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NTFR

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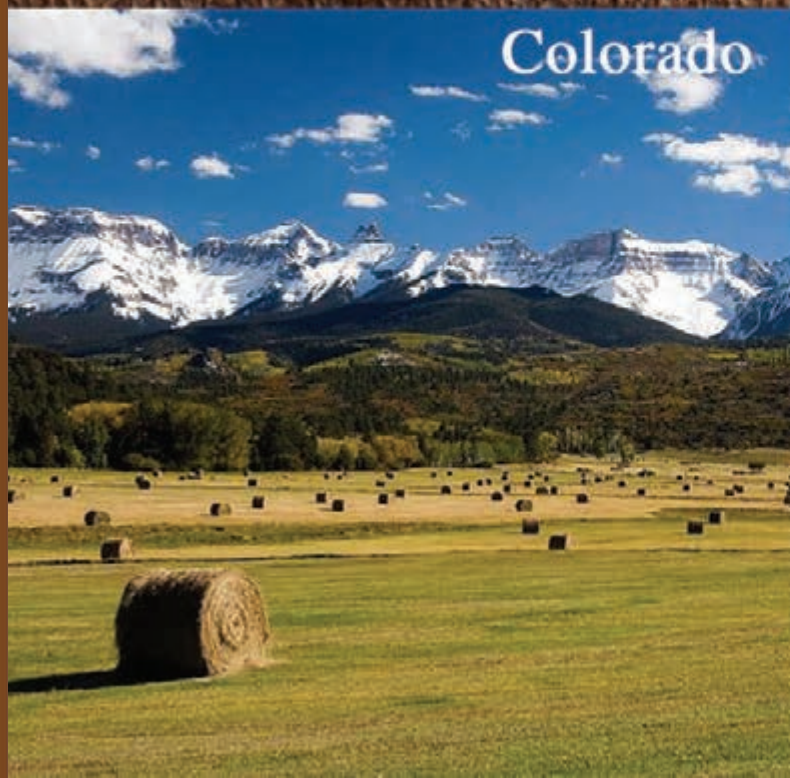
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Small town traditions....

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

The weather has been scorching and many are yearning for the cooler days of fall, but that hasn't stopped Texans from finding some summer fun at the local fairs and rodeos.

The biggest of those for North Texas arrives Aug.

16 as the North Texas Fair and Rodeo kicks off for its 91st annual event. It will be celebrated with a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeo, photography contests, cooking competitions, a carnival and more. Of course, the North Texas Fair and Rodeo is known for bringing the hottest country musical talent to its stage, and this year is no exception. Make sure to check out the story on page 58 for a behind the scenes glimpse at this time honored tradition. However, many of us have also enjoyed our own small town rodeos. Not only are these events a time for cowboys and cowgirls to compete, the festivities surrounding these events are a chance for the community to come together. Smiling faces, young and old, can be found at the parades, chili cook-offs and concerts.

This month, we bring you Shelly Burmeister Mowery. There have been many I have met across my years in journalism I have been fortunate to encounter, and this month's profile was no exception. It is an interview I will remember forever, and not because of a shocking turn of events which occurred halfway through our time together, but because there are some you just feel grateful to have crossed paths with. Mowery is one of those people, as is her friend I also was blessed to meet, Lindsey Walls, who was kind enough to share her amazing photography with us this issue. While her story is an easy one to tell – it is one of those that simply writes itself due to the long list of accomplishments and success throughout her life, to put pen to paper for such an inspiring woman who has paved the way for women in rodeo can be a bit daunting. I hope my words portray to you, the reader, what a true gem she is to North Texas.

Our contributors have once again outdone themselves, and I hope you find as much joy reading this issue as we did putting it together for you. 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.

Dani Blackburn, editor

ON THE COVER

Shelly Mowery, the first Miss Coors Rodeo, an advocate for equal pay for women's barrel racing in the major rodeos and one of the top equine sports broadcasters for pro rodeos and national cutting horse events on major television networks. Mowery is pictured with Kitty (AQHA registered name Here Kitty Kitty, one of the broodmares on Mowery Cutting Ranch near Weatherford, Texas) on June 23, 2019. Photo is by Lindsey Walls of Walls Productions. A professional photographer for most of her life, Walls recently became a filmmaker when she filmed and produced two short documentaries, The Cowgirl Culture in Texas, and The Cowgirl Culture in Oklahoma.



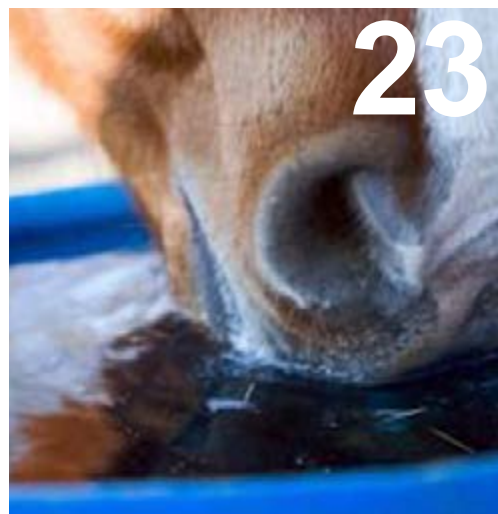
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Shelly Mowery

The first Miss Coors rodeo is described by her friends and family as a pioneer spirit with a can do attitude. Mowery was an active promoter of professional rodeo and advocate for equal pay for women's barrel racing in major rodeos.

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Texas Longhorn from Alabama now has the Guinness World Record for longest horns

A Texas Longhorn living in Alabama made the rounds on social media after he unseated a steer from Texas as the Texas Longhorn with the longest horns on a living steer, while also holding the record for the largest horn spread on a steer ever. Seven-year-old Poncho Via's rack is 10'7 40 long, more than twice the width of a grand piano and wider than the Statue of Liberty's face. Guinness Book of World Records confirmed the record on May 8.

INSTAGRAM FEED



Saint Jo's very own rodeo queen, Kylie Myers, was crowned Miss Rodeo Oklahoma on June 8, 2019. Make sure to pick up a copy of this month's Oklahoma Farm and Ranch magazine for a full story on this rodeo royalty, and how the revival of a long ago dream culminated with a crown.

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MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

By Rayford Pullen | rcpullen@yahoo.com

The dead of summer is a hard time to think about fall and winter pastures, but if you are going to be successful, plans need to be made when the sweat is still running down your face.

When, where and how can all be found on my website by clicking on the Marshall ryegrass tab where you will see the rates, dates and most importantly, the right way to plant. Starting off wrong will end in disappointment that cannot be overcome so here are a few do's and don'ts if you are using ryegrass.

-Don't plant your seed in grass more than four inches tall. Plants do not grow in the shade, so if you are overseeding a perennial grass such as Bermuda grass, you need to run a disc over the pasture immediately before or immediately after seeding.

This will double your fall and winter production, which is when you need it the most. This also applies if you are using a no till drill since it is designed to do minimal disturbance to our perennial pastures.

-Don't cover your seed too deeply. I prefer to leave my seed on top of the ground because it will take a half inch or more of rain to make it germinate, thus reducing the chance of a light shower making it germinate only to have it turn off hot and dry and having the seedling die.

-Do plant plenty of seed. The amount of seed you plant is directly related to the amount of fall grazing you can expect. While I have seen rates vary from 25 to 50 pounds per acre, the more seedlings, the more forage. On our place we use 25 pounds per acre and that seems to fit our needs.

-Do get a soil test if you haven't done so lately. In addition to getting recommendations on the amount of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potash (K) you need to apply, the most important result will be your soils pH or how acidic it is. When reading the soil test report, fertilizer recommendations will be based on the assumption that you have done what is necessary to get your soil pH in the 6 to 6.5 range.



If you are going to be successful in the fall and winter, plans need to be made now while the sweat is still running down your face. (Photo courtesy Rayford Pullen)

If you haven't limed, which is required to raise the pH of your soil and make it less acid, then the fertilizer recommendations are out the window. How important is soil pH to your plant growth? If your soil is in the 5.5 or below range, you can expect your plants to be able to utilize about half the nitrogen (N) you apply, about 10 percent of the phosphorus (P) you apply and about a third of the potash (K) you apply. It may be more important to lime your soils than it is to plant anything. Plus if

you are adding legumes to your seed mixture, reducing soil acidity becomes even more important.

-Don't wait until you see if you have a stand before fertilizing. We apply 60 actual units of nitrogen when we plant on a disked field.

Fall weather is unpredictable at best, and as we head from fall to winter, the days get shorter and nighttime temperatures get cooler so if we wait, we can expect to produce less forage before winter sets in, and that is the time we need it the most. If you are overseeding into perennial pasture, you may wait a little to keep your grass from choking out your ryegrass seedlings.

Bermuda grass normally stops growing when night-time temperatures begin reaching 45 degrees consistently, so delaying nitrogen fertilizer until that occurs is excusable and normally occurs in our

area around Oct. 15 to Oct. 20.

-Do utilize your forage when you need it the most. When we see that nice stand of winter forage, we begin to get antsy to open the gate and let the cattle in, but they will need it and appreciate it a lot more in January and February than in November or December.

Accumulating extra forage for winter consumption is certainly a boost if you are a cow/calf producer, and you will see results in your cow and calf health, rebreeding and growth.

Winter pastures are economical in beef cattle operations but do require management to make them work for you. Some folks make them work great (while others don't) by simply using them to add value to their animals or cutting down on their winter feeding costs.

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 is a pasture of highland cattle. ®

AG *elsewhere* MONTANA

PHOTO | DESCRIPTION BY LINDSEY MONK



A furry friend from this spring who was helping himself to the beehives.®

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RANCH, Rodeo & Randomness

By Pepper Stewart



COULD BREAKAWAY ROPING PUSH TIE DOWN OUT OF THE PERFORMANCE?

Breakaway roping is nothing new, it's been around for many years.

Only recently has the spotlight been turned on giving the ladies an opportunity to shine.

In recent years, a few rodeo associations have added breakaway to the performance, giving the ladies another event to compete in, but now it's time to get paid.

Getting in on the big money paydays, the World Champions Rodeo Alliance added breakaway roping and the legend Jackie Crawford took home a \$50,000 check.

Next up, RFDTV's The American added breakaway to the event, and breakaway roping winner Madison Outhier took home \$100,000.

This is just the start of what's to come, and a lot more barrel racers who roped from youth through college rodeo are hauling a breakaway horse too and heading down the road.

Breakaway is fast, exciting and easy to follow for the spectators without a lot of oh's and ah's tie-down roping brings.

I chopped down my original story as it was lengthy and bound to ruffle a lot of feathers.

I left it to this, there are states in the United States that do not allow tie-down roping in their rodeos.

The state of Rhode Island banned tie-down back in 1989.



Madison Outhier took home \$100,000 at RFDTV's The American when they added breakaway to the event. (Photo courtesy Simply Photography)

I visited with a top rodeo producer who said they would like to take tie-down out of the main performance all together.


Similar to steer roping that takes place only in certain places, banned in a few and your average rodeo fan thinks it means team roping.

