

Ranching: A field like no other

**The Mullins:
Working the
land with
perseverance
through
changing times**

By Cheryl Hoefler
Blue Mountain Eagle

PRAIRIE CITY — As jobs go, ranching is in a field all its own.

Duties and animals beckon around the clock or, at best, from before sunup to past sundown, seven days a week, every week of every year. No calling in sick and no vacations, at least not

without plenty of pre-planning and help from neighbors and family.

So why would someone want to pursue such a demanding calling?

Longtime Grant County rancher Carolyn Mullin said, "If you didn't like it, you wouldn't do it."

Carolyn and her husband, Steve, like it well enough to have been doing it for 50 years this coming June, raising purebred Black Angus cattle on their Blue Mountain Angus Ranch in the Prairie City area, beneath the majestic Strawberry Mountain Wilderness.

However, the Mullins' ranching days date back even further. Before settling in Grant County, the couple,

who are both from California, worked on Steve's family's Siskiyou County ranch in northern California, using a brand that had been his great-grandfather's.

Their sons, Allan and Dan, are carrying on the family business and are also Grant County area ranchers. As youths, both participated in 4-H and showed cattle at the Grant County Fair for many years, and Carolyn served on the fair board, too.

She said ranching is a lifestyle that a lot of people can't handle — "It's so different from anything else."

It's a 24/7 job, Carolyn said, especially when animals are involved.

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Carolyn and Steve Mullin have enjoyed nearly 50 years working the land on their ranch south of Prairie City.

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Ranching and riding together, Carolyn Mullin and her son, Dan, pause their horses at a lush spot on the family's Blue Mountain Angus Ranch.



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Longtime Grant County rancher Steve Mullin tends to one of his Black Angus cattle.

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