# **NORTH TEXAS FARM & RANCH**

May 2019 | www.ntfronline.com | Volume 7 Issue 7

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**NTFR** 

## NORTH TEXAS FARM & RANCH

Volume 7 — Issue 7

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## May flowers

Welcome to the May issue of North Texas Farm and Ranch magazine. Those baby calves and foals have hit the ground and are busy playing in the pastures while the Texas state flower blooms along the highways.

As new beginnings are all around, a farm that has breathed life into North Texas agriculture for almost



50 years is coming to an end as the North Central Texas College Experimental Farm and Beef Center comes to a close at the end of the 2019 spring semester.

In this month's profile, we look back on its history as a thank you to the farm and its dedicated supporters for providing hands on experience for each generation of agricultural leaders and top-notch bull testing that has improved herds across the area.

We welcome new contributor Kristin Pitzer who also discusses new life this issue and what you should be feeding those newborn foals. Also in equine, Krista Lucas catches us up on the National Circuit Finals Rodeo.

One of my favorites this issue comes from Phillip Kitts and the ambassadors of rodeo. If you're wondering what exactly I am talking about, make sure you turn to his article to read all about the importance and hard work rodeo queens across the nation put in to help continue the time-honored sport of rodeo.

Enjoy a laugh with Andy Anderson this month as he takes you back to a trip between Uncle Booger and his nephew, Hunter.

There are plenty of events to keep you busy this month. Judy Wade talks the Cowboy Church of Henrietta's upcoming Family Fun Day and our calendar is jam packed with events from concerts to workshops. We thank those who gave their lives for this country on Memorial Day, May 27. This month also brings about the day for honoring the special woman in your life as Mother's Day rolls around on May 12.

Have an event, topic or photo you would like to see in an upcoming issue? Email editor@ntfronline.com.

For more NTFR visit our website at www.NTFRonline.com where you can subscribe to an online edition. To subscribe by mail call 940-872-5922. Make sure to like our Facebook page and follow us on Instagram and Twitter.

Wishing you all the best this May.



#### **ON THE COVER**

As it comes to a close this spring, the North Central Texas College Experimental Farm and Beef Center will leave behind a lasting legacy through the students and agriculture leaders who gained their hands-on experience at this farm, the herds in the area who are genetically stronger thanks to its first class bull testing and the Red Angus breed in North Texas and Southern Oklahoma whose popularity remains partly in thanks to the demonstration herd that led the way. (Photo by Dani Blackburn)

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New this month to NTFR, contributor Kristin Pitzer talks food for foals. Starting at the beginning with proper nutrition will give a foal the boost it needs to reach its potential in life.

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#### Page 24 ATTRACTIONS Kenna Danielle

Kenna Danielle is Dave Alexander's new find on the Texas music scene. Raised in Controe, Kenna is making her mark with a bluesy, soulful down-home country style.

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#### Page 55 PROFILE Lasting Legacy

As we say fairwell to the NCTC Experimental Farm and Beef Center, we look back over its 47 years and the impact it had in North Texas agriculture.

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#### SOCIALIZING

#### FACEBOOK WALL



**Dawn Chambers** March 14 at 3:50 PM - 24

Day 8. I was nominated for the 10-day farming family challenge. Every day I select an image from a day in the life of farming that has made an impact on me and post it without a single explanation and nominate somebody to take the challenge. That's 10 days, 10 farming photos, & 10 nominations. I nominate Deb Noem



We are loving the 10-day farming family challenge spreading across social media. Pictured is Dawn Chambers with her sons, Levi and Cole. Post an image and share the impact farming has had in your life.

#### **INSTAGRAM FEED**



Rodeo Houston wrapped up another successful year. We enjoyed the photos and videos shared on their Instagram page. For more follow rodeohouston or visit www.rodeohouston.com.



#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

NTFR welcomes letters to the editor for its Socializing page, but some rules apply. They include:

1. 125-word limit.

...

2. Deadline for submission is the first Wednesday of the month.

3. Only one letter per writer per issue.

4. All letters must include a name, address and phone number. Only the name and city of residence will be published.

5. All letters will be verified by the NTFR staff by a phone call prior to publication. If the NTFR staff is unable to contact the writer of a letter, the letter will be held until contact is made.

6. Letters containing libelous statements or those intended as advertising will not be published.

7. Letters that target previous letter writers will be edited to remove the name of such letter writers who are non-candidates or non-public figures.

8. Letters critical of previously published guest columns may identify the writer only once, and then only to make it clear which column they are writing about.

9. NTFR reserves the right to edit or reject any letters.

10. Letters must be mailed to NTFR Letter to the Editor, P.O. Box 831, Bowie, TX 76230 or emailed to editor@ntfronline. com.



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## MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

he lady at the local newspaper office took the ad for "cattle for sale," and with a bewildered look on her face asked the other ladies working there if they had ever seen cattle with little ears, but no one had. One had actually seen goats with little ears at the stock show, the Lamancha breed she thought, but she wasn't sure. When asked why she would even ask that question, she replied that a gentleman had come in to place an ad for 10 bred heifers for sale, mostly black with a little ear and she had never seen or heard of cattle with little ears. I guess we do speak a different language in this business.

With the weather extremes seen around the county this winter, we're pretty lucky to live in this By Rayford Pullen | rcpullen@yahoo.com

neck of the woods. While we had a long and wet winter, spring is now here and bringing with it the grasses and legumes we have been longing for. This also was the first time in my lifetime our pastures and fields were too wet for the grasses or cereal grains to grow.

While we need the moisture almost on a weekly basis due to our low organic matter soils, soils without air cannot grow plants either. Supersaturated soils here were a first for most of us.

The word on the street is that cattle prices will be better in 2019 so here's hoping for that. With an annual cost approaching or even exceeding \$500 per cow, our break-even prices are pretty substantial now. There needs to be a little relief in the commodity business we are involved in, and, hopefully, it's on the way.

Around the farm, May is the time to work our spring born calves and this will involve them receiving their first blackleg vaccination and their first deworming. If we are castrating bull calves, this also is the time when we'll do this. Cows will receive their Lepto-Vibrio vaccinations and all cattle under two will be dewormed and the remainder on an as-needed basis based on our observations.

Herd bulls receive the same vaccinations and deworming as our cows and are traditionally turned out the last of April through July 15 or so. When the weather turns extremely hot, conception rates become very low, so whether you remove the bulls or not, your breeding season is probably over.

Weeds are going to be public enemy number one here on our place this year due to all the rain we have had the past few months. While we normally have our fair share of weeds, the rains have provided the ammunition for even the harder shelled seeds to germinate, which in the case of desirable hard seed crops such as clover, we should see an abundance of plants.

Controlling weeds produces more grass because it allows the sun, normally captured by the weeds, to reach the grass we want to grow. Plants don't grow in the shade and sunlight is usually the limiting factor in the amount of grass we produce. In our area of the state, north central Texas, May is the month to control weeds since most of the annual weed seeds have germinated and herbicides with little or no residual activity must contact leaf material in order to work. If you're using herbicides with residual activity, the application window is wider, but with this, you can also expect a higher cost per acre. Weed control, in my opinion, is where the first dollar should be spent to increase grass production.

May also is bull turn out month around our homestead. Cows bred May 1 are expected to calve February 10 and our goal is to have the majority of our spring born calves arrive in February and March so that when our forages are at their best, which is April through June, they are old enough to take full advantage of all the nutrition available to them from the forage and the abundance of milk from their mothers. To be able to do this, calves need to be six to eight weeks old when Mother Nature serves the best buffet of the year.

Spring was a little late getting to us this year, but thankfully it finally arrived, and the feeding has stopped.

With so much expense associated with wintering cows here and across the nation, I was hoping spring would arrive asap since the cost of hay was taking a huge chunk out of our budget. So if you are planning on baling or buying hay, the first cutting is usually the best based on quality.

As we continue to scale back our cattle operation and sell off more cows and heifers, I am reminded of how fortunate we have been to be able to live the life afforded us, especially in the spring when the new calves arrive, and, like our little humans, are full of energy and ready to explore the unknown.

While we will probably always be involved in the cattle business, we will just do it on a smaller scale. We're not leaving, we're just slowing down a bit.

It's a wonderful time to be in the cattle business.  $\widehat{\mathbb{N}}$ 





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#### **BRODAY RANCH**

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This is a pristine cattle ranch located in north Texas in Clay County. Open rolling grass land with hardwood lined creeks, minimal mesquites, good perimeter and cross fencing, three sets of cattle working pens, two with scales, adequate surface water throughout, two houses, both in livable condition, nice workshop on a slab with electricity, horse barn with tack room, stalls and turn-out pens and an equipment/hay barn, great access to the ranch and 15 minutes east of Wichita Falls. Owner Finance available.



#### TRIANGLE T RANCH

#### EW LISTING \$1,620/Ac

The Triangle T Ranch consist of two non-contiguous ranches, approximately 5-10 miles from one another. South ranch contains 4,972 acres of rolling grassland, moderate mesquite coverage, 550 acres of improved grasses, 12 pastures, grass traps, great surface water, 2 sets of working pens. North ranch consists of 3,206 acres of rolling terrain with huge bluffs across the central portion, Wichita River frontage, moderate mesquite coverage, hardwoods along the river, 9 pastures, 21 stock ponds, pens, barn, scale house with living quarters. Both ranches have asphalt road frontage and public water.



#### LOST CREEK RANCH

\$2.375/Ad

The Lost Creek is located in northwest Young County, 3.5 miles southwest of Markley. The property is heavily wooded with oaks, mesquite along with scattered grass meadows. There is nearly 100 feet of elevation change across the ranch, with outstanding views. The north portion of the property is dominated by a wet weather creek, which eventually flows east into Brushy Creek. This is an ideal recreational property with wildlife all over it.

HOUSE & 50 ACRES | WICHITA COUNTY



#### CASA DEL RIO FARM

\$574,900

This is a highly improved property within the city limits of Wichita Falls. It's improved with a completely remodeled house, two horse barns and a workshop/ garage. The property has heavy woods, farmland and mature hardwoods. You will not find another property like this one that has a country atmosphere with convenience to city living amenities. Additional riverfront acreage available.

#### 838 ACRES | JACK COUNTY



#### SWIFT CREEK RANCH

\$2,450/Ac

The Swift Creek Ranch is one of the nicer raw land tracts currently available in Jack County. It's is heavily wooded with primarily oaks, with scattered mesquites, good hunting, great cover and habitat for wildlife, several creeks traverse the ranch, rolling terrain with outstanding views, over 115' of elevation change, several building sites, good interior roads, several ponds, electricity is on the ranch and well water is available.

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- North Dean Ranch 3,206 Acres Clay Co \$1,600/Acre
- Bymond Wichita River Ranch 175 Acre Clay Co \$2,900/Ac
- Diehl Ranch 42 Acres Barn, Pens, Ponds Clay Co \$225,000
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- Ashton Riverland 60 Acres- Wichita Co \$5,250/Ac <u>Under Contract</u>
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## A Gelsechere PENDERPTION BY JENNIFER NELSON

Young apples line an orchard in Biglerville, Pa.



### PHOTO J DESCRIPTION BY LINDSEY MONK

Gelsewhere

A two-year-old with her new heifer calf. The cotyledons are visible with the way the sun was setting.

