



February 2, 2012

National Beef Improvement Federation
Attn: Lois Schreiner
213 Webber Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506

Dear Award Committee:

It is with great pleasure that the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition (Rangeland Coalition) support 5 Dot Ranch, Todd and Loretta Swickard and Family for the 2012 Beef Improvement Federation Producer of the year.

The Rangeland Coalition is an unprecedented group of over 100 California ranchers, environmentalists, researchers and local, state and federal agencies. Together, we are working to preserve private working landscapes; support the long-term viability of the ranching industry; improve the public recognition of the value of working rangelands; and enhance California rangelands for the myriad benefits they provide to society - including clear air, water, food, wildlife habitat and plant diversity.

Todd has been an instrumental leader, representing California's beef cattle producers, in the Rangeland Coalition. He has participated in tours for the public and agency staff to learn more about the benefits grazing and has spoken at various meetings and hearings covering topics important to the Rangeland Coalition and fellow cattlemen. Todd has also volunteered his time to assist in the development of realistic research projects that will be beneficial to ranchers on-the-ground, has offered up his grazing lands as a site for research projects and taken an active role in actively monitoring various lands for a variety of conservation goals and objectives.

The Swickards' participation in the Rangeland Coalition has been a family endeavors, just like the ranch itself. Todd and his wife Loretta have made it a priority to share the value of this groundbreaking coalition with other ranchers, encouraging further participation in the groups overarching mission to "keep ranchers ranching". In addition, Todd and Loretta were joined by their daughter Kirby this year to present at the 7th annual Rangeland Coalition Summit and Inaugural Science Symposium that drew over 400 attendees at the 2-day event.

The Rangeland Coalition strongly urges your support for 5 Dot Ranch, Todd and Loretta Swickard and Family, for the 2012 Beef Improvement Federation Producer of the year. If you have any questions about their commitment to the livestock industry, dedication to public outreach, or incredible stewardship ethic, please contact Tracy Schohr at (916) 716-2643 or tracy@carangeland.org.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy K. Schohr".

Tracy K. Schohr
Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pelayo Alvarez".

Pelayo Alvarez
Director