

Brazos County Youth Livestock Show

Educating Area Youth with an Emphasis on Agriculture

Story by Keri Honea. Photos by Jay Hardy, courtesy of KBTX-TV.

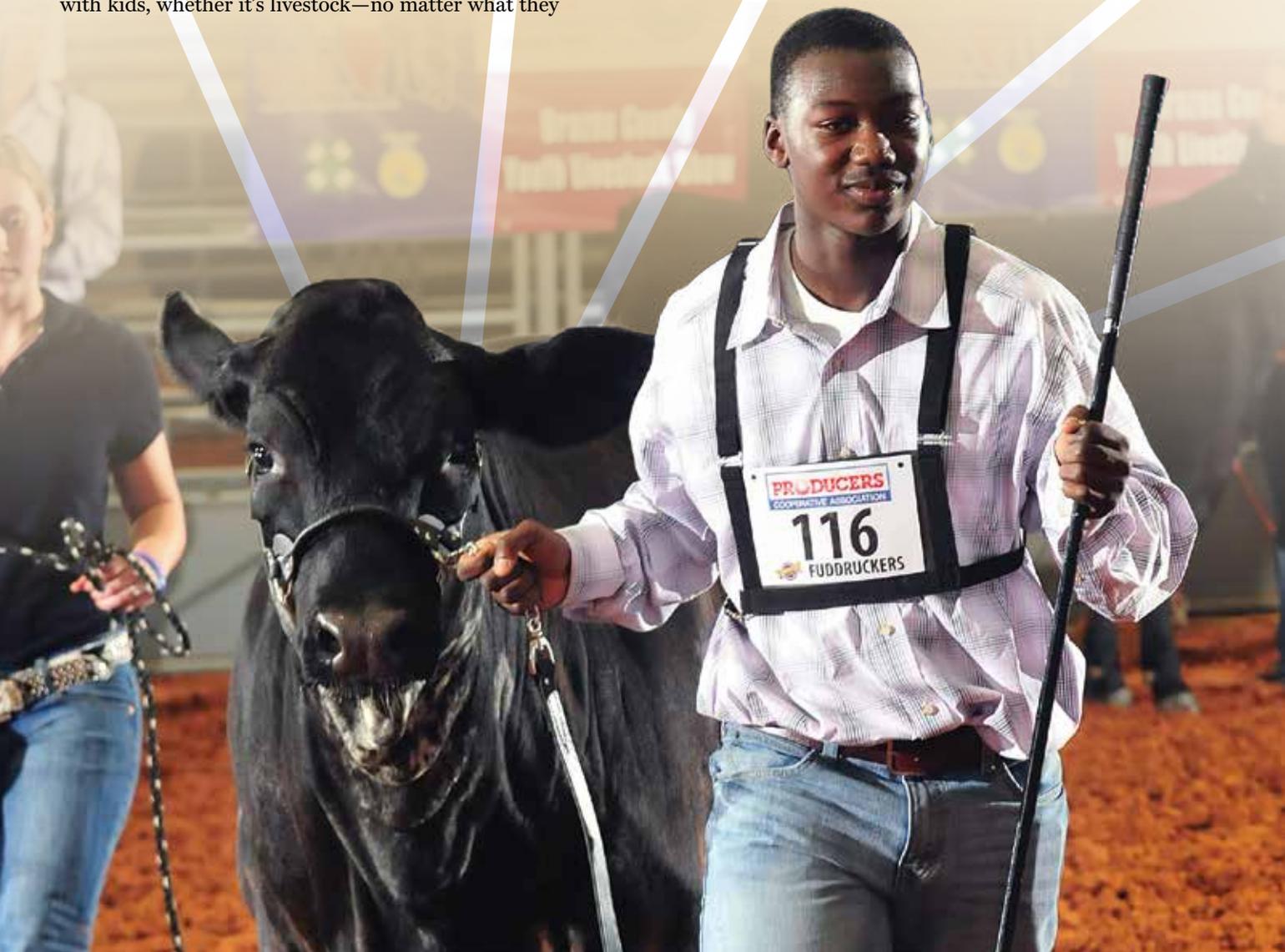
With spring just around the corner, youth across the state find themselves in the home stretch for livestock show season. In Brazos County, the celebration starts on the first official day of spring with the 57th Annual Brazos County Youth Livestock Show (BCYLS) at the Brazos County Expo Complex in Bryan. From March 22-26th, roughly 550 Brazos County kids aged 8 to 18 will be proudly showing off agriculture projects they've worked on for the past several months. The projects range from rabbits they've raised to original wood or metal crafts they've built.