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- 2018 Getaining by Herman Goldsteker out of a daughter of High Brow Cat, rides nice!
   2010 Cat, rides nice!
- 2018 Sorrel Filly by Peptoboonsmal out of a daughter of Dual Rey
   2013 Sorrel Stallion by Metallic Cat out of daughter of Smart Little Lena, really broke to ride and great disposition.
- 2016 Red Roan Stallion by Metallic Cat out of a daughter of One Time Pepto, super disposition & rides good.
- 2018 Red Roan Stallion by San Man out of a daughter of Docs Stylish Oak, Futurity prospect.
- · First 2 yr olds by Frenchmans Chubby all started riding.
- 2017 Blue Roan Stallion by The Cowboy Cadillac out of a Goldseeker mare.
- 2018 Sorrel Stallion by One Time Pepto out of a daughter of Grays Starlight.
- 2017 Red Roan Stallion by One Time Pepto out of a daughter of Grays Starlight, been in training since January 1, 2019.
- 2013 Black Stallion by Little Cat Olena, 15 hands, 5 panel N/N, sound & ready to show.
- 2017 Sorrel Stallion by Cats Merada out of a daughter of Hesa Peptospoonful, with lots of chrome and fancy broke. 5 panel N/N
- 2017 Sorrel Stallion by Hydrive Cat out of a daughter of TR Dual Rey, super disposition and rides great.
- 2018 Bay Roan Stallion by Hes Wright On out of a daughter of Mecom Blue
- 2016 Palomino Gelding by Show Me A Song Joes out of a daughter of Sensation Cash, really really broke. Pitzer Ranch Invitationals Eligible.
- 2017 Chestnut Stallion by Spots Hot out of a daughter of Boonlight Dancer, started riding.
- 2018 Gray Stallion by Metallic Gray out of a daughter of Rhinestone Bartender, lots of color in this pedigree
- 10 Broodmares from Cudd Quarter Horses all in foal some 3 in 1 package.
- 2008 Red Roan Mare by One Time Pepto out of a daughter of Smart Little Lena, 5 panel N/N & bred to Hashtags.
- 2005 Red Roan Mare by A Streak of Fling out of a daughter of Mr Baron Red, in foal to Metallic Gray.
- 2015 Blue Roan Mare by Poor Me A Pepto bred to One Fabulous Time, 5 panel N/N
- 2 pretty 2018 Stud colts by Fuel N Shine out of daughters of Pepto Playboy
- Several Pitzer bred Geldings eligible for the Pitzer Ranch Horse
  Invitational
- 8 Yearlings from the Bruce Rader Ranch of LaJunta, CO
- (2) 2018 Outstanding Roan fillies by Automatic Cat
- 1999 Broodmare by Freckles Fancy Twist out of a daughter of Freckles Playboy, 3 in 1 package.
- 1999 Broodmare by Miss N Command out of a daughter of Zans Misty Gold, 3 in 1 package.
- 2017 Red Roan Gelding by Bet Hesa Cat out of a daughter of Haidas Little Pep, started nicely, great futurity prospect.
- (2) Yearlings, (2) 3 yr olds, all by son of WR This Cats Smart, MP ROC Kat.
- Nice selection of yearling Futurity prospects.
- Several broke ponies all sizes

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### RANCH, Roceo & Randomness By Pepper Stewart

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For starters you can become BQA (Beef Quality Assurance) Certified, currently free of charge online and in person at select locations. Visit www.BQA.org to learn more.

There are a few different certifications you can get from cow-calf to transportation. All information is listed on their website. If you're not sure, ask the nearest kid. I'm sure they have a smart phone and would be happy to pull it up for you.

Something new that was recently released is from a company called Agex with digital traceable ear tags for your cattle. This is where it gets helpful. Start by downloading the free application called Agex Herd, www.Agex-Herd.com on your smart phone.

You then can scan or type in the Agex ear tag (Agex USDA RFID Ear Tags \$2 ea.) information to the app and add in all the important details on the cow.

You are able to input, for instance, ranch location, weight, purchase date, sale date, vaccination information, calving, breeding, etc. on each bovine.

What happens when you sell that cow? If the person who purchases the cow also downloads the free application, they simply scan the ear tag and it uploads the history from its last location.

To me this seems to be a great step forward for those looking for more traceability in cattle



Consumers today want more transparency and information about where their beef comes from. (Photo courtesy Pepper Stewart)

while increasing the value of your cattle as they come with a history report.

Side note: Recent news reports state a major fast food chain is set out to only purchase cattle from BQA Certified ranches in 2019 and only use BQA Certified cattle haulers by 2020. Once again, restating that beef consumers want to know they are getting the best quality beef possible and it's up to us to make that happen.

To answer the lingering question: yes, I'm BQA certified in cow-calf and a user of the Agex herd management software.



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### LAND MARKET REPORT MARCH 2019 RURAL LAND SALES

Now that the sun is out once in a while, most land brokers are reporting their property inquiries and showings are on the upswing. Land surveyors also have been slowed by the weather and are reporting that they are beginning to catch up. No surveys means closings are delayed as well, so the title companies were anticipating a surge in closings for the month of April. The two hottest categories of land continue to be rural residential and heavily wooded recreational land with surface water. Below is a synopsis of land transaction for the month of March, in four of our North Texas counties.

Information from North Texas Real Estate Information Service (NTREIS) for Farm & Ranch raw land data, for 10 or more acres for the month of March 2019.

MONTAGUE COUNTY			SELL TO	DAYS ON
AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	LIST PRICE	MARKET
Forestburg	11.6	\$5,344.83	93.77%	83
Sunset	23.44	\$3,000.00	58.85%	389
Bowie	25.93	\$4,820.67	83.11%	222
Nocona	45.14	\$3,544.53	96.97%	4
Bowie	30	\$7,140.00	114.24%	595
Sunset	36.35	\$6,000.00	87.59%	297
Bowie	109.17	\$3,470.59	92.55%	8
Median	30	\$4,820.67	92.55%	222
Minimum	11.6	\$3,000.00	58.85%	4
Maximum	109.17	\$7,140.00	114.24%	595
Average	40.233	\$4,760.09	89.58%	228

Land transactions in Montague County saw a longer marketing period in March as compared to March 2018, with it taking an average of 56 days longer to sell. The average price per acre was up \$600.52 as compared to last March, and the average tract size was 10.806 acres larger than last March. The overall land market is slightly weaker now than it was a year ago, but is still fairly robust. There is still a heavy demand in the Sunset / Alvord area and the Forestburg / Saint Jo area for wooded recreational land.

DENTON CO	UNTY		SELL TO	DAYS ON
AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	LIST PRICE	MARKET
Sanger	10	\$13,620.75	96.67%	17
Sanger	33.022	\$12,741.51	91.07%	226
Argyle	10.1	\$82,029.70	96.34%	201
Northlake	256.98	\$10,506.65	90%	44
Median	21.561	\$13,620.75	93.7%	123
Minimum	10	\$10,506.65	90%	17
Maximum	256.98	\$82,029.70	96.67%	226
Average	77.526	\$29,944.47	93.52%	122

Denton County continues to see explosive growth, as well as diminishing amounts of agricultural land. The most sought after land uses are for small, rural residential and for residential development. Tracts under 20 acres in the Argyle area can sell for as much as \$200,000 an acre. Developers are still snatching up any farm land they can get if it is fairly close to a town or an area with utility infrastructure in place.

COOKE COUNTY			SELL TO	DAYS ON
AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	LIST PRICE	MARKET
Era	31.79	\$7,203.52	100%	9
Whitesboro	46.39	\$5,500.00	100%	1,084
Collinsville	26.059	\$12,000.00	88.89%	125
Whitesboro	43	\$8,139.53	81.4%	277
Valley View	55	\$9,513.91	88.5%	71
Collinsville	57.48	\$11,308.28	88.68%	3

Cooke County was pretty steady compared to a year ago, with the largest difference being in the average tract size sold, with that shrinking by 79.217 acres over last March. Average price per acre was up \$787.81 and the days on market was down a whopping 265 days. Like Montague County, Cooke still has a large demand for wooded recreational land, as well as rural residential land in the Lindsay and Era School Districts. There were four properties that went expired in March, compared with zero expiring a year ago in March.

WISE COUNT	Y		SELL TO	DAYS ON
AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	LIST PRICE	MARKET
Bridgeport	10	\$8,500.00	94.44%	3
Paradise	10.01	\$12,487.51	100%	65
Springtown	10	\$15,250.00	98.39%	36
Boyd	21.75	\$9,195.40	78.43%	202
Paradise	20	\$11,250.00	84.91%	556
Chico	16.1	\$15,838.51	78.46%	18
Bridgeport	130	\$7,200.00	90.57%	312
Median	16.1	\$11,250.00	90.57%	65
Minimum	10	\$7,200.00	78.43%	3
Maximum	130	\$15,838.51	100%	556
Average	31.123	\$11,388.77	89.31%	170

There was a fairly sizable increase in the average price per acre in Wise County this March, as compared to March 2018, with a difference of \$4,057.12 per acre. Most other indices were stable and comparable to March 2018. Wise County still has a high demand for smaller tracts with heavy tree cover for rural residential use, as well as a high demand for leasable grass for grazing. As with all counties in North Texas, overpriced properties are being overlooked by buyers.



The roots of rodeo have much more to offer than lists of prideful cowboys and stock contractors who match money with ego.

There is a long list of historic ladies who have made a huge impact on the sport of rodeo. All the way back to the start of the sport, women have competed on nearly all platforms. Ladies like Bertha (Kaepernick) Blancett, who was the first lady to ride a bronc at Chevenne and women like Annie Oakley, who was known for her marksmanship abilities in Wild West Shows. Then there were stars like Mabel Strickland who won steer-roping titles in Cheyenne and Pendleton. These women were the ground breakers in the sport of rodeo.

As rodeo became more prevalent around the United States, it became a hot bed issue that men felt competing against females in rodeo events was unfair. Many historians say the passing of Bonnie McCarroll at the 1929 Pendleton Round-Up precipitated this new view.

Across a few decades, women's involvement in the sport transitioned from competitor to "Ranch Girls," which was the predecessor to the modern rodeo queen. During the long transition from rough and ready cowgirl to rodeo queen not an ounce of tradition, heritage or grit has been lost.

The massive misconception the modern rodeo queen is a pretty face that prances around to be an accent to the show is

#### By Phillip Kitts

simply untrue. The amount of knowledge, dedication and work that goes into competing in rodeo pageantry can stagger one's mind, then add in the finances and time commitment that goes along with winning a title.

Many young ladies take a shine to the glitz and glamour that come along with carrying a crown as rodeo royalty. Nearly every rodeo queen will tell you as soon as they could walk, they dreamed of being a "Rodeo Queen." They will instantly tell you how much work and dedication comes with the title.

Let us take a moment and bring to light how much goes into being rodeo royalty. In the early stages of competing, each rodeo queen must master skills in horsemanship, much more than riding around an arena at high speeds or carrying a flag. Most rodeo queens can provide you detailed descriptions of the anatomy of horses, behavior characteristics and proper choice and use of tack for individual horses. In addition to being an accomplished cowgirl, a rodeo queen must have superior communication skills; a great majority of rodeo queens attend public speaking classes and seminars as well as hire communication coaches to assist them in the ability to clearly and concisely deliver a message. If those two tasks were not enough to boggle the mind, rodeo queens also must have an in-depth knowledge of rodeo. This knowledge must go deeper than knowing what the

#### FARM & RANCH

seven traditional events are. A dedicated rodeo queen will be able to recite most of the basic rules, who current and past champions are, and how each event got started.

So, before a rodeo queen ever adorns her first crown, there are hours of learning, research, practice, and developing of skills in order to even compete. After months and even sometimes years of training, a young lady will take her first shot as a rodeo queen. This first attempt is usually done at the local rodeo level. In addition to all the information we have discussed above, they will also have to know local rodeo history as well as influential people who have competed at that rodeo.

Progression for a woman who finds the desire to continue competing usually transpires through a state Miss Teen Rodeo pageant where she will compete against women all over her state. With the growth level to the state competition, the amount of knowledge grows.

A Miss Teen State Rodeo queen will be required to know all the rodeos within the state as well as the basic history of those events.

