

NORTH TEXAS FARM & RANCH

NTFR

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Collier Farm:

A Father, A Daughter and A Century of History

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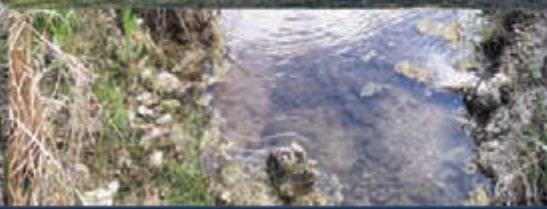


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STAFF & CONTRIBUTORS

PUBLISHER

J. M. Winter

EDITOR

Dani Blackburn | editor@ntfronline.com

ART DIRECTOR

Kayla Jean Woolf | kayla@postoakmedia.net

ADVERTISING EXECUTIVES

Kathy Miller | kathy@postoakmedia.net

Cecily Walker | cecily@postoakmedia.net

Rosemary Stephens | rosemary@postoakmedia.net

Thaxton C. Rivers | thaxton@postoakmedia.net

Lana Hamblin | lana@postoakmedia.net

ADVERTISING DESIGN

Rosie Cole

BUSINESS MANAGER

Brenda Bingham | accounting@postoakmedia.net

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Pamela Black | subscriptions@postoakmedia.net

COPY EDITORS

Judy Wade

Krista Lucas

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Rayford Pullen

Lindsey Monk

Norman Winter

Pepper Stewart

Lacey Corbett

Krista Lucas

Phillip Kitts

Garrett Metcalf, DVM

Judy Wade

Lacey Newlin

Jessica Kader

Robert Lang

Annette Bridges

Mandi Dietz

Dave Alexander

Tony Dean

Andy Anderson

Michelle Ames

Jelly Cocanougher

CONTACT US

NORTH TEXAS FARM & RANCH

NTFR

200 Walnut St., Bowie, TX 76230

940-872-5922, www.ntfronline.com

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Honoring fathers...

Welcome to the June issue of North Texas Farm and Ranch magazine.

On the third Sunday of the month we will honor our fathers, and in celebration of that day, this month we bring you the story of Carroll Collier and his daughter, Jeanette.

Carroll Collier followed in his

grandfather's footsteps, taking over Collier Farm, which will celebrate its centennial anniversary in 2020. Since 2002, Collier has produced Red Angus on 360 acres of land, while always putting conservation at the forefront of his operation. Now, his daughter, Jeannette, joins him in the family business after retiring from a successful career in education. The two are beginning a few new adventures in the business, including providing meat farm to table and producing honey bees. Pictured are cattle grazing on one of the 16 pastures at Collier Farm.

Conservation continues to be a hot topic in this issue as Tony Dean starts the first of a four part series on stocking rate. He will answer many important questions throughout the coming issues, but this month he focuses on answering the following: Stocking rate - should you be that concerned? What are the results of a stocking rate that is too heavy? Also, what are the results of a correct stocking rate?

This month I had the opportunity to meet with Jeff Dean, who operates Sullivan Whitetail Ranch in Montague County. I was able to get a behind the scenes look at whitetail breeding, a process so much more in depth and with many more regulations than I could have dreamed of. I share those findings in the Outdoors section of this issue. In Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch, Rayford Pullen discusses what to expect during the coming months on the ranch, but also encourages readers to make good use of the longer daylight, whether working or playing.

One of my favorites this month comes from Phillip Kitts, who discusses youth bull riding - but make sure to have a tissue nearby, this story has a touching ending.

Also, make sure to read Janis Blackwell's story on an all-around rodeo champion who is returning to competition with new mounts.

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 June.

Dani Blackburn, editor

ON THE COVER

The Collier family roots run deep, back to the 1800s when Guy Collier came from Tennessee to Texas in a covered wagon as a small boy. He went on to found Collier Farm in the Crafton area down a Wise County road in 1920. After being raised by his grandparents, Carroll Collier followed in their footsteps and took over operations in the 1960s. After operating the farm for 50 years, he is joined by his daughter, Jeannette, as they keep the farm in the family and continue to look towards the future. (Photo by Dani Blackburn)

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Grazing North Texas

In this month's Grazing North Texas, Tony Dean begins the first of a four part series focusing on stocking rate. Should you really be that concerned about your stocking rate? Turn to page 73 to find out.

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EQUINE

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Behind the Chutes

Lacey Corbett and husband Logan recently welcomed son Cannon and are now a family of four. Learn how they are adjusting to the new addition in this month's "Behind the Chutes."

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Collier Farms

Jeannette Shaw, recently retired from a successful career in education, joins her father Carroll at Collier Farm as the pair continue a family tradition of farming, land conservation and looking to the future.

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Great Grandpa started a trend catching big fish out of the mighty Red River it runs deep in my blood!



NTFR contributor Judy Wade shared this fun photo of her brother's grandson, Cole Lockwood, on the left and her dad, Dock Lockwood, on the right. Both took fish from Red River, south of Ringling, Cole in 2019 and his great grandfather, Dock, in 1951.

INSTAGRAM FEED



Up close and personal with the Kentucky Derby champion, a photo from the official page.

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MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

By Rayford Pullen | rcpullen@yahoo.com

The summer solstice will occur June 21 this year so no matter the activity you have planned, you will have more day light on this day than any other day of the year. Make good use of it whether you're working or playing and remember this is the official first day of summer.

Speaking of summer, in addition to doing all the chores associated with raising cattle, now is a wonderful time for families to get out and do something together. If you have youngsters, it may be attending the many state and national livestock shows around the country or if you're past this time of your life, it may be seeing the many sights of the great US of A. Either way, do something for yourself that makes life enjoyable for you and those around you.

June is normally a good month for forage quality since the really hot days of summer have not arrived in full force. Once the hot weather arrives, we see a decrease in cattle gains of 50 to 75 percent due to the forage quality tanking. If you are needing cattle to grow, i.e. stocker or feeder cattle, we can supplement protein to offset this forage quality demise as it relates to gain. To see if this is something that would be potentially profitable for your operation, google "Oklahoma Gold" to get the costs and benefits of doing this. When I ran yearlings, my gains during the hottest part of the summer were around one-half pound per day with a break-even price of one pound per day. Supplemental protein was necessary just to break even.

With spring born calves vaccinated for black-leg and IBR and dewormed, and bulls still turned out for the next couple of months or so, it's a good time to evaluate



Summer is hay time in cattle country and after last year's high prices and limited quantities, everyone is pretty anxious to get their hay needs met as quickly as possible. (Courtesy photo)

our management strategies for this past year. One of those is timing our marketing to hopefully take advantage of good cattle prices and have cattle that will weigh enough to bring in the dollars required to keep our operations profitable. While we don't have much, if any, control over what we receive per pound, we can do some things to increase the pounds we market such as keeping calves for a while after we wean them, use better genetics or improve our forages and/or supplemental program. If you are selling less than truck loads, it's going to be tough to get any sort of premium (or fewer discounts) since this is the standard unit required to get any sort of leverage on your part. More and more comingled sales are being offered around the country which does level the playing field for smaller producers and help them reduce discounts since

their cattle will be combined with other folks' cattle of equal size and quality to make truck load lots. If you are not sure where these are, spend a little time hunting them down and see if perhaps they will work for you.

Summer also is hay time in cattle country and after last years high prices and limited quantities, everyone is pretty anxious to get their hay needs met as quickly as possible. The first cutting each year is usually the best from a quality perspective for the same reason cattle gains decline when the weather gets hotter. With the excellent conditions we have had for weed growth this year, making sure our hay is as weed free as possible will probably require a weed spraying or two. Not all weeds germinate at the same time and if applied too early, you'll miss many of the late germinating weeds such as dove weed, or

wooly croton.

Lastly, enjoy the moment. We've had plenty of moisture and cattle prices are at least holding together, so see what you can do on the production end to optimize the value of the cattle you sell. Controlling our cost per pound of calf raised is the chore we each face and it is hard to manage. Spending our money on cost effective practices is where the action, but identifying them is the problem and the only way to do that is to keep good records, weigh your cattle, and just see if the dollars spent are resulting in a positive outcome. One final reminder, if you haven't vaccinated your cows for leptovibrio and your calves for blackleg, you will be reminded at some point in time due to death loss or aborted calves, that this is a very cost-effective management tool. It's a wonderful time to be in the cattle business. NTFR

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AG *elsewhere* SCOTLAND

PHOTO BY ANNETTE BRIDGES



NTFR contributor Annette Bridges recently ventured overseas to visit the beautiful country of Scotland. While there, she snapped some photos of what agriculture looks like in the United Kingdom's northernmost country. Pictured are highland cattle helping themselves to some hay. ®

AG *elsewhere* MONTANA

PHOTO | DESCRIPTION BY LINDSEY MONK

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RANCH, Rodeo & Randomness

By Pepper Stewart



I LEFT THE USA AGAIN

First, let's take a look back at a little story from 2014 and now an update.

We never take group tours, just grab a map, pin some places and go.

Most of June 2014 my wife and I took a little trip to England. Yes, the country. Like most Texas cattlemen, I have not had the opportunity for worldwide travel, as there are always cows needing tended to and horses to feed. During my rodeo days, the extent of my travels was Texas (13 hours to cross) and Oklahoma, but nothing like what I was about to experience.

For those who have been to England, or travel the world often, this might seem silly to you, but for me it was scratching a lot of firsts off my list. During our travels we stayed in a few places from downtown London to spending time in York, then in North Yorkshire on a sheep and cattle farm. From the people we stayed with and others we met, most of them were nice and got a kick out of the Texas accent.

With my wife being a history buff, this was mainly a trip to places off the beaten path. We walked through castles filled with history. Some were just ruins, and others had been well maintained with people still living in them.

While we walked around them, I thought of all the historic events that happened there and the many people over time who walked these same paths. Sure, we have history here in the United States, but we are a young country in comparison to the ancient times



Pepper Stewart with his wife in front of Leeds Castle in Kent. (Photo courtesy Pepper Stewart)

of the United Kingdom.

We saw an ancient Roman bath house, remains of a Viking village and plenty of historic locations that make you wonder what it was like in those times. York was a very cool place and is covering an ancient Roman city they discover more of each time they dig up and replace old buildings.

We also toured old abbeys, churches, castles, battle sites and museums.

We went to dinner at the old haunted Golden Fleece, walked the Shambles and did plenty of people watching. I took my first subway ride, train ride and

walked plenty of stairs as most of the places are old with overnight rooms upstairs. Three weeks' worth of clothes for two people get heavy fast. The rental car was an experience in itself, all switched around in the car and driving on the opposite side of the road. The first few days of driving took time to get comfortable in the car, and on the road the road signs are a whole different deal. I'd say the U.S. is big on over-posting road signs. Well, in England most signs are not visible from the road in places. Roads are mainly single lane roads that are only the size of the small cars they drive. Long

story short, after a few days I had the roads down and we toured that county like nobody's business. Places we visited and the things I saw were amazing, and in a few years we will be back traveling once again.

Here's an update to the story. We went back to England again in 2016, then to Ireland in 2018. I guess I can be a world traveler now, and I still get a kick out of that old 2014 story. By the time we returned, we did a little digging up of our family history. This turned up the fact most of my family landed in America not long ago in the 1700s. We had unknow-

ingly visited their home towns and grave sites during our first trip to the United Kingdom.

During our most recent trip in Ireland, once again we visited many of the historic sites and a castle ruin that once belonged to my wife's family.

During many hours of research on ancestry sites, we had our history traced back to Viking times. If you ever find the time, look up your history, and you will be surprised.

Watch out for tractors. In Ireland it's common to see a tractor hauling cattle or equipment down the highway. There is not a need for a large farm truck and a tractor payment, just the tractor.

Visiting Wicklow (Gaol) Prison I learned how many of the Irish ended up in America and it was not by choice. I did wear a straw hat, but it ended up in the Irish Whiskey Museum on a tour guide. He was so amazed by a cowboy hat, I just had to give it to

him, and if you take the tour you might see it, too.

Legend has it the first cowboys in America came from Ireland, and the first cattle drives were in Boston before Texas was Texas. That's still up for debate, but the stories do make sense if you follow the time lines.

