

Adams Ranch hosts 32nd Annual Cattle Sale, raises money for local nonprofit

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JESSICA LAYNE

Charlie Wood confirms auction bids during the 32nd Annual Cattle Sale on November 11 at Adams Ranch.

FORT PIERCE — Not often would a red velvet cake be valued at \$1,200, but during the Adams Ranch 32nd Annual Sale on Nov. 11, attended by more than 500 guests, that's the price one cake brought in for the St. Lucie Cattlewomen's Association.

It's part of a tradition that began more than 30 years ago at the Adams Ranch in western St. Lucie County. As part of the Adams family's annual bull sale, ranchers participate in an auction that opened with the sale of three cakes, two pies and a trailer of feed donated by Organic Matters. That part of the auction raised more than \$5,000 for the local Cattlewomen's Association.

The annual bull sale is more than just a fundraiser. With nearly 200 cattle and four horses up for auction, ranchers from as far as South Carolina made their way to the Adams Ranch to bid on their next cattle purchase.

"This isn't our first cattle sale, but it's the first time we've been to the Adams Ranch Auction," said Brooksville, FL resident and LD Ranch owner Luis Figueroa. "My wife, Denise, and I always have hard decisions to make as we decide which animals will make our next breed bulls. There are a lot of factors that go into the decision making process, and it's great that the Adams Ranch puts on such a fun day of events to make this even more enjoyable."

Ranchers mingled with friends, family and neighbors as they enjoyed a complimentary barbeque lunch and live music from the band Flatwood Blue. Vendors had a wide selection of items for sale including: landscape and nature-themed paintings, handmade wooden tables, custom-made cattle brands, western home décor and women's purses, shoes and belts. Some guests dubbed the annual auction a "family affair" and "a day of mixing business with pleasure."

Guests also had the opportunity to register for a one-year membership to the Florida Cattlemen's Association for new members in St. Lucie County and the surrounding counties, sponsored by the Adams Ranch.

Chairman of the Adams Ranch Board, Alto “Bud” Adams Jr. attributed the large turnout and success of the sale to the fact that “many citrus groves in this part of Florida have been converted to ranches with owners stocking good quality young females and bulls that are acclimated to this climate.”

“We try to create a day for all ages to enjoy because we understand that our guests come intending to purchase their next herd of cattle and recognize the importance of promoting this lifestyle that is crucial to preserving Florida’s heritage,” Alto “Bud” Adams Jr. said. “We have deep roots here in St. Lucie County, but many of our guests have ranches that have also been around many years and they are looking to build upon their history as well.”

For more information about Adams Ranch or the annual auction, visit www.adamsranch.com or contact Lee Ann Adams at (772) 461-6321.

About Adams Ranch

Founded in 1937, Adams Ranch is a fourth-generation cattle business operating in St. Lucie, Okeechobee and Osceola Counties, headquartered in Fort Pierce, Florida. As developers of the Braford breed of cattle, Adams Ranch is today the 15th largest cow-calf ranch in the United States and was named the Ranch of the Century by the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association in 1999. Adams Ranch is dedicated to adapting the cattle to fit the land, the climate, the insects and the feed that is produced on it to generate a program of total ranch management.

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