"The goal of the livestock show is to promote agriculture with kids, whether it's livestock—no matter what they

raise—or it's ag mechanics and the consumer sciences," Jay Wilder, President of the Brazos County Youth Livestock Association (BCYLA), explained. "The show helps teach the kids responsibility, through tasks such as taking care of animals, building their own original artwork, sewing their own clothes or baking their own goods."

Entrants have a wide variety of projects to choose from to present at BCYLS. The show used to be strictly livestock, as suggested in its name, but over the last decade, the show has expanded to include consumer sciences. Youths can now submit baked goods, goods they can themselves,

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Gary Miller Named General Manager of Bryan Texas Utilities

Lifelong utility professional Gary Miller has been named General Manager of Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU), after having served as Interim General Manager since July 2012.

Gary brings more than 29 years of utility experience to the position, having worked with investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. Prior to being named Interim General Manager of BTU in July, Gary had served for more than seven years as Group Manager of BTU's Production, QSE and Power Marketing Divisions, where he was responsible for the wholesale power marketing and energy scheduling activities as well as oversight of BTU's power plants.

In his role as General Manager, Gary will be in charge of managing the entire customer interface, including rates, reliability and customer service, as well as all aspects of BTU's financial position. In addition, he will oversee the daily business operations and be responsible for effective planning, staffing, organizing and decision making to attain desirable rates and reliability for BTU's customer base. With direction from the BTU Board of Directors, Gary will coordinate the overall strategic plan for BTU, including all aspects of rate design, employee safety, reliability and asset management.

"Gary brings a tremendous depth of knowledge of all aspects of the utility industry," says Bryan City Manager Kean Register, who collaboratively works with the BTU Board to oversee BTU operations. "His well-rounded knowledge base will be a valuable asset for the citizens of Bryan and the customers of BTU in Brazos and the surrounding counties."

Gary, who received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Lamar University in 1984, began his new role effective February 1, 2013.



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Board Meeting Notes

The BTU Board of Directors met on Monday, January 14, 2013 and discussed the following topics:

Financial

Joe Hegwood, Chief Financial Officer, City of Bryan/BTU, presented the financial report to the Board, which stated that net revenues in the City are below budget due to the milder weather, the reclassification of schools to a lower rate and a billing lag for some industrial customers. Net revenues in the Rural system are higher than expected due to higher base revenues, lower power costs and lower department Operations and Maintenance expenses.

Capital Improvement Projects in the City are below budget due to a reimbursement in the Production Division. Rural Capital Improvement Projects are also below budget due to the timing of expenditures for distribution substations.

Several items that cost over \$100,000 were brought to the Board's attention for review. The Board also awarded contracts to Milsoft Utility Solutions for an Outage Management System, to Digital Inspections for Maintenance Tracking Software and Services and to Black and Veatch for the Texas A&M University substation expansion design.

Operations

Randy Trimble, Group Manager of Transmission and Distribution, presented the SAIDI and SAIFI reports for the month of December. He explained that the majority of the outages were caused by the weather, particularly the high winds on Christmas Day.

Mr. Trimble next presented a contract for the engineering design of the 69kV transmission line between Atkins and Briarcrest substations. The Board requested an evaluation of the cost effectiveness of redesigning the transmission line from overhead to underground for its next meeting.

David Werley, Group Manager of Business and Customer Operations, informed the Board that a company has expressed interest to BTU Management regarding a potential lease on the rail spur located between Highway 6 and Mumford Road. Mr. Werley said that he would make a more detailed presentation to the Board once they had a more complete plan for the use of the property as well as the terms, conditions and expected revenue from the lease.

Gary Miller, General Manager for BTU, informed the Board that Director David Bairrington has been selected to serve a three-year term on the American Public Power Association's Policy Makers Council.