Cattle ranches in Ireland are set up a bit different but still have the same goal in mind. We dropped by a few cattle marts to look around and a few ranches to see how the operations run. If you're a fan of horse racing or just enjoy horses in general, then check out the Irish National Stud. From the stallion lineup to the facility, it's a must see for any horse person.

If you ever get the chance to cross the pond, don't pass it up. You can watch the world on television and the Internet, but nothing beats seeing it in person.

Next on the list is Scotland, and in a year or so I can update again. ☺

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LAND MARKET REPORT

APRIL 2019 RURAL LAND SALES



North Texas rural land sales slowed a bit in April in the counties of Montague, Cooke, Wise and Denton counties, possibly due to the rainy, gloomy weather. Most land brokers are reporting that there are still reporting that the market is unbalanced, with many more buyers than there are sellers. 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 April 2019 in five of our North Texas Counties by Jared Groce. It includes information from North Texas Real Estate Information Service for farm and ranch raw land data, for 10 or more acres for the month of April 2019.

MONTAGUE COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Bowie	25.07	\$4,627.04	64.71%	57
Nocona	51.340	\$3,311.26	94.61%	169

Very little transaction history for the month due to rainfall and lack of inventory.

COOKE COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Gainesville	11	\$10,500.00	91.3%	226
Gainesville	10	\$13,000.00	100%	38
Muenster	34	\$45,147.06	93.58%	248
Valley View	17.65	\$13,881.02	98.39%	294
Gainesville	40.498	\$8,642.40	95.89%	102
Collinsville	55.449	\$9,406.66	96.28%	705

Cooke still has a large demand for wooded recreational land, as well as rural residential land in the Lindsay and Era School Districts.

WISE COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Boyd	13.33	\$12,775.69	94.63%	79
Bridgeport	15.85	\$12,484.23	100%	65
Chico	32.25	\$6,511.63	93.69%	260
Boyd	15.19	\$14,812.38	100%	2
Decatur	27.82	\$10,424.16	92.25%	285
Paradise	108.037	\$6,275.63	97%	231
Boyd	71.223	\$10,000.00	100%	4
Boyd	456.6	\$6,564.55	87.45%	138

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.

DENTON COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Sanger	36.86	\$13,843.79	98.89%	6

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 that they can get if it is fairly close to a town or an area with utility infrastructure in place.

By Matt McLemore

With the birth of spring and good rains properties in the other side of our coverage area, including Wichita, Clay, Jack, Archer and Young, have put on their Sunday best. For most land brokers and agents "Tis the selling season." After a fairly slow winter, activity has definitely picked up in the North Texas area. Buyers seem to be hitting the road looking and willing make offers for properties on the market.

Buyers do seem to be more selective on what they are looking for, so the property itself as well as pricing on the property has an impact on whether the property is actively being shown and seeing offers or remaining stagnant.

The hot properties still seem to be raw land with limited to no improvements. Mostly pasture and good recreation seems to still drive the market and leads to the better price per acre. Farm sells are seeing a less of return on the price per acre than those sold with limited to no cultivation.

Sellers wanting to sell need to be cautious about over valuing their improvements to the property, realizing that there is a more limited market for properties with heavy improvements in the North Texas area at this time, with buyers wanting to take a more hands on approach and establish the property themselves.

Counties included but not limited to Archer, Clay, Baylor, Jack, Young and Wichita have seen several closings in the last two months on acreage 20 acres and above. With Clay County leading the way with 11 recorded closings in the last 60 days followed closely by Jack and Young Counties with six each. Archer and Wichita Counties seemed to be a bit slower with a combined 10 recorded sales on properties of 20 acres or more. Several variables can play a part in this, lack of inventory, type of land available, and of course, as always, pricing of the inventory. Acreage prices have remained consistent and are holding true to what the property has to offer as well as the size of property being sold.

Current prime rate as of today (5-2-19) is 5.25 percent with the Fed recently reporting they would not cut at this time.

*Information obtained on sales from NETREIS, PARAGON, and Lands of Texas respectively.®

YOUTH BULL RIDING: Teaching Young Athletes More Than a Sport

By Phillip Kitts

Nearly all sports have a starting platform in the youth environment. Baseball has little league, football has Pop Warner, and the list goes on.

Much like all other sports, bull riding has their youth leagues through junior rodeo, junior high and high school rodeo. However, the sport of bull riding has taken it a bit further than most. The Miniature Bull Riders have taken it a large step further. They have created an association that not only provides young athletes with a platform to compete in the sport, but they have done so on a grand scale.

Traditionally, youth bull riders start by competing on calves and steers, and as they grow, eventually move up to full size bulls. Over the years it has been a common conversation that the bull riding youth were not getting a fair shot in the development process. Since calves and steers are not built the same and their sequence of movement was different, it has been commonly said when the time to move to bulls came, young athletes were at a disadvantage.

Enter MBR with Chris Shivers and the Leal family. Shivers and the Leal family took this issue to heart. Seeing that the Leal family owns a large herd of miniature bulls, the choice came quickly. Now, along with several other organizations, the era of MBR has come. MBR has taken the youth sport to

a whole new level. They have partnered with the Professional Bull Riders and are a regular feature at many tour stops throughout the PBR season. MBR also does several events that are pure miniature bull riding. With no less glitz and glamour than the big PBR events, youth from all around America travel long distances for a shot to win money and prizes.

Much more than just youth bull riders getting on reduced sized bulls goes on at these events. There is the traditional rodeo comradery and a chance for many of these youngsters to meet up with friends from across America.

The MBR events have become a proven place for young bull riders to learn the essential tools of the sport. You almost never attend an MBR event where you do not see one or two World Champions taking part in the weekend. During these weekends these young athletes learn anything from chute procedures to techniques on how to cover rank bulls. All of this is being taught and instructed by proven bull riders who have strapped on hardware from some of the biggest bull riding events in the world. On April 26 and 27, MBR took over the small Louisiana city of Jonesville. World Champion bull rider and one of the name sakes to MBR, Chris Shivers, hosted two days of Miniature Bull Riding. Over this event yet another scenario played out that is a shining example of what the youth world of rodeo is

all about. A young competitor who has a name that most all bull riding fans know made yet another appearance at an MBR event. Noah Lee, a North Texas native and son of World Champion Mike Lee, has been a regular at MBR events over the last several years. Even before his first MBR appearance, you could see numerous videos of young Noah getting on practice bulls while under his father's supervision. It was apparent how passionate about the sport this father and son were by the effort young Noah put out during every ride and the coaching dad would put forth.

When Noah broke into the MBR, he did so with a bang. During his first year with the association, he won several events and quickly adopted his dad's tradition of a victory lap when he completed his eight seconds.

Over the last several years, Noah has collected several big wins and even competed at televised PBR events. One of these big wins took place in Albuquerque, N.M. last year. Noah rode his way through the MBR event in Los Lunas, N. M., which qualified him to ride at the televised PBR event in the pit where his father had competed several times. Young Noah was matched up with a mini bull named Vindicator. In an energetic house, Noah Lee strapped on to this small stature Herford bull and gave it his all over eight seconds. As Noah

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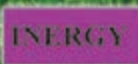
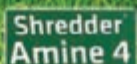
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YOUTH

dismounted and went into his celebration victory lap, the near capacity crowd erupted into deafening celebration. This was one of the first steps in what has made young Noah Lee not only a main stay in the MBR but a fan favorite at PBR events.


This weekend in Jonesville, La., young Noah Lee would go on to win yet another MBR event title, but his win just might be overshadowed by his actions outside of the arena. Friday night during the first performance in the junior division, Noah and a talented athlete, A.J. Hatchett, tied for the round win. As per tradition after the event, Noah and A.J. had to flip for the round win buckle. Noah won the coin toss, which afforded him the prize. Young Noah went on to give A.J. the buckle and made the statement that since this was A.J.'s first round win with the MBR, he should have the buckle since he already had several buckles he had won. Now to many, this may seem like a trivial thing, but those who follow the sport of bull riding know that many competitors ride as

much for the buckle as they do for the check. In the youth world, the coveted award buckle definitely has more desire than the money that comes along with it.

One may ask why such a thing would be so influential. In a world of fair play where everyone is a winner, this one moment makes a strong statement about youth rodeo.

Just like in life, the sport of rodeo has winners and losers, but the sport of rodeo has fair play and most of all, it teaches and instills moral character.

A young man like Noah Lee recognizes success through winning; he also recognizes supporting other competitors and that his actions outside of the arena are just as important as his actions in the arena.

From World Champions supporting the youth to future world champions supporting each other, the rodeo world is blessed in many ways. The heritage, competitiveness and moral fiber that developed the sport of rodeo lives and breathes with great people. 



Noah Lee, a North Texas native and son of World Champion Mike Lee, has been a regular at MBR events over the last several years. (Photo courtesy Phillip Kitts)

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Parker County Arena

The New Hot Spot for Barrel Races

By Krista Lucas

Just north of Weatherford, Texas is a gorgeous equine facility situated on sprawling open pasture.

On this land, there are multiple barns, round pens, housing, and a large, covered arena perfect for hosting today's equine events. Parker County Arena is quickly becoming the new hot spot for North Texas' barrel racers.

The facility belongs to Courtney Smith's family, and in 2016 Smith, along with Janee Ornelas, started producing barrel races after having several people ask about the place and to help with the overhead.

"We also wanted a place for people to run where there's a huge support system and everyone rooting for everyone," Smith said. "We wanted a place where barrel racers could have a safe place to run for themselves and their horses and just have great fellowship."

Each race has thousands in added money, prizes and side pots to run at, giving everyone a chance to win something.

Contestants also can become a Parker County Arena member to qualify for a bonus open added money membership side pot.

By paying the \$50 membership fee, members must then attend at least five races and place in a division within the open race to be eligible for year-end awards, which include saddles, saddle pads, breast collars, headstalls, and even more prize money.

Smith and Ornelas also have begun giving back through the Parker County Arena races. Part of the proceeds goes toward families and groups around the community in need.

"Last fall, God put in on my heart to use the races to give back to the community too, so we try to do fundraisers at a lot of the

races for either families in need or local charity organizations," Smith said.

The ladies of Parker County never dreamed the events would be so popular.

The Parker County races have been drawing anywhere from 200 to 400 plus barrel racers at every event.

Smith said it was overwhelming for awhile, but even with that many runs to keep track of, Parker County Arena runs like a well-oiled machine. Smith and Ornelas keep the entry office organized, while Blake Myers announces the races and does a great job of keeping everything rolling smoothly. Smith said Ornelas is a huge part of each race.

"Janee hustles for sponsors, she makes the draw, she handles the pre-entries. She's a much more outgoing people person, and I'm more of an introvert, so I help her


with whatever she needs me to."

The future of Parker County Arena seems bright and on track to do big things. The facility will continue to be a destination hotspot for barrel racers of all levels.

"We want to keep being a safe, family friendly place for people to come and have fun worry-free," Smith said. "We want to be able to do even bigger races with bigger prizes as we continue as well. We have a trailer in the works for 2020."

Parker County Arena is equipped to host a variety of events. There is plenty of trailer parking and RV hookups.

They pride themselves on offering a state of the art facility any horse enthusiast would want to check out.

The next Parker County Arena barrel race is scheduled for May 19, 2019. 

