



Dr. Brandi Karisch

Board Nominee Eastern Region Trustee

DEAR FELLOW SIMMENTAL ENTHUSIAST,

I write to ask for your consideration and vote for the Eastern Region Trustee of the American Simmental Association. As a long time Simmental breeder, I've watched the breed and its membership grow and prosper over the years, and that is because of the work done by the board members before me. Our breed is strategically placed for even more growth in years to come through industry leading genetic evaluation and a diversity of genetics that fit a multitude of scenarios from SimAngus to Simbrah to Fullbloods to SimAngusHT to Purebred. SimGenetics flat work in the beef industry. As exciting as SimGenetics are, I still believe the best thing the Simmental breed has to offer is its people.

I grew up on my family's Simmental operation in South Louisiana (Bourg Farms) and had my first registered cow in my name when I was just two years old. I am a proud product of the AJSA and spent many summers traveling to and competing at Regional and National Classics across the country. I've enjoyed being able to give back by managing the livestock judging contest at 2 junior nationals and hope to continue to offer support in the future. I can't wait to raise my sons in this program as well. One of the things I have always credited with shaping me into who I am today is the time spent in the AJSA competing in contests like public speaking and sales talk. Our youth are truly the future of the breed and supporting them is important to me.

My husband and I moved from Texas to Mississippi in 2011 and started on our own in the cattle business with MBK Cattle. We grew our herd from the ground up over time and have tried to focus on finding genetics that perform well in our environment. While we enjoy showing cattle, it is ultimately important to us to raise productive cows that will also perform in the pasture under strict guidelines. We market show heifers, bred heifers and bulls through several avenues including private treaty sales, the Dixie National Sale, and are also a founding member of the Banners and Beyond sale group.

My academic and professional background makes me a unique fit for the board as well. I currently serve as the State Beef Cattle Extension Specialist for Mississippi State University where I conduct educational programming for the state's cattle producers, maintain a research program focused on improved cattle health and management strategies, and oversee the department's beef herds. My research background allows me to bring a voice to the board that can "speak both languages" when communicating with our members as well as the scientists conducting the research to further advance our breed's place in the beef industry. I hope to continue to encourage research activities that are based in sound science to further support our position as one of the leaders in the beef industry.

My passion for the Simmental breed and desire to serve and advance our membership even farther is strong, and I am honored that the nominating committee placed their trust in me as one of the board nominees for this position. My goal for my time on the board will be to serve as a voice for all members of the Simmental breed.

Thank you for your consideration, and I would greatly appreciate your vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brandi Karisch".

Brandi Karisch, Ph.D.

MBK Cattle

Beef Cattle Extension Specialist

Milton Sundbeck Endowed Professor