The super committed young lady who chooses to chase the highest levels of rodeo queen will eventually find herself as a young adult competing for their Miss Rodeo crown at each state's level. The transition from Miss Teen to Miss State not only grows in knowledge but also in responsibility. Each State Rodeo Queen finds herself with the opportunity to travel to Las Vegas to compete at the national level. Every year in December these young women travel with the dream of becoming Miss Rodeo America. As if all the work and effort to win a crown aren't enough, when a young lady receives a crown, one year of her life becomes dedicated to the title. At the state title level these young ladies will attend nearly every event within their state. During their attendance at a rodeo, the skills they have displayed to win the title come into play.

Normally a rodeo queen will arrive at an event an entire day or in some cases, days prior to the event. As soon as they arrive, they are scheduled to make television and radio appearances promoting the rodeo. In addition to promoting rodeo, they often find themselves educating the public on all things rodeo. During the rodeo, the duties fall back into the all too familiar job of running flags and presenting the colors. This is yet another place where the talent of a queen comes to play. Most queens do not haul horses to a rodeo; they will acquire a horse from someone there at the event. In mere moments a queen will meet a horse then



Miss Rodeo America Taylor McNair displays her horsemanship skills. (Photo courtesy Phillip Kitts)



Miss Rodeo America Taylor McNair holds the American flag. (Photo courtesy Phillip Kitts)

find herself running an arena surrounded by thousands of people while carrying a flag. This is a true testament to horsemanship.

During a weekend of rodeo, the average rodeo queen will spend 18 to 20 hours fulfilling the duties that come with the crown.

In the cases of state rodeo queens, the duties do not end at just the state level. State queens also will make appearances at other state's rodeos as well as specific influential rodeos around the United States. Miss Rodeo America has an even more demanding schedule: her commitment expands the entire United States plus appearances at several events in other countries.

One can only imagine the extensive finan-



Miss Rodeo Montana Kayla Seaman waves to her fans. (Photo courtesy Phillip Kitts)

cial investment that comes along with competing to become a rodeo queen, but very few understand that outside of the rare sponsor who commits a few dollars in support of the crown, all the financial demand falls upon the queen and her family. One cannot fathom the amount of money that goes into the wardrobe, travel and equipment that come with the title.

So, the next time that rodeo queen passes through the arena, take a moment to realize she is much more than a pretty face. That one woman may be one of the most knowledgeable ambassadors and promoters to the sport of rodeo. Their hard work and dedication to the sport goes much further than the average person realizes.





The rodeo road is known to be busy during the summer, but winter and early spring are becoming just as profitable. After the big winter rodeos, spring brings rodeos such as Houston, Austin, and the Ram National Circuit Finals Rodeo.

The NCFR is the culmination of the top rodeo athletes in each of the 12 pro rodeo circuits, plus Mexico. The year-end champion and average champion each qualify for the NCFR in Kissimmee, Fla. March 21-24. It is a good opportunity for those cowboys and cowgirls who do not haul thousands of miles year round but still compete professionally.

The weekend offered a \$758,112 payout, along with other awards and also concerts for the rodeo-goers. Qualifiers competed in two preliminary rounds, with the top eight advancing to the semifinals, and the top four moved on to a sudden death style finals. A new all-around national champion was crowned, and it was none other than Miguel Angel Valenzuela competing for the Mexican Rodeo Federation in the timed events.

In the bareback riding, Tilden Hooper of Fort Worth, Texas rode Hi Lo ProRodeo's Redzilla for 92 points to claim the NCFR championship. Hooper, a fivetime Wrangler National Finals Rodeo qualifier, placed sixth in the first round and tied for third in the second round. He went into the semifinals in first place in the average, and with a clean slate, he placed third in the semifinals and won the final round. Fellow WNFR qualifier Ty Breuer and Pascal Isabelle were second and third places, respectively.

World champion steer wrestler Tyler Pearson of Louisville, Miss.



threw his final steer in 3.9 seconds to win his first national championship. His great horse, Scooter, helped him sneak into the top eight for the semifinals, and then the duo placed third in the semifinals. Pearson won over \$13,000 for his efforts, and Scooter also carried several other cowboys to success through the weekend, making the trip to Florida well worth it.

Bowie resident, Clay Smith, and team roping partner, Jake Long, continued their recent success by winning their first NCFR championship as well. They won the first round and split the semifinals, winning more than \$12,000. Smith and Long roped their steer in 4.8 seconds to beat out Paul David Tierney and Tanner Braden for the finals.

Saddle bronc rider Chase Brooks from Belgrade, Mont., won or placed on every horse he got on in Kissimmee. In the finals, he rode MoBetta Rodeo's Sue City for 89.5 points to take home the win. World champion Ryder Wright followed in a close second, and J.J. Elshere finished third.

Montana cowboy Haven Maged won the calf roping championship. The rookie is in his first full year of professional competition and has been winning everywhere he goes. His 7.4-second time was good enough to beat out Cody Mc-Cartney, Scott Kormos and Riley Pruitt in the finals.

Veteran barrel racer Lisa Lockhart took home the barrel racing championship. She was riding a younger horse by the name of Prime Diamond, or Cutter, and the relatively new pair ended up placing in every round and winning over \$20,000. Lockhart's trusty mount, Louie, got hurt at Rodeo Houston just a week before, and her decision to run Cutter at the NFCR paid off. WNFR qualifier, Jessica Routier, followed in second, and American qualifier, Kricket Ginter, finished third.

Garrett Smith rode Painted Pony Championship Rodeo's Holly Holy for 85 points in the bull riding. He was the only contestant to ride his bull in the final round. Full results can be found on the NCFR website.

After the NCFR, many pro rodeo athletes went on to Rodeo Austin, conducted March 16-30. The rodeo road will heat up as spring turns into summer and some cowboys and cowgirls continue their journey toward the WNFR, while others choose to rodeo close to home in hopes of competing at the next NCFR.

## **Food for Foals**

Starting at the beginning with proper nutrition will give a foal the boost it needs to reach its potential in life.

s spring fades into summer and the foaling season gains traction, now is an opportune time for owners to make sure they are giving their new babies what they need to have a successful start at life. One of the best ways to do that is by giving foals the proper nutrition for whichever growth stage they are in.

EQUINE

According to Jen Voellinger, DVM, owner of Precision Equine in Roanoke, Texas, foal nutrition begins before parturition. Mares carry foals for around 11 months, and while the majority of that time period they just need general maintenance feeding, it is possible to overfeed a broodmare.

"I think a lot of people like to overfeed mares kind of like people like to overeat when they're pregnant," Voellinger said. "I think that's where watching their body condition is important. Their bellies are obviously going to get big, but watching for areas of fat pockets is really important. I think keeping them around a body condition of 6 or 6.5 is best because usually a lot of times if they're obese, it actually can create problems for the foal and problems during parturition."

As the mare gets closer to foaling, her nutritional requirements may increase a little bit. This can be dependent upon her age and breed, so each mare should be looked at on an individual basis. More than anything, a well-balanced diet is important to help nourish the growing foal, which goes through a lot of development during the last months of gestation. Often a good-quality food – forage, ration balancers and/or grain – is all the mare needs.

Horse owners can readily find supplements of every type for their partners, including pregnant mares. While Voellinger acknowledged some supplements, like those for joints, extra biotin or protein supplements for older horses, can be valuable, she suggested most people need to invest in a higher-quality grain versus adding packs of various powders and pellets to feed.

"It's best to put your money, instead of toward extra supplements, into a really good quality forage – hay, grass – and then on top of that, a good quality grain. I think that's where By Kristin Pitzer



Now is an opportune time for owners to make sure they are giving their new babies what they need to have a successful start at life. (Courtesy photo)

people miss it a lot. Spend the extra money and get the good hay, and once you do that, you're going to meet a lot of those vitamin/ mineral/protein requirements and you're not going to have to rely on supplements for that," she said.

After a foal is born, it is dependent on its dam's milk for the first few months of its life to provide it with the nutrition it needs. That does not mean the owner is exempt from offering any sort of foodstuff to the baby; instead, around a month of age, a foal should be provided creep feed as it begins to show interest in its mother's feed.

"They're usually just kind of mimicking mama – they'll even start that sometimes the first month – but it's mainly just mimicking," Voellinger said. "Usually people do start supplementing after the first month, though, because what happens is that mare's milk kind of peaks in quantity and quality, and then it starts decreasing. The foal is increasing in its size that whole time, so you kind of get this waxing and waning where the mare's milk is decreasing and the baby's nutrient requirements are increasing."

Voellinger recommended owners follow a rule of thumb that allows the foal to grow at a steady rate without overfeeding – give a pound of a good foal feed per each month of its life once a day. For example, if the foal is one month old, feed one pound a day. If it's two months old, feed two pounds a day. Food should be offered in a creep feeder the mare cannot access.

Following these guidelines, rather than allowing foals free choice access to creep feed, can assure owners their foal is maturing at a healthy rate. Overfeeding can cause structural and developmental problems such as physitis, the inflammation of the growth plates in the joints. The growth plate is where the bones are growing from, and any inflammation is painful.

Foals are usually weaned from their dams around the five- to sixmonth mark, if not later. At that time, they may still be nursing, although the quality and quantity of their dam's milk has decreased by that point. If the foal has been fed following the recommended rule of thumb, it will have an easier time transitioning to full time feed and forage.

"If you start your creep feeding early enough, like at month one, by that point [when they're weaned] they're eating quite a bit on their own, so they're already getting the nutritional needs met through the foal feed at that point," Voellinger said. "I think it's not a good idea to wait until weaning to start doing the grain because then it's a harder transition. If you start earlier, then they're kind of used to eating it. They're kind of getting their nutrient requirements met as the mare's milk is decreasing."

As foals approach weaning time, their cecums, or hindguts, where they digest forage, are starting to develop.

An owner may see their foal playing with hay prior to that point, but until the digestive tract has matured, the creep feed is most digestible. According to Voellinger, the foal's hindgut is usually properly populated by microorganisms at four-six months of age – usually around weaning – which will allow it to ferment forage.

After a foal has been weaned, it is usually best to switch it to a juvenile feed for weanlings. As the foal continues to go through growing phases, it will need support to mature and develop. Working with a veterinarian will ensure the foal has the chance to be the best it can be during this time.

"Their whole development past weaning is really important," Voellinger said. "Follow your rule of thumb. Quality and amount are super important."



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EQUINE

#### Foal Diarrhea A SMELLY SITUATION By Garrett Metcalf, DVM

This time of year is a wonderful period when new life is brought into the world for many farmers and ranchers, especially those foaling horses. After counting the days, preparing the barn and many sleepless nights, for some the hard work has paid off and a new foal is in the stall waiting. You have done your homework on all the milestones a foal needs to meet to have the best start to life, and the foal meets them all with no problems. The following day or two you notice the foal has loose stool on its tail and is not as active as it should be. The questions start flowing, and the biggest one is "What do we do now?"

First thing to know is that not every diarrhea or its cause is the same. There are many causes of diarrhea in newborns. They can be separated in categories of infectious and non-infectious diarrhea. Infectious causes are obviously the most serious and concerning causes. Infectious diarrhea can be caused by bacteria, viruses and parasites.

Viral causes of diarrhea are rather common among foals especially in larger herd operations. Rota and Corona viruses are the leading causes of viral diarrhea in young foals and can lead to outbreaks in a breeding farm quite readily. Rotavirus has an incubation period of about three to 10 days, meaning the time the foal is exposed to the time it starts showing clinical signs of diarrhea or illness.

Bacterial causes of diarrhea commonly seen are Clostridia, Salmonella, E. coli species and even Rhodococcus.

Non-infectious is usually associated with establishment of normal bacterial flora in a foal's gut when it begins to ingest manure from the mare and eating hay. This time period is commonly referred to as foal heat diarrhea, but does not have anything to do with the hormone cycle the mare is experiencing or changes in the content of the mare's milk. Non-infectious diarrhea usually is self-resolving and does not require anything other than monitoring.