Bryan Texas Utilities

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803

UCISMan@btutilities.com

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5 pm

Board of Directors

- Mr. Carl L. Benner, Chairman
- Mr. Chris Peterson, Vice Chairman
- Mr. Paul Turney, Secretary/Treasurer
- Mr. Art Hughes, Ex-Officio
- Mr. Flynn Adcock
- Mr. David Bairrington
- Mr. Bill Ballard
- Mr. Ben Hardeman

General Manager

Gary Miller

Group Managers

Randy Trimble
David Werley

Division Managers

- James Bodine
- Bill Bullock
- Shawndra Green
- Michael Hering
- Ken Lindberg
- Doug Lyles
- Vicki Reim
- Scott Smith
- James Tanneberger

Lee R. Starr, Chief Risk Officer

City of Bryan

Kean Register, City Manager
Joe Hegwood, CFO

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Billing/Collections/Connects	(979) 821-5700
Electrical Outage/Lines Down	(979) 822-3777
Distribution/Line Design	(979) 821-5770



Meet Your BTU Board

Story by Louellen S. Coker.

David Bairrington, a new addition to BTU's team, is a member of the 2012 class of the BTU Board of Directors and brings his unique professional history to complement a well-rounded group of leaders for the utility.

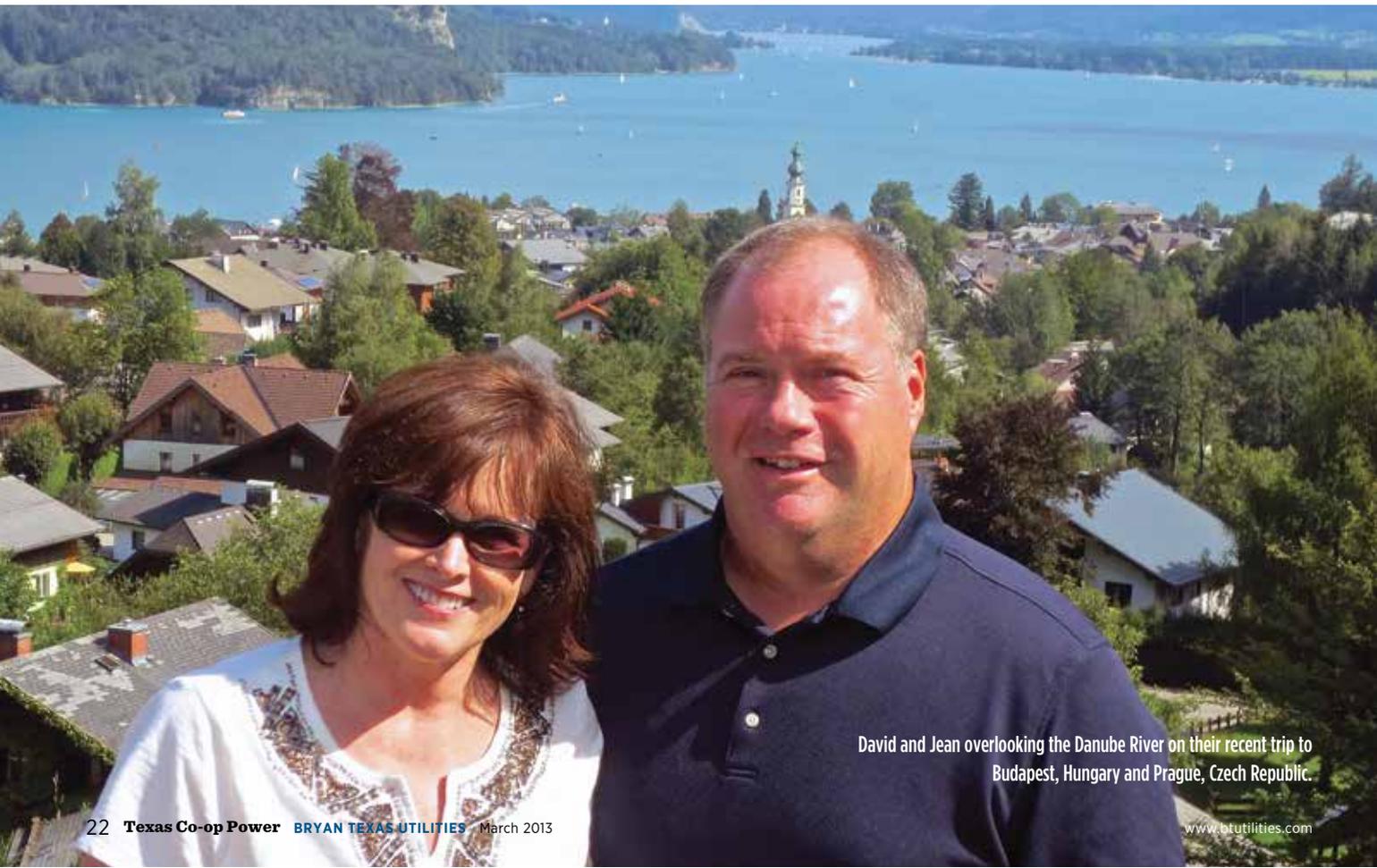
Mr. Bairrington, a retired energy executive, has a combined 33 years of global experience and broad business expertise with Phillips Petroleum and ConocoPhillips. Over the course of his career, he has honed his skills of building strong relationships, resolving complex issues, evaluating risks and effectively assessing situations using sound business judgement.

