



# GENERATIONS

## The Hatada Ranch Story

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*Catlin Dutschmann and Family • All photos courtesy of Hatada Ranch*

**C**lose your eyes and picture this: You step outside, hear the birds chirping, the summer sun warms your face, you see sable, nyala and bongo grazing in the open field, you hear the cape buffalo

**“I am extremely thankful to the deer world for opening its arms to us.”**  
**- Catlin Dutschmann**

splashing in the water as they cool off from the summer heat. Everything about this atmosphere, from the rolling hills to the exotic species that roam, you feel like you are in Africa. Amazingly enough, this small piece of Africa is embedded outside of Valley Mills, Texas. THIS is Hatada Ranch.

The word “generation” can be used in many different ways, but at HATADA Ranch it is what they base their whole operation on.

### Family > Land > Exotics > Whitetail

#### FAMILY

Hatada Ranch was started in 1990 when the first super exotic stepped foot on the property. Doug & Sheila Dutschmann, along with the ranch owners, wanted to build an experience that they could raise their children around and pass on



*Skytan Dutschmann petting a whitetail doe*





*Hatada Ranch*

through future generations. Their children, including their 2 sons Catlin and Courtlin, grew up working and hunting on the ranch where Doug instilled in them a true love for animals and their well-being. They learned how important it is to go the extra mile and to build a strong foundation to guarantee a successful future. Today there are 3 generations of Dutschmann's living on the ranch; Catlin and his wife Hailey, along with their 2 girls and Courtlin and his wife Courtney, along with their son still reside on the ranch working side by side with their father Doug. Keeping a family friendly atmosphere is key to the Hatada group.

**LAND**

A strong baseline for any property starts in the health of its land. At Hatada Ranch, strong measures are taken for the land and vegetation to thrive. After receiving advice from their vet about gut health in animals, they knew that they had to find a way to keep grass in their pens year round. After doing some research, they decided to create a state of the

*State of the art irrigation system*



art irrigation system. Pumping from 8 different wells on the property, golf course sprinklers were installed. This system has helped to keep lush vegetation in every pen for all species to







*Hatada Ranch's unique Cape Buffalo pond*

graze. Along with irrigation, each species requires a different atmosphere. The Ibex would need trees to climb and thick brush to hide in to feel safe. At the same time, the cape buffalo needed enough room to roam in a herd and a place to cool off from the heat. Recently, Hatada Ranch has added a unique pond to the cape's pen. This pond has an island with a bared walkway so that visitors can safely walk out to the middle of the island and watch the buffalo swim around them. After 30+ years of work, this experience is unlike any other in Texas and is truly a sight to see!

## **EXOTICS**

From day one, all purchase decisions were based on the health of the animal. Doug knew that he wanted to bring in exotic species that were rare but healthy. With species like bongo, roan, sable, kudu, springbok, nyala and cape buffalo to name a few, Doug had his work cut out for him. Each species required special care and attention to acclimate to the changing Texas weather. Luckily, Doug's son Courtlin stepped in to help. Between the two of them, they have been able to create

generations of healthy and well-adjusted exotics throughout the past 30 years to make the name "Hatada Ranch" well-known in the exotic world.

## **WHITETAIL**

In 2015, Hatada Ranch decided to grow. After trying out different career paths, something about the ranch always brought Catlin back home. Having a lifetime of peaked interest in Whitetail Deer, they decided it was time to take on the whitetail world to build super genetics across the entire ranch. Catlin began researching and visiting deer ranches

*Inside the Hatada Ranch working facility*



all over the state of Texas, gaining tips and information from each one.

“I am extremely thankful to the deer world for opening its arms to us” Catlin recalls.

After returning home to compile all of the collected information, there was one topic that they couldn't ignore... CWD. Breeders had warned them of the impact of this disease, and they knew, once again, the importance of health in building this new foundation in Hatada Whitetails. “Texas Typical” has always been Catlin's favorite when looking at deer. His goal was to create the cleanest and most consistent herd of big typicals in Texas and because of that, one typical herd stuck in his mind. They began building 50+ pens to prepare for a big future.

In 2020, when the herd from Circle J&B Ranch became available, Hatada Ranch knew it a sign from the Lord. Since acquiring the herd and successfully moving it to Valley Mills, they have already started to flourish with fawns on the ground. This herd has been a certified since 2010 and a closed herd since 2004. Along with the herd, Hatada Ranch also



acquired Circle J&B's manager Chris Timmons as a Whitetail Consultant. Chris managed this herd from its beginning in 2001 and is truly thankful to be able to watch it continue.

The future goal of Hatada Whitetails is to build a herd that is so consistent and clean, that (like a Lay's Potato Chip) you can't just have 1. They are hoping to help boost genetics all across the state of Texas and to do things the right way for



their consistent customers. When asked about his hope for the future of the program, Catlin said “We are trying to make a friend for life, not a buck for today.”

**DBC**

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