To help put the mind at ease in cases that develop foal heat diarrhea, blood work can be checked to make sure all is well, and sometimes administering probiotics can help resolve the diarrhea sooner.

Infectious causes of diarrhea need to be tak-



Infectious causes of diarrhea need to be taken seriously because of the deleterious effects they have on the foal. (Photo courtesy of Garrett Metcalf)

en seriously because of the deleterious effects they have on the foal. Foals that become ill with one of these infectious causes of diarrhea get dehydrated rather quickly and stop nursing, further compounding the problem. Often foals will need to be hospitalized, placed on IV fluids and a feed tube placed to ensure they are getting enough nutrition. Antibiotics, probiotics, gastroprotectants, and absorptive medications to help prevent absorption of endotoxins from the gastrointestinal tract also are key features of treatment of diarrhea in foals.

Pathogens can be isolated from their feces and are submitted for virus isolation and culture to determine the pathogens that are making the foal sick. This also is important information to further protect the rest of the population of horses. Depending on the age of the foal, IgG antibody levels need to be assessed to determine if enough colostrum was consumed to provide protection for the foal. Failure of passive transfer of antibodies from the mare through colostrum to the foal puts the foal at high risk of systemic illnesses and sepsis.

Other complications from failure of passive transfer, especially in an already sick foal, are joint infections, growth plate infections and umbilical remnant infections. If failure of passive transfer is diagnosed, antibodies are replaced with plasma transfusions from donors that are kept banked and frozen until needed. The donors are often hyperimmunized for certain pathogens, and it is common in diarrhea cases to use these types of plasma products to treat foals with diarrhea against the common pathogens like Clostridia species.

If there are other foals or expecting mares on the farm, proper protocols need to be put in place to prevent the spread of disease from one foal to the next.

The mares also need protection because they can often be asymptomatic carriers of viral pathogens like Rotavirus. Good hygiene is needed to prevent the spread of disease by cleaning stalls well, separation or isolation of sick animals from the rest of the population and not sharing water bucks, feed troughs or even stall equipment like pitch forks.

Disinfectants such as quaternary ammonium compounds or glutaraldehyde-based products are very effective against viral and antimicrobial species. All hay, shavings and dirt need to be removed before applying because organic **See SMELLY page 29** 





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## Smelly

material deactivates these products and makes them ineffective in killing pathogens. These products also are safe to use on buckets, halters and cleaning equipment.

The tried and true saying of "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is a good rule to live by, but not always possible to implement. There are vaccines available against some of the common pathogens that cause diarrhea in foals that can be administered to the mares before foaling, but availability is scarce occasionally, or they are made specifically for the farm, and effectiveness is marginal.

It is best to always assure the foal has received adequate colostrum to give the foal the best possible chance at defending itself from pathogens. If you notice your foal is lethargic, depressed, has decreased nursing vigor or is running a fever, the next step is calling your local veterinarian to be examined.

It is certainly better to error on the side of caution when it comes to foal health than to use the watch-and wait-approach.



If you notice your foal is lethargic, depressed, has decreased nursing vigor or is running a fever, the next step is calling your local veterinarian to be examined. (Photo courtesy of Garrett Metcalf)



LIFESTYLE

## Family Family

## at Henrietta Cowboy Church

Stick horse race, cowboy poets, chuckwagon cooking, barrel racing—something for everyone will be available Saturday, May 4 at Dennis Gee Memorial Arena behind Henrietta Cowboy Church, Hwy 287 Access Road, Henrietta.

Gates open at 7 a.m. and the action begins at 8 a.m. with the kids' stick horse race, playday, horseshoe pitching, yard golf and bean bag toss. No entry fee will be charged, but prizes will be given.

At 9 a.m., teams will register for the Cowboy Cooking Contest. Each team will prepare meat (brisket or pulled pork), beans and biscuits from their chuckwagon or cooker.

Meat may be prepared at home and kept at a safe temperature or finish cooking at the event. Entries must be turned in at noon for judging. Entry fee is \$25 per team. By Judy Wade

Please RSVP by text to 940-210-9552 if you plan to enter the cook-off.

The First Annual 4D Sisters Memorial Barrel Race will kick off with exhibitions from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a \$5 fee for each exhibition. Twelve-and-under riders will run at 2 p.m. (\$20 entry fee) with the Open to follow (\$35 entry fee).

Payout will be 100 percent. The 12-and-under 4D will be a one second split, and the Open will have a ½ second split. Buckles will be presented to first place in each D. The event is in memory of barrel racing sisters Tammy Jo Kroes and Wendy Wilson.

Text 940-733-0082 for preentries on Friday, May 3 from 7 a.m.-noon. Call 940-733-3231 or 940-733-4896 if you have any questions.

Beginning at noon, meals will



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be available for \$7 per plate. Meal may be purchased from any of the cooking teams, which will keep the proceeds. A concession stand will be available all day. Also at noon, cowboy poets will share their work and a band will be "pickin' and grinnin."

At 1:30 prizes for the earlier events and cooking will be awarded. The barrel race winner will be announced and buckles and money presented when the barrel race concludes.

Admission is free, so bring the whole family for a day of fun, food and fellowship.For more information, contact L. B. Spikes at 940-538-4847, Bill Buckner at 940-476-2645 or Robert Van Fleet at 940-644-2928.





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NEW SPEARBED


# CHEESY ENCHILADA MEATBALLS

Serves: 6 Time: 55 minutes

# INGREDIENTS

- 10 ounces red enchilada sauce, divided
- 1 pound ground beef
- 3/4 cup oats
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon hot sauce optional
- 2 cups grated cheese
- cilantro for garnish, if desired

# DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9 x 13" inch baking dish.

2. Mix 1/4 cup enchilada sauce, ground beef, oats, eggs, salt, onion powder, garlic powder, pepper, oregano, cumin, chili powder and hot sauce. I use my hands to combine them.

3. Form meatballs by hand or with a cookie scoop. Drop meatballs into the 9 x 13" pan.

4. Pour remaining enchilada sauce over meatballs. Cover and bake in preheated oven for 30 minutes.

5. Uncover and sprinkle cheese over meatballs. Bake for 10 more minutes or until cheese is melted.



# WHEN A CITY GIRL By Annette Bridges goes country

Three things I love most in the world are getting pedicures, wearing lipstick and smelling fresh cut hay! Who would have thought it! I certainly had never given much thought about the smell of any type of grass until I spent time with my honey hauling in coastal square bales.

My love for pedicures and lipstick is no surprise to those who know me well. I doubt anyone has ever seen my lips without some sexy or bold hue, and I can assure you no one would ever see me wearing flip-flops without my toenails donning some fashionable shade.

Wearing lipstick has long been a must-do fundamental of my life. In fact, even on those rare days when I don't immediately put on my make-up, my lips are coated with moisturizer and tint. I suspect this inclination came from my southern roots. I never saw my mamma or her mamma without their lipstick even after they reached their 90s. So anytime my husband pops his head inside the house to yell "Let's pick up!" I quickly coat my lips before I run out the door. Every time.

In our early years of hauling hay together, I drove an old flatbed truck. Honestly, I didn't like driving it back then too much. There was no air conditioner so having the windows down was a must. Inevitably when my husband was stacking the bales close to the truck cab, my sweaty arms and legs got covered in itchy grass shavings that blew in the truck windows.

Thankfully, eventually, my



Annette Bridges at the farm in Tioga, Texas. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)



One of Annette Bridges' favorite things in the world is a pedicure. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

darling husband got brave enough to teach me to drive our vintage red Ford 601 tractor and an unexpected love affair began. I had no idea what I had been missing.

To begin with, let me just say

the hay hauling experience on our tractor is pretty darn pleasant. The blowing hay rarely reaches me. Seated on an open tractor with a buggy top umbrella rather than inside the cab of a truck is much cooler even on the hottest of summer days. If there is a breeze, even a little one, I feel it enough to keep the sweat off my brow.

Oh my goodness, driving such a tractor provides the most amazing broad view of the fields and the massive Texas sky. You can immerse yourself amidst the fragrance of the freshly cut hay. Just thinking about it right now makes me take a slow deep breath and sigh, almost getting excited for hay season to begin.

Indeed, that big horizon before my gaze reminds me how infinite life is. Any troubles that might have been burdening my heart begin to seem quite small in contrast. My mamma taught me to look for what is good in everything and to be grateful!

She often reminded me how gratitude would help me see what was there instead of what wasn't. I was blessed with a very wise mamma. She was right, of course. The gratitude I feel when I'm driving my beloved red tractor in our hay fields always diminishes any worries and gives me some fresh perspective.

My husband knows better these days than to suggest I drive the truck. It ain't gonna happen. He knows there are essentials and requirements that keep his hayhauling partner happy. Getting pedicures, wearing lipstick and driving the red tractor to pick up hay bales are three of them. 🕅



# 

# **Jan Beef Center**

This rare in this world for something to create a lasting legacy that lives on long after it is gone, but the North Central Texas College Experimental Farm and Beef Center will be written in history as one of the few as it comes to an end this spring. Its legacy will last through the students and agriculture leaders who gained their hands-on experience at this farm, the herds in the area that are genetically stronger thanks to its first-class bull testing and the Red Angus breed in North Texas and Southern Oklahoma whose popularity remains partly in thanks to the demonstration herd that led the way.

**Continued on page 42** 

North Central Texas College agriculture students at the Experimental Farm, where they received hands-on training to further their education. (Courtesy photo)

# **LASTING LEGACY:** NCTC Experimental Farm and Beef Center

## Continued from page 41 HISTORY

For nearly half a century some of the greatest leaders in North Texas agriculture have received their training at the North Central Texas College Experimental Farm in Gainesville, Texas.

The farm was the project of the beloved T.J. Davidson who had a love for teaching and agriculture. Davidson was the first agriculture teacher beginning in the fall of 1968 at Cooke County College, now known as North Central Texas College.

The M.J. Cox Estate benefitted the college with 110 acres, along with the mineral rights, seven miles east of campus.

It was this land Davidson and several farm

and ranch management students would make their own, working to build the college an Experimental Farm and Beef Research Center.

In the year 1970, this group began tearing down old buildings, cleaning up the land and beginning the new construction of facilities. This would include the manager's house, equipment shed, hay barn, swine barn and the bull barn.

According to Rodney St. John, who managed the farm, a group of gentlemen came to Davidson in hopes of starting a growth program for pigs.

Fortunately, Davidson knew a cattle program would have a higher success rate. In 1972, the Experimental Farm and Beef Center was open for business and received bulls for its first test.

"The farm was very important to him," said St. John. "He thought it would be more important to try and do a program for bulls and that is how it started. The bull test was his pride and joy."

The farm also conducted sales during the late 1970s into the 1980s, but did away with them after many ranchers began having their own sales, explained Davidson's daughter, Tammy Glascock.

Sheep were added during the 1980s, and the next decade, pigs joined the farm.

The farm was host to many National Field Days for the American Hereford Association and the Texas Hereford Association. **Continued on page 44** 





#### **Continued from page 42**

It had state of the art technology, including the very first college in the area to have a sonogram machine used to scan the bulls, measuring ribeye, intramuscular fat and external fat.

"Mom and Dad went to New York to pick up the machine and get training on how to operate it. The machine was state of the art at its time, it used Polaroid film and I remember pulling the picture out of the camera part and keeping it warm if it was cold. I would peel the film backing off to write on the back of it which bull it was," recalled Glascock. "It was the elite of its type and the standard of testing."

St. John joined the farm in

1999. He started as a student of Davidson's in the mid-1990s. The teacher approached his former student and asked if he would be interested in coming to manage the farm.

"We sat down and visited, and it is kind of how it all started. I didn't really think I would be here 20 years later, and I would be here longer if I could," said St. John.

For the past two decades, St. John has been the manager of the farm, helping to keep all facets of the business running smoothly, while Davidson continued to oversee the Beef Center until his retirement in 2008.