Could this be the future of tie-down roping, could it end up in offsite competitions too, or only conducted in the slack?

Don't take this story as an attack on tie-down ropers or rodeo, just an observation in the progression of rodeo as we know it today.

Those who know history and how the West was won, know nearly all rodeo events started from everyday ranch work.

Even in 2019, real cowboys still exist and tend to cattle daily even as times change and expanding cities take over cattle country.

Rodeo itself has changed and will continue to do so as long as the fans show up to be entertained. 



Barrel racers who roped from youth through college rodeo are hauling a breakaway horse and heading down the road. (Photo courtesy Simply Photography)

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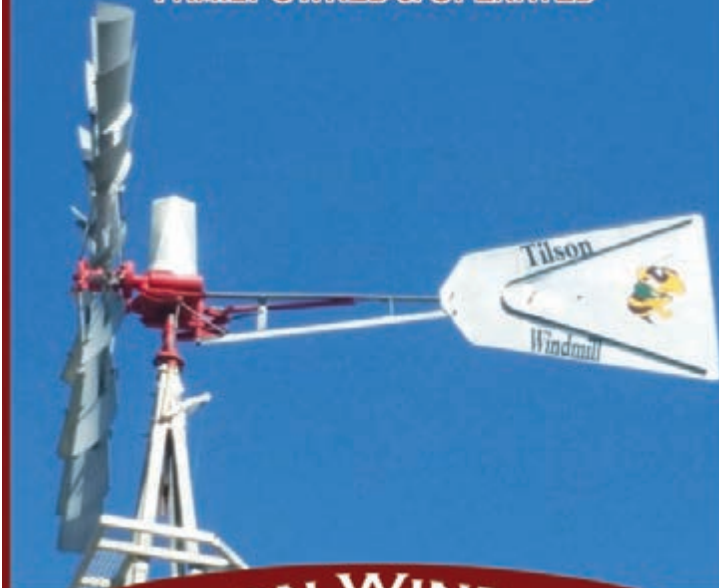
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LAND MARKET REPORT

JUNE 2019 RURAL LAND SALES

COOKE COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Gainesville	10	\$12,000	88.89%	719
Muenster	65	\$5,000	100%	79

NOTE: Two auction sales were excluded from this report as they do not make an accurate representation of the market activity.

DENTON COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Justin	51	\$12,647.06	94.85%	29
Copper Canyon	30	\$65,000	100%	465
Argyle	54.847	\$72,693.13	99.68%	82

MONTAGUE COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Bowie	21	\$5,326.67	100%	13
Bowie	17	\$6,617.65	95.74%	6
Bowie	114.18	\$2,723.73	99.04%	148
Montague	89.2	\$3,095	88.43%	570

NOTE: There were only 3 transactions for June 2018.

WISE COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Paradise	16.7	\$7,784.43	57.66%	0
Decatur	10.33	\$14,036.79	94.16%	267
Paradise	18.1	\$8,204.42	60.77%	0
Rhome	10.01	\$17,482.52	94.59%	260
Decatur	20	\$14,250	95.03%	419
Poolville	31.3	\$10,702.88	97.1%	214

The Dog Days of Summer are here, but with a mixed bag of activity. Some counties are seeing the typical slow down in land transactions, but others are seeing an explosion of activity. Most land brokerages are very slow in the months of June through September, but a few are having a hard time getting any rest. In general, the number of days that a property is staying on the market shows to be shorter for June, while prices seem to be about the same as this time one year ago.

Above is a synopsis of land transaction for the month of June, 2019 in four of our North Texas Counties. (Description by Jared Groce)

ADRIAN FOOTE MEMORIAL

Going above tradition

By Phillip Kitts

The rodeo road often provides folks with much more than an opportunity to make money.

Recently our traveling team was called back to New Town, N.D., to cover a rodeo that is much more than action and dirt.

The Adrian Foote Memorial rodeo is in its ninth year as a Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeo, and much like other rodeos, there is a certain amount of pageantry and tradition that come along with hosting a western event.

However, this rodeo goes way above tradition. The Foote family, headed by Blane Foote, have taken the concept of a rodeo to honor their father and transitioned it to both a museum for North Dakota rodeo as well as its own Hall of Fame.

The Name Sake

Adrian Foote grew up in the area of New Town, N.D. Being a part of the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikira affiliated tribes, Mr. Foote grew up in a deep tradition as a

Native American. From youth to young adulthood, Foote honored his native roots in the way he lived, but he also fell in love with the rodeo and cowboy lifestyle. He quickly became well known amongst the northern rodeo community.

As a young man, when duty called, he did not shy away. Foote served in the United States Navy during World War II and did so with the honor and dignity of not only America but his true North Dakota roots.

After serving in the military Foote came back to North Dakota and went back to his passion in life. He began contracting livestock for rodeos in the north. The real pride and joy for Foote was his large selection of top-notch bucking horses.

The Foote family became extremely well known for the bucking horse quality, and on many occasions joined forces with notable names in rodeo history to include powerhouse bucking bull owner Joe Berger.



The Foote family pays tribute to their Native American roots during the Adrian Foote Memorial Rodeo. (Photos courtesy Phillip Kitts)

What started out as one man's passion quickly turned into a family affair.

Like with anything in life, as time passed so did opportunity and the Foote family eventually closed their stock contracting operation.

In 2008 Adrian Foote passed on, and his passing left much of the northern rodeo community with a hurt.

Especially affected was a strong family who loved and honored a father, a husband and a mentor to so many youngsters in the sport of rodeo.

In 2010 the Foote family felt the best way to honor their late father was to do so in the same way he lived his life. It was at this point the Adrian Foote Memorial Rodeo began.

Like other rodeos, this event has all seven traditional events, but there is an inherent focus on the rough stock events.

The pride of bucking horses comes through with all the focus on the saddle bronc event.

What is rather surprising with this rodeo is how a small town in North Dakota can draw some of the biggest names in rodeo. Yes, the answer can be the money.

The Adrian Foote Memorial Rodeo spares no expense in piling on the added money to each event, but many think it is much more than that.

For example, at the 2019 event, each event winner was awarded a hand made and embroidered silk star quilt.

In the case of the saddle bronc winner, not only did the winner receive a quilt but he also was awarded a custom bronc halter and a handmade saddle.

If two nights of PRCA rodeo were not enough, this year the Adrian Foote Memorial rodeo added several new pieces to their event. As of 2019 they began inducting influential people into their Hall of Fame.

The induction comes with a plethora of Native American tradition and gifts, and most of all,



The bull riding at the 2019 Adrian Foote Memorial Rodeo was loaded with super bull riding talent. (Photo courtesy Phillip Kitts)

names of great North Dakotans became a permanent fixture of the arena and the event. One very notable inductee on the inaugural year was a man many consider the king of bucking bulls.

Joe Berger has become synonymous with the best bucking bovine in the world. His relationship with the Foote family goes way back so between the two, he was a perfect fit for the first year of inductees.

Berger's induction took place on Sunday, June 16, the same day they put on an invitational bull riding carrying his great name.

Like the rodeo, the bull riding was loaded with super bull riding talent. The list of young bull riders had their hands full with a string of

great bulls provided by Bailey Pro Rodeo, Mosbruckers Pro Rodeo and Dakota Rodeo.

At the conclusion of the event, it was a young Hamburg, Ark., talent by the name of Cole Skender who managed to cover both of his bulls and put up an impressive 87-point ride in the short round. His earnings for his efforts were a whopping \$10,000.


During four days of rodeo that fittingly happened during Father's Day weekend, the Foote family did a lot more than put on a rodeo.

They honored their Native American roots, honored an American Hero, a father, and a rodeo legend.

They paid tribute to four people, including Joe Berger, Gene White, Emerson Chase and Ed Hall, who have all had a huge impact on North Dakota rodeo and professional rodeo that will last for generations.

Numerous rodeo athletes lived a dream and received amazing gifts and rewards for their efforts, and most of all, they brought action packed entertainment to the city of New Town, N.D.

New Town, N.D., on Father's Day weekend is a must stop for the traveling rodeo fan.

Be ready for a weekend that includes so much heritage, tradition and action that an extra day of recovery just might be in order. 

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Supplements for Summer

By Krista Lucas

With the busy summer time come rodeos across the country, shows and frequent trail riding, which means peak performance for horses. That coupled with hot temperatures and back-and-forth humidity can make even the healthiest horse feel drained.

Some equine athletes may need a boost to get them through the constantly changing weather. Horses are sweating a lot and need electrolytes with plenty of water. On the market today there are patches, pastes and powders offered to entice the pickiest of drinkers.

Finding a product that works best for each horse may be a process of trial and error.

When trying new products, it is best to start with ones that are proven to work. There have been several new ones to choose from when getting a horse to drink

while on the road or after a hot workout. Sweet feed mixtures that come in different flavors can be mixed directly into a bucket of water and is great for horse shows, new barns, strange water, weather changes, illnesses and fuel stops while traveling.

A hydrated horse is a happy horse, and a hydrating supplement with extra electrolytes can improve a horse's overall health and performance.

With many performance horses being hauled extensively during the hot summer, there also are brands that offer different supplements to choose from to bring out the best in them. Look for places that carry pastes and feed that can help out the immune system, digestive health, disposition, hoof and joint support and respiratory support. Pre-race pastes have become popular, in hopes of getting a horse to perform at its best even

when conditions may not be favorable. Pastes offer everything from support of proper gut pH to normal muscle recovery before or after a long day under saddle.

Many of today's top rodeo athletes endorse different kinds of supplements, although it should be noted to be careful when mixing too many supplements together so as not to overwhelm the horse's system.


There are many oral supplements on the market today. When searching for a reputable dealer, be sure to choose someone who is very knowledgeable about each and every line of product and is happy to help figure out what works best for each horse.

Products that are clean, all natural and do not contain fillers are growing on the market as well. Essential oils can have calming effects if a horse gets too hot.

A clean body wash can cool

the body, relax the muscles and clean the skin and coat. A personal favorite is any product that acts as a cooling agent on tired or sore muscles. Gel formulas help relieve pain from sore muscles and joints and can sometimes be used on horses as well as humans. Gels are usually greaseless, stainless and easy to apply, and the soothing properties can be felt almost instantly.

Supplements are growing in popularity with people wanting the best for their equine partners. In order to perform their best, they have to feel their best.

There are a lot of options to choose from, and each horse should be treated as an individual and what works best for them. Visit your local feed and tack store to see what they have to offer to keep your equine athletes feeling their best during these hot summer months. 

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Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS)

The Easy Keeper Disease

By Garrett Metcalf, DVM

It is that time of year when cases in veterinary practices are diagnosed with EMS or Equine Metabolic Syndrome spike. The reason cases of EMS spike is because of the fast growth that pastures experience in the spring. Before EMS was well understood or discovered, many of these horses were diagnosed with grass founder, but through research the process of the disease is now better understood. The disease is caused by obese overfed horses and breeds of horses that have “hardy genes.” These are breeds that generally need less caloric intake to meet their daily energy needs. Although some breeds are at higher risk such as ponies, just about any breed can develop EMS.

