



HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND
RODEO™

Calf Scramble Program

Essay and Stall Display Examples

Great Stall Displays...

These stall displays were selected to demonstrate a variety of approaches. Not all won awards.

Stall Decor Guidelines

- Should be creative and original
- MUST hang on the top rail of the panel
- MUST be in place by 5 pm on move-in day
- Maximum size – 42in wide and 30 in tall (Stall Décor may be measured to ensure compliance.) HLSR stall signs placed on the top/bottom/side of the decorations **WILL** count toward the size limitation.
- MUST have a place for the 11" x 17" HLSR laminated sign.

Evaluation Process

EVALUATION PROCESS - A pair of evaluators will review and judge the stall decorations. The top scoring stalls will then be re- evaluated by two additional people and those scores added to the original scored to determine final placing.

EVALUATION GUIDES – The reviewers are looking for an attractive, creative decoration. The HLSR sign MUST be easily viewed to ensure proper scoring.

Any thing that may be harmful (ie – eaten) by the calf, or calves, on either side will incur a large point reduction.

Items placed at the foot /aisle will not count in scoring.

A clean appearance of the stall and calf will earn points toward final total.

Full Year on Display



Points deducted due to no HLSR sign

Honors the Donors

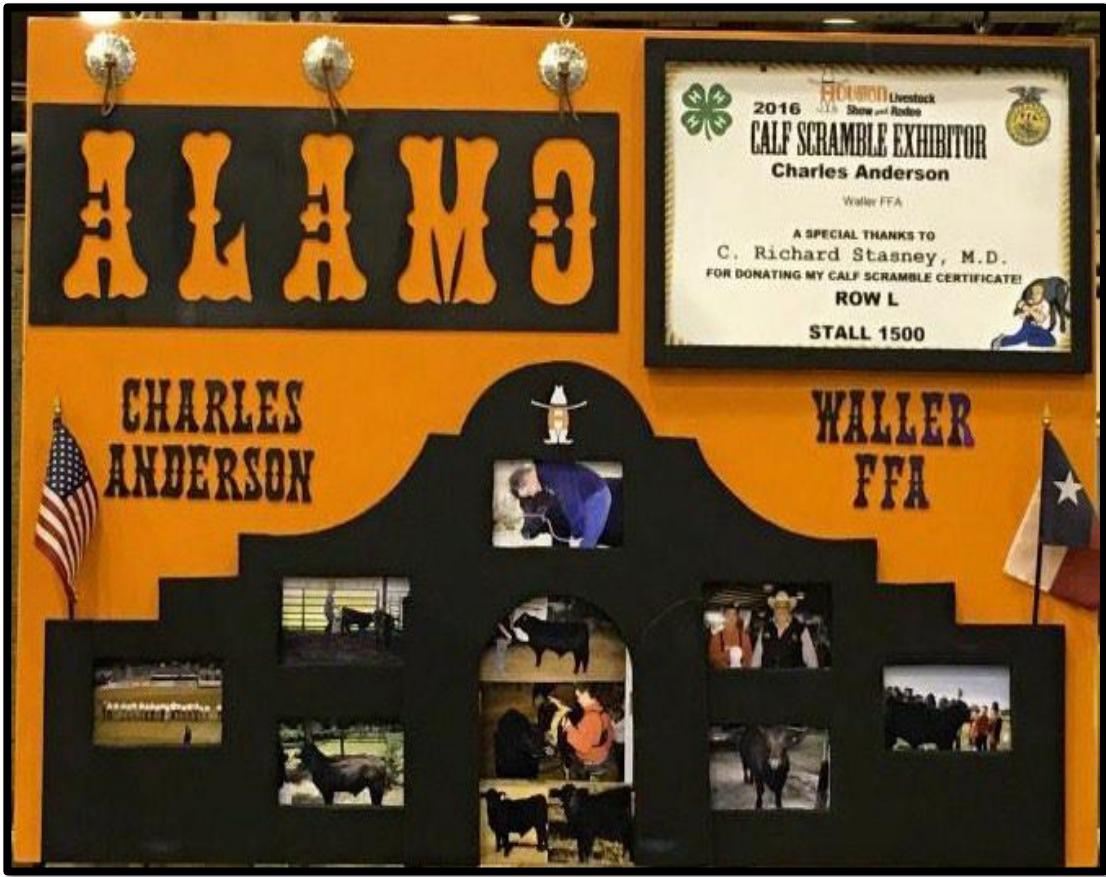


Note: Good HLSR Stall Sign Placement

Clearly Displays HLSR Sign



Note: Good HLSR Stall Sign Placement



Note: Good HLSR Stall Sign Placement

Are Intricately Designed



Are Intricately Designed



Breed Essays

Personal information in these essays have been redacted. These are examples from actual winning essays.

Evaluation Process

- All essays are read and scored by two individuals using a standardized grading rubric. These scores are averaged together. Any essay with a score differential of 12 points is scored by a third evaluator and the lowest score is deleted.
- Next, essays are divided by “heifer” and “steer” with the top ones in each category being rescored by three DIFFERENT individuals using the common rubric. These scores are added to the average score to determine final placing.
- Segments of winning essays are included on the following slides. Personal information has been redacted for privacy otherwise these essays are exactly as they were scored.

(Scrambler's Name)

Word Count: 504

Heifer

Why I Selected Ruby

