



RS DEER & CATTLE RANCH

BY *KELSEY D. HELLMANN*

Nestled in the quiet rolling country-side between the bustling metropolitan of Houston and the college town of College Station, just on the outskirts of Hempstead and Prairie View is the RS Deer & Cattle Ranch. This thriving ranching operation is owned and managed by husband and wife team, Roy Douglas and Shirley Ann Malonson.

The Malonson's love for the great outdoors and the wilderness lead them to purchase their 251-acre ranch in Waller County back in 2004. The ranch was bought from the legendary race car driver, A.J. Foyt Jr! At the time they were not sure what they were going to do with the land but loving the location of the property and that it was an easy drive to both downtown Houston and College Station, they took on the investment.

After researching a good amount of agricultural opportunities, the couple looked a little more closely in to the raising of whitetail deer. They attended several deer related events and talked with established operations, with much excitement the Malonson's settled on establishing a whitetail deer herd on their new property. They received their Texas Parks and Wildlife Deer Breeder's Permit in 2008 and officially started their whitetail deer herd! The following year they built a state-of-the-art breeding and handling facility and RS Deer Ranch was established.

However, like many agricultural endeavors, raising whitetail deer is not for the faint of heart! The Malonson's had a rather rough start in the industry. Not long after purchasing their first group of deer, the ranch was hit hard with Epizootic



Hemorrhagic Disease, also known as EHD. This tragically wiped out almost the entire herd they invested in.

With heavy hearts they discussed changing their plan and getting out of the deer business. But recovering from the initial shock of it all, the Malonson's turned this challenge in to motivation and pressed on with the goal of raising a nice herd of whitetail deer.

Going back to the drawing board and researching all they possibly could about EHD, they tried again. The couple felt that it was not the new facilities that harbored the disease but possibly the weakness in the immunities of the bloodlines of the deer. This single revelation has driven the Malonson's entire breeding operation to this day.

RS Deer Ranch now strives to keep their own bloodlines at nothing less than 70% Texas genetics with a little Northern in the mix. Feeling that keeping with the Texas strong genetics has helped to build a resilient and healthy herd for the last eight years.

The Malonson's are focused on raising big framed typical whitetail bucks. RS Deer Ranch purchased several nice bucks, such as Bakerman G347 and Goldenboy Orange 811 to be part of the starting foundation of their breeding program. Both of these bucks being perfect 7x6 typical style deer. Here



started their personal bloodline, which they call RS Curley/Curlee. Their animal names will reflect RS Curley for a buck or RS Curlee for a doe, and the deer's tag information. Shirley Ann reflected that one of her favorite parts of raising whitetail deer is being able to watch the bucks they care for grow out each year. She is a very active part of the operation, she's out there assisting when they have to work deer for breeding season, evaluate fawns in the summer and everything that goes along with managing an operation such as theirs. The couple feel that their deer are so calm and docile because they are constantly in the pens with them, checking on them and watching over them.

In 2011, the couple wanted to continue expanding on the opportunities available within the deer industry, so they applied for a Managed Land Deer Permit and established their trophy hunting operation. Of course, as nature would have it, the Malonson's struggled with a predator problem in that first year of their hunting operation. The couple worked on solutions for their predators and now have a successful hunting program. They offer whitetail and axis deer hunts to enthusiasts while still being an easy 40-minute drive from Houston!



They have a beautiful set up for hunters, complete with furnished lodge and bunk house. Other ranch amenities for hunters and outdoor enthusiasts include a shooting range, archery range and a six-acre lake that is stocked with hybrid catfish. The ranch even has a wheelchair accessible blind.

While managing their whitetail operation is time consuming and labor intensive, it does not fully utilize all of their acreage. So, after a little research in 2014 Roy Douglas and Shirley Ann purchased their first herd of cattle and established RS Deer & Cattle Ranch. What started as a goal to put better land management practices to use turned in to another thriving business and passion for the couple.

Their first herd was a nice group of registered Red Herefords. Not long after, they purchased an extremely well-bred herd of registered Brahman cattle. Several of the RS Ranch's Brahman cattle have gone on to be successful show cattle earning Reserve Champion titles at major Texas livestock shows and Grand Champion in Louisiana. Putting this little Texas ranch on the map for Brahmans and well-bred, high marbled beef cattle.

The RS Deer & Cattle Ranch now is home to three herds of registered cattle; Brahman, Red Herefords and Black Herefords and two deer herds. In 2017, the second herd of whitetail deer was established. A new facility was built and they call it RS Deer Ranch West. This is a Texas Animal Health Commission CWD Certified operation. The Malonson's have a closed bio-secure herd and are working on having both operations fully certified and in compliance with the Texas Animal Health Commission and Texas Parks and Wildlife.