Risk Factors for EMS

The key risk factor for development of EMS is weight gain, breed, high caloric intake, and very little or inconsistent exercise. Horses that gain weight easily on pasture turn out or are getting too many calories from grains plus hay can be put at risk of EMS. Increasing levels of obesity in horses causes insulin resistance just like in humans, but fortunately for the horse, they have a very robust pancreas that is able to keep up with the extra demand for insulin to provide adequate amounts of glucose to tissue and organ systems despite the insulin resistance. This overproduction of insulin in order to keep up with the resistance causes a very key clinical sign of laminitis, which can be the most debilitating and difficult consequence of EMS. Over 90 percent of horses will present for laminitis as the first clinical sign of EMS. Unfortunately, the clinical signs for laminitis can go undetected for many months, or even years in some cases, until the progression of the laminitis reaches a very severe tipping point. It is not uncommon that horses with this disease go undetected for variable periods of time and have X-rays to prove it. Many times, horses will have rotation of the coffin bone in the hoof capsule upwards of 10 degrees before the horse is lame enough to alert their owners that there is a serious problem. It doesn't seem possible that a horse can get that bad overnight, but rather in many cases they have mini laminitic episodes that are almost silent



Equine Metabolic Syndrome cases spike during this time of year because of the fast growth of lush pastures. (Courtesy photo)

to many owners that lead to this much damage to their feet over time.

Identifying Horses at Risk

A common feature that puts horses at risk that owners can detect and address themselves before a laminitic crisis occurs is adipose deposited in certain areas of the horse's body called regional adiposity. Regional adiposity describes fat or adipose tissue that is deposited in different regions of horses that owners should watch for if their horse is gaining weight. These common areas are the neck, commonly referred to as cresty necks, around the tail head, and sheaths of geldings or stallions. If these areas are noticed to be enlarging, especially in the spring when there is an abundance of fresh grass to graze on plus weight gain, then steps need to be taken to prevent the development of EMS.

Managing an Easy Keeper

It is very common to hear owners and veterinarians refer to heavy horses as easy keepers, but there can be some serious consequences of ignoring or brushing it off as just an easy keeper horse. Simple steps can be taken to reverse or reduce the risk of horses developing EMS by decreasing daily caloric intake. First,

it is recommended to remove all grain from a horse's diet, including treats. Drastically reducing turn out time to graze, especially on fast growing lush grass, is absolutely necessary in horses at risk of grass founder caused by EMS. There is some conflicting evidence as to when is the best time of day to allow a horse that is sensitive to high sugars in lush growing grass to graze. Some research has found that sugar levels peak later in the afternoon because of an abundance of sunshine and fully ramped up photosynthesis process that occurs in the grass. It is suggested then if grazing is allowed or deemed safe, that morning grazing is a safer time, but sometimes letting an at-risk horse graze is not worth the consequences. Other methods of allowing safe grazing are to mow the grass very short to minimize the volume of grass intake in a given period of time. If mowing is not an option, specially designed grazing muzzles allow pasture turn out but restrict the amount of grass taken in through the muzzle. Do not worry, as many horses are very quick to figure out how to get grass through the small hole in the muzzle and also allow the intake of water. It is recommended **See DISEASE page 26**

Disease

Continued from page 25

to have a leather poll strap on their halters to prevent injury when turned out while wearing a halter. Dry lot management is sometimes the only option, especially for horses that already have EMS. Keeping a horse on dry lot with no access to fresh grass and feeding more mature hay is sometimes needed to manage more severe cases. There are no current medications to help reduce the effects of insulin resistance due to obesity in horses, but some medications can be used to help with weight loss such as Thryo-L (levothyroxine) combined with consistent exercise.

Laminitis

Laminitis is the most debilitating and painful outcome of EMS, not to mention life threatening. It also is the most expensive and difficult aspect of managing a horse with EMS. In order to properly manage laminitis caused by EMS, the horse needs to be examined by a veterinarian, radiographs need to be taken of the feet to assess the severity of the laminitis and an experienced farrier needs to be heavily



Laminitis is the most debilitating outcome of EMS, and in some cases can be life-threatening. (Courtesy photo)

involved with the management of the feet. If the disease is caught early, proper trimming

may be all that is needed, plus the other management aspects employed, of course, but in many cases corrective therapeutic shoeing is required. Pain management is another key aspect of addressing laminitis.

NSAIDs or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, opioids, aspirin and an anticonvulsant drug called Gabapentin can help block or reduce pain of laminitis that horses experience. Some of these drugs do carry a risk of serious side effects so careful monitoring and proper dosages need to be on the order of a veterinarian to minimize the risk of side effects.

It cannot be repeated enough that the best cure for disease is through prevention. Taking early appropriate steps to keep horses from developing EMS is by far the best way to prevent the disease from occurring.

If there is concern your horse is at risk of EMS, please talk to your veterinarian to determine if management and diet changes need to be made to prevent the development of this disease. ®

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Henry Clay & Clay County

By Jude Wade

Henry Clay was an American statesman, loved by many because of his personal magnetism and detested by others because of his elaborate scheming.

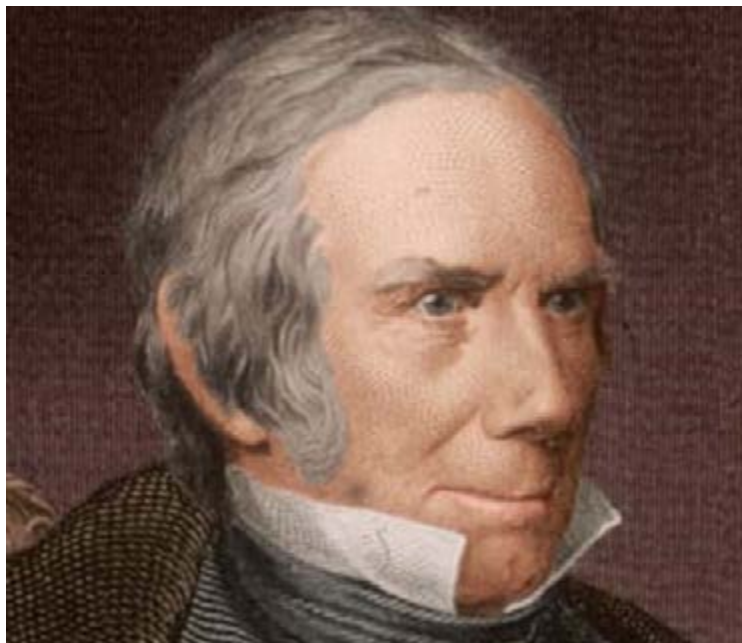
Clay was born April 12, 1777, in Hanover, Va., the seventh of nine children.

He studied law and became a successful lawyer. Leader of the Whig party and five times an unsuccessful United States presidential candidate, he played a major role in national politics for more than 40 years.

He served as Secretary of State, Speaker of the House of Representatives and as a Senator.

Clay opposed slavery and defended the rights of the Five Civilized Tribes. He passed away in 1852.

Clay opposed the annexation of Texas and never set foot in the



American Statesman Henry Clay. (Courtesy photo)

state, but, ironically, had a county named for him.

Clay County came into being

when Cooke County was divided. First organized in 1861, it was largely abandoned because Fed-

eral troops were withdrawn during the Civil War and Indian raids made living there too dangerous.

The county was reorganized in 1873 with Cambridge as the county seat.

In 1882, with the arrival of a railroad and a bitter battle, Henrietta became the county seat.

The origin of the name Henrietta is unknown. Some say it is the feminine version of Henry, but others attribute it to other beginnings.

Today, Clay County ranks 164th in population among the 254 counties in the state with a population of 10,456 and 50th in size with 1,116 square miles. It borders Red River to the north.

The economy is largely agricultural with many large ranches and farms. Crops are mainly wheat and some cotton.

See CLAY page 35

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Clay

Continued from page 32

The courthouse on the square in the center of town is the focus of many events throughout the year. Built in 1884 of brick and sandstone in the Italianate style, it has undergone several renovations over the years.

The original clock tower has been replaced by a dome, and the fire escape from the second story to the ground, which provided a playground for children, has been removed for safety reasons.

An annex has been built across the street to the north to alleviate crowding in the courthouse offices.

Major events in the county are the Clay County Pioneer Reunion and Rodeo, which features three parades of colorful floats and

hundreds of horseback riders, Christmas Parade on the Square, Turkey Fest, Junior Livestock Show, car shows, Highway 82 Garage Sales and Community Easter Egg Hunt.

Several event venues are available. Many historic buildings and homes reflect the heritage of the community.

The 1890 Clay County Jail Museum offers a look into the past with numerous exhibits including a farm machinery museum. The 524-acre Lake Arrowhead provides swimming, boating, water skiing, fishing, camping, hiking and other activities.

It's too bad Henry Clay never had the opportunity to visit the wonderful place named for him. ®



A view of the Clay County courthouse today. (Courtesy photo)

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LACEY'S PANTRY

By Lacey Newlin

Lamb chops

Total Time: 20 minutes

Servings: 6-8

INGREDIENTS

- 8 lamb loin or rib chops (1-inch thick)
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme leaves, plus 1 large sprig
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided
- 1 small shallot, finely chopped
- 1 large garlic clove, smashed
- 1/2 cup dry white wine or low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon finely grated lemon zest

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Season the lamb. Remove the lamb chops from the refrigerator and massage the chopped thyme, 1/2 teaspoon of the salt, and pepper into the meat. Set the lamb chops aside at room temperature for 5 minutes.

2. Cook the lamb. Melt 2 tablespoons of the butter in a 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat. Add the lamb chops and cook until a rich, brown crust forms on the bottom, four to six minutes.

3. Turn the lamb. Flip the lamb chops and continue to cook until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the meat registers 145°F, four to six minutes more.

4. Transfer to a plate. Transfer the lamb chops to a plate and cover with aluminum foil. Pour off all but 2 tablespoons of the rendered fat.

5. Cook the shallot, garlic, and thyme. Reduce the heat to medium. Add the shallot, garlic, and thyme sprig to the pan and cook until shallot softens and begins to brown, about one minute.

6. Deglaze the pan. Deglaze with the wine or broth and lemon juice, scraping any browned bits from the bottom of the pan.

7. Finish the sauce. Cook until reduced by half, one to two minutes. Stir in the lemon zest, remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt, and 2 tablespoons



butter. Cook until the butter melts and the sauce thickens slightly, about one minute. Taste and season with more salt and pepper if needed. Pour the sauce over the lamb chops and serve immediately.®



WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

I've had more than a few friends ask me how I deal with being out in the boonies, as they would describe it. That question is often immediately followed by another one, such as how do I borrow a cup of sugar. The sugar question used to be an easy one to answer. "From my mother-in-law of course," I would say, whose house was quite literally a stone's throw away from ours. That woman's kitchen was always fully stocked for any possible need. I soon learned why.