In 1965, my father showed a Polled Hereford heifer at the Fannin County fair and Grayson county fair. He also showed at jackpot shows in Leonard, Trenton, and Honey Grove, Texas. In 1966, he showed up Polled Hereford bull named Hotshot. That year, Hotshot was the Grand Champion bull at Fannin County Fair. Fast forward into 2004, my dad found his six-year-old son in the barn looking through an old shoebox full of halters, brushes, and combs. This is when I learned about the family history. As it turns out, my grandpa owns a herd of Polled Hereford cattle before I was born, and the cattle industry was his passion. As long as my grandpa had his cattle, he was happy. I never really got to know my grandpa, but I hear great stories about him and how he spent all his time in the pastures with these cattle and what they meant to him.

In the following years, I continued to ask my dad about stories involving my grandpa's cows and showed interest in livestock. During my sophomore year of high school, I was given the opportunity to exhibit a Santa Gertrudis heifer for a friend from school. Her name was Wanda and I immediately bonded with her. Wanda and I attended the Fort Worth Livestock Exposition, San Angelo Stock Show, and Houston Livestock Show. I spent countless hours caring for Wanda to prepare her for these shows and enjoyed every minute of my experience, but I always knew something wasn't quite right.

My Agriculture Science teacher entered me in calf scramble competitions at Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Houston and I somehow managed to catch in all three scrambles. I knew exactly what I wanted to do! My next heifer would be a Polled Hereford. I have always been intrigued with the look of the Hereford cattle because they are so different from any of the other beef breeds. A few people tried to discourage me from getting an English breed female because of the long hair and hours of hard work it would take to maintain it, but my Ag teacher encouraged me and took me to a sale in Oklahoma to buy my first Polled Hereford. Her name is Miss Ruby Red Slippers, but I call her "Ruby" and she is perfect.

I was so excited to tell my dad what breed I had chosen, but it wasn't all about legacy for me. I researched the advantages of Polled Hereford cattle and added this knowledge to what I learned about the breed in my Livestock Production class at school. Polled Herefords are ideal because they are born without horns, saving money on dehorning and allowing the animal to gain weight at a quicker rate. Hereford cattle have great genetics and ideal features, allowing them to be a top choice when crossbreeding. Breeds such as the Beefmaster and the Brahman F1 were created using Hereford and Polled Hereford cattle.

