

Gordon Musgrove, Region 1 ITLA Director

Bit of history on Texas Longhorn Cattle in Canada. The Longhorn first started arriving in mid 1800's to the lush hard grass plains in Western Canada. From there they were delivered up and down the West Coast feeding gold miners, crews on whaling ships, some went to Alaska to feed the gold rush people.

After the arrival of railroad in the West, cattle were shipped to Central and Eastern Canada and back south to The America Midwest for slaughter. They were also sent to England and the rest of Europe for food supply.

Lord Beresford bought a ranch in Southeastern Alberta, he called it "Mexico Ranch". In late fall of 1906, he shipped 5000 Texas Longhorn yearlings by train from Texas. That year was one of the worst winters in history hit with deep snow and cold, these cattle didn't have time to climatize to their new environment, by spring they had all perished. As portrayed by painter Charlie Russell in his painting "Last of the 5000".

In more recent years through the 70's- 80's a number of small herds scattered through the country. Cattlemen started to use Longhorn bulls on heifers for ease of calving and high vigor. These cattle performed well in feed lots finishing and ready for slaughter at 12 months of age.

A bit about Gordon Musgrove: I have been in the cattle industry all my life, raising mostly commercial Herefords and crosses, we also ran a small band of registered quarter horses. My wife Charlene & I sold out the cattle herd in 2008 – our attempt to semi-retire but it didn't take with a few head left over and the start of our Longhorn herd in 2007. A little story about the beginning of our Longhorn herd: My Aunt and Uncle had been raising Longhorn for many years. They sold out, retired and moved to the city. They came to our farm for a summer visit and asked if we could take them to a "Longhorn Pedigree picnic" about an hour away. There was a fundraiser raffle and my aunt won the heifer! Within a few months and a few sales, we were in the Longhorn business. We now run a herd of Registered Texas Longhorns. We currently sell bulls to ranchers, heifers to purebred producers in the 3 Western Provinces and meat to the general public. We have shown our Longhorns at the Canadian National Texas Longhorn shows in Red Deer, AB, at Agribition in Regina SK, and with the NILE in Billings, MT.

Besides our Longhorns we have an active Auction Company (including online) which does everything from Consignment Auctions, Farm Auctions, Specialty Livestock Auctions. We have 3 grown children and 3 Grandkids, they are spread all over, Erin lives in Leduc, Alberta with 2 of our grandchildren, Jeff in Beavermines, Alberta with our other grandchild, and Kari in San Francisco, California.

I was fortunate enough to become an ITLA Director in the summer of 2015. We enjoy our Longhorn Cattle the people in the Longhorn industry and the many places our Longhorn adventures take us.

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