"The farm was a dream of dad's, and the whole family spent lots and lots of hours out there

and going with him to work and do things. It was a very valuable training facility for a lot of current ag teachers in the area. Many around North Texas have memories of going out there," said Glascock.

After Davidson's retirement, he handed responsibility to Steve Keith, who oversaw the Beef Center and bull test for the next 10 years, which included heifer development programs.

He also brought back the sales and the NCTC All-Breed Bull Sale was initiated.

The annual sale in Gainesville saw much success during its three years from March 2016 to March 2018.

However, Keith recognizes

the farm and its success could not have been possible without the many who supported it.

"Without the support of many breeders throughout the region and the local agriculture community in Cooke County, the Beef Center could not have created such a lasting legacy," said Keith.

He also was thankful for the hard work and dedication of its manager, St. John.

"Rodney was a great asset. It is hard to find someone who is willing to put in the long hours he did to take care of so many cattle and though he might not admit it, watching him work with the students over the years, he has a knack for teaching as well," said Keith.

# **EDUCATION**

構成したにわく

Perhaps the most important role of the farm, and thus first on the list, is the education the farm provided for each generation of agriculture leaders who passed through its gates.

Seventy percent of the agriculture courses through NCTC required, at one time, hands-on experience through the Experimental Farm for its students. It was a way to provide practical, authentic experiences for the students before they were kicked out into the real world.

Thousands of students were able to learn components vital to a life in agriculture, including animal science, beef cattle production, pasture management, livestock business, animal nutrition and computer applications specific to agriculture. They were able to take what they learned in the classroom and apply those practices at the farm.

Many professionals in the community and from across the region completed agriculture courses at Cooke County College, NCTC, and cherish the time spent learning on the farm.

Students were responsible for working with the cattle, taking care of the bulls on tests, managing test plots, planting and evaluating winter cover crops and learning to operate farm machinery, among many other lessons.

"I believe students learned a lot that they might not necessarily have learned through seeing a video and reading about it in the classroom. I think getting to come out here and get some hands-on experience working cows, vaccinating cows and calves, or ultra-sounds, fertility checking of the bulls, I think the hands-on part of it is very important. Nothing beats actual experience compared to what they learned from a book," said St. John.

It is the reason many invested their time and energy into a project near and dear to their hearts, including Jerry Henderson, a longtime supporter, bull test customer and a member of the agriculture advisory board for NCTC.

"I believed in education and kids in agriculture; it has been my passion for years. That is why I agreed to serve on the board and work for scholarships. As far as the college farm and bull test, I think it gave the students an opportunity to get some real hands on experience with the animals in the demonstration herd out there and the bull testing. Kids were able to go out there and put their hands on the animal and learn firsthand. It is one thing to talk about it academically in a classroom; it's another thing to go out and do it," said Henderson.

Past graduates include agriculture teachers, ranchers, farmers, producers, equipment operators, agricultural technician, crop and livestock managers, realtors, field representatives in agribusiness, farm product purchasing agents, soil and water conservationists, wildlife managers and much more.

"The farm has contributed so much to agriculture in North Texas. Many students would not be where they are today if it were not for the Experimental Farm There is no telling how many ag teachers, veterinarians and others went to school there in the last 50 years, along with thousands of bulls being developed there," said Keith.

# **BULL TESTING**

Performance testing was a critical part of the NCTC Experimental Farm and was used by many top breeders in the area. Under the direction of St. John, students evaluated how bulls performed based on their average daily gain and how much feed it took for the animal to put on a pound of gain.

According to the NCTC website, the information was used to "improve the efficiency, quantity and consistency of beef production, compare one breed of cattle to another and assess necessary change to maintain competitiveness in the industry." **Continued on page 47** 

# See what bull test customers had to say about their experience with the NCTC Experimental Farm and Beef Center:

"I have been doing business with them for more than 40 years. It gives us a great place to test bulls so we know what they are mixed, Angus, Hereford's, it gives us a reference breed. For me the essential element gives me performance on bulls, back to cows, and back to my bulls, which animals perform on the backside of that, which is more important I know who the sire and the dam is of that performance animal. I literally put every bull I raised through that test."

## Larry Woodson

"I have nothing but good things to say about them. They run a great operation. I have sent a lot of bulls over there to be fed and grown out and to be tested. I would say 25-30 different bulls and I am very satisfied with their services and the people that are there and run the place. Rodney is sure enough a great guy, he keeps you informed and knows what he is doing and knows cattle. He is a great people person, he sure is. The sale that they have instituted after a test that they were running in March, I had great success with that and sold a number of bulls through that sale. I was very pleased with that."

## **Martin VanMeter**

"T.J. started that farm, it was his baby and it has been a big part of this community for a long time. I have been involved with the Agriculture Advisory Board for many years and helped raise scholarships. A lot of people depended on that facility to feed bulls and help get them ready for market. There is nothing near here that can perform that service. I know to me, it is a big loss to the cattle community and whole community. It has been around almost 50 years. There was a big benefit and a purpose of the test facility to give buyers a bench mark for how well each bull did on feed compared to their contemporaries."

## **Jerry Henderson**

"It has been a great benefit to our ranch. We have been taking bulls since the late 1980s and it has increased sales. They do a great job of letting the bulls out and getting ready for service. I just brought 13 bulls back from the last gain test and I already sold eight of those in less then two weeks. Our customers are told the gain test ended, and they came right after the test ended. The cattle are developed well, they take care of them up there. My benefit is I cannot feed bulls every day, and they do a great job for us. I am trying to find somewhere to take them now, and it is hard to find a place to go that is reliable. We are in turmoil right now. They did a good job, it started with T.J. Davidson up there, when he was over the ag department, and Rodney doing the gain test. It was a great service to the community."



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## PROFILE

#### **Continued from page 45**

Students worked hard during testing procedures, which required a 21-day warm up period to get bulls accustomed to their new surroundings.

The official testing period was 112 days. Each animal would be weighed at 28-day intervals to determine their rate of gain. Bulls were fed a growing-finishing ration adequate for maximum growth but without the intention of over-finishing the animals.

Fees required covered pen rental, management and performance data reports.

The purpose of the central bull test station was to provide a location, management and oversight for grouping of animals by breed and age in the same environmental conditions where the animals could be evaluated based upon their genetic potential.

This provided producers with information about economically relevant performance traits such as feed efficiency, frame score, average daily gain, weight per day of age, ribeye area, backfat, estimated marbling and results from a fertility exam.

"This information is invaluable when making decisions related to genetic improvement within a producer's own herd. There is just no way to quantify the impact the Beef Center and bull tests have had on the beef industry over the past 47 years, but suffice to say you can't talk to a registered cattle producer within 500 miles of Gainesville who isn't familiar with the Beef Center and Bull Test," said Keith. "Undoubtedly, the extent of genetic improvements in many herds, and across several breeds, would not have been possible in the same time frame without the information the ranchers were able to receive about the animals they were producing from participating in the college's bull test."

At the experimental farm, stu-Continued on page 48





(Top) NCTC students receive instructions at the Experimental Farm. (Left) A Red Angus bull, part of the demonstration herd at the farm. The demonstration herd was started thanks to the donations of local cattlemen, along with hard work from T.J. Davidson and Wayne Ferguson of 3K Land and Cattle. (Courtesy photos)

## Continued from page 47

dents split the cattle herd into two groups of females. Some calving took place in the fall and some in the spring, supplying both bred and wet cows along with weaning calves to be worked for students in each semester.

Four all-breeds groups and many breed specific groups were developed each year with heifer development offered in June and October.

However, it wasn't only the beef cattle the students had an opportunity to work with, but they also were able to handle animals in the growth and development phase, breeding soundness exams, carcass evaluations and grading through ultrasound technologies with bulls being developed on site. Students also built and repaired projects for their Agriculture Construction course, developed plots for agronomy and forage production.

The All-Breeds Bull Sale was conducted in March 2016 as a community outreach event. The sale provided breeders the opportunity to showcase and market breeding animals as well as purchase high-quality bulls from various breeds, all close to home.

"I think doing the bull program gives people more data as far as purchasing bulls to use for breeding cows. We do measure ribeye, marbling, back fat and that sort of stuff gives breeders a little more information on a bull and then give the breeders raising the animals, showed them how their genetics were doing and what was working best for them. In the years I have been here, I have seen all breeds really improve as far as the growth and efficiency of the animals," said St. John.

The farm was of more than just a benefit to the students, but to many cattlemen across the Lone Star State and Oklahoma.

ANGUS HERD

Yet another facet of the Experi-

mental Farm was the Red Angus herd that grazed its land.

In its beginning, registered Hereford cattle were raised. When Davidson was hired, the president of Cooke County College at the time was John Henry Parker, who raised his own Hereford cattle.

"He and dad were really close. The reason they started with Hereford was because the president of the college also wanted that farm going, and he put them in business with some Hereford cattle. A lot of other breeders around the country donated cattle. It all started out there as a results of people donating to the farm, the same as with the pigs when they had those," explained Glascock.

In the mid-1990s, the transition to Red Angus at the Experimental Farm and Beef Center occurred.

At the time, the Red Angus Association of America was headquartered just down the road in Denton, Texas.

Breeders from across the state who were members of the Texas Red Angus Association made the herd possible through their generous donations.

It also was possible through the hard work of Davidson and Wayne Ferguson of 3K Land and Cattle.

The NCTC demonstration herd was at the forefront of promoting the breed throughout North Texas and Southern Oklahoma, and 25 years later the breed has certainly gained in popularity.

The North Central Texas College Experimental Farm did its job of providing education to the next generation of agriculture leaders while providing top notch bull testing to some of the best herds in the area for 47 years.

Students in the Spring of 2019 were the last to receive training on this historical piece of land. It is a piece of agriculture history in the area that cannot be duplicated.

"It is gone, but not forgotten in the hearts and lives of many," said Keith. 0



NCTC agriculture students receiving training at the Experimental Farm. (Courtesy photo)



Many breeders across the North Texas and Southern Oklahoma area entrusted their cattle to the NCTC Experimental Farm and Beef Center. (Courtesy photo)



Weatherford College Honoring 150 years of history and a memorable sesquicentennial timeline

By Mandi Dietz

Remembering 150 years of history, Weatherford College in Parker County invites all to share in its celebratory sesquicentennial anniversary. With honorable roots, beginning with the Phoenix Masonic Lodge and Methodist Church, to multiple name changes, on-site-housing and expansions to Mineral Wells, Wise County and Granbury, there's much to commemorate.

ATTRACTIONS

In 1869, the Phoenix Masonic Lodge celebrated the laying of a cornerstone for the Weatherford Masonic Institute, which would later become Weatherford College.

By 1885, the Masons sold the building to M. C. Brown, who in turn leased it to the Methodist Church. The school began teaching college-level courses, and its name became Cleveland College, honoring President Grover Cleveland.

A tornado destroyed the building in 1886, and Brown then advised the Masons of his inability to make loan payments.

Several years later, in 1889, the Masons sold the building to the Weatherford District of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the school became "Weatherford College."

i lililitation

David S. Switzer, the "Father of Weatherford College," began his first season as WC's president.

The institution's structure, eventually called "Old Main," was completed in 1894.

During the year of 1902, the educational center temporarily halted the offering of college courses and changed its name to "Weatherford College Training School for Boys."

The City of Weatherford saved the school in 1913 by purchasing the property, benefiting the Methodist Church and permitting the college to stay in business.

About eight years later, the school became a junior college, adding courses and offering an associate of arts degree.

In 1922, WC's Althean Club came to be for the "study of opera and present-day literature."

A new gymnasium opened in 1925, the Coyote basketball team became state champions in 1927, and roller skating in the gym commenced in 1936.

Around 1938, a new WC policy



ATHERFORD

WORKFORCE & CONTINUING EDUCATION

Students leaving the 1957 Agriculture Building. (Photo courtesy Weatherford College)

required instructors to possess a master's degree or at least five years of teaching experience.