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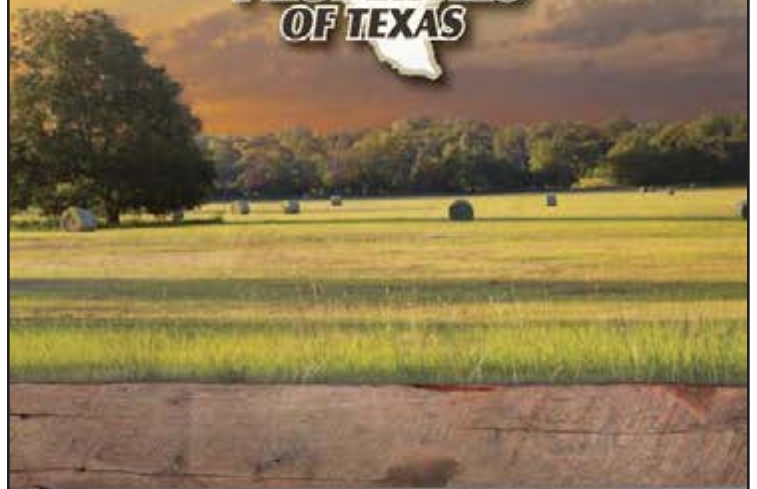
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Guttural Pouch Diseases in Horses

- The Big Three -

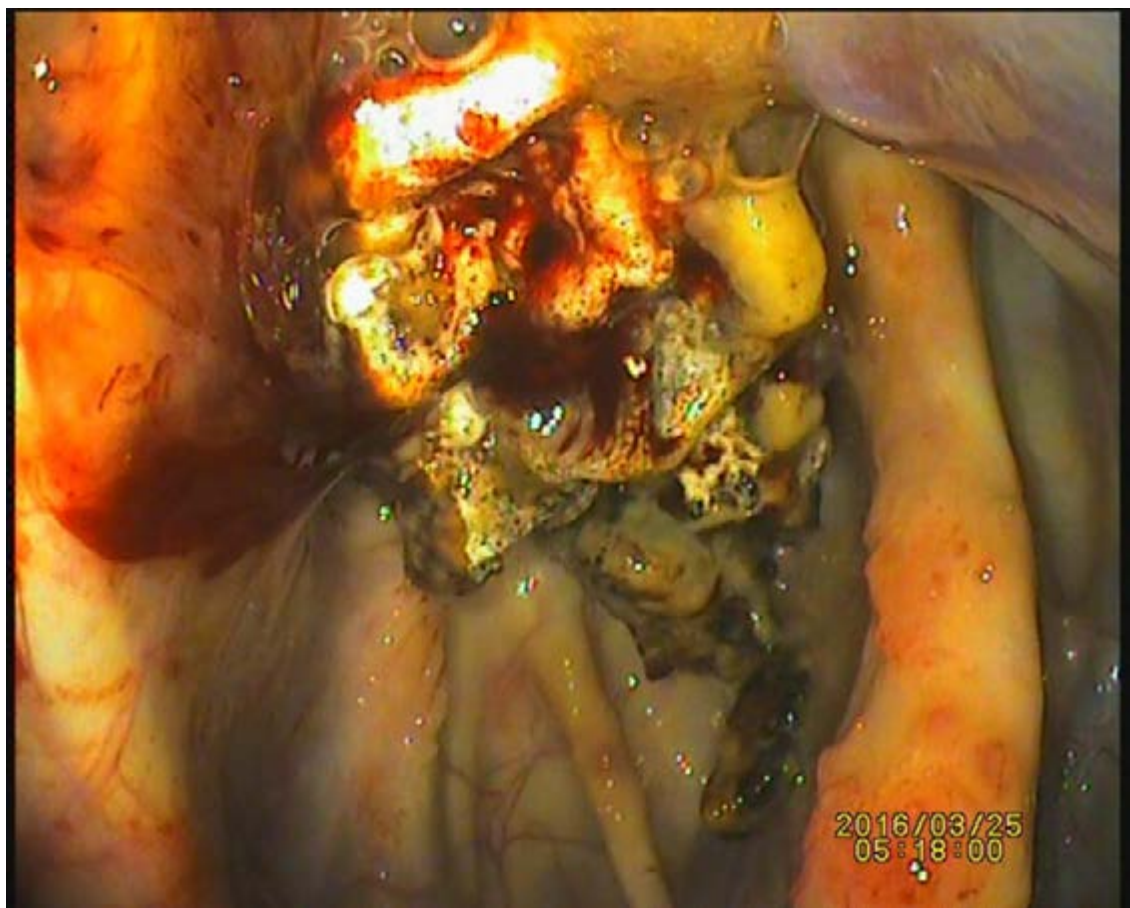
By Garrett Metcalf, DVM

There are very few species that have structures equivalent to the guttural pouch in the horse. The guttural pouch is a diverticulum or an enlargement of the eustachian tube that connects the nasopharynx to the middle ear. The purpose of the guttural pouch in the horse is still debated. Some of the theories believe it is important in decreasing the weight of the skull, a flotation device, but recent research has found it may act to cool the blood to the brain. Regardless what the function is, it remains a very important structure for the horse and houses many vital anatomic structures. There are many diseases that can affect the guttural pouch and this article will help to inform on the most important diseases that can affect the guttural pouches.

One of the deadliest guttural pouch diseases that is essentially a ticking time bomb is called guttural pouch mycosis. Guttural pouch mycosis is a fungal disease caused by *Aspergillus* fungal species. The fungus attaches to the major arteries in the guttural pouch, specifically the internal carotid artery, the majority of the time. This fungus can silently and slowly erode into the artery leading to a sudden bleeding episode that is life threatening.

The scary thing about this is it is nearly undetectable before the bleeding occurs. Without an endoscopic exam of the guttural pouches, this disease cannot be detected otherwise. There is no known breed, gender or age predilection for this disease or known reason for why some horses get it and some do not.

If this fungus is detected before



One of the deadliest guttural pouch diseases is called guttural pouch mycosis. Guttural pouch mycosis is a fungal disease caused by *Aspergillus* fungal species. This fungus can silently and slowly erode into the artery leading to a sudden bleeding episode that is life threatening. (Courtesy photo)

major bleeding, antifungal drugs can be administered to destroy the fungal plaque. Unfortunately, it is rare to detect this before bleeding occurs so surgical intervention is needed to save the horse once bleeding does occur. The surgical procedure requires surgical occlusion of the artery with balloons, coils or plugs to stop the flow of the blood through the artery. Doing this essentially insures the artery will not bleed and starves the plaque causing it to regress and die.

Another very common disease

that affects the guttural pouch is caused by a highly contagious bacterium, *Streptococcus equi* or commonly known as “strangles.” This disease is commonly spread in young horses that are naïve to the disease or that are unvaccinated, but all age groups are at risk of contracting the disease. Strangles causes abscessation of the lymph nodes around the throat that communicate with the guttural pouch. These lymph nodes can become so enlarged that they obstruct the airway causing respiratory distress unless the abscesses are opened

or they rupture into the guttural pouch.

Although the rupturing of the abscesses into the guttural pouch can relieve the swelling that is causing the respiratory obstruction, this also causes the guttural pouch to fill with pus material that must be removed. This pus material is expelled through the nasal passages from the guttural pouch, which is the greatest source of spreading the disease. If other horses come in contact with this pus material, they are likely going to get the disease.



If the pus is left in the guttural pouch for a prolonged period of time, it can become dehydrated and form stone-like material called chondroids. These chondroids can live in the guttural pouches for an indefinite time period, creating silent carriers and further spreading the disease to other horses if not addressed by manually removing them from the guttural pouch via surgical and endoscopic means.

Finally, the last disease to mention is one that affects the stylohyoid bone of the guttural pouch. The stylohyoid bone is part of the hyoid apparatus that creates a sling that connects the larynx to the skull supporting the upper airway. Where the stylohyoid bone articulates with the skull is where the disease begins. This articulation is a joint called the temporohyoid joint. Temporohyoid osteoarthropathy is the disease process that occurs when the stylohyoid bone and articulation

with the temporal bone becomes arthritic and enlarged.

This disease can be very debilitating and life threatening to the horse when it occurs because of the effects on the surrounding nerves. The symptoms of the disease are caused by injury to the nerves near this very important structure. These nerves are important for balance and motor function of the face and eyes. When the nerves to the inner ear are affected, the symptoms are similar to vertigo in the human and can lead to neurologic symptoms of incoordination, balance, head tilt and rapid eye movements. The disease can silently be occurring until sudden injury or fracture of these bones causes the horse to rapidly deteriorate.

The guttural pouch is a unique structure and a very important structure to the horse filled with lots of very significant anatomical structures. It is important to



If the pus is left in the guttural pouch for a prolonged period of time, it can become dehydrated and form stone-like material called chondroids. (Courtesy photo)

promptly identify and treat any disease that can affect the guttural pouches of a horse. Identifying these diseases often requires radiographic and endoscopic equipment to make definitive diagnoses. If you ever suspect disease of

your horse's guttural pouches, please contact your veterinarian for examination or referral to specialty equine practices that can thoroughly examine this very unique and important structure of the horse.®

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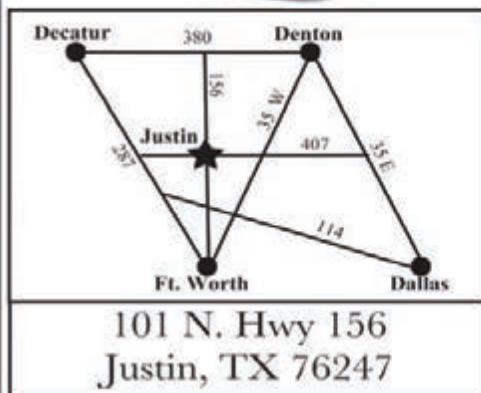
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EQUINE SUPERSTARS & EVERYDAY HEROES

By Janis Blackwell

All-Around Rodeo Champion Returns to Competition

With new mounts under her, Lisa Jo Mann Cooper Seed is returning to arena competition after a 35 year absence.

Seed is known for being an all-around champion of the American Junior Rodeo Association and the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association in her youth. Her pathway in life led her to lay down her ropes and competition years ago, but now she feels ready to pick them up again.

Growing up around Hobbs, N.M., Seed was entering junior rodeos from the time she was just a little girl.

When asked, Seed named some of the things she had won. She said she had won the 12 and under, 13-15, and 16-19 all around titles in the AJRA almost every year she competed.

Don't you know her competition hated to see her pull up? She continued her successful rodeo ways into her college career attending Howard College in Big Springs, Texas, competing in the Southwest Region of the NIRA and winning the breakaway and barrel racing for the region two of her three years there. Then she met and married Roy Cooper and moved to Durant, Okla., where Cooper was in school at the time.

She finished her final year of college in Durant and once again won the barrel race, breakaway and All-Around Cowgirl Championship for the NIRA region that year.



Lisa Jo Mann Cooper Seed, pictured with Willie and Tail Light. (Photos courtesy Janis Blackwell)

Seed credits the horses she rode throughout those years as being a critical part of her success. She rode a little bay gelding named Clipper in the barrels and poles.

She even entered some Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeos on him where he

outran the best of the best, but she chose not to pursue the National Finals Rodeo at that time.

Clipper, however, would have to be labeled an equine superstar. She was breakaway roping on a big gray gelding named Bullet whom she credits with really help-

ing up her game.

Seed, like most great cowboys and cowgirls, is quick to recognize the contribution of their equine partners.

Soon being married to Cooper and helping him get down the road
See RETURNS page 30

Returns

Continued from page 29

and win championships became Seed's priority.

Most of her time was devoted to keeping his roping horses exercised and cared for while he was away.

Then after a few years, Clint, their son, came along and demanded her attention, which suited Seed just fine because she said all she ever wanted to be was a wife and a mother.

When Seed and Cooper separated, Seed and her son moved back to Hobbs. A few years later, it was time for Clint to start entering junior rodeos, so for the next several years Seed hauled her son to AJRA and High Plains Junior Rodeos and to high school rodeos "as long as he would let me," Seed said with a laugh.

As the years rolled by Seed met and married Sam Seed, and Clint married his wife, Amber, and moved to Decatur to rope with his dad and brothers.

Over the course of the next few years, Amber and Clint had two sons of their own, Casen and Camden, who became the delight of Seed's life, and after losing Sam in a car accident she moved to Decatur to be near them. Seed enjoys being a grandmother as much as she does a mother.

However, she said now that the boys are getting older, they need less of her attention, and she had to look around and find something else to fill her time.

Then it came to her that it might be time to pick up her ropes again. This time, she decided it would be a heading rope.

Clint told his mom he would help her get a horse and do whatever he could to get her roping again.

So he told a few friends he was looking for a good heading horse for his mom.

Seed had grown up with Russ and Ross Gray of Lovington,,

N.M., so when Clint put out the word she needed a horse, Ross' wife, Pat, said she would just let Seed borrow one of her horses called Tail Light to see if she got along with him. Tail Light is a big, stout, sorrel gelding and boy, did she get along with him.

Seed loves roping on Tail Light and he seems to like her, too. Clint also mentioned to Jared Cross that his mom needed a horse and Cross had a friend, Cody McFarland, whom he thought might let her use one of his good horses.

