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he idea of Star S Ranch was born in 1992 when Billy Scott took his boys, Will and James, on a hunting trip at the 60,000 acres YO Ranch. The YO Ranch's variety of exotics in an open setting inspired Will and James to create their own version of a wildlife and hunting ranch. The Scott family had a lease in the hill country and they ended up purchasing 1,000 acres in 1996. The family then started adding acreage in 2003, just south of Mason, TX. Today the ranch is 14,000 acres and all of it is high fenced except for a 4,000 acre low fenced section. To get to the ranch you have to build up your courage to drive through the James River. The ranch contains over 7 miles of this river and is home for many different species. The openness of Star S Ranch is 'key' to providing a challenging African hunting and Trophy Whitetail hunting experience which is part of the ranch's goal.





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Star S Ranch was designed to be a commercial hunting operation where they could provide the best hunting year after year. Will's goal of providing a great product to his hunters is what got the Scott family into breeding. Will knew that in order to compete in the whitetail market he would have to bring in outside genetics because it would take a lifetime of managing the hill country deer to get his product on a competitive level. Naturally Will sought out mentors to assist him in his journey to create high standards for Star S. Chris Timmons, Chris McSpadden, Brad Sullivan and Jeff Dean are a few of the people Will turned to. These relationships impacted the lines of genetics that were brought in. The first line was Circle J&B, next was from The Refuge, and lastly Sullivan genetics. Working together with these friends to figure out what works with what, getting your doe lines in order then placing the right bucks over them is the process every breeder has to take. Star S has been able to get their does to consistently produce a product, not just high scoring offspring but a consistent look...wide, clean and tall. Their doe pedigrees include names like Double Drop, Daggertine, Bones, Dr. D, Bambi 727, Gladiator, and Highlander. These relationships with these breeders and carefully chosen genetics have helped his operation become successful. Star S is able to provide 200" + trophy whitetails year after year.

In the past Star S Ranch has attributed their tight bred doe lines to 2Wide(293" and 33 5/8" Inside Spread) and Big O (284" and 28" Wide) Cajun Kid (240" @1yr) co-owned with Sullivan reigns supreme at Star S Ranch today. He's out of Maxbo 727 (393" @5yrs) and a Sack Crete (289" and 30" inside at 5yrs) doe. Cajun Kid's grand-dam is W445 (the dam of SWR's Driler, 270" @2yrs). Big Block (302 4/8" at 3) is another premier buck on the ranch who's out of Big O (284" and 28" Wide) over Dinero (240" at 3yrs). The ranch has 450 total deer in their pens, the buck and doe numbers are around half and half. They will have approximately 150

## FEATURED BREEDER

fawns this year, many of whom will be out of Cajun Kid. Most of their does are LAP AI'd at Star S Ranch with a success rate of close to 70-75% to deer that are 30 inches wide and have a minimum score of 240 B&C. They let their lesser offspring out to pasture and hold back the promising deer. The Scott family doesn't sell any shooter bucks. They are all raised on the ranch and later sold as hunts. Star S Ranch's harvest deer are over 300" to 175" on average. Their goal is to produce the prettiest bucks with width, long tines and long beams whether it's a shooter or a breeder.

This 14,000 acre ranch is about as close to Africa as some of us will ever get. Because the family has always believed in breeding quality first, the quality is starting to show in their hunting operation. 2013 included 2 world record Kudu, one with a bow, the other with a handgun. Strategy along with a little luck is needed as these animals have grown up in 4,000 acres pastures their whole life. Star S has multiple exotics including Aoudad, Nubian Ibex, Kudu, Gemsbok, Zebra, Damas Gazelle, Axis, Blackbuck, Ostrich and the largest herd of Sable outside of Africa. The Star S Ranch has created an authentic Texas safari. They want every hunter to feel like they are truly in Africa. In the future they hope to add Chinese Blue Sheep and Giraffes as well. Star S Ranch has created a niche of their own providing African game with a real safari feel in Texas.

Will hopes that Star S Ranch can continue to provide a great hunting experience for their hunters for years to come. The experience starts on the way to the ranch. The James River flows over the road and appears impassible for a 'first-timer'. It's the only way in or out of the ranch by land, and after a good rain, the only other way out is by plane. After crossing the river, you are on land passing deer pens. Directly adjacent to the pens is a bat cave, home to four (4) million female bats. The Eckert James River Bat Cave Preserve is right next door to Star S Ranch and is one of the largest bat nurseries in the country. If you drive through the pens at the right time you can see the bats flying everywhere.



## WIDEWAYS



# FEATURED BREEDER



The ranch has stunning scenic views of the hill country. The hill country terrain and landscape is beautiful, especially around the new lodge. The ranch is putting the finishing touches on its new 11,000 sq.ft. hunting lodge. This lodge is designed to accommodate multiple parties and will be ready for the 2014 hunting season! Whether you're seeking a traditional whitetail hunt or an African hunting experience, you can be sure you will enjoy your stay.

Star S Ranch has grown from an idea to a reality. Will, James and their father Billy Scott have built a thriving operation where people from all walks of life can come and enjoy their stay. This business was created from a passion for the outdoors and a love for wildlife. The Scott family is thankful that they can share this hill country treasure with others.