In 1939, "three branches of the Methodists united," and Weatherford College became property of the United Methodist Church.

A proposal, passed within a county election in 1949, created the Parker County Junior College District and made WC a newly public institution.

By 1957, the college became a

member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The federal government extended property from Fort Wolters in Mineral Wells to the college in 1975.

During 1994, in celebration of 125 years, the college opened the Memorial Plaza Amphitheater.

By April 1998, the Fine Arts Center, now known as the Marjorie Black Alkek Fine Arts Center, opened.

The first baseball game at Roger Williams Ballpark was played in the spring of 2003.

In the fall of that same year, WC's student housing complex opened its doors. Wise County voters approved a branch campus maintenance tax in November 2008, funding a new WC campus between Bridgeport and Decatur.

WC's Education Center at Granbury opened in 2011.

In 2019, Weatherford College celebrates 150 years of education offered by what is now, Weatherford College.

"Stay close. Go far." is WC's motto.

Its main campus is located about 25 miles west of Fort Worth, and the college prides itself on offering an affordable, quality education. Students can begin their studies at WC then transfer to a choice university.

A list of events can be found on the college's sesquicentennial anniversary website, WC150.com. Some of the fun includes a WC Campus Summer Event in May, a Fall WC Birthday Party in August, Pioneer Week and a Safe Halloween in October, a WC Rodeo, and Coyote Chase Race and Family Picnic in November.

Past and present WC Coyotes can share a memory online, and visitors to the website can read the testimonies of others.

A Brick Campaign allows donors to cement their imprint on campus, amid the "heart" of Grogan Historic Plaza, made up of the "WC's iconic 1879 bell and the archway from 'Old Main'." The Weatherford College Foundation will pave a way with bricks, displaying the donor's name or "the name of a loved one," for a "tax-deductible, charitable" minimum of \$150. A larger, eight-inch by eight-inch brick cost \$275, and a "Brick and Book" package for \$200 includes a four-inch by eight-inch brick and pictorial history book.

For more information, regarding sesquicentennial anniversary festivities, please visit WC150. com. ®



The Oratory Class of 1897 at Weatherford College. (Photo courtesy Weatherford College)



The 1957 Christmas Formal. (Photo courtesy Weatherford College)



t is pretty obvious those in the Lone Star State have a love for the fusion of Mexican and American cuisine known as "Tex Mex."

Knowing this, it is no surprise what many remember as a hole-in-the-wall, Tex-Mex favorite of the locals has developed into a new, shiny building whose double-parking lot often still overflows onto the shoulders of the highway.

Casa Torres, located at 2708 Farm-to-Market 51 in Decatur, Texas, has risen to the top as one of the most popular restaurants in the area, but what is all the fuss about?

In my opinion, it's what comes before the drinks are even served – the salsa. Servers can be found frequently refilling the tiny black cups time and time again as guests can't get enough. Well blended, it's a medium on the spiciness index with a perfect blend of seasonings for an appetizer that will leave you coming back for more.

It is served up with warm, crispy chips, and if you have more mellow taste buds, their queso is a delicious creamy blend of cheese without a kick that will leave you gulping down your water.

During my last visit, I opted for a steak ranchero. I typically stick with something lighter, but I know how our readers like their beef, so I thought I would give it a go. The serving is plenty big for even the heartiest of eaters and comes topped with a zesty ranchero sauce. Most meals come served with rice and beans, offering the perfect compliment to the main course. I also enjoy the mini beef chimichangas for a special treat. Covered in queso, the ground beef is seasoned to perfection and offers a great combination. All is served up by a friendly and fast wait staff, something that is often hard to find.

The restaurant is large and tends to be filled with chatter of families and friends visiting. The relaxed, fun atmosphere is the perfect spot for a weekend meal out or a place to unwind at the end of a long day. The new contemporary space at Casa Torres offers a patio for warmer days and a meal outside, as well as a bar for those wanting a drink, and if chimichangas or steak ranchero isn't up your alley, their menu provides all the tried and true staples from tacos to tamales.

A visit to Casa Torres always hits the spot – there's a reason it is rated number one of 37 restaurants in Decatur on Trip Advisor - but don't try to satisfy those cravings on a Sunday, because you will find it closed. Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. For more information, call 940-627-6191.



Casa Torres of Decatur is known for its chips and salsa. (Photo by Dani Blackburn)



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Hello again Texas music lovers. May is the beginning of my favorite season here in Texas; it's summer. Folks are cooking out, floating the rivers and just having a good Texas time.

A good time in Texas always includes good music. This month I want to share a new musical friend I've recently become acquainted with while on the road performing in Granbury, Texas.

Kenna Danielle is my latest new find on the Texas music scene. Raised in Conroe, Kenna is making her mark with a bluesy, soulful down-home country style. Her influences include Haggard, Nelson and Jim Croce. Now there's a twist.

She is currently honing her craft in Levelland where she majors in music and last, but not least, she has the voice of an angel.

Don't just take my word for it. You can check her out right now on Spotify, Pandora and iTunes. Her current EP features five of her own compositions. She's soon to be topping the Texas charts. Keep your eye out for this rising Texas Star.

Happy Trails..()

# Dave's upcoming shows:

May 1 Firelight Winery, Valley View, TX

May 15 Firelight Winery, Valley View, TX

May 29 Firelight Winery, Valley View, TX

Listen to Dave Alexander's Radio Show True Texas Country and Western Swing Show. www.davealexander.com.



# **LBJ Grasslands** PRESERVATION THROUGH A MULTI-USE APPROACH

This is the second of a twopart series on the Lyndon B. Johnson Grasslands located in Wise County, with a portion extending into Montague County. The grasslands are one of Texas' greatest natural resources and are managed with a multi-use approach by the United States Forest Service.

The Lyndon B. Johnson Grasslands are viable for North Texas ranchers and farmers as well as the oil and gas industry. However, it also boasts numerous recreational opportunities for the outdoor enthusiast. Unlike other grasslands, the LBJ Grasslands is located next to populated areas, allowing use to millions of nearby residents.

The United States Forest Ser-

#### By Dani Blackburn

vice states the mission of the grasslands is to "sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations."

The service exceeds this by "caring for the land and serving the people."

"It was critical to keep the land in public hands. Our function is to restore the national grasslands. They were, at one time, degraded beyond the ability to recover. The federal government, by private ownership took over those lands for a small, nominal fee and restored them, keeping them available for multiple use by the public. There are 20 national grasslands managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Caddo and LBJ are two of those 20," explained U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Jeff Stoney.

The most notable attraction at the LBJ Grasslands is the 30-acre Black Creek Lake, the location of a developed recreational area that includes picnic units, tent camping, a boat ramp and ample access for fishing.

Visitors should first make sure to stop at the district office for a map of the grasslands including camping sites.

No open campfires are allowed anywhere on National Forest Land in counties where a burn ban is in place, including recreation areas and hunter camps, so make sure to check with local authorities before lighting a match. Gas and propane grills, lanterns and stoves are allowed.

If no burn ban is in effect, then open campfires are allowed in camping areas. Camping is primitive with no running water or electrical hookups. A lighted pavilion and toilet facilities are available. Camping is on a first come, first serve basis and is \$4 per day per vehicle. However, if campers are seeking seclusion away from other sites, camping is allowed across all the grasslands.

There are plenty of activities to keep visitors busy throughout their camping trip or a fun day trip, including fishing along the banks of the lake.

See GRASSLANDS page 59

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**Continued from page 56** 



Visitors can expect to catch a fair share of catfish, crappie and perch.

Records held for Black Creek Lake include Curtis Warner's 4.54-pound large mouth bass caught on Oct. 1, 1996.

Fishermen also can throw a reel from a small boat or kayak.

A boat ramp is available but be careful when the lake is low.

For the active visitors, the LBJ Grasslands offer a four-mile hiking trail crossing hardwood timber and grasslands. The scenery offers a stunning view while enjoying a hike.

If wanting to venture further, another 75-mile trail is available, shared by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians.

Trails are divided into five, color coded trails, including the orange trail, 25.5 miles; white trail, 14.4 miles; blue trail, 14.4 miles; red trail, 10.7 miles and the yellow trail, 10.4 miles.

"There are 70 miles of horse trails out there and three main areas people can camp and fish and enjoy the grasslands. That is a necessary thing for people to enjoy the area as far as I am concerned," said Stoney.

The Texas Arabian Distance Riders Association Point allows access to all five loops of the trail.

A windmill powered tank provides water for horses, as well as a stock pond. The trails cover land where cattle were once moved northward across the Chisholm trail.

Riders travel from all over the country for the opportunity to stretch their horse's legs at Lyndon B. Johnson Grasslands.

"We have had people come from all over the United States. We even had a few people come from outside the United States. There's a big endurance race that occurs that attracts horses and riders from all over during the summer," said Stoney.

Dogs also are allowed but must remain on a leash while in the campground area.

Wildlife is abundant, including the whitetailed deer, small mammals, coyotes, bobcats, red fox, waterfowl, bobwhite quail, turkey and songbirds who roam the grasslands.

Bird watchers enjoy a drove of winged creatures flying across the grasslands, especially during the winter time.

Hunting is allowed as a recreational opportunity during the permitted seasons. Hunters are required to follow state hunting laws





Prices are posted for guests at Black Creek Lake. (Photo by Dani Blackburn)

A sign welcoming guests to Black Creek Lake. (Photo by Dani Blackburn)



Picnic tables are available along the shores of Black Creek Lake. (Photo by Dani Blackburn)

and wear orange vests and remain 150 yards away from all trails, roads, boundaries and shorelines.

"Hunting of wildlife and game animals is allowed just to provide a place for people to go that is free of charge. A lot of people cannot afford a private hunting lease and they can come on the grasslands and still enjoy the chase," said Stoney.

If looking for a chase year-round as a hunter, consider hunting wild hogs, which pose a nuisance to the LBJ Grasslands area. The hogs are managed through the allowance of recreational hunting and trapping.

"Really the only population issues we have with wildlife would be hogs. We encourage hunting of hogs with restrictions, obviously, you have to stay off the roads and trails and abide by hunting regulations. We encourage people to hunt hogs on us as often as they can and that is to control the population," said Stoney.

Those in North Texas are fortunate to have easy access to one of the Lone Star State's greatest natural assets.

The LBJ grasslands have provided an opportunity for farmers and ranchers, the U.S. Forest Service, equestrians, hikers, campers, fishermen, hunters, photographers, bird watchers and more to come together and learn from one another while preserving and sharing one of the greatest national assets in the Lone Star State.

For more information, visit https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/texas/ recarea/?recid=30230 or call 940-627-5475

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# LET'S GO TO LUCKENBACH, TEXAS

Luckenbach sits between Johnson City and Fredericksburg, just a short little detour off the highway, but it seems a million miles away from present day—a place where time has stopped, or at least slowed down a lot. People relax with a beer under big trees listening to music, while kids run around and climb trees and chase lightning bugs through the grass. Big festivals happen several times a year, filling up the parking lots, but never changing the feeling you get when you visit.

We spent a fun evening just hanging out in Luckenbach with our friends on a Wednesday evening.

The community, which began as a trading post in 1849 never made it to "town" status but did get a post office in 1886.

The Engel family owned the land until the 1970s when it and the almost "Ghost Town" were purchased by Hondo Crouch, Guich Koock and Kathy Morgan, who envisioned it just as it is, a place where people can come together and hang out by Grape Creek, listen to music and just have fun.

It's very family-oriented fun, too, and we've never been when there weren't kids running around everywhere.

The Old Post Office/Trading Post is now a souvenir shop. Crouch was a writer and humorist, and started many fun and obscure festivals in Luckenbach, like the Mud-Dabber Festival and the Luckenbach's World's Fair. His daughter, Cris, runs Hondo's on Main in Frederickburg.