Sure enough Cody knew her from Mother's Day Out where Seed helped out and in McFarland's words was "so good to his son."

He sent her a bay horse named Willie Wonka to use. Also an excellent mount.

In Seed's words she is very blessed with these two outstanding horses.

She also is very blessed with her son, whom she said was so patient with her and helps her every time she ropes.

She also is fortunate to have friends who think so much of her, they are willing to offer great horses for her to take and use.

I'm sure it helps them feel confident about the well-being of their horses knowing that anything in her care will get the best possible treatment.

Seed is already going and entering jackpot ropings. Bear in mind, she has only been heading about four months.

Laughing, she said all the calf roping she had done was really messing up her heading loop.

For any who don't know, the kinds of loops you throw in those two events are quite different, but knowing the competitive spirit of this woman, look out. She will be at the top of her game soon. Until next month we say to Seed, Willie and Tail Light Happy Trails!



Lisa Jo Mann Cooper Seed and Tail Light ready to go rope one.



Lisa Jo Mann Cooper Seed and her son, Clint, finishing up a run. (Photos by Janis Blackwell)



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BEHIND THE CHUTES

Thoughts from a Rodeo Wife

By Lacey Corbett

I love following ranch wives on social media, and a lot of them just finished up calving season. As much as it sounds like I'm comparing myself to a cow, I feel like I have a lot in common with those bovine mommas I would see giving birth to spring-time calves. We just welcomed our son, Cannon, into the world on April 22, 2019.

Please understand my sense of humor here, but pregnant women and new mothers aren't that different from cows, and I mean that in the most respectful way. Think about a first-time heifer when she calves; it's new to her and sometimes she needs help. However, when it's time for her to have her second calf she knows the routine and knows what to expect. It's a been-there-done-that experience for her and most of the time requires no help. I feel like I can relate a little to that same momma cow as we prepared for and welcomed baby number two.

Preparing for your first child is an amazing journey. I got so excited decorating the room, picking out all the clothes and daydreaming about holding my brand-new baby and being a new mother. The closet was organized by clothing size and everything had its place. Next thing you know, here comes baby number two and this poor child doesn't even have a bedroom. I have learned what is a necessity and what is a luxury. We



The Corbetts, now a family of four, celebrating a successful college rodeo season. (Photo courtesy Lacey Corbett)

have so many fellow rodeo contestants and prospective students who stay with us that it makes more sense to keep a spare bedroom than convert the only extra room we have into the baby's room. Don't get me wrong, I was excited to hold my new son; however, those daydreams were cut short by, "Mo-o-o-o-o-o, I need to potty," coming from my two-year-old. Because I learned some things the hard way with baby number one, I did feel somewhat more prepared for baby number two. I knew what would help me the most as well as what would just take up space. I knew more of what to expect in the delivery room and wasn't as nervous. Like that momma cow, my body had already delivered once before and knew how to do it all over again.

The month of my due date

was a chaotic one. Our calendar was jam packed from the end of March all through April. Thanks to a scheduled induction we were basically scheduling the birth of our child around rodeos and not the other way around. There were some lucrative spring rodeos in California, Nevada and Texas as well as the college region finals just north of our house all clustered within three weeks before or after my due date. My biggest fear was my husband would be wedging his hand into his bareback riggin as my water broke. I watched him ride in Logandale, Nev., through Braxton-Hicks contractions and prayed the excitement wouldn't send me into active labor. Like I've learned so far, you just roll with the punches, expect the best, yet plan for the worst. Thankfully, sweet Cannon came just after the

college finals and the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association allows you to turn out of rodeos so Logan could stay home with his family for just a little bit longer.

Now that Cannon has arrived, we are adjusting to two babies instead of one. I'm learning to lower my expectations. Although this baby is a huge blessing, it's challenging caring for a newborn as well as a strong-willed toddler with a husband who will be gone much of my maternity leave. So, instead of trying to be super mom and keep absolute order, I'm trying to remember that I really am just trying to survive. I am trying to learn to not let the smallest of molehills turn into mountains. I am trying to remember that as long as my babies are fed, warm, clean, and generally happy, those dishes will still be there tomorrow, and the laundry isn't going to grow legs and walk away (although some days I wish it would).

I am literally writing this article with a newborn strapped to me. Do I have it all figured out? Absolutely not.

Unlike a young heifer, I'm thankful I have been through this experience once before and have some knowledge of what it takes to survive mom life. I'm also thankful that unlike a heifer I had access to a hospital with epidurals and pain meds instead of an open pasture or barn with a rancher with cold hands and a chain.



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Photo credit Susanna Clare Photography
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LACEY'S PANTRY

By Lacey Newlin



Olive Cheese Spread



Serves: 10 • Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients


- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup Monterrey Jack cheese, grated
- 1 cup Pepper Jack cheese, grated
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup green olives, diced
- 1/2 cup black olives, diced
- 1 clove garlic, finely minced
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes

Directions

Preheat oven to 350° F.

In a medium mixing bowl, and using a hand mixer, mix together ingredients until well blended.

Spread into baking dish (or dishes) of your choice and bake until hot and bubbly.

This recipe can be used multiple ways including dips, pinwheels, spreads and any other way that sounds delicious to you. 



WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

When my country boy husband and city girl me got married 38 years ago it would have been presumed I would be the one doing all the cooking, and I knew how to cook.

Not only did my mamma not raise me to get my hands dirty in the fields, she also didn't raise me knowing all there is to know to function well in a kitchen.

Honestly, this could be because she didn't know herself. My childhood memories were of my dad doing the cooking.

Mamma loved to tell everyone how excited she was when McDonald's opened near our home and she could feed her children the quick and easy healthy meal of a hamburger, french fries and a milkshake. Indeed, my husband would tell you I was a cheap date because the primary place I wanted to eat back then was at McDonald's.

Early on it became obvious to me that my man loved to eat and he enjoyed eating more than hamburgers, french fries and milkshakes. I felt compelled to learn to cook, so I bought a Betty Crocker cookbook and started practicing my skills on my dear country boy.

I will never forget the first time I baked a chicken and made homemade mashed potatoes. Apparently, it is indeed possible for a chicken to get done even when baking it upside down. My husband did later show me the correct position was, in fact, breast side up.

He did show me how to make sure the neck had been removed.



With some love, patience and guidance from her husband, Annette Bridges learned to work her way around the kitchen. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

This first chicken I baked still had the neck and other unknowns inside of the chest cavity. Apparently, it also is possible for a chicken to get done even when these items are mistakenly left in.

I had seen my future mother-in-law peel potatoes, cut them up and cover them with water to boil. The rest of the details I apparently

missed such as draining the water and adding milk and butter before whipping them.

The main point I want to make with you, my friends, is the impeccable good manners my country boy had when we met and still has today.

Not only did he eat every last bite of the disgusting mashed

potatoes I first made for him, he was able to kindly and very gently suggest the next time I made them to drain the water and add some milk and butter.

I didn't eat more than one bite of my unpalatable mashed potatoes.

They were gross, but my sweet country boy cleaned his plate and



praised my fixing him a good meal.

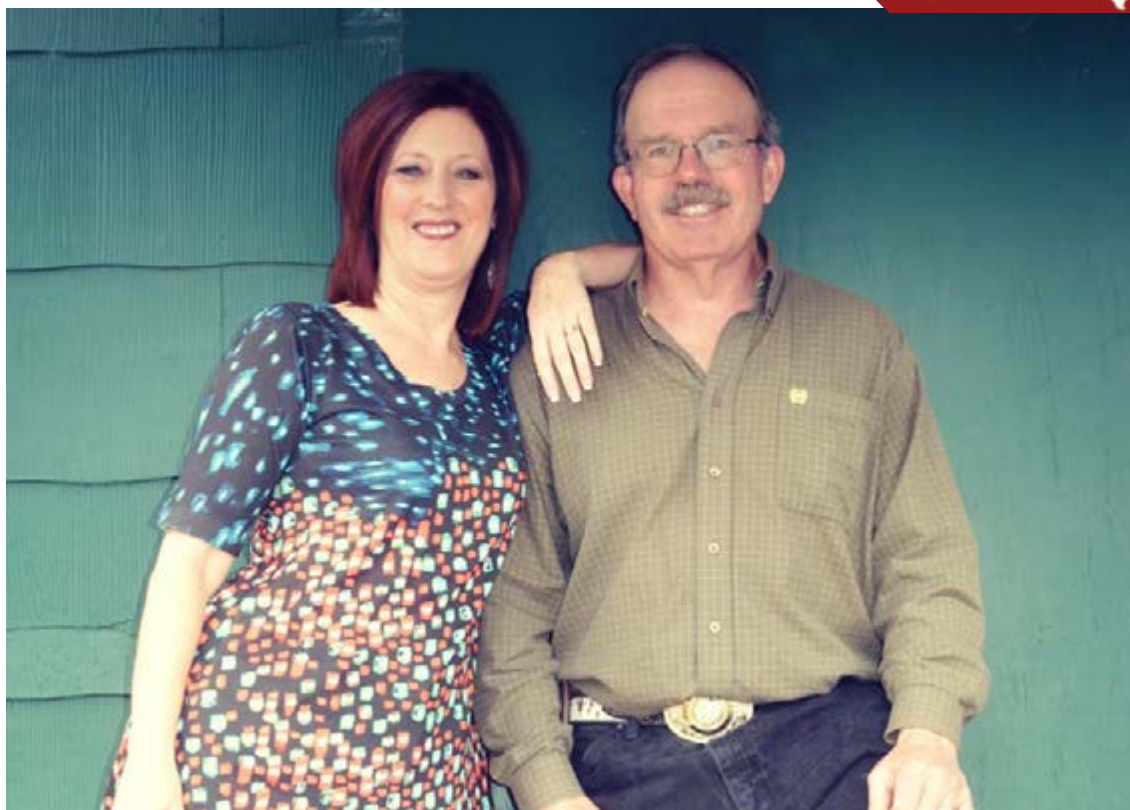
This was definitely proof that love is not only blind, but love has no taste buds.

There are other good manners my sweet man had and still has, such as always saying please and thank you.

It is very nice to be appreciated and appreciated is something my country boy has always made me feel.

I don't know who said it, but they wrote a truth, "There are some things that money can't buy...like manners, morals and integrity." My country boy has all of these qualities and more. I didn't know how much or how little money he had in the bank when we married, and that detail was of little importance to me.

What mattered most then and now was his good character and his honest living of it. I am one blessed city girl gone country. (N)



Annette and her country boy husband have been married 38 years. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

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Collier

A Father, A Daughter

“I believe that what we become depends on what our fathers teach us at odd moments, when they aren’t trying to teach us. We are formed by the little scraps of wisdom.” – Umberto Eco

Jeannette Collier Shaw has spent a lifetime on her family’s farm, soaking in little bits of wisdom as she followed her father, Carroll Collier, through the fields as a little girl – and her teacher had a lot to share as a farmer who has always known the importance of continuing education and evolving with the ever changing world of agriculture. Now, it is all paying off as Shaw joins her father at Collier Farm to continue a heritage dating back almost a century. As Father’s Day approaches, it reminds us all of the importance of children and their fathers and giving the next generation the tools they need to succeed in agriculture.

History

The Collier family’s roots run deep, back to the 1800s when Collier’s grandfather Guy, born in 1894, came from Tennessee to Texas in a covered wagon as a small boy.

“They were moving from Tennessee and got to this point, and this is where they settled. He was a farmer all his life; it’s all he ever did,” said Collier.

Guy, one of six children, would marry Moye Mason, whose family came to the area from Georgia, and have three children of their own. The Collier Farm was founded in the Crafton area down a Wise County road in 1920.

In its early days, the farm was home to milk cows, and the elder Collier sold milk and cream. Corn, cotton and peanuts were produced on the land up into the 1940s and the late 1950s. Guy and Moye also raised their grandson, Carroll, who would take over operations of the farm in the 1960s, keeping the land in the family. Carroll and his wife, Jean, would run the farm and raise two children of their own on the family land.

Carroll Collier followed in his grandfather’s footsteps and produced dairy cattle from 1972 to 1987, as well as purchasing land adjacent to the farm for a total of 360 acres. He also branched out and started a hog operation for almost a decade, with beef cattle and peanuts along the way. However, when he purchased his first Red Angus in 2002, he never looked back.

