

Jim Freeman was born and raised in Guthrie, Oklahoma. He always had a love for cattle, and thanks to his uncle, Eddie Wood, his love turned toward Texas Longhorns. Starting with a small herd, Jim began breeding Longhorns, and has remained in the business for 25 years. His country upbringing was a far cry from the life Jo Eda Gregory was accustomed to. Jo Eda grew up in Farmington, New Mexico, which was a town centered on oil and gas and some agriculture. It wasn't until she and her family moved to Tuttle, Oklahoma, however, that agriculture became a part of her life.

"I grew up in a cul de sac," Jo Eda says. "But I always loved the farming lifestyle, so we wanted to move out on a farm for the kids. They immediately got involved in the FFA."

The move would prove to be an important one, not only for her daughters, but for herself. As the children became more involved with showing chickens and Shorthorn cattle, Jo Eda realized that the organization was good for them. Even though she teased her girls at the beginning, she began to love and understand part of the creed all FFA kids had to learn – "Even in times

of discouragement, this is the life I would like to have." And through discouraging times, Jo Eda and her three daughters managed to build a comfortable life.

Jo Eda would attend shows and would help out whenever needed, which led her to the very first Longhorn World Championship. Attending the Championship in order to help out with the TLBT booth, Jo Eda was able to get acquainted with Longhorn breeders. But one breeder in particular caught her eye.

Jim was at the Championship to help on the measurement team. He knew the team consisted of plenty of guys that were great to work with. He also had a heifer in the sale, so most of the weekend in 2008 would be spent working. However, one of his friends had different plans. Jo Eda and Jim were introduced. They ate at the same banquet table and exchanged numbers, but nothing really sparked except for a friendship. During the 2009 Longhorn World Championship, the two talked and walked around, but once again, Jim was too busy to have the time to really get to know Jo Eda. But after two years of idle conversation, Jim decided to invite Jo Eda to the Spring Shootout.

"SHE IS THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME" – JIM FREEMAN



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