



With urban development sprouting up around their ranch, the Stollers made the decision to sell their Idaho ranch, but they maintained a 10-year lease to continue ranching on the property.

When the lease arrangement changed unexpectedly in December 2007, their timeline moved up. “We knew eventually we’d have to move the ranch; we just thought we’d have more time to do it,” Brian says.

Initially, he explored finding another ranch property in Idaho, but land prices were just too high, he says.

“We wanted a good location for a purebred operation with pasture and some buildings and corrals already in place,” Brian explains. “We were willing to fix things up and add some new buildings over time.”

Stoller’s search led him to Palisade, Neb., where he purchased the former Schroeder Cattle Co. facility — where Chuck Schroeder, former National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) CEO, was raised.

Located about three and a half hours northeast of Denver, Colo., and set amidst rolling hills, Stoller says he liked the ranch’s location along Nebraska’s Highway 6, which allows easy access and visibility for a seedstock operation.

With the Nebraska ranch location bought, an opportunity sale was held in April 2008 to downsize the Bear Mountain herd for the move. By May 2008 the 250 remaining cows were grazing on the ranch in Nebraska.

New beginnings

May 2010 will mark two years since Bear Mountain Angus relocated. Today, Brian and Tiffany are recently married and are joined in the operation by Tiffany’s 9-year-old daughter, Reagan, who is beginning to show cattle through 4-H and junior Angus events.

Brian’s parents are less involved in the day-to-day ranch activities, but still remain part of Bear Mountain Angus.

Brian says it has been a busy two years getting their annual October female sale and March bull sale re-established, and adding a calving barn, sale facility and feedlot area to develop their bulls. On March 2 they hosted their first bull sale in the new sale facility on the ranch.

He admits that the biggest challenge with their move is getting to know new customers and staying in touch with former customers to keep them on board as well.

“We work really hard to attend industry events, show cattle on the state and national level, and continue meeting people,” Brian says.

He wants people to know that while their location may have changed, their commitment to quality Angus genetics

In December 2007, Brian Stoller got some unsettling news. The land that he and his parents, Gary and Davy Stoller, leased for their Bear Mountain Angus operation near Melba, Idaho, was going to be developed, and they had to find a new place to relocate their purebred Angus operation — in less than six months.

While moving an entire ranch operation might seem inconceivable to many of us, the Stollers knew it could be done — because they had moved their ranch from California to their Idaho location back in 2001.

But this time, Brian, who is 33, and his fiancé, Tiffany Skow, wanted to find a location that would be a permanent one for the ranch.

“I don’t plan on moving again,” Brian says. Through tips from cattle friends and help from a realtor, Brian chose to relocate Bear Mountain Angus and 250 mother cows to 2,400 acres near Palisade, Neb.

“This is a great place to raise cattle,” Brian says.

4-H beginnings

Stoller got his start in the Angus breed growing up in Angels Camp, Calif. In 1986, when he was just 10 years old, his parents purchased Angus heifers for him and his brother Scott to use as 4-H projects. By 1995,

the two had nearly 100 mother cows, and Bear Mountain Angus was becoming well-established. While Brian went to college the herd was reduced, but after he returned, the Stollers were ready to expand their cattle enterprise again. To do so, they relocated to Melba, Idaho, and purchased the Foote Acres Angus ranch and herd. The herd grew to approximately 500 mother cows.



► Looking ahead, Brian and Tiffany Stoller say their goal is to be raising quality Angus cattle and to be well-established in Nebraska over the next 10 years.

remains the same. "Our slogan has always been 'Focusing on Quality with Performance,' and that is what we strive to do."

To that effort, one change they have made is the switch to a complete roughage ration for developing their bulls and heifers. Instead of grain, the cattle are fed a mix of soybean hulls, alfalfa, cane hay, a liquid byproduct and a mineral designed specifically for the ration.

The roughage diet allows the cattle to grow and gain well, but it is designed to be less harsh than grain so the cattle transition to grass pasture more easily, have fewer feet

and leg problems, and better reproductive performance.

Customer response to the way the bulls are fed has been very positive, Brian says. "Our customers who purchased bulls last year said the bulls held up well and did a great job of getting cows bred."

Looking ahead, Brian and Tiffany say their goal is to be raising quality Angus cattle and to be well-established in Nebraska over the next 10 years.

They are both certified ultrasound technicians through the Ultrasound Guidelines Council (UGC) and will continue to ultrasound their own cattle for genetic

merit as well as be available for hire for other breeders and at livestock shows. They call their business Nebraska's Ultrasound Connection.

By the end of 2010, Tiffany also hopes to have completed her doctorate in animal science with an emphasis in meat science through the University of Idaho. Her background in meats also has the couple considering establishing their own branded beef program someday. Tiffany has dabbled in selling a few beef halves and quarters direct to consumers in their new community and has had a great response.