When I moved to my husband's family cattle ranch in 1981, there were many astounding inconveniences I never anticipated or could have imagined. I had seen movies where the characters had a party phone line, but I had no idea such a thing really existed. It did. We were on a party line with a sweet little old lady neighbor who loved to talk on the phone for hours. Fortunately, the phone company had plans to add more cables eventually, but our party line days turned into months.

I didn't know there were different types of water. It turns out the well water for our house wasn't drinkable, unless you don't mind your water tasting like salt and the color being a tad rusty. We were on the list for getting connected to the rural water company that was extending into our area a few months later. In the meantime, we could bathe and wash dishes using our well water, but cooking and drinking water came from our five-gallon water jug that we filled as needed at my in-laws' house. They had wonderful tasting well water.



The cattle ranch has become the center of Annette Bridges' world, and there is no place she would rather be. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

My husband and I were living in the original farmhouse - original from when my in-laws first bought the place in 1963. Actually, the original farmhouse had been torn down long before and our house was built with old wood that had been salvaged. Try to envision a house without insulation in the walls and ceiling and old windows that are poorly sealed. Picture sitting in your living room watching your curtains blow and your windows are shut.


There was no central heat or air conditioning. My husband installed a wood stove in our living room. There was a window air conditioner unit in our living room, too. Needless to say, the

most pleasant temperature year round was only in our living room.

Another surprise for this city-raised gal was the long walk to our mailbox. Growing up in the city, back in my day, the mailbox was located on our front porch. Walking to get our mail here at the ranch was sometimes tricky especially on a windy day, and windy days are almost a constant living in the wide-open spaces of the country. I learned to take a tote bag or sack with me to collect the mail.

Although country living did require a few startling adjustments, perhaps the most welcomed, most pleasurable included traffic and

car engine noise and odors being replaced by soothing peace and quiet and the gratifying fragrance of clean fresh air. Even though some neighboring ranches have sold and subdivided, I can nonetheless gaze in many directions and see nothing but pasture and cows. I had no idea so many dazzling and breathtaking stars were visible at night until I moved to the country.

Even though the city continues to stretch itself northward, I still have some friends who describe where I live as the middle of nowhere, but our cattle ranch has become the center of my world and there is no place I would rather be. 



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Shelly Mowery with Kitty, AQHA registered name Here Kitty Kitty, one of the broodmares on Mowery Cutting Horses Ranch near Weatherford, Texas, on June 23, 2019. (Photo courtesy Lindsey Walls of Walls Productions)



Shelly Mowery

A PIONEER SPIRIT

A pioneer spirit with a can do attitude is how Shelly Burmeister Mowery is described by her closest family and friends, and just a few of the reasons she has seen success in paving the way for women in the world of rodeo as she fought for equal pay for barrel racers in professional rodeos.

However, her advocacy for cowgirls across the country during her time as the first “Miss Coors Rodeo” is just one of a very long list of accomplishments.

Mowery was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on Halloween night 1957, the youngest of three girls to high school sweethearts Earl Burmeister and Helen Collins.

Earl Burmeister’s work as a construction contractor, building the Astrodome in Houston, would be what brought Shelly Burmeister Mowery to Texas when she was 11 years old. Horse crazy at a young age, she knew that moving to the Lone Star State meant getting a horse. At age 12, she got her wish, purchasing her first horse for \$150, a sorrel mare named Jewel. A novice rider, training a horse for the first time in her life was a challenge.

“My saddle cost more than my horse. I fell off every day, but I got back up”, said Mowery.

When her father’s work was done in Texas, the family moved back to Iowa, where Mowery graduated high school in Des Moines. She began to participate in rodeo pageants and returned to Texas as Miss Rodeo Iowa. The former Miss Rodeo Iowa became the first runner-up in the Miss Rodeo America pageant, behind Almabeth Carroll in 1978.

Besides touring rodeos, Mowery was busy working multiple jobs, including working in sales in Fort Worth, as a truck dispatcher for Lisa Motor Lines, waiting tables and giving exercise classes. At 21 years old, she had a full ride scholarship from the Miss Rodeo America pageant, and had started her college career, when she received a surprising call from the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

“They told me they had a potential sponsor, Coors, and wanted to put me in for a job. I’ll never forget I was getting ready to fly to Golden, Colo., and my dad let me have it,” recalled Mowery. “He said ‘I cannot believe you’re going to do this. They’re not going to hire you anyway because you don’t have your college background behind you yet, you’re just in your first semester.’”

She boarded the plane anyway, and found herself in a board room with the likes of Pete Coors and other Coors executives.

It was a job Mowery would hold for a decade, from 1980 to 1989, with 100,000 air miles a year under her belt, traveling with her beloved Yorkie named Larue, handling a million-dollar sponsorship and working 150 rodeo performances throughout the United States and Canada. As Miss Coors and throughout her rodeo career, she became a big advocate for equal pay for women’s barrel racing in professional rodeos.

It is her spirit and determination that has allowed her to break down many barriers in a sport that is known for following its traditions.

“When she starts something, she finishes it, and usually finishes it with a bang,” said Mowery’s longtime friend and photographer, Lindsey Walls. “She single-handedly advocated for equal pay for the barrel racers to get equal prize money at pro rodeos, and back in the 1980s, that was pioneering. It was still pretty much a ‘good ole-boy-sport’ run by men. She was a trendsetter, ahead of her time. She is a force to be reckoned with. I still see that in her, even though some might say she has mellowed.”

The former Miss Coors also was instrumental in the National Finals Rodeo’s move from
See MOWERY page 42



Mowery

Continued from page 41

Oklahoma City to Las Vegas, another legacy of hers that continues today. She worked with close friend Benny Binion to make their dream of a Las Vegas-located NFR come true. Binion has since passed, but that dream is carried on with the help of supporters like Michael and Paula Gaughan, owners of South Point Hotel, Equestrian Center and Arena.

During her work with the Coors Chute-Out sponsorship Mowery started doing television production, interviewing cowboys and cowgirls at pro rodeos, as well as doing commentary for equine sports. After 30 years, Mowery found herself as one of the top equine sports broadcasters for pro rodeos and national cutting horse events on major television networks. She worked with Fox Sports, commentating the Mesquite Championship Rodeo, as well as other events including the NFR, International Finals Rodeo, Cutting Horse Futurities, commercials, documentaries and feature films. Mowery also had a venture with Western Lifestyles TV. During this time, she started competing in cutting events and fell in love with bloodlines and cutting horse lineage, which led her into cutting horse breeding.

She married Rick Mowery who had three sons Hayden, Gavin and Sheldon. Along with her daughter Sawyer, they became a typical modern American family. Her husband is a top trainer in the cutting horse industry, and serves on the Board of Directors for the National Cutting Horse Association. Rick also is an American Quarter Horse Association Professional Horseman and an AAAA NCHA judge, the highest category of judging one can obtain. Together, they operate Mowery Cutting Horses in the “Cutting Horse Capital of the World” of Weatherford, Texas, and have been married 21 years.

The training facility is year-round, with a focus on breeding and foaling out mares for some of the most famous broodmares in the industry. After the foaling season closes, the business turns to fitting and pre-conditioning sale horses.

Mowery’s success as a breeder has awarded her “Breeder of Champion” with her mare Some Kinda Playgirl, who produced the 1998 NCHA Open Futurity Champion Some See **MOWERY** page 44



(Above) Shelly Burmeister runs barrels on her first horse “Jewel” at an equestrian event near Fort Worth, Texas, circa 1969 (Courtesy photo). (Left) Shelly Mowery smiles for the camera as a television production commentary rodeo resumes post commercial at a professional rodeo in the early 1990s. (Photos courtesy Fox Sports)



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

114 ACRES | WICHITA COUNTY



NEW LISTING

SUTTON RIVER RANCH

\$2,950/Ac

The land is open with scattered mature Pecan Trees, with the balance being heavily wooded bottomland. There is approximately 70 acres of fertile farmland. This area could continue as farmland, or could easily convert over to grass. There is ample wildlife on the property. In addition to deer other wildlife known to travel the property are Turkey, Dove, Quail, Geese, bobcat, coyote, and road runner. The majority of the boundary is fenced, with exception to the land lying along the river and a portion of the north boundary.

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HAMMON RIVER RANCH

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The Hammon River Ranch is prime recreational land located on the Red River in northern Clay County. It consists of 1,909 acres, being primarily wooded river bottom, along with several food plots and 170 acre wheat field. It has nearly 2.5 miles of river frontage and a large oxbow that holds water year around. The property is fenced and cross fenced. There is a water well and electricity is on the ranch. This is a very nice large recreational ranch on the Red River, you won't find another like it.

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- Lost Creek Ranch - 206 Acres - Young Co - \$2,375/Ac

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Shelly Mowery in one of the horse pens, with Shell Dual Better and her 2019 colt born in April at Mowery Cutting Horses Ranch on June 23, 2019. (Photo courtesy Lindsey Walls of Walls Productions)

Mowery

Continued from page 42

Kinda Memories. Mowery rode Playgirl to the winner's circle in several cutting events and Playgirl became one of the foundation breeding mares that started her career as a breeder. The mare also has the distinction of being a "NCHA All-Time Leading Producer," with offspring earnings of more than one million. Some of her lineage still grace the pastures of the Mowery Ranch today.

Mowery's recognition as "Breeder of Champion" is one of many awards bestowed on the North Texas cowgirl. A surprise honor was her induction into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame, being a cowgirl and not a cowboy after all, but she is happy to be in there among many of her friends. Another surprising award for Mowery was the Telly Sports Award for her work on Fox Sports, an award honoring excellence in video and television across all screens.

Induction into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame holds a special place in her heart. With the women pioneers from western lifestyle, entertainment, history, culture, and horse sports that Mowery shares the honor with, induction into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame is personally considered her highest achievement.

Though semi-retired, Mowery can still be

found atop a horse to qualify for the AQHA World Show and special events, such as the Careity Foundation's Celebrity Cutting at the Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum in Fort Worth each December.

"I have been paired with a lot of celebrities and been fortunate to win a few times. I only show just every now and then to qualify for the World Show, and my body is so sore for weeks because I don't do it every day," laughed Mowery.

This past year, Mowery said she was honored to be paired with Dan Nevins, a veteran who is an amputee of both legs and teaches yoga throughout the world. The combined scores of Mowery and Nevins won the celebrity cutting event.

Throughout her career, Mowery has had the opportunity to work with many entertainers and celebrities, in television, at equestrian charity events, and in competition, many of whom have become her close friends.

"My TV career started by being in the right place at the right time. While working the National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City, a producer approached me and asked if I had ever been on television. Through my life journey, everything I've done, the people I've met, and all my successes I attribute to horses. My love

for and involvement with horses has been the driving force in my life."

Despite a successful career as an equestrian sports commentator, a proven breeder and showing in the top national competitions, Mowery isn't done just yet as she searches for her next adventure.

Part of that adventure has been working as the executive director for the Parker County Community on Aging, which serves Meals on Wheels for residents of the county. It all began as a volunteer opportunity that lasted right around a year, then turned into a commitment to her community that she is passionate about. Three years later, Mowery is using her "candor" attitude and her passion to make things better for Parker County seniors.

