

Carla Young - 2012

2012's San Luis Obispo County CattleWoman of the year was born and raised in Templeton. Carla Petersen Young's ancestors settled in the Templeton area in the early 1900s and were very deeply involved in agriculture. Her grandfather, Vincent Rossi, started a dairy which his family ran until the 1950s. In the early 1940s her father, Richard Petersen, helped convince a landowner to lease his property to the late Walter Goodell to build a sales yard which is now the Templeton Sales Yard.

Petersen's parents Richard and Mae Petersen raised Shetland ponies for more than 25 years. Petersen, along with her brother, Carl Petersen, and her, sister Kay Ellen Martinelli, participated in the everyday operation of caring for the ponies. They traveled all over the western United States showing them at such places as the Fort Worth Stock Show and Del Mar. The Petersen Pony Farm was one of the largest and most well-known breeders in the United States.

Petersen was a member of the Templeton 4-H where she raised and showed market lambs at the Mid-State Fair. She had the Grand Champion lamb on two different occasions. After graduating from high school, she attended Saint Luke's School of Nursing and became a Registered Nurse.

She and her late husband ran a commercial Hereford/angus cow/calf operation in Yolo County. They also raised and showed cutting horses.

Upon returning to Templeton in 2004, she joined SLO Co. CattleWomen and became a very active member, first serving as Historial and then Fundraising Chairman, which is dedicated to raising funds for beef promotion and scholarships. She has been extremely active in all phases of the group including Field Trips at McLintocks, Beef promotion Father's Day at Spencer's Market, The Great AGventure, Fundraising, Highway Cleanup, SLO Co. Cattlemen and Farmers' Day, Beef Ambassador Contest, Cattlemen's Play Day, CattleWomen's Pioneer Day Roping and many other activities. She has attended numerous State and National Meetings serving as a voting delegate. She was very involved in starting the fashion show in 2008 at A. J. Spurs and then moved it to Madonna Inn in the fall of 2009. She also serves as a Director on the Board.

With her busy schedule, Petersen still finds time to enjoy her cutting horses both raising and showing them and serving as a volunteer at Twin Cities Community Hospital, American Legion Auxiliary, Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Assn., Cal Poly Rodeo Boosters, and Miss Rodeo California.

Petersen has two sons, Cary Beck and Joel Beck, four stepchildren and nine grandchildren.

It is easy to see why Petersen Young was chosen by the board to be SLO Co. CattleWoman of the Year for 2012. Congratulations Petersen for your outstanding leadership and dedication to our organization.