While not originally from Bryan, this Southwest Fort Worth, Texas native is no stranger to the area. Before beginning his career, he got his first taste of the region when he studied mechanical engineering at Texas A&M University (TAMU). After receiving his bachelor of science

degree, he embarked on a career path that would take him and his family around the world and involved moving 15 times and living in Norway, United Kingdom, West Africa, Russia and Canada as well as several states in the US.

Reflecting on his lifework, he expanded: "My background in the oil and gas sector of the energy business is unique to the BTU board. And while it isn't directly related, it is grounded in energy production's number one cost—the cost of fuel. Working in a globally diverse business arena for so many years has allowed me to develop a broader perspective on various cultures and an openness to diversity that can be different from most."

When asked why he chose to serve on the BTU Board, he stated, "I want to leverage my skill set to be a part of providing the community and BTU customers power at the lowest cost possible. As BTU looks at expanding existing and alternative energy sources, my background helps to



David and Jean overlooking the Danube River on their recent trip to Budapest, Hungary and Prague, Czech Republic.

broaden the entity's outlook which will be beneficial to BTU, its customers and ultimately the community we serve."

During his tenure on the BTU Board, Mr. Bairrington has learned a great deal about the conservative nature of the industry. He explained, "When working in the energy industry, I felt it was extremely risk-averse. I've learned, however, that the utility industry prefers to take even fewer risks and to deal in certainty. In the end, the consumer is able to enjoy power consumption at a more predictable and fixed rate over time; a rate that anticipates and incorporates changing fuel rates rather than falling prey to them."

Though he has had to absorb a lot of information since joining the Board in September 2012, Mr. Bairrington has found his "background has shortened the learning curve and allowed me to serve effectively."

In addition to being on the BTU Board, Mr. Bairrington is an active participant on the TAMU Energy Institute Advisory Board, TAMU Engineering Advisory Board, BTU QSE Services Board and is on the Policy Makers Council of the American Public Power Association (APPA). He enjoys "interacting with these groups and being able to serve the community through them." He emphasized, "It's nice to stay involved, be it legislative (APPA) or business (BTU) activity."

Along with serving with these professional organizations, he keeps himself busy with his newly acquired Real Estate license, where he deals with commercial rental and some residential subdivision work via a number of LLCs and partnerships. Mr. Bairrington also intends to volunteer with area non-profit entities to support his new community. "We have been back in the area for a short time and are exploring the many wonderful non-profit involvement opportunities that are available. We look forward to finding the group on which to focus our time."

Mr. Bairrington and his high school sweetheart and wife of 38 years, Jean, decided to return to the area as they got closer to retirement and re-established their roots here in 2011. Mr. Bairrington elaborated, "We got involved in the Traditions development in 1998 and in 2004 began investing in the community. With each successive visit to the area, Bryan-College Station felt more and more like home. Eventually we decided to stay."

Mr. Bairrington's oldest child, Mark, and his wife, Carrie, live in Moore, OK. He and Jean travel there as often as possible to visit their nearly 2-year-old granddaughter, Taylor. Their daughter, Danielle, recently culminated her undergraduate, master's and PhD studies in education at TAMU. She and her husband, Joel Brown, who currently works in Austin, are looking to further their careers in

Bryan-College Station, Austin or elsewhere in Texas.