I know that my grandpa would be so proud of the choice I made to buy "Ruby" with my Scramble money, and it is my goal to use this heifer to start my own herd with Miss Ruby Red Slippers

Scrambler's Name

Word Count: 533

Steer

WHY I CHOSE MY CALF

While researching the various breeds of cattle for the 2015 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, I came across the Simmental breed which caught my eye. The color and structure of the breed was unique compared to other breeds. During my research and talking with my FFA advisor, I found that the Simmental breed is well known for being easy to handle as well as adapting to any type of environment. I chose to raise a Simmental because of their impressive muscle structure and different color pattern choices. Once I saw the greyish/brown and white one I knew he was the one for me and named him "Smokey."

Simmentals have no clear color characteristic. They can vary from pale gold to dark red and white bodies with a white head. However, in many of the American breeds they can also be straight black or straight red colors with no white at all. Many of them have pigment around the eyes, helping to reduce eye problems which occur from bright sunlight. Simmentals are also known for their large structure and good muscular characteristics. Though they have low birth weights, the Simmental have fast growth rates compared to other breeds. The average weight is between 1500-1900 pounds. One distinguishing feature is a heavy dewlap. The heavy muscling, length and overall size and weight of the animal are combined to produce a well fleshed carcass of solid red meat with a minimum of waste fat. (<http://www.thebeefsite.com/breeds/beef/17/simmental/overview>)

As soon as I saw Smokey, he looked like a great show steer. His color was unique and stood out amongst the other cattle in the pasture. When he was brought into the barn, he came up to me as if he already knew me and there was no doubt, he was the one for me. He has been easy to handle right from the beginning which was one of the main traits that drew me to the Simmental breed. Over the past several months he has shown amazing potential as a contender for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo calf scramble and Jr. Market contest. He is one of the most favored cattle at the school's agricultural barn because of his muscle and bone structure.

Scrambler Name

Word Count:

Heifer

Why I chose June Bug

When I saw that I had to write an essay on why I chose to purchase a Brangus heifer for my Scramble heifer, I told my mom, "This will be easy!" See, I've shown Brangus for the past four years. My brother shows Brangus. My mom showed Brangus. We raised registered and commercial Brangus cattle. I guess you could say we are a Brangus family! So, choosing Brangus as my breed was easy. I knew when I was done showing her, she would go out into the pasture and have babies that I could continue to show. That was the easy part of my decision. But then I started to think about why we raise Brangus. Mom had said that I could choose another breed if I wanted to but that it had to work in our heard. I looked at Brahman, Santa Gertrudis, and even Red Brangus, but I always came back to my black Brangus babies. Why did I come back to black Brangus, for me it was an easy choice – June Bug!

I've always been on the small side. So, when we went to look for a new heifer for the show, I wanted one that had a gentle disposition and ate well. Even though I'm small, I'm stubborn and want to halter break my own heifers. At the very first ranch we looked at, I found June Bug and boy did she fit that bill. Right off the bat Mr. XXXX introduced us to June Bug and her mother and showed us how they loved their feed buckets. From my past experience I knew this helps out a lot when I start the haltering process. Both June and her mother walked right up to us to be petted which checked off my requirement for a gentle disposition. Two main requirements filled, and we were well on our way to finding the perfect heifer for me!.

The next reason I wanted a Brangus is due to their calving ease. Our family is really busy, so our cows need to be able to have their calves without any assistance from us. My grandparents run their own serving business and my grandpa is also a pastor. My mom is an Agricultural Science teacher. So, we aren't always around when the babies come. Since I love baby calves, I don't want to lose one due to the mama cow having problems. Once the calves hit the ground, they grow fast, and black cattle sell best at the market! So, there was another point in June Bug's column.

The final reason I chose June, and the Brangus breed is because of my family. No, not my mom, brother, and grandparents – but my statewide Brangus family. The very first year I attended the Texas Junior Brangus show I made so many friends across the state. Everyone helped each other out. There was a friendly competition but genuine happiness for your friends when they won. Every year since then, I can't wait for the Texas Major Shows and in the summertime so I can catch up with my friends. We also attend our National show every year. Not only do I have Brangus friends in Texas, but also in Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Kansas, Alabama, Florida, Arkansas, and even Georgia!