“I just had a belief they were better cattle that performed better. The calves brought a little more money. We have been very happy since we bought the first bull. They are docile cattle. You can see what I am talking about when you go to the pastures, and docile cattle means more tender meat,” said Collier.

Conservation

Whether dairy cattle or beef, the acreage that is Collier Farm has always excelled and been at the forefront of the farming business thanks to a family that has put what feeds the herd first – the land.

“I have always had a passion for being a steward of the land. That means taking care of the land, keeping erosion down, keeping the soil fertile and the water quality good in our ponds and springs. Good quality of water means good cattle health,” explained Collier.

The patriarch has been doing conservation work since 1965, including focusing on good grass, management, grazing, building structures such as dams, when needed, and always focusing on the quality of the water found on the farm. The healthy pastures lining County Road 1876 are a testament to his hard work and dedication. His cattle are raised on all natural grasses and can be found grazing on Bermuda, rye and native grasses, which hold vital nutrients for his Red Angus herd.

Bermuda is planted in the spring to last through the dry summer months, while the fall planting keeps cattle fat and happy through the cold winter weather. Fertilizer is only used as needed on Collier Farm, and recently a no till drill method was implemented for planting, going right through the sod. Sixteen pastures are rotated for the 66 adult Red Angus cattle and three herd bulls of Collier Farm. He has the practice down to an art form, with the cattle often ready and waiting for the farmer at the gate when it’s time to rotate pastures.

The farm includes a 16-acre unit designated strictly for wildlife with a tank stocked with fish, cover for deer and native grasses. The pond even has a natural spring flowing into it.

The planting, cover crops, cattle grazing and even the bees recently added to Collier Farm all come together for land conservation perfected by many years of hard work. No decision is made or plan put into action without considering the effects on the land now and in the future. Collier has been recognized for his conservation efforts by the Noble Institute as the recipient of the Leonard Wyatt Outstanding Cooperator Award in 2013. Collier Farm also has been host to Noble Institute field days and the farmer was recognized for 35 years of service on the livestock and forage committee in Wise County.

“We are coming up next year on celebrating 100 years of the family farm started by my grandfather in late 1919. My daughter will be the fourth generation, her kids will be number five and their babies will be number six. It feels great,” said Collier on the importance of



er Farm:

and A Century of History





Collier

Continued from page 40

the land to the many generations of the Collier family.

A Family Venture

Speaking of the younger generations, this Father's Day the farmer's daughter, Shaw, will be found working right alongside her dad. Married to Mike Shaw, she has two children of her own, Brent and Kelsey, with three grandchildren and one on the way. She joined the operation full time almost a year ago this month after retiring from a career in education.

After being raised with a love for the land she grew up on and receiving the Lone Star FFA Degree and American FFA Degree as a student, she had originally planned on becoming an agriculture teacher, but after having children of her own, decided teaching elementary students, and eventually counseling, was the better option.

"I thought the best thing would be to try and have the best schedule for my kids," recalled Shaw.

She spent her rookie year of teaching at Prairie Valley Independent School District, and one year later made the move to Bowie ISD to teach second grade. After spending a few years in the classroom, she felt the yearning to help children as a counselor. In 2000, she was hired

as the Bowie Elementary counselor, where she stayed until 2007 where she went to work as a counselor for North Central Texas College. Three years later she returned to Bowie High School, where she wrapped up her career. Despite spending 29 years in education, the farm sends Shaw right back to her roots.

"This is where I grew up. The land was a big playground, and it was my entertainment as a child. It was just an open book of imagination," said Shaw.

The daughter recalls stories of hours spent in the hay barn, building houses and creating stages. As a child, she would play in the creek, and her mother never knew exactly where she was, just that her youngster was somewhere on the farm.

"We use to have huge grain bins out there," said Shaw as she gestured with her arms to show the size. "My mom would climb up to the top of them and yell for us when it was time to eat."

Her younger brother, Calvin, who passed in 2004, would always be right on her heels, and even her friends enjoyed visiting the farm.

It wasn't just the imaginary plays on the hay stage and the splashing around in the creek water the young Shaw enjoyed, but working

alongside her father as well, picking up bits of information as she went along. Even from a young age, it was what she loved to do.

"I never had to make her; she was always ready to go," said the proud father.

His daughter nods in agreement, recalling long summer afternoons spent in the cab of his tractor with nothing else to do but daydream and spend the day with her dad, just sitting and riding along.

"I can just remember not wanting to do anything else. I didn't want to sit in the house and watch television because if I had my choice, I would have stayed home from school," laughed Shaw.

Her father agrees.

"It is quality time I'll have the rest of my life, and great memories," said Collier.

Today, the pair are right back where they began as Shaw joins her father and learns to run the business. The patriarch has poured his heart and soul into the farm and now the next generation is ready to go to work, and he is ready to pass the knowledge on in yet another way he is taking care of the future. She is learning what he knows, which is the practices and knowledge needed to yield healthy herds
See COLLIER page 44

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Collier

and preserve precious resources. They also are starting some new adventures together, including the selling of meat directly to customers and producing honey bees. Fresh eggs and honey are available to customers, although the honey is limited.

"We have a lot of requests for it," said Shaw. "We just have to wait and see what the harvest is like. We have nine hives right now. Within a week, we had three hives swarm and split, so we have been fortunate to capture those swarms and put them in boxes."

However, the patriarch predicted cover crops currently blooming will provide some good honey in June and July.

The meat market also has seen great success. Established in October 2017, the farm began offering grain fed beef directly to customers and recently began offering grass fed. The grain-fed cattle are finished in an on-site feed lot while the grass fed eat on just that – natural grass.

"I am 99 percent sure he started this meat business so I would have something to do. He didn't want to see me sitting around after I retired," laughed Shaw.

The father doesn't disagree with his daughter.

"Don't want her wandering around. Have to keep her busy," stated Collier.

It was a fairly easy decision for the father-daughter duo to being selling directly to the customer.

"He has been producing cattle for a long time, 50 plus years, and we processed meat for ourselves, but then we started looking into the market for local, all-natural beef. That is when the beef processing business started," explained Shaw.

Her Tuesdays are spent receiving orders from customers, loading the requests in a white trailer and traveling the roads of Montague, Wise and Jack counties. They frequent local farmers markets, where they enjoy meeting new people and making contacts. The two explained ribeyes are the most requested meat, but they have had many asking for tenderloins, skirt and flank steak for fajitas. The farm currently processes around two to three, 1,200 to 1,400 pound head of cattle a month.

Shaw is now certified in Beef Quality Assurance, which equals handling cattle, vaccines and goes back to pasture management, as well



Jeannette Shaw on the tractor with her father, Carroll Collier, at just four months old. (Courtesy photo)

as knowing the body score on cattle.

It has been a change of pace for the once bustling counselor, but one she is thoroughly enjoying.

"At the school I just hoped I had time to take a bite of a sandwich before I was running and putting out this fire and putting out that fire, and not finishing anything because I had to move on to something else. The different pace is a lot less stressful, but it has been the biggest change for me. I feel like I need to run 100 miles an hour all the time," said Shaw.

Joining together in a partnership is bound to throw a few kinks in even the best relationship now and then, but the difference in pace seems to be the only friendly disagreement the father and daughter have when it comes to working side by side.

"Sometimes she gets a rushing me," said the father, with a twinkle in his eye.

He receives a smirk from his daughter, who picks back at him by saying she has to tell her father she can walk faster than he drives, and she's not used to an afternoon nap.

"That's very important," laughed Collier.

While Collier heads for an afternoon doze, Shaw tends to her garden or heads to the computer, and it doesn't seem to be something either of them would change for anything in

the world.

Education is the Future

Farm to table is one of the main ways the business has changed since Collier entered it almost 50 years ago.

"Everyone wants to know now the source of where their food comes from and we are proud to tell them. We invite people to come out and see what we do just because we have nothing to hide," said Shaw.

The two explained any beef processed at the United States Department of Agriculture plant used by the Colliers is hormone and antibiotic free with no preservatives. Every animal processed is born and raised at the Collier Farm.

"There are no other handlers so they can feel good that they know where the source of their food is coming from," said Collier.

The farmer also keeps immaculate health records of each and every calf born and raised at the farm.

Whenever a calf is harvested, the health record is filed and stays at the farm for at least five years. It is a practice that has benefited the farm as changes have occurred from the customers seeking beef from the agriculture industry.

"The farm to table is one of the biggest changes since I began, and it is becoming a

big deal,” said Collier.

It’s not always easy to change with the times, but with a desire to constantly soak up any and all knowledge available and adapt to the changes around him, Collier makes it look easy. When he first began, note pads were used to keep track of cattle and as he puts it, there was no Global Positioning System (GPS) on the tractor; he just guessed. He now keeps all records with an online program.

“We have focused fully on pasture management, which equals cattle health. We have a good, complete health program with our cattle. There are a few things with computers I am not up on, and not too good at, but I do all the record keeping and book keeping,” explained Collier.

His daughter chimes in how big a change it is from where he first started, but his willingness to learn and grow has provided him with success in farming and land conservation. It is one of the many ways the family leader has always looked toward the future as a man who has adapted and planned for the future of his children, livestock and the land he loves so much by attending seminars and continuing education, using all resources available and adapting with technology and the ever-changing needs of the customer.

“He adapts and he changes. He is willing to go to continuing education; he’s willing to try new things. I always just tease him that for an old man he’s pretty sharp in the technology,” laughed Shaw.

However, the father isn’t one to take the remark sitting down, and wittily responds, “And there are a few things I have to teach her.”

In all seriousness, the daughter reveals how much she has learned from working alongside her father in the pastures.

“I don’t know nothing,” joked


Collier, but spend just a few hours with him, and you will quickly learn that is not the case. His vast knowledge of the plants and livestock found in his pastures could most likely fill up several college courses.

“I learn something every day. If we are just in the pickup driving around looking at pastures, I learn about a new crop, or I am learning how to identify different plants I have never been able to identify. Just by looking at cattle, now I can pop off a body score. I couldn’t do that earlier. So just working with him, walking around, driving around I learn something new every day,” said Shaw.

She hopes to take her knowledge of education and agriculture and combine the two to create an agritourism destination in the future, yet another adventure for Collier Farm.

“It’s another goal I have to start some kind of agritourism to allow families to come here and do activities just to teach families, adults and kids, about the importance of agriculture. I don’t know when that will happen, but that is something in the future. Of course, educating people is my love, and my other love is for agriculture, so if I could combine those two I will be a happy camper. I am a happy camper, but that will be great if I can do that some day,” said Shaw.

There is no slowing down for the Collier family, who plan to create new memories as they move forward on the land that has been cherished by those who came before.

“Soon we will be building a home here on the farm and making our life here. Hopefully I will have my grandbabies out here as much as possible, and they will learn to appreciate and love the land,” said Shaw. 



Jeannette Shaw said one of the first lessons she learned on the farm was the cattle are docile, proven as she strolls through the herd.



Carroll Collier shows the grasses found in the pastures of Collier Farms. (Photos by Dani Blackburn)



Farm Bureau's School Visit Program Deemed a Success

By Judy Wade

Why do all farmers wear overalls? What does “cattle” mean? Does chocolate milk come from brown cows? Is cotton candy made from cotton?

These are real questions asked by elementary students when the subject of agriculture is introduced in their classes. Ag in the Classroom is a nation-wide program first introduced to Texas schools four years ago, but this is the first year this segment, the School Visit Program, has been implemented in the North Central Texas area.

“Through the School Visit Program, we introduce the crops grown in Texas and meet real farmers and ranchers through the magic of video,” explained Jett Mason, Director of Educational Outreach for Farm Bureau.

Presenters go into the schools to share a multifaceted program that brings the world of agriculture to young minds by helping students in grades one through eight see the world where their food is grown and how farmers and ranchers touch their lives daily.

As the number of farms goes down and the population rises, there is a growing gap of students without any connection to agriculture.

What is the science behind growing healthy plants? What does that mean for our economy? What does it mean for a hungry world? Students three to four generations removed from the farm need to know.

With lesson plans provided by Farm Bureau, presenters with ag backgrounds are able to answer almost every question that arises and make it fun for the kids.

