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Contact: Doc or Patricia Spitzer
spitzeranch@mindspring.com or
(864)972-9140 or (864)710-0257

Salacoa Valley Farm's Ben Spitzer Named Chairman of NCBA Young Producers' Council (YPC)

The next generation of cattle industry stakeholders from across the nation gathered in San Antonio, TX the end of January to take part in the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Young Producers' Council (YPC) business meeting. At that meeting the YPC selected its new executive committee and board of directors. **Ben Spitzer, General Manager of Salacoa Valley Farms, Fairmount, GA was elected Chairman of the Board.**

The Young Producers Council was an outgrowth of NCBA's commitment to developing future beef industry leadership from interested young producers. The YPC was established during the 2008 Cattle Industry Summer Conference in Denver and was initiated specifically for NCBA members 18 to 35. The goal of YPC is to enhance leadership skills, encourage networking, provide avenues for involvement in NCBA policy development and create opportunities for young cattlemen to take on a greater role in NCBA.

Ben Spitzer has a passion for the beef industry. He grew up in the cattle business and very early in life made a conscious decision that animal agriculture would be his life's work. His family involvement goes back several generations and has included both commercial cattle and registered cattle of several breeds. As a youth, Ben was active in the International Junior Brangus Breeders Association (IJBBA) as well as 4-H and FFA. He attended Oklahoma State University (OSU) and upon graduation from OSU in 2004, headed west to continue his formal education at Colorado State University for a Master's Degree in Integrated Resource Management.

After finishing his program at CSU, Ben accepted the position of Communications/Member Services Director with the Red Angus Association of America (RAAA) in Denton, TX. Ben was appointed General Manager of Salacoa Valley Farms, Fairmount, GA in July of 2007. Since he accepted this position, he has been actively involved with the International Brangus Breeder's Association (IBBA), attending multiple functions both locally and nationally as well as serving on the Commercial Marketing committee and as Vice-Chairman of the Promotions committee for IBBA. He has been very active in NCBA as well as being a founding member of the Young Producer's Council, previously serving as the chair of the YPC Membership Committee and representing YPC on the NCBA Membership committee.

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