In 2018, the Texas horsewoman also was the focus of a documentary with her daughter Sawyer Burmeister, titled "The Cowgirl Culture in Texas."

Sawyer Burmeister is a lobbyist for a law firm in Austin, and following her Mom's footprints, is a champion cutting horse rider and NFR sponsor flag cowgirl. The short documentary series, produced by Walls, reflects on the culture of being a cowgirl in today's world. The first two documentaries in the series will **See MOWERY page 47**



Shelly Burmeister, Miss Coors Rodeo, stands with professional cowboys for a publicity shot at the Houston Rodeo in the Astrodome in Houston, Texas, circa February 1983.



Shelly Mowery rides MK Chic A Boon to first place in the Careity Celebrity Cutting during the NCHA Futurity in Fort Worth, Texas, at the Coliseum on Nov. 29, 2018. The combined scores of Mowery and her celebrity partner Dan Nevins gave them the win.



Shelly Burmeister kisses her cutting horse mare, Doc O Mary, at the Hyper S Ranch near Edmond, Okla., circa summer 1989.



Shelly Mowery on the phone at her Parker County Committee on Aging office in her role as Executive Director. (Photos courtesy Lindsey Walls of Walls Productions)

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Mowery

Continued from page 44

be the one with Mowery and her daughter, and “The Cowgirl Culture in Oklahoma” will feature two Oklahoma cowgirls.

“I met Lindsey when I was working the Houston Rodeo and we became really good friends. She did my photoshoots, and over the years we have worked together on television productions, charity events, and anything we can to share our passion for horses and the western lifestyle. We work well together, a real team, and I am so thankful for our friendship,” said Mowery.

These two lifelong friends are also venturing out on another new project, the recently launched www.shellymowery.com.

The site focuses on lifestyle at the age of 60 and features video blogs about living healthy, aging challenges, talking to legends in the horse industry, and of course Shelly Burmeister Mowery’s love of horses.

Whatever path Mowery chooses to take next, cowgirls across the nation will always be thankful for her hard work and dedication for what she has done, and will be watching for what she is yet to do.

To learn more about Mowery Cutting Horses, visit www.mowerycuttinghorses.com and make sure to follow them on Facebook. Documentary trailers for “The Cowgirl Culture in Texas” as well as “The Cowgirl Culture in Oklahoma” are available at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/126292832@N06/46519131784/in/photostream/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahpSEYPZFxI>. Watch for the two films at festivals across the country along with a few private venue showings later this year, and don’t forget to visit www.shellymowery.com to see what path Mowery takes next.



(Left to right) Shelly Mowery on MK Chic A Boon, Rick Mowery on Double Dose of Cat and Sawyer Burmeister on Play His in the round pen at Mowery Cutting Horses Ranch, July 29, 2017. A production still from “The Cowgirl Culture in Texas” documentary.



Shelly Mowery with longtime friends, country singer Tanya Tucker and singer-songwriter-cowboy poet Red Steagall at the Careity Celebrity Cutting in Fort Worth, Texas, on Nov. 28, 2018. Tucker competes at the celebrity charity event each year and rides one of Mowery’s cutting horses, this time on Double Dose of Cat. (Photos courtesy Lindsey Walls of Walls Productions)



By Michelle Ames

Dublin Bottling Works, once the Dublin Dr. Pepper Bottling Company, was known for decades as the only Dr. Pepper Bottling Company to still use pure cane sugar instead of cane syrup. They dropped Dr. Pepper in 2012, after a lawsuit stating Dublin was selling their much sought after soda outside of their territory.

However, their story certainly did not stop there, and both Dr. Pepper lovers as well as craft soda lovers can visit and tour the bottling plant, Old Doc's Soda Shop and the museum.

Dublin had been bottling 1891, and they have amassed a huge amount of Dr. Pepper collectives during the years, all of which are displayed in the museum. The town of Dublin loved Dr. Pepper, and it was affectionately known as Dr. Pepper, Texas before the

split. Now, the town has embraced Dublin Bottling Works.

Dublin Bottling Works is located in downtown Dublin, and the cute shops nearby are fun to visit. It also is home to the Ben Hogan Museum, but Dublin Bottling Works is what draws most tourist to the town.

Inside you can purchase sodas, shirts and other souvenirs. Old Doc's Soda Shop is a full-service Soda Shop, serving Blue Bell Ice Cream for amazing floats and other treats. You also can purchase bottles or even cases of their craft sodas. My son loves their XXX Root Beer, and honestly, I've never had one I didn't like. They also sell the syrup for their sodas, which is amazing on top of Blue Bell Ice Cream.

There are two tours you can take, the guided tour which takes your through the bottling factory,



Dublin Bottling Works is located in downtown Dublin, Texas. (Courtesy photos)

and a self-guided tour. We've taken both, numerous times, and really, I recommend the guided tour. It lasts about an hour.

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On the Road with Dave Alexander



Emily Gimble with her father, Dick. (Courtesy photo)



Emily Gimble's grandfather, Johnny Gimble, Texas fiddler. (Courtesy photo)

Howdy Texas Music Fans. Texas music has a long history. First came the singing cowboys on the historic cattle trails. Soon Texas Ranch dances became the social rage among ranchers and cotton farmers.

As our small Texas towns began to grow into big cities, the world was introduced to musicians like Milton Brown and Bob Wills who traveled throughout Texas with their very own style of Western Swing.

There are still a few Texas musicians continuing that tradition. Please welcome Emily Gimble. Emily grew up in a musical home. Her father Dick played and taught Texas Music his entire life while carrying on the legacy of his father, the late Johnny Gimble. Early in her career, Emily quickly

made her way to the top with her unique vocal style and great piano playing. She hired on with Asleep At The Wheel for a short stint and now travels the country leading her own groups as well as working with the likes of Floyd Domino and others.

I've had the honor of working with her Grandfather Johnny (known to most as the greatest Texas Fiddler to ever live) and her dad Dick whose rhythm abilities are unsurpassed in the Texas music scene. This year I'll have the opportunity to work with Emily in Ruidoso at the Cowboy Gathering in October.

Keep your eye out for this rising star as she carries on the "Family Tradition." It looks like the future of Texas music is in good hands.

Happy Trails. 

Dave's upcoming shows:

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Preserving Time



Photo by Mandi Dietz

By Mandi Dietz

From clocks to antiques, trucks, homes and family values; Mack Dobbs, former farmer, county commissioner and Clock Shop owner, devotes the majority of his time to preservation.

These days, Dobbs can be found wearing magnifying glasses and fine tuning small parts in the workshop or conversing with clients/friends from behind the National cash register of his Clock Shop.

Although it appears different than his farming days, growing and seeding watermelons, cantaloupes and pumpkins, and baling hay, to name a few, subtle similarities remain.

"The farm business is where I learned how things work mechanically, like clocks; an internal combustion engine, baler, combine harvester; it comes natural, everything has to be in time, and so do clocks, it's all relative," Dobbs said.

Dobbs' history of preserving things dates back some time.

Past projects include restoring vehicles and houses, including the free-standing, pier and beam Peaster Independent School District cafeteria, turning it into a

rural home decades ago; and more recently, an urban Victorian-era, residential renovation.

In addition to the Clock Shop's assortment of antique and vintage time-keeping gems, including one of Dobbs' favorites, a double-dial, Seth Thomas, Lincoln-era, perpetual calendar clock; there's an array of age-old fun items on display, some for sell but most saved for enjoyment, keeping history alive. Dobbs bought the double-dial from a "dry goods" store, and after "a little tlc (tender, loving care), it's running."

The Clock Shop buys, sells and repairs clocks. Some days, Dobbs travels, making house calls to surrounding cities, driving north to Springtown, east to Aledo, south to Granbury, west to Stephenville and more. That's when his sister Pam steps in and helps around the Shop, assisting customers with a "sick clock," such as one that "keeps time but won't chime."

The Clock Shop on Dallas Avenue, off the historic Weatherford Square, makes a great way for Dobbs to stay connected with the community.


He gets a good bird's eye view of family-friendly Square events from his Shop windows too. Often,



Mack Dobbs, former farmer, county commissioner and Clock Shop owner, pictured with his fur buddy, Fudrucker, by his favorite time-keeping machine; a double-dial, Seth Thomas, Lincoln-era, perpetual calendar clock. (Photo courtesy of Dobbs)

pony and mini train rides, bounce houses, and vendors set up outside in the adjacent empty lot. During Christmas on the Square, the first Saturday of December, there's usually man-made snow, Santa, a nativity scene and the city's Christmas tree-lighting ceremony. Rodeo dances in June, with live music and simulated bull riding, returned to the Square. There also is a spring Easter event, and the high-anticipated Parker County

Peach Festival each summer.

Similarly, Dobbs' favorite form of preservation is quality time with his ever-growing family. A great grandfather, Dobbs keeps busy with loved ones, gardening, taking photos of sunrises and nature to share with friends, strolling the neighborhood, manning the Clock Shop and creating a welcoming environment for both business and fellowship; overall, making time for what matters most. 

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NEW SPEARBED



2015 GMC Sierra 2500 HD, 4x4, 6.0 Gas, Auto, New Bumper, New Tires, Power Windows, Locks, Tilt, Cruise #S17903... \$23,995

NEW TIRES



2008 Dodge 3500, 4x4 SLT, 6.7 Turbo Diesel, Flatbed, Automatic, AC, Tilt, Cruise, Power Seat, 125,000 miles #140770... \$21,995

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2015 Ford F-250, 4x4, 6.2 Gas, Auto, A/C, Tilt, Cruise, Power Windows & Locks. New Tires. #A27088... \$28,995

NEW SPEARBED



2016 Ford F-250, 4x4, Gas 6.2, Auto, A/C, Tilt, Cruise, Power Windows & Locks. New Tires. #C58008... \$32,495

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2014 Ram 2500, 4x4, 6.7 Diesel, AC, Tilt, Cruise, Power Windows and Locks, Sirius XM Radio, New Tires #217140... \$31,995

NEW SPEARBED



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NEW SPEARBED



2015 Chevrolet 2500 LT, 4x4 6.0 Gas, Tilt, Cruise, Power Windows and Locks, A/C, Navigation, New Tires #175382... \$31,995

NEW FLATBED



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NEW SPEARBED



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SPEARBED



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FLATBED



2015 Ford F-350 Crew, 6.2 Gas, Auto, Cruise, Tilt, Power Windows and Locks, New Tires #B30545... \$25,995

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AUGUST 2019 | 53

North Texas FAIR & RODEO



16 >> PARKER McCOLLUM



17 >> EASTON CORBIN



18 >> LA ZENDA NORTEÑA



19 >> JAKE HOOKER



20 >> KODY WEST



21 >> NED LeDOUX



22 >> JOSH WARD & FLATLAND CAVALRY



>> PAT GREEN



24 >> TRACY LAWRENCE



AUG 16-24

NIGHTLY CONCERTS
NIGHTLY RODEOS
live

- 16 PARKER McCOLLUM
- 17 EASTON CORBIN
- 18 LA ZENDA NORTEÑA
- 19 JAKE HOOKER
- 20 KODY WEST
- 21 NED LeDOUX *LeDOUX LEGACY LIVES ON*
- 22 FLATLAND CAVALRY & JOSH WARD
- 23 PAT GREEN
- 24 TRACY LAWRENCE



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Superior Livestock Auction Video Royale

JULY 29-AUG. 2 • WINNEMUCCA, NV

Winnemucca, NV. Superior Livestock Auction Video Royale. "Raising them is your job, selling them is ours." Consignment deadline is July 13. Visit www.superiorlivestock.com or call 800-422-2117 for more information.

