

Terri Woods - 2005

Terri Woods has been a member of the CattleWomen for over 12 years. She was county president, and has served as 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, director and Beef Ambassador Committee chair. She also has chaired or co-chaired the Cattle Ranching Field Trips, Fair Booth, Internet and Publicity committees, and has assisted with the Pioneer Roping, Scholarship, Ag Task Force, Casino Night, and Scrapbook projects. She is proud to have helped win the California State Beef Council's Walt Rodman Award for Best Beef Promotion Project, with the San Luis Obispo CattleWomen's Internet Project, the Harris Ranch Beef Pre-Cooked Meal Sampling at the California Mid-State Fair, and this past year's project – sending beef jerky to our troops overseas as part of Operation Care Package. Terri is also active at the state CattleWomen level by currently serving as the Beef Ambassador chair, as a charter member and director of A California CattleWomen's Heritage Foundation 501(c)3, and as the former publicity chair.

Terri Allen Woods was raised 90 miles north of Elko, Nevada, on the Jackson family's Petan and Silver Creek ranches where her father, Ray Allen, managed the horse division. Educated through the eighth grade at a one-room ranch schoolhouse, she was active in FFA and on the rodeo team at Elko High School. Her parents moved to California in 1972, where they managed the Jackson's horse racing and farming divisions in Santa Barbara, as well as the cattle on the Alisal Ranch in the Santa Ynez Valley. Ray Allen is a longtime member of the Cattlemen's Association and is a current director of San Luis Obispo Cattlemen. He is also the 2004 Honorary Vaquero for the Santa Barbara Fiesta Rodeo. Terri's mother, "Mike" Allen works for the California Mid-State Fair and is the secretary for San Luis Obispo CattleWomen. Terri has one sister, Vicki Penwell, a missions pastor and the director of the international Mercy in Action School of Midwifery based in Boise, Idaho; and one brother, Braig Allen, manager of Old English Rancho, a major thoroughbred breeding and racing facility near Sanger, California.

After graduating from Santa Barbara High School, Terri attended Cal Poly for a year before going to work full time in law enforcement. Her first job was as a dispatcher/matron at Carpenteria Police Department before her career took her to Fairbanks, Alaska, and Jackson, Wyoming, for several years. Participation in law enforcement rodeos led to marriage and a move to Austin, Texas, where her daughter Kate was born in 1985. Unfortunately, the marriage was brief, and Terri moved back to California with her two-year-old daughter to live near her parents in Paso Robles. Kate graduated from Paso Robles High School and is now a college student at the Mercy in Action School of Midwifery, finishing her degree by spending the next year at a maternity clinic in the Philippines.

After a law enforcement career which had included duties as a dispatcher, jailer, patrol assignments and responsibilities as a hostage negotiator and trainer, Terri went to work for the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department as a civilian employee. Her current position is a rural crime prevention specialist, working with agricultural interests to prevent and reduce crime through education and training. She has been on the board of directors of the California Rural Crime Task Force and coordinates the Sheriff's Citizen Academy.

Terri has enjoyed her time away from work and CattleWomen duties as well, by spending some time as a 4-H group leader and church youth group leader. She is now very active at her church, Mercy Vineyard in San Luis Obispo. Personal interests are still riding and competing when time allows and helping to gather and brand cattle when asked. She says that the best times of all are spent with daughter Kate, family and friends-and being able to give back to the industry which raised her by contributing a little bit to the great work that CattleWomen do to educate and support our young people and consumers about the benefits of beef and of the cattle ranching industry.