When not visiting with his family or devoting time to his various board duties and civic activities, Mr. Bairrington and his wife are looking forward to "traveling to parts of the States that we've not ever seen. We want to do a lot more traveling in our native country." He chuckled as he continued, "With that being said, since entering retirement, we've had the opportunity to travel to China, Czech Republic and Hungary."

Whether he opts to travel near home or abroad, we'd like to welcome him to the BTU Board of Directors. If you would like to contact Mr. Bairrington, please email him at dbairrington@btutilities.com.

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David Bairrington

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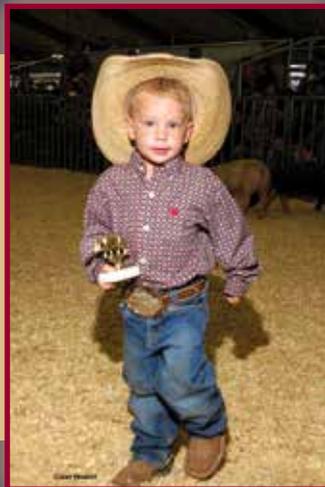
anything they sew, from clothes and purses to quilts and knitting, woodworking or metalworking projects, photography, “ornamental horticulture” (such as potted plants and floral arrangements) and the very broad arts and crafts category, which includes paintings, leather work and jewelry.

For traditional livestock entries, eligible youths typically raise rabbits, pigs, steers, breeding heifers, goats, lambs, turkeys or broilers (chickens). The livestock will be judged for a Grand Champion contest and then sold at the auction on the last day of the show. Complete rules and regulations are available on the BCYLA website but, in general, the contest is limited to academically eligible youths in the third through twelfth grades who are residents of the Brazos Valley or bonafide 4-H, FFA and/or FCCLA members.

Dispelling the myth that only rural residents participate in the livestock categories of this competition, Mr. Wilder explained that urban youth have access to the FFA barn for smaller animals and members allow larger animals to be kept on their property. He shared that his favorite part is watching the kids see the fruits of all their hard work at the show.

“It’s amazing to help the young people get to their end goal, seeing how well they do at the auction sales and watching them receive their awards, especially the younger ones who have never won anything before,” he happily reflected.

In addition to teaching kids “responsibility,” the BCYLS offers college scholarships to graduating seniors in Brazos County who will be attending any Texas university, private



or public. Depending on the number of applicants, the scholarship amounts range between \$500-\$2500 for the winner(s). Scholarship applicants must graduate by spring 2013, register for at least 12 fall semester hours at their chosen school and be a member of the BCYLA, 4-H, FFA or FCCLA as well as an active exhibitor in the BCYLS during their junior and senior years in high school. Scholarship participants do not have to choose an agriculture-based major, however. This year's recipients will be announced during the auction on March 26th. While this year's application deadline has already passed, be sure to visit www.bcylnet.net if you'd like to apply for next year's scholarships.

An additional scholarship opportunity is available

through the BCYLS Queen Contest. The BCYLS queen and princesses, who are both previous and current exhibitors at the BCYLS and have been nominated by their peers, will present the various champions, reserve champions, ribbons, trophies and other awards during the show and auction. This year's queen and her princesses will be announced and celebrated at the March 22, Queen's Dance that will kick off the weekend's festivities.

The BCYLS is naturally dependent upon the kids and



their participation, but the show would not be able to go on without the hundreds of volunteers who willingly give up several days of their time to make certain everything goes without a hitch.

“The show is entirely run on a volunteer basis,” Mr. Wilder emphasized. “Volunteers mostly are parents of participants and former participants. However, we have many people who help out who did not have kids who participated in the show. We are always looking for volunteers.”

Volunteers range from the Chairman of the Board of Directors to workers at the show. As such, the BCYLS is truly a Brazos County community-sponsored event. If you would like to assist with the show, please visit the BCYLS website and download the Rule Book, which explains the forms for volunteering.

Be sure to mark March 22-26th on your calendars and stop by the Brazos County Expo Complex to see to what exciting tasks local youths have dedicated hours and months of their free time. You will be amazed at viewing not only the prize livestock they have raised, but also the outstanding crafts these young people have created!