Managing Crop Loan for Improved Production

JULY 30 • MADILL, OK.

14797 McMillan Road, Madill, OK. The Noble Institute brings you Managing Crop Loan for Improved Production from 9 a.m. to noon on July 30. There is no registration fee. Registration closed July 22. For more information and to register visit www.noble.org/events/managing-crop-load-for-improved-production/.

62nd Annual Saint Jo Rodeo

AUG. 2-3 • SAINT JO

Saint Jo Riding Arena, Saint Jo, TX. This rodeo is a legacy in the North Texas area. For more than 60 years, this outdoor rodeo has been at the Saint Jo Riding Club arena just outside the city limits of beautiful and historic Saint Jo. The arena is located on the east side of town on Highway 82. Rodeo is the first weekend in August with nightly shows starting at 8 p.m. The rodeo includes everything from bucking bulls to mutton bustin' for the little buckaroos, with 5 p.m. parade on Saturday in historic downtown. Advance tickets \$8 and may be purchased from a royalty contestant. Admission is \$10 at the gate. Visit www.saintjorodeo.com or call (940) 995-2337.



NORTH TEXAS FAIR AND RODEO
AUG. 16-24

Forestburg Rodeo

AUG. 9-10 • FORESTBURG

Forestburg, TX. Bring the family out Aug. 9-10 for the "Biggest Little Rodeo in Texas." Hosted by the Forestburg Riding Club.

Second Monday

AUG. 10-11 • BOWIE

Business Hwy. 287 and Hwy. 81 (Pelham Rd.), Bowie, TX 76230. Event will be conducted Aug. 10-11. It is one of the largest flea markets featuring about 450 large lots located on five acres. Second Monday Trade Days is open rain, sleet or snow on the weekend of the second Monday of every month. You will find clothing and apparel, candles and crafts, video games and movies, cell phone accessories, antiques of every kind, specialty items, handcrafted furniture, jewelry and great food and drinks. Free admission. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit <https://www.cityofbowietx.com/241/Event-Schedule> for more information.

NT Fair and Rodeo

AUG. 16-24 • DENTON

2217 N. Carroll Blvd., Denton, TX 76201. The North Texas State Fair Association is an organization that preserves and promotes western heritage and values. The North Texas Fair and Rodeo contributes to the quality of life in the City of Denton, Denton County and throughout the North Texas area. This is done through a first class, nine-day fair and rodeo, year round facilities, and various community and youth oriented programs and events. The North Texas State Fair Association strives to preserve and promote an understanding of the agricultural industry. The North Texas State Fair Association is true and committed to its mission of supporting youth, agriculture and community. All revenue generated from events is reinvested into various programs, scholarships and facilities. Visit www.ntfair.com for a complete schedule of events. Call 940-387-2632 or email info@ntfair.com for more info.

Texas Ranch Roundup

AUG. 16-17 • WICHITA FALLS

Kay Yeager Coliseum, 1000 5th Street, Wichita Falls, TX 76301. The "Original" Texas Ranch Roundup is back. More than 35 years ago, a group of folks associated with Falls Distributing, Budweiser and the North Texas Rehabilitation Center in Wichita Falls, met to put together the first ranch rodeo to honor the working Texas cowboy. The roundup will celebrate 39 years of showcasing historic ranches, the hard work of genuine cowboys and many other facets of ranch life on Friday and Saturday, August 16 and 17 2019 at the Multi-Purpose Event Center in Wichita Falls, Texas. A great tradeshow includes bits, spurs, western collectibles and other items will take place all day, both days, as well as Kids' Roundup, RHAA Horse Competition, and a cowboy "campfire chat" of well-known cowmen answering questions about ranching and maybe even telling a story or two. Visit www.texasranchroundup.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Superior Livestock Big Horn Classic

AUG. 19-23 • SHERIDAN, WY

Sheridan, WY. Superior Livestock Big Horn Classic. "Raising them is your job, selling them is ours." Consignment deadline is Aug. 3. Visit www.superiorlivestock.com or call 800-422-2117.

Hotter 'N Hell Hundred

AUG. 22-25 • WICHITA FALLS

Wichita Falls, TX. One of the largest and oldest cycling events in the nation kicks off on Thursday, Aug. 22. Hotter 'N Hell is one of the oldest and largest cycling events in the nation. More than 13,000 riders from across the globe come to Wichita Falls for four days of challenging and inspiring activities. For more information visit www.hh100.org.

Market Days at Liberty Crossing

AUG. 23-25 • GAINESVILLE

Liberty Crossing, 4321 N. I35 Hwy, Gainesville, TX. Introducing Liberty Crossing. Gainesville's newest retail destination and all-day experience for the entire family near the Texas-Oklahoma border. Named for the historical legacy of the city that surrounds it, the center includes monthly markets featuring specialty retail, food trucks, local wineries, craft beer and music. Spend all day shopping the specialty retail stores from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Visit www.thelibertycrossing.com for more information on upcoming events and see dates for future Market Days at Liberty Crossing in Gainesville, Texas. You don't want to miss this fun, monthly event. Vendor applications must be submitted online.

Understanding Irrigation Systems & Technology for Pecans

AUG. 27 • ARDMORE, OK

Noble Research Institute Kruse Auditorium, Entry 5, 2510 Sam Noble Pkwy. Ardmore, OK. 9 a.m. to noon. This course will allow you to gain a better understanding of different irrigation systems and the technologies that you can use to develop irrigation scheduling. No registration fee. Registration closes for this Noble event on Aug. 20. For more information visit www.noble.org/events.

Antique Tractor and Farm Machinery Show

AUG. 31 - SEPT. 1 • GAINESVILLE

2228 FM 1199, Gainesville, TX 76250. Join us for the 34th annual Antique Tractor and Farm Machinery Show. Events include water threshing, hay baling, small engine displays, tractor races, tractor parade, and more. Show starts at 11 a.m. each day, and gates open at 9 a.m. Lunch and refreshments are available. Admission is \$5 for adults, and children under 12 get in free. For more information, call 940-665-6823 or 940-736-4541.

So You Want to Grow Pecans

SEPT. 3 • ARDMORE, OK

Noble Research Institute Kruse Auditorium, Entry 5, 2510 Sam Noble Pkwy., Ardmore, OK. 73401. Pecan culture presents unique management challenges not to mention the need for specialized equipment. Join Noble Research Institute horticulturists as they review the various production and management practices required for successful pecan production. Registration closes Aug. 27. Visit www.noble.org/events.



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SEPT. 3**



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NORTH TEXAS FAIR AND RODEO

A time-honored tradition

Embassy photo

By Dani Blackburn

From bull riders to magicians, the North Texas Fair and Rodeo has something for everyone to enjoy during the 91st annual celebration Aug. 16-24.

This North Texas time-honored tradition is not only an opportunity to create lasting memories with friends and family, but as a product of the North Texas State Fair Association, a 501 (c) (3) corporation, funds raised are poured back into the community it serves.

It is an event rooted in tradition, dating back as far as 1885 when W.H. Pierce and A.H. Gee showed prized livestock, referred to as blooded stock at the time, in Dallas.

"They didn't really get too much recognition because the Dallas State Fair and Exposition was so big. They wouldn't really win or place very highly," explained Executive Assistant Nanci Kimmey, who also co-authored "North Texas State Fair and Rodeo," a book covering the storied history of the event.

The pair returned to Denton County and formed the Denton

County Blooded Stock and Livestock Association around the year 1885, which included a livestock show where their stock would win grand champion and reserve champion. They returned to Dallas as champions and began to receive the recognition they deserved for their breed.

"It started out as a necessity because they were not being recognized the way they should. The Denton County Blooded Stock Association continued for years and years," said Kimmey.

W.H. Pierce served as the first president. In its early days, the event was a simple livestock show on 40 acres where the University of North Texas campus now sits. Along with the livestock shows, there was a racetrack where quarter horse and thoroughbred races would take place, paying \$100 and \$500 respectively, to the winners.

However, the big highlight was the mule races, where the winning jockey would receive \$5, but the second would receive three gallons of elderberry wine.

"Everyone would pull up at the

finish line because they all wanted to be second," laughed Kimmey. "No one cared about the \$5; they all wanted the wine."

As the event continued to grow, its location changed several times up until 1948, when Dr. W.C. Kimbrough sold the Denton County Fair and Ag Association the current location consisting of 22 acres for \$5, and the event has been there ever since. At the time, the only thing on the grounds was a barrack, which is now Fair Hall. Inside was a school desk, but the barrack was part of Camp Howze, the Gainesville prisoner-of-war camp, and had been moved to that location in 1940.

"Because of that and the historic significance of the Fair Hall Building and our important contribution to the agriculture world, we were awarded a historic subject marker in 2012. We were one of the first events in the state to be awarded this, which means the historic significance is in the event and not the real estate," explained Kimmey.

Anyone who has visited the fair in recent years knows it has long

outgrown its current location, and the association looks forward to expanding the event in the next five years on a new 109-acre location west of Interstate 35 between Milam Road and Ganzer Road. Of course, the historical marker will be along for the move.

However, for now the fun continues at the location it has called home for more than 60 years at 2217 N. Carroll Blvd. in Denton. Today the event is a product of the hard work and dedication of the North Texas State Fair Association and is known to all as the North Texas Fair and Rodeo. The name was changed in 1971 by James Roden from the Denton County Ag Fair Association. He was the first paid executive director from 1983-1999 and also served as the president of the Texas Association of Fairs and Events in 1990. Ken Burdick succeeded the first director from 2000 to 2005, when Glenn Carlton, who still serves today, stepped into the position.

"There are not very many people who get to be in the business of making memories for other

people, and that's what we do. We work really hard, not that it is not stressful, but the bottom line is when we are out on the grounds, or in the arena with the No Limits show, when you see the faces, all of that just rolls away. I am very fortunate to be in the position and hold the position that I have in the organization," said Kimmey.

Carlton and Kimmey don't do it alone. They are part of a full-time staff of three, including Jacee Kiefer, the marketing and media manager, who work with a whopping 765 volunteers, roughly.

"Those volunteers are broken up into more than 45 committees. It's like a department store with different departments within it, is the easiest way to explain it. Each committee has its chairs and co-chairs. There are second, third, even fourth generation families who have volunteered for the fair," explained Kiefer.