For me, choosing June Bug and the Brangus breed was an easy decision. I'm looking forward to sharing our journey with you, the Calf Scramble Committee.

Scrambler's Name

Word count

Heifer

Why I chose my calf - Rosie

I've caught a calf at Houston! Apparently, that was the easy part. Now I must choose a breed. My mom is an agriculture teacher so this should also be easy, but it turned out not to be easy at all. It felt like we searched the world over in search of "THE heifer." Why did we finally settle on a Brahman you ask? Why not is the better question?

Brahman cattle have to be one of the most popular breeds of cattle in the world. Just go to a livestock show and look around. Brahman cattle are everywhere. Everyone recognizes the breed for their big ears, humped backs, beautiful color and gentle looking faces. In my part of East Texas, they are raised by many breeders. In fact, I have a large breeder right next door to me. I live in the country so next door can be anyone within a 5-mile radius. I see this breed nearly every day.

I didn't just pick the breed because of their popularity. I picked it because they are known for their tolerance for heat and for their lack of hair. I have raised steers most of my show career and I know how important it is to keep cattle cool in the summer. Haired cattle have a harder time staying cool and it is important to take care of that hair even when it is 100 degrees in the shade. I really wanted a calf that maintenance wise would be a little easier to take care of and that maybe I could decide at a moment's notice to load her up and take her to a show without a lot of fuss of having to worry about her needing a haircut.

Now before you think I chose the easy road let me assure you that was not my intent. Raising cattle is not easy and I knew that when I went into this project, but I am ready for it. My heifer, Rosie, isn't at my house because she is just a baby and needs to be with her mamma. She is going to be weaned next month and then she will be ready to come live at my house. When we first saw Rosie and her mamma, I was a little worried because everyone knows you do not mess with a Brahman mamma. But when we walked out into the pasture, the cattle came right up to us including Ms June – Rosie's mamma. I was sold immediately. Not only was Rosie beautiful but she was gentle and liked me.

I am looking forward to showing off Rosie at the Houston Livestock Show Calf Scramble judge next March.

Year-End Essay

Year-End Essay Guidelines

- Are uploaded by February 1st deadline
- 1,000 words...Do not exceed 1,100 words (You may finish the sentence/thought)
- Focus on the entire year's process not just scramble night
- Follow guidelines to a “T”
 - **Essay Title** – “My Calf Scramble Project”. This should appear on title page of your essay. Must have Name of Scrambler, Heifer or Steer and word count on title page as well (this should be its own page and not at the top of your essay).
 - There are NO photos or creative font used in the essay
- Use solid grammar and are well organized
- Reflect the scrambler's and calf's personality
- Are original, fun and genuine

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My Calf Scramble Project - Rosie

The calf scramble has been a rewarding experience for me. I've had both good and bad times but through it all I've learned a lot about raising cattle. I'm a sophomore at a small school, and I'm on the varsity football, basketball, baseball, and track teams. Plus, I earn money by mowing, weed-eating, and bush-hogging around town, including my church, two banks, and several properties owned by the city of Joaquin. When we started looking for a heifer to purchase, my ag teacher suggested I look at American breeds. He didn't want me to tackle more than I had time to handle, and the slick hair of American cattle would be easier to manage with my schedule. We found a Beefmaster for sale about an hour from our house. She was listed on an online auction, but the ranch was in Alto, Texas.

