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Biography

Karen and Hank Schumacher

An extraordinary couple shares a philosophy that keeps them close to the land

Karen and Hank Schumacher retired to a full-time country life after three decades in the business world. Karen says she survived 28 years in Corporate America by pursuing creativity and adventure in her “spare” time outside the office.

“I have always been an adventurer,” says Karen. “I’ve attended carpentry classes and built my own furniture, made and sold wood crafts, and studied the technique of stained glass.” Karen also is a quilter and avid gardener.

Hank worked at Union Carbide Corporation for 32 years. Having worked cattle for other ranchers for years, he finally leased some land in 1984 and began ranching for himself. The couple moved to Husser, LA in 1995, and purchased the 145 acres that now make up the Bald Cypress Cattle Company. There, Hank and son, Dan raise Braford beef heifers. They also raise Brangus and Angus heifers on a farm near Shreveport with partner, Marty Wooldridge.

After Hank’s retirement, he and Karen wanted to travel and experience more of the American countryside. One of their first trips was to Shipshewana, IN where they met Amish candlemakers who produced soy candles. After learning more about soy candlemaking from her hosts, Karen told Hank, “I can do that.” And her business was born. Today, much of the couples’ travel time consists of attending markets and expos where they sell their Heirloom Candles. But, they are always happy to return home to Husser.

“We love the country life,” says Karen. “We finally own our land for our cattle, and it is simply awesome to be able to live the life we do.

“We have four children and 10 grandchildren,” she continued. “Three of our grandsons live on the farm. They help work the farm as well as get their hands busy making candles. We are blessed to be able to spend so much time with them.

“In the past, I have helped on the farm cutting pastures and working, penning, feeding and shipping the cattle.” Then she added with a smile, “Since my candle business took off, I am limited in my time spent on farm activities. Do I miss it? The candles smell better.”

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