The program is free, and pre-



Cindy Dunkerley leads a discussion about commodity boxes, showing products made from cotton, corn and soybeans. (Photo courtesy Cindy Dunkerley)

senters bring all resources and materials. “It is like bringing a field trip to the classroom,” said Mason.

Cindy Dunkerle, Henrietta, is one of those highly qualified presenters. The daughter of Sherrell and Dean Wade, she was raised on the family farm and ranch near Byers. She began showing steers in 4-H at age nine and continued through her high school years. By 12, she was driving the big tractors, plowing for her dad and later for her grandfather, Otto Wade, on

the Langford Ranch.

Her brother, Guy, and sister, Melinda, also showed cattle, and the family traveled to competitions across the state.

She married Tony Dunkerley, who taught all facets of agriculture and FFA at Henrietta High School for 32 years and now teaches agribusiness classes at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. Their children, Ashley and Parker, showed steers and heifers and were active in Future Farmers of America. Ashley is Communica-

tion Director for the Texas State FFA in Austin and Parker fits out show cattle for ranchers and is highly sought after to trim cattle for major shows.

Retiring after 32 years as an elementary P.E. teacher, Dunkerley began her own business, Dunkerley Design, printing thousands of t-shirts for clients across the country.

Dunkerley is one of several instructors who takes ag to the classroom through presentations aligned with Texas Essential



Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), which teachers are mandated to incorporate into their lesson plans in reading, writing, math and science. For example, students learn about safety on the farm, natural resources, plant needs, the water cycle, climate vs weather and much more. In junior high, the focus shifts to careers in agriculture, skill requirements, the labor market and entrepreneurial opportunities among other things.

Some lesson titles are "Planting the Seed," "Who Grew My Soup," "Mapping out Texas Agriculture," and "Not Just Cows, Sows and Plows."

"I have been to numerous schools, including Wichita Falls, Burkburnett, Throckmorton, Munday, Windthorst, Bowie, Forestburg and many others," said Dunkerley. "I have enjoyed answering questions the kids have asked."

One of the students' favorite

lessons is on dissecting a seed to see the seed coat, the insides and the embryo from which the plant grows. "We dissect a lima bean, and then students get to plant their own corn, sunflower or lima bean and watch it grow. We incorporate the water cycle and life cycle into the presentation," Dunkerley explained. "Ag in the Classroom is a tremendous program, and I am sure Cindy will do a wonderful job with the School Visits Program," remarked Tommy Henderson of Byers, Clay County Farm Bureau president.

Henderson has long been an advocate of helping students learn about farming and where their food comes from. For the last 12 years he has hosted Farm Day on his land near Byers for fifth graders from Wichita Falls elementary schools. Approximately 250 students learn from representatives of Texas Game Wardens, NCRS, FSA, JAC, Southwest Dairy Insti-

tute, local farmers and FFA members. The most popular display is the live milking demonstration.

Last year students enjoyed seeing their pictures taken by a drone overhead. This year's Farm Day will be in October and will include fourth graders. Dunkerley looks forward to Region IX Service Center's Math and Science Conference in Wichita Falls in June where Farm Bureau will have a booth to share information about the program with area teachers.

Mason recently announced the names of 10 Texas teachers who have been selected to attend the National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Little Rock, Ark., this summer. Each will receive a \$500 scholarship to defray expenses.

"This is a great opportunity for these teachers to learn how agriculture can be used in their lesson plans," Mason said. "The future of agriculture starts in these

classrooms, and this is another way for Texas Farm Bureau to impact more students."

Mason also announced a Youth Leadership Conference at Tarleton State University in Stephenville June 10-14. High school students "...are the stars of agriculture's future. And it is our goal to offer the opportunity for our youth to be the best of a new generation of farmers and ranchers," Mason explained. According to the TFB website, "Through Texas Farm Bureau's Youth Leadership Conference, we emphasize patriotism, responsibility and leadership—keys to our proud past and a bright future."

During the three-day conference, we encourage you to take an honest look at your ideas, attributes and abilities, and applaud and inspire you along the way." For more information about any of Texas Farm Bureau's program, visit texasfarmbureau.org. ®

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Corn Time[©] by Lang



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On the Road with Dave Alexander



Howdy Texas music fans. There must be something in the water here in North Texas when it comes to producing great artists. Denton, Texas has always been a mecca for great musicians, primarily due to the music program at the University of North Texas. I'm pretty proud of my alma mater. Lately, Denton seems to be cranking out some heavy hitters when it comes to the Texas music scene.

Most seem to cut their teeth on the venues here in the area that offer the real deal. No sugar coating or Nashville studio trickery here, just straight up Texas country. Meet my new found, musical friend and Texas Young Gun, Cameron Hobbs. He grew up right here in North Texas. He got the itch at an early age and from his musical family roots, he's beginning to turn some heads.

His well produced, self-titled debut EP has some impressive vocals and harmonies with edgy lead guitar and a solid rhythm feel. Best of all these soulful songs have a great message and from my perspective is "top shelf" material. In fact, it's hard to pick a favorite because every cut is a good one. Check him out at his upcoming live play dates now at cameronhobbsmusic.com You're gonna like what you hear.

Happy Trails. 🤠

Dave's upcoming shows:

June 1

**Marty B's Place,
Bartonville, TX**

June 21

**Legends of Western Swing Festival,
Wichita Falls, TX**

June 22

**Granbury Live,
Granbury, TX**

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www.davealexander.com.**



LOG CABIN VILLAGE:

A Living History Museum



A photo of the one-room Tompkins Cabin from Weatherford in Parker County. Pictured is Paul, thankful for preservation, in front of his ancestors' home, which would be his great, great, great, great grandparents. (Photo courtesy Mandi Dietz)

By Mandi Dietz

Across the street from Fort Worth Zoo, near Texas Christian University, and across Interstate 30 from the Japanese Garden, Kimbell Art Museum and Will Rogers Memorial Center, the Log Cabin Village brings the 19th century to life.

With characters in costume with stories to tell and a collection of historical buildings, visitors can step back in time Tuesday through Sunday and explore what it's like to live in the mid to late 1800s, from attending school to blacksmith craftsmanship and everyday living in a one room home.

There's an herb garden dedicated to both native growth and those the settlers either brought to Texas, traded for or purchased.

The Marine School, built by the Marine Creek Community and originally located in north Fort Worth, is a one-room schoolhouse with handmade benches, a teacher's desk, blackboard walls and

minimal decor, which resembles rural education of this time.

The smokehouse, from the Reynolds family and a farm in Azle, demonstrates the importance of meat preservation prior to refrigeration. After many generations from the same family made the most of the smokehouse, it became their children's playhouse, before donation to the Village.

Skilled village blacksmiths create a variety of iron objects, similar to those from the Texas frontier, and some of these items can be bought in the Village's must-shop General Store, along with many other nostalgic finds. Back in the day, blacksmiths made crucial objects needed to cut timber, build homes, farm, hunt, cook and travel. Specialized ironsmiths included wheelwrights, to make and repair wagon wheels, locksmiths, gunsmiths and farriers, specializing in horseshoes.

The collection of cabins in-

cludes a rare plantation log home belonging to the Foster family of Port Sullivan; the Howard Cabin of Acton; the Tompkins Cabin of northwest Weatherford; and several from the Spring Creek Area, south of Weatherford, such as the Pickard Cabin, Seela Cabin, and Shaw Cabin.

The Parker Cabin from East of Birdville, once home to Cynthia Ann Parker, mother of famous Comanche Chief Quanah, and Uncle Isaac, a pioneer, soldier and former member of the Texas Republic House of Representatives and State Senate and House of Representatives, eventually became a spacious residence.

Before becoming a part of the Village, Amon G. Carter bought the cabin, restoring the log portion hidden beneath. Among its current artifacts, there's a chair said to be Sam Houston's favorite when visiting the family.

Some believe Cynthia's story



Isaac Parker, for which Parker County is named after. (Courtesy photo)

inspired *The Searchers* movie, starring John Wayne, more than 60 years ago. 📺

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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. Magrath, a native of Norman, Okla., said her artwork is inspired by the designs and colors of the Southwest, and by her beloved dogs. She has painted dogs with personality and her work will be available to purchase through the Heritage Center. “Most of my subjects are current or past personal companions that will live forever in my heart. I love all animals, but have a crazy love for dogs,” she said. www.onthechisholmtrail.com

Bison Exhibit at Chisholm Trail

MAY 24-JULY 28 • DUNCAN, OK

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, 1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway, Duncan, Okla. Ancient. Massive. Wild. This nationally touring exhibit explores the significance of the bison from pre-history, to their relationship with the Plains Indians, near extinction and current iconic status. Families and small groups are always welcome at Chisholm Trail. Educational programming available. Open seven days a week or special hours with advanced request. Call (580) 252-6692 or email info@onthechisholmtrail.com. Plenty of parking space, enough room for motor homes and tour buses. <http://onthechisholmtrail.com/art-lovers/coming-soon/>

Wichita County Mounted Patrol Championship

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 six and under are free. Visit wichitacountymountedpatrol.com

Parker County Youth Livestock Show

JUNE 1-JUNE 9 • WEATHERFORD

Sheriff's Posse Grounds 2251 US Hwy 180 Weatherford, Texas. June 1 through June 9 watch as 4-H and FFA students exhibit their livestock and shop projects. www.parkercountystockshow.com

Graham's 5th Annual 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, invites 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. For more information visit www.foodtruckchampionshipoftexas.com, call 940-549-0401 or email cvb@grahamtexas.org



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JUNE 26 & 27	BIG SKY ROUNDUP	BILLINGS, MT	JUNE 14
JULY 8-12	WEEK IN THE ROCKIES	LOVELAND, CO	JUNE 15
JULY 29-AUGUST 2	VIDEO ROYALE	WINNEMUCCA, NV	JULY 13
AUGUST 19-23	BIG HORN CLASSIC	SHERIDAN, WY	AUGUST 3
SEPTEMBER 11 & 12	LABOR DAY	FORT WORTH, TX	AUGUST 26

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Pioneer Day

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. For more information call Frances Easter **940-567-5900**. Visit www.jack-countymuseum.org.

Chisholm Trail Ranch Rodeo and Parade

JUNE 7-8 • NOCONA

Rodeo Grounds, Nocona, Texas. The Chisholm Trail Ranch Rodeo and Parade have been a Nocona event every year since 1952. We invite you to join us at the Chisholm 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. 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.

32nd Annual Legends of Western Swing Musical Festival

JUNE 20-22 • WICHITA FALLS

Multi-Purpose Events Center, 1000 5th St., Wichita Falls, Texas, 76301. 32nd Annual Legends of Western Swing Musical Festival performances will be from noon to 11 p.m. Ticket prices are \$35 per day or \$95 for the full three days. Supervised children under 16 are free. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online. No alcohol, drugs or smoking in the facility. Thursday's lineup includes Shoot Low Sheriff, Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys, Jake Hooker and the Outsiders; Friday, Coby Carter, Billy Mata and the Texas Tradition and Dave Alexander; Saturday, Bobby Flores and the Yellow Rose Band, Jason Roberts and Jeff Woolsey and the Dancehall Kings. Visit www.thelegendsofwesternswing.com.

Gainesville Riding Club Rodeo

JUNE 21-22 • GAINESVILLE

Gainesville Riding Club Rodeo Grounds, 3152 N. Grand Avenue, Gainesville, Texas, 76240. The Gainesville Annual Rodeo will be June 22-23. This rodeo is conducted at the Gainesville Riding Club Rodeo Grounds and hosted by Flying C Rodeo Company. Events will include bareback bronc riding, barrels, bull riding, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, team roping and tie down roping. www.facebook.com/GainesvilleRidingClub.

Tuesday Night Barrel Race

JUNE 25 • DECATUR

NRS Arena, 309 Co Rd 4228, Decatur, Texas, 76234. Tuesday night barrel race 5-11:30 p.m. at NRS arena. nrsevents.com.