I knew I had my work cut out for me when we went to pick up Jazz B A Lady. She'd only been weaned for a couple of days, so she was still upset..and hungry. It took me, my dad, and the owner to load "Jazzy" up into our trailer. When we arrived at our barn, she was very nervous and jumpy. She ran laps around the pen for about a day or two and then started to settle down. My sister's Shorthorn heifer was in the pen next to her to help her get used to her new home and they quickly became friends. Everything was working out until a couple of days later when a stray pit bulldog entered our barn. Living in the country, strays are common. My sister and mom had just washed Emmie and were blowing her dry. My dad and I were working in the pasture behind the barn when we heard Jazzy's loud wails. I've never heard an animal make sounds like that before, and I knew she was in trouble. I guess the pit bull must have sensed her nervousness and attacked. Within just seconds the dog chased her around the pen and rammed her into the metal fence. It bit her on her sides and face as she struggled to get away, then it clamped onto her neck. It would have killed her if we weren't there. My dad and I ran into the pen, and it took both of us to pry the dog's jaws off of Jazzy's neck! I put a rope halter on the pit bull to drag it out of the barn into the woods and shot it. I love all animals but that one had to GO!

Jazz was really hurt, and mom had to call the vet, but thankfully all of her wounds looked worse than they were. She had a bloody nose, a nasty cut across her forehead, a couple cuts on her rib, and a deep bite wound on her neck. She was probably bruised from running into the fence, but the vet said her wounds were treatable, sewed her up and gave her some aspirin. The worst part of the attack is what it did to Jazzy's personality. She wasn't the same after that. It took weeks to get her to calm down, and even then, if more than one person was in the barn, she'd freak out... foaming at the mouth, running to the end of her pen, and acting like a crazy cow.

Halter breaking Jazz was a struggle. We started out slowly. I tied her to the fence daily and stood and talked with her. Then, I gradually took a few steps with her. Eventually, if we were alone in the barn, she walked with me, but as soon as she saw another person, she'd turn frantic and run. Our first attempt at a show was a nightmare. We went to the East Texas State Fair in Tyler, Texas. It was bigger than local jackpot shows, and there were many cows and people in one big barn. We arrived the day before we showed, and Jazz was on edge from the time we got there. I gave her some Calf-Calm that seemed to help a little, but an hour later, she was panicked again. She acted horrible in the rain... scared, jumpy, and never relaxed still I hung on to her and for some reason this seemed to calm her. She seemed to understand I would protect her from whatever it was that terrified her so. For the first time since the attack, she seemed to trust me.

My Calf Scramble Project

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Ms. JLS Passion 767A4-ET and I am a show heifer. I was born in Devine, Texas at JLS International Brangus Ranch. While I was very young, I remember overhearing Mr. XXX, the ranch manager, say I was pretty enough to be in the show ring. Now those are wording every girl wants to hear!

Being selected as a JLS show heifer meant I got to spend time in the barn under the fans and receive special care. I thought I was living the best life ever. Then one cool, crispy day in April 2014, a family arrives at JLS International. From what I understand, the daughter, XXXX, had won a scramble certificate at the Houston Rodeo and they were here to select a heifer. As they look at us girls, I overheard Mr. XXXX tell them he thought I would be perfect for XXXX.

As the family walked around, I noticed XXXX looked friendly, so I decided to make my way over to her and say hello. She smelled good, so I started licking her hand. She then started rubbing my head. I don't know how she knew I liked that, but from that moment I knew we were going to be friends. I then heard them say, "She is the one." I was SOOOO excited. I had a new family.

A few weeks later, the XXXXXX family came back to the ranch, but this time they were pulling a trailer. As they loaded me up, I thought to myself, "What adventures are ahead of me?" I was just a little over a year old and a bit scared and although I had been on the trailer before, I had never been on one ALONE. As the trailer gate slammed closed behind me, I jumped. I called and called for my friends, but no one answered. However, I did hear XXX's voice. She kept telling me everything was going to be OK which made me feel a little more comfortable BUT I must admit – I WAS SCARED.

After a three-hour ride on that trailer, I arrived at my new home in Burton, Texas. It was so dark when we arrived, so XXXX unloaded me, put me in a pen and gave me some hay and fresh water. Being in a strange place was uncomfortable at first, but there were some other show heifers in the barn, and they assured me everything would be just fine.

IT'S SHOWTIME!