The RS Deer Ranch offers stocker bucks, stocker does, open and bred does as well as semen from their personal breeder bucks for sale to breeders and ranchers. One thing that the couple takes the greatest pride in their business is their recognizable customer service. When an animal is purchased from the Malonson's they remain available to the new owner should any question or problem arise. After they had such a struggle getting their herd up and running they vowed to help their customers to the very best of their abilities. It's this service, hospitality and of course the animal quality that keep

customers coming back year after year.

High quality beef and trophy whitetail deer are not the only things that Roy Douglas and Shirley Ann Malonson are deeply passionate about. What might not be widely known about the couple is their willingness to share their passion for wildlife and nature. When you are given a gift, you need to share it. Several times a year they will open up their ranch and lodge for learning opportunities for today's youth.

"We teach them wildlife management because there is a problem with 'Concrete Syndrome'. We teach them about nature and get them off the concrete and on the dirt and in the woods." said Roy Douglas.

The Malonson's open up their facility to be used by schools, youth groups and church groups for field days, leadership camps and learning trips. They have local programs and inter-city programs from Houston come take advantage of what the Malonson's have to share about wildlife, nature, ranching and cattle. These are typically kids and young adults from low-income areas that would otherwise never have the chance to foster a passion for the great outdoors. They work with schools in the Houston ISD, Aldine ISD, Prairie View A&M, and Texas A&M to help provide an out of the classroom education for these kids.

"One of the things we believe strongly in is, if you receive you need to give back and this is our way of doing that." explained Roy Douglas.

A personal goal for the Malonson's is to help drive

more kids towards agriculture and getting them involved as stewards of the land. In addition to using their property as a classroom for today's youth they also provide many other recourses for the youth and give back to the community. The RS Deer & Cattle Ranch have given back to over the years to many 4-H, FFA and other youth programs through assisting with fundraisers, STEM projects, cattle projects and showing, scholarship programs and donations.

This seemingly ordinary little ranch just a stone's throw from Houston is well on its way to making its mark in cattle, deer and the lives of today's youth. 🌱

If you would like to learn more about what the RS Deer & Cattle Ranch has to offer visit them at rsdeerranch.com.



“OLD SCHOOL GENETICS”

WEST FACILITY: TAHC CERTIFIED

EAST FACILITY: TAHC 4 YEARS

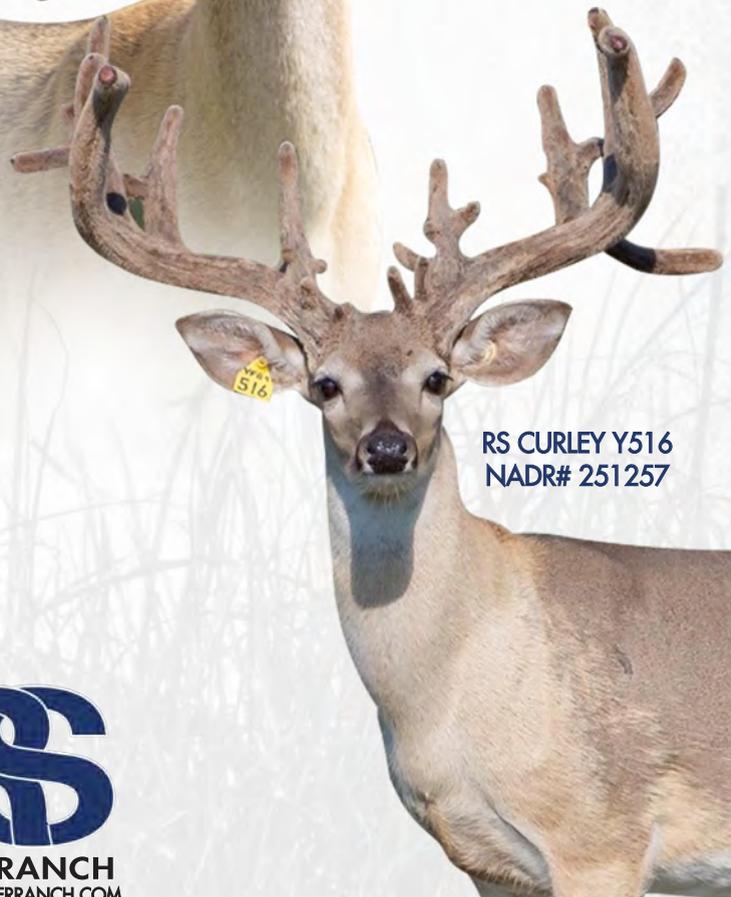
- TROPHY HUNTING
- OPEN DOES
- BRED DOES
- SEMEN
- BREEDER BUCKS
- STOCKER BUCKS



RS CURLEY B606
NADR# 248677



RS CURLEY G152
NADR# 178676



RS CURLEY Y516
NADR# 251257



DEER RANCH
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