See FAIR page 61



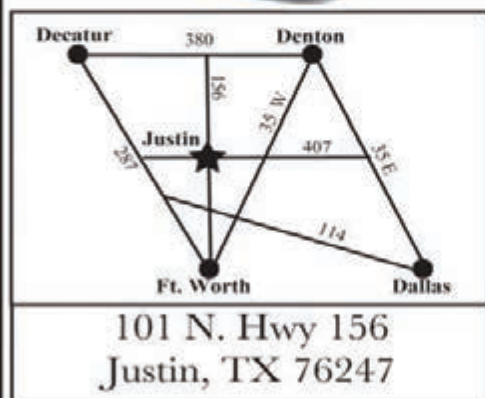
Dr. W.C. Kimbrough sold the Denton County Fair and Ag Association 22 acres for \$5 in 1948. (Courtesy photo)



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The employees and volunteers have their work cut out for them as they prepare for this year's upcoming event as hundreds of thousands roll into Denton for nine days of fun and excitement.

There is truly something for everyone with a carnival, creative arts contest, cooking contest, photography contest, youth art contest, youth livestock shows, swifty swine swimming and racing pigs, beauty pageant, mutton bustin', PRCA Rodeo, Ranch Rodeo, 21 and under rodeo, bull blow out, and a cowboy protection match. The event is known for bringing the hottest country music talent to its stage each August, and 2019 will be no exception. Concerts each night will feature North Texas favorites like Jake Hooker, Parker McCollum, Kody West, Ned LeDoux, Pat Green and Tracy Lawrence.

New this year is Jason D'Vaude, the one-man circus, and the fair will feature the second annual No Limits Livestock Show for special needs children.

Last year, the show saw 30 faces light up as they took place in the first annual event. This year, volunteers and participants are needed. The event is open to all ages.

"Families look forward to the fair and rodeo every year. They even take vacations to make it. It has a huge impact on tourism," said Kiefer.

Other events take place throughout the year to help raise funds for the community, including the golf tournament in October and barbecue cook off in December.

Not only does the hard work pay off in making memories for others, but the money raised by the nonprofit is given back to the local youth and residents. Right around \$500,000 is put back into the community annually through



The 2019 North Texas Fair and Rodeo will feature the second annual No Limits Livestock Show for special needs children. (Courtesy photo)



Exhibition Hall Perspective

North Texas
FAIR & RODEO

A rendering of the future North Texas Expo Center. (Courtesy photo)

Priefert
COMPLEX DESIGNS

scholarships, prize money for livestock shows, educational exhibits at the fair and other community nonprofits.

The association also rents facilities to local 4-H groups, county extension agency and others for meetings and tag ins.

"How many jobs are able to

give to so many?" asked Kimme. "We are able to donate back to the community, help grow and nourish the different youth programs here in town and teach kids about agriculture."

"Everything is so technology motivated, you have to stop and really make a conservative effort

to sit back and learn about ag and where food comes from that keeps you alive."

The North Texas Fair and Rodeo is the place to do just that while having a memorable experience at the same time. For more information and a full schedule, visit www.ntfair.com.[®]



Confessions of a Hunter

By Andy Anderson

Princess Hunter

She is all of five years old, about three and half feet tall, long brown hair and the biggest most beautiful blue eyes. She is a charmer; quick and witty with her words and full of love and compassion.

She loves music, dancing and just about anything and everything little girls her age do. She is my daughter and her name is Clara. Clara is a girl through and through. Her first words were “oh, shoes” and she has a lot of them.

She loves her dresses, dolls, stuffed animals and doll houses. She plays dress up, often changing 20 times in an hour. However, she likes to get outside and play hard. If there is a mud hole, she will be right in the middle of it and within a few minutes be covered head to toe in mud.

Sometimes I have the honor of watching Clara for the day. Just a day she and I get to hang together, and it was one of those days, just she and I left to take on the world. I needed to tend to feeders and a number of other things on the ranch.

I was getting her ready, facing a barrage of inquisitive questions about the day’s activities. I could tell in her mind she thought we were going hunting. I got her all dressed up in the typical dad fashion of boots, jeans and a sweater.

I pulled her hair back and did my best to put it in a ponytail. We were about to head out the door, she was hot on my heels and super excited to go with me, when all of a sudden, she yells out for me to



Clara Anderson is the apple of her dad’s eye. (Photo courtesy Andy Anderson)

wait, turns, and runs back to her room. Clara is in there for about five minutes. I call out for her and told her to hurry up, we needed to go. About that time, she rounds the corner into the kitchen wearing a pink tutu. With a giggle I asked if

she was ready, she smiled and said she needed to feel pretty.

I grabbed a rifle from the gun safe, again with a barrage of questions. Clara was insistent in carrying the rifle to the truck. Ensuring the weapon was safe, I handed it

to her. It was bigger than her and nearly more weight than what she could handle, but she wrapped it in her arms and off she went.

During our ride to the ranch we discussed many important things; like where do clouds come from

and how does peanut butter get into a jar, and why is it called peanut butter; its not butter, butter is yellow.

One thing we talked about was the rifle, she was very curious about it. I answered every question she had and then some. I didn't want to hold anything back, I wanted to take the curiosity out of the equation. Curiosity is why kids play with toys and other things they are not supposed to.

As we went on about our day, checking feeders, pastures for sign of wildlife and crop conditions. Clara got to see an abundance of wildlife. Her favorite of course being the whitetail fawns. During fawning season, she is lucky enough to hold one or as many as she can fit in her arms at one time.

Clara loves the animals, but it's pretty clear she understands what hunting is and why I do the things I do. We spend more time caring for the animals and their habitat than we do hunting. She also prefers venison over beef.

She can taste the difference. Clara expressed an understanding that daddy hunts to put food on the table and to pay bills.

Our day came to an end and off to bed she went. The next day I headed out to guide some clients on a hog hunt. As I was headed out the door, Clara had to ask what I was up to. After a brief explanation and a big hug and kisses I was out the door.

I returned home and as I was opening the door, I could hear the kids scurrying to greet me, yelling in excitement.

Just as I broke the threshold of the doorway, Clara rounded the corner. She stops dead in her tracks, looks right at me and asks, "Did ya kill any pigs?" I said, "No baby not yet." With slumping shoulders, and a disappointed frown she says, "Awe man, no new shoes then?" I giggled and told her maybe another time.

She is the apple of my eye and a huge threat to my wallet, but I love her and, of course, I will keep her well stocked in shoes and tutus.®

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Grazing North Texas

By Tony Dean

Stocking Rate - Should I Be That Concerned? Volume 3

Other factors to consider in managing stocking rate

The decision a rancher makes on stocking rate has both short and longterm effects on land, livestock and economics of a business, making it essential a rancher have knowledge regarding correct stocking rates. Fortunately, Tony Dean is sharing his knowledge regarding stocking rates in a four part series. Read below for the third segment in "Stocking Rate - Should I Be That Concerned?"

My useable acres?

When making a decision on carrying capacity, we should inventory our pastures to get an idea of "useable" acres. Most of us have acres that livestock will use very little, if at all, for grazing, and we should not count on these areas for grass production.

For example, dense brush is of little grazing value due to very poor or no grass growth. In some instances, producers consider using some form of brush management and/or grass seeding to increase cover of perennial grasses. However, this can be an expensive process and the benefits and costs should be carefully thought out.

Where brush is or is likely to be a problem, producers should consider developing an "annual maintenance" philosophy, and treat a portion each year to spread the cost out rather than wait until the solution seems too great to



This area used to be completely covered by King Ranch bluestem. Under grazing management the last nine years, which has included a reasonable stocking rate and rotation grazing, high quality native grasses are beginning to establish. The two larger plants in the foreground are Indiangrass, and Little bluestem is establishing in the background. The increased diversity of grasses benefits both livestock and wildlife. No seed was applied. (Photo courtesy Tony Dean)

address. There are many options available in brush management, and sound advice from a professional grazing specialist could assist in developing a good plan.

If a producer is interested in wildlife habitat, some areas of brush should probably be maintained as part of a wildlife

management program. However, where brush covers a high percentage of the land, it is often beneficial to clear selected areas. Most wildlife are "edge effect" species and like to have access to both open areas for feeding and brushy areas for escape cover.

Producers should also be aware

of sites on the ranch that are extremely rough, very remote, etc., which are used very little by livestock.

Size of livestock can influence stocking rate.

A 1,400 pound cow will consume approximately 42 pounds
See GRAZING page 67



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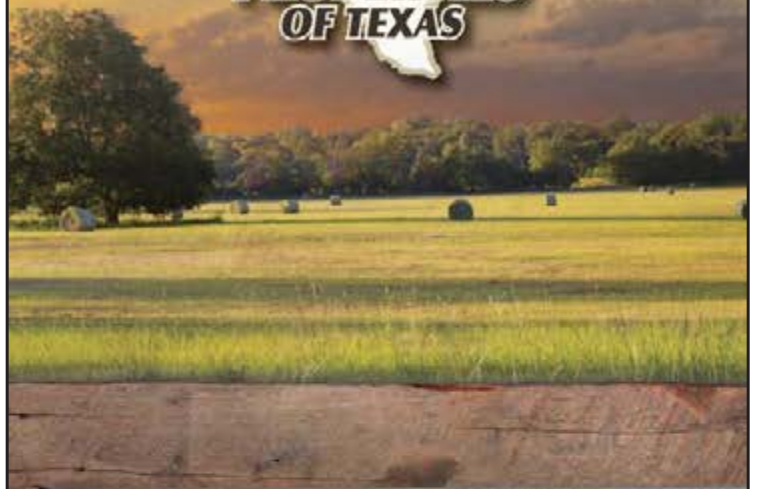
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Grazing

Continued from page 64

of forage per day, while an 1,100 pound cow requires about 33 pounds. A 900 pound cow, very common 70 years ago, would require only about 27 pounds. This important consideration is often overlooked by many ranchers when calculating number of cattle to run. Many of us probably tend to underestimate the size of our cattle. This may be one reason why our father or grandfather ran a certain number of head and we are having trouble doing it now with our larger cattle.

Grazing distribution.

Maintaining dependable sources of livestock water is essential to successful grazing management. Loss of available water in certain areas of the ranch during dry conditions usually results in overgrazing of areas that still have adequate water. All of our grazing management efforts are of no benefit if we run out of stock water.

Location of salt and mineral can influence where cattle graze throughout the ranch. Placement of salt and mineral can be used to encourage cattle to move into areas not normally grazed and potentially increase useable acres. Additional water sources can also draw cattle to isolated areas.

Added fencing can be used to hold cattle on areas where they normally don't spend much grazing time.

Rotation grazing systems.

Rotation grazing systems enable ranchers to combine livestock into groups and move them from pasture to pasture. While some pastures are being grazed, others are being rested. The length of the rest period should be designed to allow enough time for the grazed plants to fully recover before being grazed again. These rest/graze systems, when properly designed, can be very beneficial to grazing land health.



