



# LAND + LIVESTOCK

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THE TEXAS AGRICULTURE SCENE

## Melody Acres

Diversified farm offers everything from grassfed beef to honey, with some lamb in between

A little of this and a little of that, that's how Patricia Seeley runs her Houston County farm.

Mrs. Seeley, along with her husband, Isauro Garcia operate Melody Acres Farm. Over the years Patty has become known for her Lowline Angus cattle, a prime animal for grassfed beef. Over the years she has introduced some Wagyu blood into her Lowlines, creating some of the most tender grassfed meat available.



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Her pastures are all grown without the aid of synthetic fertilizers, and they thrive. Still, the cattle get fat and provide plenty of tender and tasty beef. The genetics of the Lowline Angus provide for a more tender meat, and it's smaller stature means more of the grass they feed on goes toward the meat instead of the large growth and bone structure. The introduction of the Wagyu, a breed known for its intense marbling, tenderness and flavor, also adds to the premium quality of her beef.

"The Lowline Angus is more of the original type of Angus," Patty told us. "They are short and stocky – like an Angus should be."

She can stand in the middle of her herd, feed them a little and just be at peace among them. They are her babies, but she also knows what they are for, as she has some butchered for her own use. She also sells heifers and others for meat out of her herd, "we still have to pay the bills."

A few years ago her first husband



Patty Seeley shows off her outdoor oven, it also provides smoke for the family smoke-house (right.)



died and left this Minnesota transplant alone in Texas. She did have a degree in animal science from Iowa State University, so she put it to good use with her cattle and it has paid off for her.

The thing about Melody Acres Farm is, it's diversified. Besides her short cattle, Patty also has a sizeable

herd of sheep. She raises St. Croix and Dorper sheep, crossing them to get the best of both breeds' genetics.

"Dorpers are great meat sheep and the St. Croix are extremely parasite resistant," Patty explained.

The sheep and their crosses are a natural for this portion of East Texas as the

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normally mild winters and wet weather of the region tends to make parasites a problem for sheep and goats. The natural parasite resistance helps her raise quality sheep without the need for chemicals to keep them healthy and thriving on the lush pastures.

“Chemicals have a detrimental effect

on our food,” Patty said. “We do everything we can to keep it natural and healthy.”

The sheep are raised strictly for meat, as both breeds are covered with hair instead of wool. They also are layered with meat, and if prepared properly are a delicious source of protein for

A large advertisement for the Hustler Raptor riding lawn mower. The background shows a man in a maroon shirt and blue jeans riding the yellow mower through a field of pink flowers. The Hustler logo is in the top left. The text "THE GAME CHANGER" is written in large, bold, white letters across the middle. Below that, "STARTING AT \$2799" is written in large, bold, white letters. At the bottom, the Southern Tractor logo is displayed in white on a black background.

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any family's table.

For many people Texas is the land of milk and honey, and while Melody Acres does not have the dairy cows to make milk, they do have the bees to make honey. Patty and her husband have several hives of bees they tend and nurse during these difficult days of bee keeping. In late summer they collect the extra honey and sell it to those who yearn for a natural source of raw honey with nectar collected from local

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Isauro Garcia feeds some of the cattle that call Melody Acres home.



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plants.

Chickens also call Melody Acres home as they raise a few breeds for egg production. Like a famous Texas company, “They eat all they can then they...”, well, you should know the rest.

Melody Acres also is home to a large lake and she rents it out for fishing weekends for those who look forward to the chance to reel in a whopper or two. Farm life agrees with Patty and Isauro

, they aren’t getting rich, but they are leading an example many can follow, using a diversified farming plan to get the most out of their acreage rather than relying on monoculture methods that can be quite cost prohibitive for

many people. To learn more about Melody Acres and the cattle, sheep, or anything else they have to offer, then give them a call at 936-544-2232, or visit her website at [melodyacreslowlines.com](http://melodyacreslowlines.com) **TFH**

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