Jim Bowie Days Festival and Rodeo

JUNE 23-29 • BOWIE

Bowie Rodeo Grounds, Bowie, Texas. Come join us for the fun! There is something for everyone. From Pelham Park to downtown Bowie, the fun and excitement of Jim Bowie Days Rodeo and Celebration fills our community with Western spirit. Put on your cowboy hat and boots and get involved. Some of the events include a frog jumping contest, a quilt show, Indian artifact show, downtown parade, mutton bustin, a Rodeo Queen contest, food, music and, of course, every night there is some type of rodeo event. Then finally ending the week with a rodeo dance at the Bowie Community Center. Are you ready for Rodeo? The Jim Bowie Days Rodeo is one of the largest amateur rodeos in Texas. Events every day. For more info visit www.jimbowedays.org.



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Sullivan Whitetail Ranch:

A Leader in the Breeding Industry

By Dani Blackburn

The Texas Deer Association estimates the impact of breeding and hunting of deer at an annual \$1.6 billion on the Texas economy, but for local ranchers, the boom in popularity has provided an alternative choice for livestock outside of the cattle and equine industry.

Sullivan Whitetail Ranch in Montague County has become a leader in the business of breeding deer since its beginnings in 2003. Whitetail are the main species bred on the property, along with kudu, transcasian and fallow, while axis, black buck and nyghia can be found on the 500 acres of land that makes up the ranch.

The property was high fenced in the year 2000, and in 2003, owners realized the genetics on the property weren't what they had hoped, and the decision was made to start breeding.

"We got 20 bred doe and four pens with a goal to turn out the offspring when they had their babies. They had their babies and we didn't turn them out. We bought a breed buck and for years never turned anything out. Finally in 2008, or 2009, we started releasing some animals and building up genetics on the ranch equal to what we were raising in the pens and

selling," explained Jeff Dean, who operates Sullivan Whitetail Ranch.

The focus has been on breeding through top quality genetics since its beginning, selling to other breeders, hunting ranches and does to stock ranches with breeder market bred does and offspring also available. Dean explained the semen market was a hot commodity at one point, but has since died down, while embryos are gaining in popularity among breeders. While other ranches have practices of their own, Sullivan Whitetail Ranch breeds for what the hunter wants, which is a big, clean looking deer.

"My personal criteria for breeding right now is if you look around and see the deer have a lot of kickers and a lot of extras, that's not necessarily what you are breeding for. The bigger the deer score is, the more valuable he is as far as the breeder is concerned. However, that's not necessarily what the hunter wants," said Dean.

While genetics play a crucial part, the food consumed by the deer also has a factor in a score.

"In a pen situation, they're eating what we give them and not eating all the browse. Right

now out on the ranch, my protein feeders still have feed in them and I have 25 acres of alfalfa growing, and you may or may not see a deer out there because they're eating all the green browse," explained Dean.

He equates it to eating at a buffet, where you go straight for the fried chicken whether than choosing what is good for you.

"Whereas the deer in the pens, all they have is the protein we are feeding them. Genetically, anything that will pop, or could, does because they're eating better nutrition. You can take a deer like any of those and once you release them out, and all they have is the other to eat, they're actually going to lose points and go down in score because they are going to clean up a little bit. Having said that, back to my breeding philosophy, I am breeding animals not that have the big score, but animals that are 30 inches inside spread or have 30-inch main beams because out of that, I get a bigger, typical looking deer, but it doesn't mean I don't have a big one that pops," said Dean.

The goal each year at Sullivan is to raise 100 bucks. As of now, the ranch is expecting 275 fawns to hit the ground to reach that target with **See WHITETAIL page 60**



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Whitetail

Continued from page 58

a typical 50/50 male to female ratio expected, meaning they also expect 100 doe.

"When all is said and done, it balances out every year to get close to 50-50 on the offspring. I bred 140 doe this year; of that, 85 were artificially inseminated. All the does are DNA'd, so it is a pedigree chart, and you match up how you want to breed them with the sire you want for building that offspring," explained Dean.

It is far from uncommon for a doe to produce twins, and with AI, triplets also occur fairly often. Dean said they have even seen some freak numbers, like the year one doe produced six babies, but for first time breeders, a single is usually expected. It is illegal to bring deer in from any other state, so the only way to get a northern cross deer is through semen, with embryos also becoming big in the industry. Many breed Texas deer with semen of a northern buck for a 50 percent offspring and breed the deer down from there.

It is a busy way of life, typical of any agriculture industry. The start of the year is spent working the does, meaning worming, vaccinating and sorting the doe into the pens. Sullivan Whitetail Ranch began with just four pens in 2003, a small number in comparison to the 35 pens in use today.

"For me, I sort by all my artificial insemination girls. I will place the girls that were artificially inseminated by one deer together, and to the next AI sire, so all my AI is separated from anything I bred natural," said Dean.

That work is done in February, and by March the bucks are worked. At this point, the bucks are dropping antlers from the previous year, and everything is being organized for the summer months. January also is a big month for sales and auction for the typical breeder, as is August. These typically resemble trade shows, with information presented on PowerPoints. After a 192-day gestation period, babies are being born in the months of May

and June. Typically, deer experience an easy birth, but with anything, problems can arise, and Dean has found himself pulling a baby more than once.

"That's a busy time," said Dean. "You have to catch them day one or two after being born and tag them. I tag them all a different color for every year with a unique number for each year," said Dean.

After a baby is born, its DNA also must be pulled through a hair sample. While tagging the new generation of deer hitting the ground, the bucks are growing, and a close eye is kept on them to see how they are doing. Stocker bucks are sold through July and August up until the 10-day cutoff prior to the start of bow season.

"Ten days before the start of bow season is the cutoff date for moving any stocker bucks. The reason is, if there are drugs that were used to anesthetize them, there is a 10-day residual. See WHITETAIL page 62



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Whitetail

Continued from page 60

in the meat for the drugs. They don't want you darting and moving a deer today, and the season start tomorrow and have a hunter shoot it and the drug still be in the meat," explained Dean.

September is the month for weaning fawns and sorting does by how they will be bred. Many breeders also cut the buck's antlers off during this time after they have released or sold all the stocker bucks. Moving along into October, breeders put seeders in the does who will receive AI.

"That's a whole process in itself," said Dean.

The seeders, which keep the doe from cycling, run for 16 to 17 days. When the seeder is pulled, the doe cycles. They are then given a shot of progesterone to su-

per ovulate and 56 hours later, the does are artificially inseminated. The process is done laparoscopically and is treated like a surgery. The does are shaved, given two small incisions and the semen is placed directly on the follicle. At Sullivan Ranch, this is typically done on November 8, leading to babies being born in May or June with less than a five percent death loss. In babies born in July or later, the death total rises to a whopping 25 percent.

"At this point we are already into deer season and juggling the hunting side and breeding side," explained Dean.

The ranch does offer hunting during the season. Some whitetail and a few exotic hunts are done, **See WHITETAIL page 65**



A group of blackbuck antelope underneath a shade tree on Sullivan Whitetail Ranch. (Photos by Dani Blackburn)

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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 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.

206 ACRES | YOUNG COUNTY



LOST CREEK RANCH

\$2,375/Ac

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.

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Whitetail

and other groups also retreat to the ranch, such as license to carry trainings, but the focus of the ranch remains on breeding.

"That gets you back through the year until the shows start again in January, but everybody likes seeing the babies hit the ground. Once they're grown, it's like okay, fast forward to the next. You stay busy, especially here, because we are running the ranch side too with exotic and deer hunts and lodging guests," said Dean.

One of the more difficult parts of whitetail ranching is the close attention breeders must pay to the regulations and guidelines implemented by the Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas Animal Health Commission.

The governing bodies have restricted the movement of deer and implemented regulations in an effort to contain chronic wasting disease, which attacks a deer's brain stem, causing the deer to stop eating and drinking, eventually leading to death. However, regulations mean a lot of work and added costs in order to remain in business. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department requires every deer in a herd to be logged into their database, as well as any time that deer is moved, whether releasing it or selling it to another breeder. When it is sold, the seller must activate a permit, which in turn the buyer must receive. The seller then has 48 hours to move the deer. By March 31 of each year, TPWD requires every new birth from the prior year be entered, and by May 15, breeders must renew their permit.

"Then you have to do the same for the Texas Animal Health Commission. They want an annual report of all herd inventory and where it is transferred, and they are a stage agency just like parks and wildlife," explained Dean.

Testing can become a frustrat-

ing ordeal, with TPWD asking for deer to be tested at one year and the other agency requiring a 16-month test, requiring breeders to do both. Mortalities bring a whole new round of testing.

"One will accept the test at one age, and one not until the other age. If I am going to have to do it, I want credit for it, but I cannot get credit with one agency depending on how old the deer is. Also, one, you have to test 100 percent of mortalities, and the other you have to test 3.6 of the adult herd. It is expensive; everything in the deer industry costs," said Dean.

While the rules and regulations can be exhausting both on the body and the pocket book, it is disease that is the scariest part of a whitetail business.

One of the most common diseases that can hit a whitetail population is epizootic hemorrhagic disease, which brings various stages of the disease.

Dean explains it is similar to bluetongue in cattle, with a little bug that transmits the disease by biting the deer.

EHD causes fever, and the deer ulcerates from head to toe. The year 2011 brought the terrible disease to Sullivan Whitetail Ranch, and within a matter of five weeks, 200 head of deer were lost.

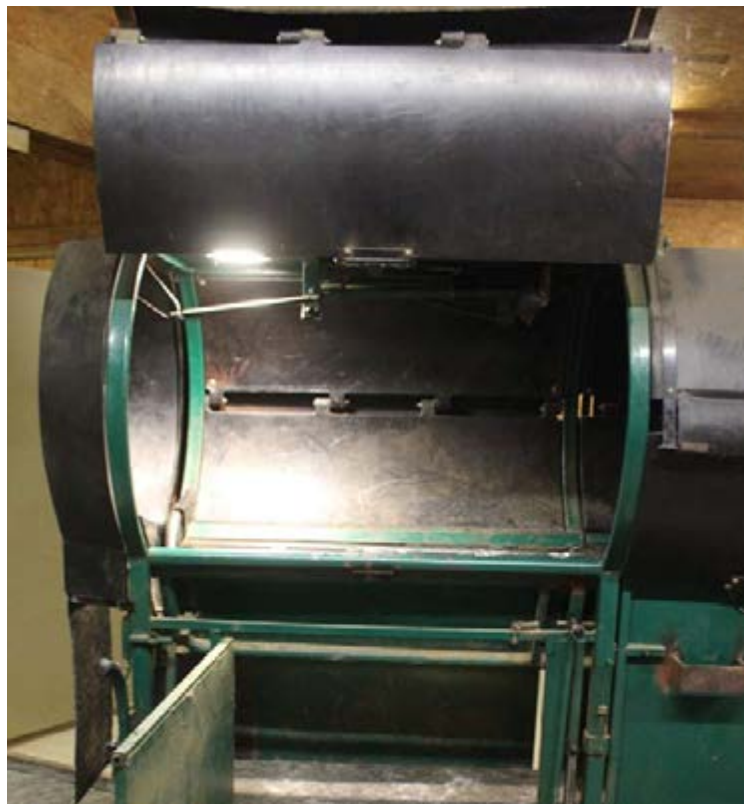
"The biggest challenge is when you have a disease come through, like EHD. That year was my most difficult time. When you know every morning you have to go out and pick up a truckload of dead deer and do it again in the evening, that is the sickening part and the hard part," recalled Dean.

Attempts have been made to create a vaccination for EHD, but similar to the flu, it is hard to tell which strand you are vaccinating, and some breeders use insecticides through a mister system.

However, like any farmer, breeders continue to pull them-



Jeff Dean takes a look at the sheds from a Sullivan Ranch buck.



The chute used for working deer at Sullivan Whitetail Ranch. (Photos by Dani Blackburn)

selves up by the boot strap no matter what they face and push ahead by focusing on the best parts of the career they have chosen. For Dean, that is seeing the new offspring born each year.

"The fun part of me is seeing the babies hit the ground and seeing them grow," said Dean.

For more information, visit <http://www.sullivanwhitetail-ranch.com/>

Confessions of a Hunter

By Andy Anderson

Pistol, Never Leave Home Without It

Every August hunters start to get back into the woods, prepping fields for food plots, filling feeders and cleaning-out or setting up stands. I was no exception to this other than I really never stopped going into the woods.

