch work serves as a way to let them continue doing what they love.

“It’s wonderful being able to farm with your brothers and your dad,” Kyle says. “I’ve been in a tractor and a part of farm life since I

was 5 years old. I enjoy farming more than my public work, but farming doesn’t always pay all the bills. Some people unwind by coming home to their couch after work. For me, I enjoy getting to come home and ride a tractor and plant corn.”

Now that Roger is retired, he helps to make sure things get done during the day while Cory, Kip and Kyle are at their jobs in town. Once they get home, they’re off to the

pasture or fields to keep things running on the farm.

Thankfully, their kids enjoy every minute of their farm life and the brothers work to balance work life, family life and farm life.

“It takes some time to find the balance between it all. It took us a few years to get it right,” Kip says. “The biggest thing you can do as a family is communicate with each other. We all have kids playing sports or in different

activities, and sometimes we’re going in a dozen different directions. So we have to talk to make sure we’re all still on the same page and getting everything done.”

Each of the Sparrow sons, including oldest Casey, has kids who are being raised around the farm. They have faith that Bridge View Angus will be in good hands in the future.

“We’ve come so far in the last 20 years, but we’re not where we want to be 10 years from



►“I think that’s the thing I’m the most proud of at this ranch. From where we started to where we are now, there is a big difference,” Cory says.

now,” Roger says. “We want to continue to grow and get better. We’ve made some tremendous strides with these kids in mind. I hope they continue to have an interest in the farm. Like their fathers, I would love to see them go to college and then come back to the farm. It’s a pleasure for me just to see everybody working together and being a family.”

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Editor’s Note: Bridget Beran was Angus Media’s 2016 summer editorial intern.



►Maternal excellence and functionality are key parts of the Bridge View Angus operation.