Another marker tells the history of Luckenbach. Weekends are usually busier, especially during the summer. Check out their events page for band lineups and cover charges, if any.

Popular signs are available in the Trading Post. You'll notice driving in the signs for Luckenbach are either missing altogether, or bolted in. They go missing quite often.

We sat down to listen to the band, and a resident rooster hopped up to join with them. I absolutely love this picture. "Everybody's Somebody in Luckenbach"!

There's no hurry here. You can buy beer,

By Michelle Ames



Luckenback, Texas, seems a million miles away from the present day. (Courtesy photo)

and the Lone Star Cafe Food Truck is open daily with tacos and Aimee's Apple Pies. The Feedlot is open Thursday – Sunday, serving burgers, pulled pork sandwiches, chicken baskets and cherry limeades, among other things. The kids usually head down to the creek area, where they climb trees and play while the adults enjoy the band.

Swimming isn't allowed in the creek, but it

does happen. Luckenbach is about as laid back as it gets. If you have a recreational vehicle, you can stay in the parking lot overnight for about \$10.

I think we might have slept in our car one night, which isn't recommended but does happen. You are 14 miles from Fredericksburg along dark roads filled with deer, so make plans for getting back safely. **(**)



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# Germanfest

**APRIL 26-28 • MUENSTER** 

*Muenster, Texas.* Muenster throws one of the biggest parties in Texas, Germanfest, the last full weekend in April. This three-day festival attracts thousands to mouthwatering German sausage, scrumptious apple strudel, hearty cheese and homemade bread, cakes and pies. **www.muenstergermanfest. com/** 

# Wichita Falls PRCA Rodeo

## APRIL 26-27• WICHITA FALLS

Kay Yeager Coliseum, 1000 5th St., Wichita Falls, Texas 76301. PRCA Rodeo returns to Wichita Falls. Rodeo starts at 7 p.m. nightly. Events include barrel racing, saddle bronc riding, bareback riding, steer wrestling, team roping, calf roping and bull riding. Doors open at 5 p.m. for the trade show. Wichita Falls PRCE Rodeo Association is a non-profit organization. Do not miss this exciting night of rodeo in Wichita Falls. https://wichitafallsprcarodeo. org/

# Training Challenge Horse Show & Adoption

#### MAY 4 • SANGER

Jim A Dee Ranch, 9494 Waide Rd., Sanger, Texas 76266. The Bluebonnet Help A Horse Spring Horse Show, Adoption Event and Rescue Horse Training Challenge is back for 2019. The event will include the Bluebonnet Rescue Horse Training Challenge. Trainers and non-pros have been working with horses all across the Lone Star State for three months and then compete against each other for prize money, with horses available for adoption. Vendors will be in attendance and the event also will include a silent auction. The Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society is a nonprofit equine welfare and protection organization that helps abused, neglected, abandoned and estray horses throughout Texas. Bluebonnet Equine Human Society works with foster homes located throughout the Lone Star State and with volunteers and new foster homes. Visit www.bluebonnethelpahorse.org/

# 2019 Spring Fling at Leonard Park

#### MAY 4 • GAINESVILLE

Leonard Park, 1000 W. California St., Gainesville, TX 76240. To honor the birthday of the playscape in Gainesville's Leonard Park, the annual Spring Fling Celebration is conducted the first Saturday in May at Leonard Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vendors come from all over, and the day is filled with wonderful arts and crafts including handmade baby shoes, jewelry and beads, bird house and feeders, seed bombs, handmade wooden crosses, hair bows and halos, candles and face painting, to name a few. There also is great food available at this exciting annual celebration. Typically on the menu for guests is a variety of food, including: corn dogs, funnel cakes, twisted taters, brisket tacos, chicken strips, snocones, cotton candy, kettle corn and much, much more. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 940-668-4530 for more information or visit www. gainesville.tx.us/586/Spring-Fling.

# Eighter from Decatur Food Truck Challenge

#### MAY 4 • DECATUR

Decatur Town Square, Decatur, Texas. The Decatur Chamber of Commerce brings you its third annual Food Truck Challenge from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. in the downtown area with food, music and a kid's zone. Awards will be given for best sweet treat, sassy savory, people's choice, most unique food and best bites. www. eighterfoodtruckchallenge.com

# Doan's May Picnic

#### MAY 4 • WILBARGER COUNTY

*Doan's Crossing, Texas.* Come celebrate the longest running continuous event in the Lone Star State. The event will include entertainment, coronation of the 2019 Doan's King and Queen as well as the Outstanding Woman of the Year and Outstanding Man of the Year. Come enjoy delicious food and soak in the history. www. doansmaypicnic.com

# Dogs of the Southwest Art Exhibit

#### MAY 1-JUNE 30 • DUNCAN, OK

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, 1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway, Duncan, Okla. Sandy Magrath: Dogs of the Southwest art exhibit will open May 1 - June 30 at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center. A meet the artist reception will be 3:30-6:30 p.m. on May 9 at the cente.r Magrath of Norman is inspired by the designs and colors of the Southwest, and by her dogs. She has painted dogs with personality and her work will be available to purchase through the Heritage Center. www.onthechisholmtrail.com



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# Red River Regional Replacement Sale

MAY 11 • OVERBROOK, OK

Red River Livestock Market, 283 Lodge Rd., Overbrook, Okla., 73453. The Red River Regional Replacement Sale takes place May 11 at the Red River Livestock Market in Overbrook, Okla. www. redriverlivestockauction.com/ weekly-report.html

# Butterfield Stage Days Rodeo

MAY 10-11 • BRIDGEPORT

Bridgeport Riding Club, Bridgeport, Texas. Start your summer off right with the fun and bright lights rodeo brings. Nightly performances start at 7:30 p.m. Visit https://rodeosusa.com/rodeos/ butterfield-stage-days-rodeo/

# Fort Richardson Mother's Day Crafts

#### MAY 11 • JACKSBORO

Fort Richardson, 228 Park Road 61, Jacksboro, Texas. Come out 10 a.m. to noon and make mom a unique gift. Includes crafts for all ages. This Mother's Day event is kid friendly so make sure and bring the little ones. Entrance fee into the park applies, no fee for craft project. https://tpwd.texas. gov/calendar/fort-richardson/ mothers-day-crafts

# Jerry Askey Memorial Farm Festival

#### MAY 18 • DECATUR

635 PR 4531, Decatur, Texas. The event is organized by the Chisholm Trail Tractor Club Branch 112. Cost is \$5 a person. Children under 10 are free. For more information call **940-273-4014.** 

# **Celebration of Freedom**

MAY 18 • HOBART, OK

Courthouse Square, Hobart, Okla., 73651. Celebration of Freedom was created to celebrate the freedom we enjoy and recognize our brave men and women in uniform. Festivities feature the Celebration of Freedom Show and Shine, live music, Oklahoma's largest silent auction, a children's pageant and activities area, a skeet/trap shoot, kiddie car races, car show, parade, DARE dunk-a-cop fundraiser, food and craft vendors downtown on the courthouse square. Family fun for all ages. www.tommyfranksmuseum.org

# Carry the Load Free Clinic

MAY 19 • AUBREY

Aubrey, Texas. Ten percent of proceeds from services go to Carry the Load. All donations go to Carry the Loan, a non profit dedicated to restoring the meaning of Memorial Day, honoring our nation's heroes and providing support for our military and first responders. Includes Kendra Dickson, fivetime TCFR qualifier; Brittany Grace Matkin, RFAR events coordinator; Shelby Higginbotham, RFAR junior instructor; Taylor Lewing, Twisted T Equine Dentistry; Hannah Connolloy, Trinity Equine Sports Massage. The clinic is limited to 12 participants. To reserve a spot contact Hannah at hconnolly98@gmail.com or call 940-595-9455.

# **Team Roping Practice**

## MAY 20 • DECATUR

NRS Events Center, 309 CR 4228, Decatur. Team roping practice presented by BPH Productions. \$25 a roper, no horse limit. 6-9 p.m. every Monday night. www. nrsevents.com





# LAVENDER FESTIVAL

MAY 26-28 • GAINESVILLE

Lavender Ridge Farms, 2391 County Road 178, Gainesville, Texas. Enjoy your visit touring the gardens, lavender field, shop the 40+ vendors, and gift shop stocked with handmade bath, body and home products. Great food also available from the Lavender Cafe. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. For more information, visit LavenderRidgeFarms.com.

# Wichita County Mounted Patrol Championship Rodeo

MAY 31- JUNE 1 •WICHITA FALLS

2901 S. Farm to Market Rd 369, Wichita Falls, Texas. United Professional Rodeo Association open rodeo. Rodeo starts at 7:30 p.m. Kids 6 and under are free. Benefitting Children's Miracle Network. Visit wichitacountymountedpatrol.com.









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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# Food Truck Championship of Texas

JUNE 1 • GRAHAM

Downtown Square, Graham, Texas. The Graham Convention and Visitors Bureau, in partnership with Graham Savings and Loan, is excited to invite you to attend the 5th Annual Food Truck Championship of Texas. The competition will be conducted on American's Largest Downtown Square in Graham from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. More than food trucks will be competing for a \$10,000 grand prize, with never ending fun on the square with live music, shopping and activities for the whole family! The day wraps up with a concert from The Randy Rogers Band and Koe Wetzel. Don't miss this exciting annual event with something for everyone. Visit www. foodtruckchampionshipoftexas. com, call 940-549-0401 or email cvb@grahamtexas.org for more information and a full schedule of events.

# Pioneer Day: A Living History Day at the Jack County Museum

#### JUNE 1 • JACKSBORO

Jack County Museum, 241 W. Belknap, Jacksboro, Texas. Relive the days of long ago in early Jack County. Demonstrators will present exhibits and activities of the early Texas settlers. There will be music, storytelling, and fun. Event will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission free. Authentic chuckwagon lunch available from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$10 for adults. \$6 for children under 12. For more information call Frances Easter 940-567-5900. Visit www. jackcountymuseum.org for more info.



# Parker County Youth Livestock Show

JUNE 1-JUNE 9 •WEATHERFORD

Sheriff's Posse Grounds 2251 US Hwy 180 in Weatherford, Texas. Come out on June 1 through June 9 to watch as local 4-H and FFA students exhibit their livestock and shop projects. For a detailed schedule of events visit www. parkercountystockshow.com.

# **Team Roping Practice**

#### MAY 20 • DECATUR

NRS Events Center, 309 CR 4228, Decatur. Team roping practice presented by BPH Productions. 6-9 p.m. every Monday night. www.nrsevents.com

# Chisholm Trail Ranch Rodeo and Parade

## JUNE 7-8 •NOCONA

Rodeo Grounds, Nocona, Texas. CThe Chisholm Trail Ranch Rodeo and Parade have been a Nocona event every year since 1952. We invite you to join us at th eChisholm Trail Rodeo Arena both evenings, with the main parade on Saturday downtown at 5 p.m. Mutton bustin', grand entry riders, bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, team and break away roping, barrel racing and bull riding all make for an exciting and fun event. Barbeque dinners, live music and rodeo, who could ask for anything more? Visit www.nocona.org.

# Parker County Sheriff's Posse Frontier Days

## JUNE 12 - 15 •WEATHERFORD

Parker County Sheriff's Posse Grounds, 2251 Mineral Wells Hwy, Weatherford, TX. 76086. Annual PCSP Frontier Days PRCA Rodeo. Events start at 7:30 p.m. each night and include bareback bronc riding, bull riding, calf roping, calf scramble, Cowgirl's barrel racing, mutton bustin, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling and team roping. General admission is \$20, children 6-11 \$10 and five and under, free. Active military in uniform with spouse, free. Call 817-594-5424 or visit www. parkercountysheriffsposse.com for more information.



