

# 2020 Hall of Fame Recipients

## Doug & Johnnie Bledsoe



All we can say is WOW! We were not expecting to receive the Hall of Fame award at the Winter Board meeting held in Pigeon Forge, TN. When we received the call from Glenn to see if we could set something up to hold the Board meeting in Pigeon Forge, we thought maybe it was because the Board had been here in the past and wanted something different. Not a problem we said, always enjoy seeing any of the White Park Breeders.

Glenn ask if we could write something about our journey with the White Park Cattle so here we go - it's hard to sum up 28 years without writing a book.

It all started in December 1991; Doug was working in Florida, we were sitting around discussing about getting into registered cattle of some type. We had not made up our minds on what to buy, we just wanted a commercial heard of a little bit of everything. Skip, one of the workers, asked us if we had ever seen cattle that had a white body, black ears and black nose. We told him we had never seen anything like that. Skip and his wife were going home to Missouri for Christmas and would take some pictures for us to see. After returning back to Florida, Skip was telling us about standing and taking pictures of the cattle when Jim Freeman came out and started talking about the cows. Skip was telling him that he was getting pictures for us, so Jim gave Skip the information for us. After seeing the pictures and information on the White Parks, Doug was eager to talk with Jim. Over the phone, Doug bought 1 Bull and 5 heifers. After finishing up in Florida we headed to Missouri to get our cattle. It was not the best trip, cold and rain. We talked about how sick the cattle would get after we got home. Much to our surprise not even a runny nose. They got off the trailer not running, nor checking the fences, just put their heads down and started eating. That same year took us back to Springfield, Missouri for the White Park banquet. We were welcomed by such good people. Everyone made us feel welcome and we were eager to become part of the White Park Association.

Our next journey took us to the White Park sale in Columbus, Missouri, where we were once again greeted with everyone willing to help do anything to get the cattle ready. After that, we went to our first White Park show in Quincy, Illinois. We did not take cattle, just wanted to see what was going on. We talked about showing at our local fairs and gave it a try. Our heard bull won reserve grand champion at both of the local fairs. The next year we went to Indiana and bought a weened bull. After we got Max home we decided to get him ready for the White Park show in Quincy, Illinois. All the hard work paid off as we won Grand Champion 2 years in a row. Over the years we have had the pleasure of showing our cattle at the three major White Park shows.

Such a fun time in our life. We have come to know a lot of lifelong friends. Special thanks to Mike and Karen Shuffield for taking us under their wings and giving us the knowledge of showing, clipping and getting cattle show ready.

Over the years we went from 1 bull and 5 heifers to about a 70 head operation. Buying and selling to help promote the White Park in our 28 years. Over the last couple years Doug and I have been battling health issues. It has been a hard decision but we have cut our herd down to 20 head. We look forward to many more years in helping to grow our breed of White Parks. We would also like to express what an honor and pleasure it has been to serve on The Board over the years. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the Hall of Fame Award, it is such an honor.

Doug and Johnnie Bledsoe  
Bledsoe White Park Cattle