I had my feeder set up and running it year-round simply because I like to hunt hogs when I'm not after deer. This particular year I had acquired a 4-wheeler that allowed me to access much more of the ranch and carry more stuff deeper into the woods.

I usually always took my rifle with me or at least a pistol just in case I ran across a coyote, pig or Sasquatch. I mean you just never know what you'll run across in the woods. However, it always seemed like when I had a gun with me, I didn't see anything, but when I forgot it, I saw all kind of critters.

I loved having a 4-wheeler. I could throw a couple bags of corn on the seat, get to the feeder and just stand off the back to fill the feeder. I had a rifle rack on the front to hold my rifle. Man, it made life so much easier.

One day, I loaded up after work and headed out to the lease. Got there a couple hours before it would start to get dark. In a hurry to beat the sunset, I quickly unloaded the 4-wheeler, threw a couple bags of corn on it and hurried off into the woods. About halfway to the feeder a bobcat stepped out right in front of me.



Andy Anderson learned a lesson after running into a hog without a pistol one evening while filling up his feeders. (Courtesy photo)

I came to a stop as he just froze in the roadway. We stared at each other, and it was at this time I realized I had forgot my rifle and pistol in the truck. As the bobcat slowly disappeared into the woods I continued on to the feeder.

It was beginning to get late now. The light was fading fast as I arrived to the feeder. I backed under the feeder, stepped up and removed the lid to begin filling it. As I finished up and started to put the lid back on, the wind picked up and blew the bags off into the woods.

I walked over picking the closest bag up, and just as I got to the second bag, I heard something in the woods; I froze. Listening and watching intently for any indication as to what it was, I just walked up on. I then caught the faint odor of swine. I started to get excited

but then seriously disappointed as I remembered I had no gun, not even a knife.

I stood there just as dusk settled in. Not hearing anything for a while I decided I had enough and turned to walk away. Just then the brush directly in front of me came alive. This big'ole red hog lurches from the under brush like a cat, bounding and squealing as it turned to come at me.

I ran as hard as I could now, wishing I had my pistol, towards the 4-wheeler. Just as I got to the back and started to climb on, that hog caught up to me. With what felt like a bite on my left ankle I dropped those sacks and grabbed the front of the 4-wheeler as I slid around the front of it like Bo Duke.

That hog was right on me and I knew I had to get the 4-wheeler

between it and me cause this fat boy was not going to be able to keep up the pace much longer. I slung my left foot over the seat as I made it to the front right corner of the 4-wheeler. I turned the key on and just as I hit the start button that hog came right at me from the right. It chased me right off the 4-wheeler and again, it chased me around and around.

Finally, I was able to stand on the seat and get the 4-wheeler started. With one knee in the seat as I stood on the left leg I sped off. The hog was scared off as soon as I bumped the starter, and what I thought was a 300-pound gorilla sow turned out to be a little 125 lb hog, but then again, I wasn't about to stop for a formal introduction.

I laughed it off and took it as a lesson. Never, ever go into the woods without your pistol. ☺

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THE GARDEN GUY

By Norman Winter | Horticulturist, Author, Speaker

Celebrate National Pollinator Week by Planting Salvias and Coneflowers

This Crescent butterfly creates a monochromatic color scheme. (Photo by Norman Winter)

June 17-23 is National Pollinator Week in the United States and The Garden Guy is here to encourage you to get on board. I've been a bee and I can tell you the job they do is hard work.

What it basically boils down to is, no pollinators, no food to eat.

My experience at being a bee came courtesy of the Texas A&M peach breeding program when I was a graduate student a long time ago.

After building make shift, tent type greenhouses over a few peach trees, we set about removing the male flower parts of each and every flower.

The busy as a bee work so famously referred to by the Andrews Sisters came next as I was required to use a tiny brush and apply pollen to each and every female flower. Even with a couple of us bees in the greenhouse this became a laborious task.

Such is the scenario that goes

on each and every year with our farmers and ranchers as bees, wasps, butterflies, birds and even bats carry on pollination and thus our plant life, both fruits and seeds come into production.

When I was at the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah, we grew pick your own strawberries and at the end of the field we had several honey bee hives or boxes.

These bees were immensely helpful in producing a crop of strawberries and at the same time yielding a mighty tasty honey.

Of course, once strawberry season was over it was necessary for us to have plants that were useful to the bees throughout the other 10 months of the year.

I think we did a great job as just about every flower we grew, native and non-native bees, butterflies and hummingbirds relished. Believe me Mother Nature also

See GARDEN GUY page 71



Salvias bring in hummingbirds. (Photos by Norman Winter)

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had our back side to with wild natives in the thickets and forest surrounding the garden.

As we still have much of the summer to go and still time to plant all sorts of flowers in our landscape for both beauty and pollinators, I would like to suggest you give the environment a double dose of love by planting salvias also commonly called sages and coneflowers or echinacea.

There are so many great varieties of each that offer much to the landscape. Most salvias produce spikey flowers that stand tall and erect creating excitement in the garden. Every day I watch both hummingbirds and assortment of bees and butterflies visiting my salvias.

Recently I was able to visit the trial gardens at Young's Plant Farm in Auburn Alabama. There

were hundreds of people from all over the country.

The busy Interstate Highway was within view and yet with all of that hustle and bustle there was something magical going on as bees were visiting a new salvia called Big Blue. Big Blue, Mystic Blue, Mystic Spires Blue, and Rockin The Blues will all be hot in 2019.

You may want to combine your blue salvias with Sombrero Adobe Orange echinacea. The Sombrero series comes in several colors but I assure you the orange would be nothing short of electrifying with any blue salvia and you'll find yourself in the pollinator business.

I hope you will not only Celebrate National Pollinator Week June 17-23 but each and every day of our long growing season. (N)



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Blue salvias bring in pollinators like bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. (Photo by Norman Winter)



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Grazing North Texas

By Tony Dean



Stocking Rate - Should I be That Concerned?

The decision a rancher makes on stocking rate has both short and long-term effects on land, livestock and economics of a business. What are the results of a correct or incorrect stocking rate? How do you know if your stocking rate is correct, and what factors should be considered? Tony Dean will answer these questions and more in a four part series in North Texas Farm and Ranch magazine. Read below for the first segment to find out just how concerned you should be when it comes to stocking rate.

There are a lot of factors in the ranching business you can't control, like the weather. Of all the decisions you can control, stocking rate is one of the most critical. The decision of how many acres to allow for each grazing animal affects almost every aspect of the business, both long term and short term.

For many producers, stocking rate is a difficult subject to discuss. We just don't talk about it, and sometimes we lose sight of the fact our grass is the very foundation of our business. We would never

ignore the health of our livestock, and we can't afford to disregard the health of our grazing lands just because it is a complex subject. So yes, we must be concerned about stocking rate.

What is the reasoning behind a correct or incorrect stocking rate?

The basic concept of a stocking rate has to do with how grasses grow. Most of our grasses on Texas rangelands are summer perennial

seed production, root development and storage of energy in the root and crown of the plant. A correct stocking rate will allow a level of grazing that will leave enough of the leaves and other parts of the plant so the grasses can maintain themselves.

A stocking rate that allows too many head to graze a pasture too long can result in overgrazing. Overgrazing is the removal of too many leaves, stems and even

of the better grasses do not receive enough nutrients. The roots are "starved" because too many of the leaves, or "food factory," have been removed by grazing. After a few years of starving, the roots become shallow, cannot support the plant and the plant can actually die.

During periods of drought, these weakened grasses are especially in danger of dying. When the better grasses are grazed too short and die, they are replaced by less productive plants such as annual forbs, lower quality grasses and/or brush.

Over time, the grazing production of an overgrazed pasture is severely decreased. Dr. Richard Teague with Texas AgriLife Research at Vernon, Texas, found that bottomland sites in Wilbarger County in North Texas produced 2,500 pounds per acre of forage when in good range condition but produced only 1,500 pounds per acre when reduced to fair range condition. Another result of a continuous heavy stocking rate is animal performance usually suffers. **See STOCKING page 74**

"We would never ignore the health of our livestock, and we can't afford to disregard the health of our grazing lands, just because it is a complex subject."

grasses. The leaves produced each summer by these grasses, such as Sideoats grama, are not only grazing for livestock, but also the "food factory" that keeps the grass alive and healthy.

The leaves produce energy through a process called photosynthesis. They must produce energy for summer growth, as well as for

growing points of the grasses. This reduces the ability of the plants to maintain themselves.

What are the results of a stocking rate that is too heavy?

Overgrazing can have lasting damaging effects on rangeland resources. One of the most serious results of continually overgrazing native grasses is the root systems

Stocking

Continued from page 53

When animals are forced to graze less nutritious forage or if forage becomes limited in supply, then body condition can go down and

vegetative cover, he has recorded temperatures nearing 150 degrees F on hot summer days. He added that at these high temperatures,

"When we can find that balance between the amount of grass we can graze and the number of livestock we can run, we are rewarded with healthy grazing lands."

overall herd health can suffer.

To help beef producers better understand the general health of the herd, a numbering system has been developed to describe the relative fatness, or body condition, of the cow. A body condition score (BCS) of one is a very thin cow, and a BCS of nine refers to an extremely fat cow.

There is a high correlation between cow body condition and pregnancy rate, which is certainly an important economic factor. According to information from Oklahoma State University, cows must rebreed by 85 days after calving to calve again the same time the next year. Mature cows should have an average BCS of five to six at time of calving in order to achieve an acceptable rebreeding percentage. Maintaining good body condition on cows is difficult and can be expensive when cattle must graze overgrazed and deteriorated rangeland resources, especially when they are nursing a calf.

As rangeland health continues to decline under heavy grazing pressure, long term damage can occur to the soil. Without a protective cover of healthy range plants and litter on the land, bare ground exposed to direct sunlight can become extremely hot.

Rob Cook, Director of Business Development with Bamert Seed Company, said that in Central Texas, on areas of bare ground with no herbaceous litter and no

soil microbiology dies. These microorganisms in the soil are a critical part of the support system of healthy rangeland.

Also, where the soil surface is not protected, runoff from rainstorms can carry soil particles with it. So not only is the moisture from these rains lost because it is not stored in the soil, but long term damage occurs due to erosion on the soil surface.

When a pasture begins to have increased bare ground and the overall condition of rangeland plants goes down, soil organic matter is greatly reduced. This reduces water holding capacity and fertility of the soil.

What are the results of a correct stocking rate?

You may have heard a rancher say he doesn't want to "waste" any grass, so he maintains a heavy stocking rate. Leaving some leaves on grazed plants through correct stocking is very seldom a waste. Our goal and our responsibility in maintaining a correct stocking rate is to enable our range plants to maintain themselves. When we can find that balance between the amount of grass we can graze and the number of livestock we can run, we are rewarded with healthy grazing lands. Production above ground in the form of leaves, stems, and seeds is supported by healthy and growing root systems.

Under proper grazing manage-



If you look very closely, you may see small hairs only on the edges of some of the green leaves. These hairs are one of the identifying characteristics of the Texas state grass, Sideoats grama. The green leaves of our summer grasses are the "food factory" that keeps the plants alive. The grey leaves are from last year. (Photos courtesy Tony Dean)

ment, the amount of bare ground is reduced as new plants begin to grow. Other ground cover, like plant litter, builds up on the soil surface instead of being removed by livestock. The increased combination of live plants and litter acts as insulation to help protect against extreme high or low soil temperature.


During rainfall events, litter and live plants protect the land against erosion, and at the same time allow the soil to absorb more of the falling rain.

As drying occurs, the increased ground cover reduces evaporation of soil moisture from the soil surface.

Eventually, organic matter and moisture-holding capacity of the soil are increased, and the water cycle is improved. Rangeland

pastures that are in good condition through proper grazing are a much more stable and dependable forage supply for livestock. A higher plane of nutrition and available forage can help achieve desired animal performance.

A correct stocking rate and proper grazing use on grasses usually results in an increase of the better grasses in a pasture. Dr. Allan McGinty, in the "Texas Natural Resources Server," said healthy rangelands usually have a greater diversity of plant and animal species, and these rangelands produce a greater and more dependable quantity of forage for use by livestock and wildlife.

In the next issue of *Grazing North Texas*, we will review how we can determine if our stocking rate is correct. 



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