

DUSTY A RANCH

by Nancy M. Brannon

For outstanding performance horses, the Dusty A Ranch, owned by Shelby and Bonnie Twaits, is located near Tucson, Arizona, and offers three AQHA stallions, Hollywood Heat, Flips Red Oak, and junior stallion, Di Reo, for breeding. Each is APHA approved and AQHA Incentive Fund nominated.

An ideal western performance horse, Hollywood Heat, a 1994 dun, is co-owned by Dusty A Ranch and Bobby Lewis, who bred and trained him. In the show ring with Bobby Lewis, the stallion has amassed 345+ AQHA points, is an NRHA money winner, and was a Super Horse contender three times. He has a Superior in Calf Roping, Heading and Heeling, along with 26 Working Cow Horse points.

Hollywood Heat passes on his competitive attitude and athletic talents. He has sired World Show Top Tens and finalists. He is the sire of One Hot Jose, the 2004 AQHA All-Around Junior Champion; a Reserve World Champion; and Top Ten finalists at both the AQHA and APHA World Shows. He is also the sire of the top selling 2-year-old at the 2003 NRHA Futurity sale for Carol Rose.

"He has all good attributes – color, disposition, conformation, athletic ability, and he is very kind," says Bonnie Twaits, D.V.M. "He's by the four-million-dollar NRHA sire, Hollywood Dun It, and out of Riv O Lena by Doc O Lena, so he also offers top-notch breeding. His stud fee is \$1,500.00 for 2006, and shipped semen is available."

In 1998, Bonnie purchased from Dick Randall another western performance winner, Flips Red Oak, by Colonel Flips by Colonel Freckles and out of Oak Doll, a Doc Oaks' daughter. The 17-year-old sorrel stallion has a Superior in Reining, is an NRHA Honor Roll stallion, was the 1995 and 1996 CCQHA Extravaganza Circuit Champion in Senior Reining, and he was a qualifier for the AQHA World Show in Senior Reining and Working Cow Horse. He has sired many NRHA finalists and World Show Top Ten in reining, roping and cow horse.

"I actually get fan mail from people who have bought Flip's foals," says Bonnie. "They all say that they are the kindest, most willing horses that they've ridden. He's really exceptional and big – 15.2 hands. He's shown and collected by a woman, which demonstrates what a gentleman he is. His stud fee is \$1,000.00."



Bonnie and family riding the pastures of the Dusty A Ranch.



Hollywood Heat, by the legendary Hollywood Dun It, is co-owned by Dusty A Ranch and Bobby Lewis.

Their junior stallion, Di Reo, is a 1998 dark bay AQHA stallion, and is "bred for timed events, as well as cow working and reining. The 15-hand stallion, by Leo Reo Super Star by Doc Super Star, was shown in working cow horse and reining and tends to be the ranchmen's favorite. He was purchased as a weanling from Darrel Parker, the breeder of Doc N Jose, and his sire has attained fame as a barrel horse and calf roping sire." His breeding fee is \$500.00.

On its sprawling 14,000 acres, the Dusty A Ranch is a working ranch that offers training and a comprehensive breeding facility with emphasis on embryo transfer and mare care. Under Dr. Thwait's management, nearly 100 mares a year are bred at Dusty A Ranch to its own stallions and outside stallions. All breeds are accepted for shipping and receiving semen. Dr. Thwait's is a graduate of the University of California-Davis and is a reproductive specialist in cattle and horses with a license to practice in California, Oregon, and Arizona.

The facility includes an 1,800-head feed lot, stalls for 90 horses with a 28-stall show barn and a 38-stall mare motel, an arena and round pens, roping facilities, and thousands of acres for trail riding. The herd of 250 registered Angus cows makes cattle readily available for cutting and roping. With around 100 Quarter Horses, it has weanlings, yearlings, broodmares and trained horses for sale at all times. From birth, Dusty A horses are raised to just be horses. The mares are foaled out in the barn and after they are bred back, they go out to run on a 100-acre pivot. Until they're weanlings, colts have very little handling, then they are halter broke and turned back out on a 200-acre pasture and are allowed to be horses. Traveling over the different terrains strengthens them mentally and physically, which in turn creates a horse that is able to focus in training and carry riders across trails effortlessly.

Dusty A Ranch welcomes visitors, and for information on training or breeding, call Dr. Thwait's at (520) 940-3573 or Shelby Twaits at (520) 940-3571. □