CONFOSSIONS OF BUILDER By Andy Anderson

oldest sister's first born child, Hunter, was just at the age of sounding words and so close to saying his first word. The ever involved and trusting uncle that I am, I was helping Hunter say his first word. He was sounding boo really well so I just capitalized on current progress. In just a few minutes I had Hunter saying booger really well, and he was so excited to say a word he just kept saying it over and over and over. Proud of myself to have contributed to my nephew's vocabulary and opening the door for his ability to further his education, I slipped on out the door after my sister returned home.

It wasn't long before my sister tracked me down and let me have it. She told me she would get me back and she did. I was from then on known as Uncle Booger to all my nieces and nephews.

A few years had passed and Hunter was hitting that 12-year mark and had asked me about going deer hunting. I had been putting him off for a few years as I wasn't ready for the responsibility, but this time I felt I could handle it.

A good friend of mine had invited me to his family's property down in Brady, Texas, to deer hunt. This was a perfect time to take Hunter and so after gaining permission from my buddy to take Hunter I extended the invite to him. Man, he was ecstatic. This place had nothing out there, we were truly roughing it, camp fires for cooking, tents and sleeping bag type roughing it. I went to the store and loaded up on all the essential Uncle Booger is a Booger



Hunter Hartman, Andy Anderson's nephew, is all grown up now. (Photo courtesy Andy Anderson)

items needed for our trip.

After arriving late in the evening, we didn't have much time to look around. It was late and we needed to get things set up before it got dark. Using the lights of the truck to finish setting up the tent and bedding, we didn't really feel like staying up so we just turned in. Hunter was a great help; his excitement and enthusiasm were visible. He was learning new things and testing his own boundaries.

In what felt like just a few minutes after getting to sleep the alarm went off. Hunter shot up like he was snake bit. He was dressed and standing outside the tent before I cleared the sleeping bag; I don't think he slept all night. We walked about a mile or so to

the nearest deer stand, climbed in and settled down. I had my 243 I had shot my first deer with for Hunter to use, and just as the sun broke the horizon, we could see deer at the feeder. Hunter was so excited I could hardly get him to focus on step by step instructions to take a shot. There was a really nice buck at the feeder, way bigger than my first so I was really excited for him. He settled down, took aim and bam. Deer ran off in all directions and so did the buck, a clear miss. Naturally he was upset, disappointed in himself and discouraged from even trying again. I guess he thought the hunt was over. After a few minutes talking things over with him, he settled back down and was ready.

It wasn't long before a few does start to filter into the feeder. He was getting excited again. A really nice buck started down a trail, man I couldn't believe it; another huge buck for Hunter. Without instructing him, Hunter lined up on the buck and bam - he missed again. This sequence of events continued on throughout the morning three more times. Heck, I was nearly out of ammo. I usually only need one to get the job done so I didn't bring but a few rounds for the morning hunt.

It was mid-morning and we hadn't seen much after his fourth time to shoot. I was just about to call it and head to the camp when Hunter said some deer were coming in. Two doe and a spike. Hunter ask if he can shoot the spike. I'm thinking to myself, "Boy, you missed four giant bucks and you want to take a shot at a spike?" I said, "Sure, go ahead, you'll probably miss anyway." He lines up on the spike and boom, drops it. I started laughing. I was proud of him, yet found the whole morning just comical.

We recovered the buck and walk Hunter through the cleaning process, and that is a whole new story in itself. We get back to camp, have brunch and relax a bit before the evening hunt. My buddy and I both harvested nice eight-point bucks that evening, get them cleaned and hung up. He stoked the fire as I got dinner ready. We wound down next to the fire recapping the day's events and telling stories, one of which was about the elusive Sasquatch in the area. We informed Hunter the females made crying sounds when

looking for a mate, and the males sounded like gorillas screaming at the zoo. Hunter didn't seam to be too impressed with my buddy and me or our stories. It wasn't long before he was nodding off. After all, it had been a long day for him.

I told him to crawl into bed as we had an early start in the morning to get him a shot at another deer. Hunter agreed and retired to the tent, the lantern casting his shadow against the tent wall, I saw him climb into his sleeping bag and settle down.

My buddy and I got quiet, just enjoying the fire and solitude. I reclined back into my chair as I shoved my left hand into my coat pocket. It was then I discovered something I had forgotten all about from last spring, a diaphragm Turkey call. I removed it from my jacket pocket and looked at my buddy with a grin.

We moved back away from

the tent just far enough to not be noticed but close enough to still see the tent. It had only been a few minutes since Hunter went to bed so I thought it would be perfect timing to use the Turkey call and make a few "Sasquatch" calls.

I took a deep breath and let out a horrific scream with the call, Hunter sat straight up, his shadow cast against the tent wall. We could see him looking around. My buddy and I were trying to hold our laughter back. I composed myself and did it again. Hunter came out of his sleeping bag, on his knees franticly looking around. He called out for me, "Uncle Booger, is that you, are you there?" My buddy eased over to the tent with a branch in hand. I let another screech out at the same time my buddy scratched the tent with the stick.

Hunter came unwound. Screaming "Uncle Booger!" and franticly trying to get out of the



tent. My buddy and I erupted into laughter. Hunter was not happy, said a few choice words to which I forgave him for and went back into the tent. I went in and talked with him, made up and went to bed shortly afterwards. The next morning, I woke up with an itchy throat that slowly progressed throughout the day into the flu.

Hunter grew up to be a fine

young man currently serving in the United States Navy and is married to a beautiful young lady with his own boy with another on the way. I couldn't be prouder of Hunter and his accomplishments in life and am thankful for that moment in time we had together. After all, that was the last time his mom and dad turned him loose with me until he was much older.



# aker

By Norman Winter | Horticulturist, Author, Sp

# MURE

orth Texas Farm and Ranch owners most likely are aware that milkweeds are the lifeblood of Monarch butterflies and their cousins the Queen and Soldier are mostly found in central and south Texas. They are not just important as a larval food source but also as a vital nectar source to other pollinators including hummingbirds.

We love milkweeds because they are extraordinarily beautiful and intricate in their design, making them great plants for the landscape or the backyard wildlife habitat, but if you stop and pay attention, however, you'll notice milkweeds are like the "pollinator luncheon junction" for an assortment of butterflies. Right now in the hill country of Texas not too

far from San Marcos, Wimberley and Dripping Springs, you'll find the Antelope Horn milkweeds (Asclepias asperula) blooming everywhere.

My brother, scouting for monarch and queen caterpillars like everyone else, was stunned to find 13 or more hairstreak butterflies and bees also hitting on the blossoms.

I'm a hairstreak lover from way back so this excites me just about as much as monarchs.

There were gray hairstreaks and numerous Juniper hairstreaks. If you have never seen this green and rusty orange Juniper hairstreak with white bands, you are missing a real treat. Speaking of hair streaks, I have been treated once in Texas and once in Georgia to

what I consider the most beautiful of all, the Great Purple Hairstreak, nectaring on milkweed.

Then at the National Butterfly Center in Mission, Texas, I photographed the Red-bordered Pixie feeding on milkweed. Many enthusiasts have this butterfly at the top of their so-called must-see bucket list.

When you consider that hummingbirds and bees also frequent milkweeds, then there is surely the impetus for the nursery industry to maximize production of milkweeds, and farmers and ranchers to find those special places to facilitate stands of the flowers.

Grow several of these, and your family will experience the whole lifecycle of the butterfly. Get enough of them growing

and you just might open the door to eco-tourism on your farm or ranch. Regardless, the landscape itself also will become a picture of color.

Plant them in full sun with fertile well drained soil, and you will find them to be virtually maintenance free.

Once you have yours planted then the fun begins. Unbeknown to you, unless you are watching, eggs will be laid; we call this ovipositing. These eggs will soon hatch into caterpillars that are as exotic looking as the butterflies. In north Texas you most likely will only see the Monarch caterpillar on your milkweed.

This, however, is really a cause for family celebration. These caterpillars will eat, and they do so



A Palamedes Swallowtail was seen feeding on native milkweed.

with a voracious appetite lasting for around two weeks. You might think this stripping of the foliage would prove to be the demise of the plant, but in no-time you will have more leaves and flowers.

The caterpillars will seem to disappear. They will actually be

attaching themselves head downward and shedding their skin. Now it is time to go on the hunt for what is known as a chrysalis.

Chrysalis is another name for pupa. You will find these hanging almost unnoticed on the underside of a leaf or a branch. I have even



Monarch caterpillar on giant milkweed. (Photos by Norman Winter)

found them hanging from the wire of a nearby fence and even the eaves of the house. The chrysalis looks green, but in reality, it is clear and colors become apparent as the Monarch gets closer to emergence.

This is the kind of fun that the

kids or grandkids will enjoy, and the experience will make lasting memories. Adding to the memories will not just be watching the lifecycle of Monarch butterflies but the graceful flight and nectaring of an assortment of butterflies and hummingbirds, too.





Tumble windmillgrass is a short, compact perennial bunch grass that is adapted to almost every corner of Texas. It can grow on almost any soil but prefers coarse textured soils.

The most obvious characteristic about Tumble windmillgrass is its large seed head sporting 10 to 16 laterally spreading branches, each approximately two to six inches long, arranged in one to three whorls.

When mature, the seed head will break off and be caught up in the wind, making Tumble windmillgrass one of the great wanderers of the plains.

It can tumble great distances, spreading itself in the process.

This wanderer seems to like parking in your garage on windy days, as well as dancing around windy corners of buildings and any other place the wind decides to carry it.

Tumble windmillgrass also can spread by short stolons. The upper leaves are very short, while the lower leaves are often much longer. The leaves are light green with a purplish seed head that fades to pale reddish at maturity. Tumble windmillgrass provides poor forage for livestock and wildlife, although most grazers will use the forage in early spring when tender.

Since Tumble windmillgrass can grow in poor soil conditions, it is useful as a component for a prairie grass mix used on disturbed areas. This grass does not usually dominate a pasture but can often be found in smaller amounts.

Proper grazing use along with rotational grazing can cause the plant to be replaced with higher successional plants.  $\mathbb{N}$ 





Tumble windmillgrass is of limited value to livestock and wildlife.











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VERNON LIVESTOCK MARKET-Cattle sale Tuesdays at 11 a.m. www. vernonlivestockmarket.com. 940-552-6000.

MCALESTER UNION STOCKYARDS - Regular sale every Tuesday. 10 a.m. Calves & Yearlings. 6 p.m. Cows & Bulls. 918-423-2834. mcalesterstockyards. com

# EMPLOYMENT



**NORTH TEXAS FARM & RANCH**-Post Oak Media is looking for an energetic and professionally minded person for the position of Advertising Executive for North Texas Farm & Ranch magazine. Previous sales experience required. The ideal candidate must be able to multi-task and have experience in all Microsoft programs. Compensation based on experience. Submit your resume to NTFR, P.O. Box 831, Bowie, TX 76230.

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# PARTING SHOT



# Six Shooter Siding

Following nothing but a road map and buzzards flying above to the near seemingly desolate town of Tucumcari: the town almost forgotten in time. These curiosity shoppes parked alongside the iconic Route 66 used to be flourishing with families on their travels through the great southwest. For a quick moment, you may step back to what life was like starting back at the peak of this great attraction, Legendary Roadside America. A town nicknamed "Six-Shooter Siding" for the plethora of gunfights presents a history of Comanches, outlaws, slippery train robbers and air that breathes mystery of the ancient Wild West. (Photo and description by Jelly Cocanougher) 🕅

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\$2,400,000

## NOCONA, TX

Income Producing Property. This unique Western Village sits on the highest point in Montage County, it boasts a Fudge Factory, Boutique and Trading Post. 2 br, 2 bath barndominium 84x36, with 4-12 stalls with auto water and feed room. Separate guest cottage with bathroom. Tiny home, 4 RV park hook ups, 2 water wells, 2 ponds, 3 septic's. All under 2 years old. Seller is highly motivated.

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Pete Rehm- \$245,000

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with walk-in closet and en

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to enjoy as you please. Gabe Webster-

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