Katie Sccarbrough from Henrietta demonstrates the difference in the amount of forage a 900 pound cow (the average cow weight 60 years ago) would eat in a day, and the amount a 1,400 pound cow would eat today. The amount of forage a larger cow would consume is a factor to consider in setting a stocking rate. Sccarbrough is employed by Wellborn 2R Ranch at Henrietta. She helps with ranch work on 2R and launched Wellborn 2R branded beef for owner Chris Wellborn. (Photo courtesy Tony Dean)

A grazing system can be very simple or very complex, utilizing good system can help reduce spot grazing, which is the under use or

“Beginning a ranch grazing system requires adequate planning to be successful. No grazing system will be a success if the starting stocking rate is too heavy.”

two or three pastures or a large number of pastures, depending upon the goals of the rancher. By grouping livestock together and increasing density of animals as they move through the pastures, a

over use of parts of a pasture. A system can also increase the plane of nutrition for the cow herd as grazing land health improves.

Improvement in health, vitality and cover of forages can take time.

Thus, in many cases, the benefits of using rotation grazing will not immediately include increasing numbers of livestock. If grasses respond favorably to a rotation system, then an increase in stocking rate could be considered at a later date.

Dr. Ron Sosebee, Professor Emeritus with Texas Tech University's Department of Natural Resources Management, indicates that any rest from grazing can benefit grasses, but the resting schedule should include fall months following seed production. During this time, grasses put on some new
See GRAZING page 68

Grazing

Continued from page 67

basal leaves in an effort to create and store energy to be used in maintaining the plant in the winter months and to put out new growth the next spring.

Beginning a ranch grazing system requires adequate planning to be successful. No grazing system will be a success if the starting stocking rate is too heavy.

Diversity

Diversity on grazing lands refers to the number of different grazing plants available to livestock. As grazing land managers, we are realizing that diversity is an important factor in the health and productivity of our pastures. This is especially true when diversity includes the higher quality grasses and forbs.

"The most effective preparation for drought is actually proper grazing of our grasses in the good years."

Pastures sometimes turn out to be populated by a very small number of grasses or forbs. One of the classic examples of this is the existence of many acres of almost pure Little bluestem. This instance often occurs due to many years of grazing on Little blue with very little opportunity for resting the pasture.

A rest/graze rotation on native Little bluestem, along with the proper stocking rate, can benefit the diversity of Bluestem pastures.

Over time, this process will usually result in a natural increase of high quality plants such as Indiangrass. The Indiangrass plants are sometimes still there in the pasture, along with other species, and the rest periods gives them a chance to grow and reach their potential. New plants also are generated from seed existing in the soil, partially due to the hoof action applied by livestock.

Increased diversity of grasses that results from using a proper

stocking rate, and perhaps a rotation system, often leads to increased ground cover due to new plants filling in the bare areas between existing plants.

King Ranch bluestem, an introduced grass, is another species that is often found growing as a monoculture in North Texas pastures. Diversity also can be increased in King Ranch bluestem when good grazing management is applied.

"An analogy can be made that Old World Bluestem (including King Ranch), can be a very productive forage producer when a properly applied grazing program is utilized. However, don't get too attached to it, as the Indiangrass just might overtake its dominance. As for me, I'll take the diversity

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and with the rangeland grass manager's caring hand and nature's awesome influence, the improving rangeland resource appears to be secure," Frank Price from Sterling City, Texas, said.

The Frank and Sims Price Ranch received the National Cattlemen's Beef Association National Environmental Stewardship Award in 2013.

Drought can have lasting effects.

The drought that began in most of the Southwest in 2011 and lasted several years emphasized the fact that matching stocking rate with available forage production is a critical decision. Dr. Sosebee predicted in an October 2011 "Drought in Texas" article that the current drought was "worse than it's ever been. I maintain that the drought of the 1950s impacted our rangeland vegetation enough that following the 1950s, the rangelands were never like they were

prior to then," he said. "I suggest that following this drought we won't be like we were prior to the time it occurred."

Every producer should have a "drought plan" in mind. A drought plan defines actions to be taken when the amount of forage produced is lower than normal. This could involve selling calves a little early, reducing numbers of livestock, leasing other pasture or a combination of these and other actions.

Most of our grass production takes place in spring months, and if you haven't produced much grass by July 1, then available forage is going to be short the rest of the year and action should be taken to prevent serious over use of the grasses. One strategy used by a number of ranchers is to have 20 to 30 percent of a stocking rate being grazed in the form of stockers that can be moved or sold in dry years rather than having to reduce the

core cow herd.

The most effective preparation for drought is actually proper grazing of our grasses in the good years. When rangelands go into a drought in good condition with a healthy grass cover and strong root systems, they are much more likely to come out of the drought with less damage.

Dry years followed by wet or normal years make a correct stocking rate a challenge because forage production is different every year. This makes the ideal stocking rate a moving target, but, if a ranch is already stocked at a moderate rate rather than a heavy rate, the adjustments needed to deal with drought might be a little less painful.

Grass lease agreements often influence stocking rates.

Cattlemen and landowners who are in grass leasing agreements should work with each other to find a stocking rate that will make it beneficial to both parties. This

is sometimes a difficult task and requires a lot of honesty and communication.

If a grass lease ranch is continually overgrazed, it eventually becomes less productive and of lower value to all concerned. One way to compromise is to agree on a per head lease in which the landowner is guaranteed at least a minimum income, but a lease that will allow the rancher to decrease his lease payments when he needs to reduce his numbers due to drought or other conditions.

David Kitner – Manager – Killam Properties Ltd

David Kitner first began managing the Killam Properties Duval County Ranch in South Texas in 2001. The large ranch was characterized by extremely low forage production, dense brush, lots of bare ground and a weakening wildlife population. This condition was the result of many years

See GRAZING page 71

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Grazing

Continued from page 69

of continuous overgrazing by livestock along with over hunting of the valuable wildlife resources.

The increasing brush canopy was choking out any remaining grass, and South Texas was in the grips of a drought. Prickly pear was being burned to feed cattle. Kitner and owner David Killam agreed to a drastic plan to rebuild range health and begin the healing process.

"It takes time and money, and we had to remove cattle for three years," Kitner said. After three years, they began restocking, at first with light calves. Then Kitner brought in cows from another Killam ranch.

As he was able to bring stock numbers up, Kitner also began a rotational grazing program, although many told him that it

wouldn't work on such large pastures with limited rainfall. He proved that pasture size and limited rainfall were just excuses and not reasons to fail. The ranch has been in a rotational system ever since and this has been one of the keys to the amazing improvement in grass cover.

"Cattle are a tool we use," he said. "We rotate them in big herds. The hoof action helps those capped soils open up to the next rain so it all doesn't run off."

Stockers had been run on the ranch before, and Kitner made sure to again include stockers as a large part of the cattle operation. "We did this not only because it made economic sense, but also to give us flexibility in reducing numbers during drought," he said.

"We also developed some critical dates that trigger action when rainfall is low and grass production goes down," he said. "When we reach those dates in dry years, we put wheels under those stockers and get them off the ranch. We'll either move them to another location or get them sold."

As he developed the grazing system and learned how many cattle the ranch could safely support, Kitner also developed an extensive watering system.

With continued support of the owners, and with great tenacity and his commitment to stewardship of the land, Kitner has turned the resources on this ranch around. The land is now covered by thriving vegetation that protects the land and supports a viable cattle operation and healthy wildlife

population.

"Some people would have stuffed more cattle in here than we do," Kitner said. "But I'm a glass-half-empty guy. I want to be able to weather a drought without hurting the land. I'd rather give up a little gain and keep the grass healthy and productive. It's what will keep us profitable in the long run."

Killam Properties Ltd was awarded the 2018 Outstanding Rangeland Stewardship award by the Texas Section Society for Range Management. The ranch is now entered in the National Environmental Stewardship competition sponsored by the NCBA.

In the final volume of this series next month, we will examine our important responsibilities as grazing land managers.®

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THE GARDEN GUY

By Norman Winter | Horticulturist, Author, Speaker

Adirondack Chairs Provides Relaxing Time Outdoors

I was once told that your outdoor furniture should entice visitors or yourself, for that matter, to sit and relax for an extended period of time. Today the choice of outdoor furniture is staggering and indeed is almost as complicated as picking out your plant material.

Just like there are old time favorites or plants that have reached heirloom status such as the fragrant gardenia, there also are furniture styles that have stood the test of time.

One such style that you see today as prominently as ever is the Adirondack chair. This is one you can sit in with your favorite beverage, a copy of North Texas Farm and Ranch and enjoy passing the time.

Whether it's been the beach, a bed and breakfast or the resort tucked away in the mountains, almost everyone has experienced the Adirondack chair.

Oddly enough, its existence is not as old as one might think. Thomas Lee is credited with its design in 1903 while looking for the perfect furniture for his summer home in Westport, N.Y. His friend Harry Bunnell, a carpenter, got a patent in 1904 and started manufacturing the chairs, then called Westport Chairs.

Originally the chairs had 11 pieces and were made of hemlock and were painted green or brown.

Today they have evolved: they may have 11 pieces or many more, made of various woods like mahogany, cypress, teak, cedar, and even out of man-made resin. They also are available in chairs, love seats, rockers, gliders and chaise lounges.

The ones you sat in at the beach were probably white; I have had bright yellow ones. My friend Barbara Harvey in Kosciusko, Miss., however, has probably demonstrated a couple of the better outdoor-room designs with her furniture.

The first I'll mention is really as pretty as a painting. The Adirondack chairs are a brilliant hot pink and separated by a matching table. The sitting area is flanked by tall crape myrtles of similar color.

On the table is a containerized geranium, with tropical flamingo like- pink.

In a shadier location, Barbara has clustered her Adirondack furniture in front of an outdoor fireplace that is situated adjacent to an outdoor workroom that is similar to her turn of the See **GARDEN GUY** page 74



A passion for purple. (Photos courtesy Norman Winter)



GARDEN GUY

Continued from page 73

century cottage style home.

Here she uses an Adirondack style love seat with a set of matching chairs, coffee table and end table.

In this secluded retreat, green is the predominant color including the furniture color, which might best be described as soothing and inviting. Trees and shrubs surround the area, with additional interesting texture from containers growing the succulent paddle plant, the fine leafed asparagus fern and just the right splash of pink color from begonias.

Who knows if Lee could have foreseen all of the colors and design possibilities using his design or that it would be popular from coast to coast, beach to the mountains and everything in between. Lucky for us, he and Bunnell forever put their stamp on outdoor living.

After a hard day's work on the North Texas farm or ranch, there is no better way to relax than a big glass of ice tea while sitting in an Adirondack chair.®



Make a living room around your fireplace just like you do inside. (Photos courtesy Norman Winter)



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PARTING SHOT



Pookie Jo: Going over the basics....

He had spent a lot of time by this little water trough, watching everyone, human and animal alike, hang around after powering through the heat. Now he tries to see if he can find goldfish touching the surface or giant green frogs hanging around the rim of the cement while cattle get worked beyond them. He's known to occasionally dip half his body in from accidentally over projecting his footing, and somehow he's the cleanest he's been in days from other curious dogs pushing him in the water on accident while being nosy. A tale of twists and turns, belly flops and moon beams. Pookie Jo illustrating the quirky side of canine life. (Photo and description by Jelly Cocanougher) 

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Bobby Norris-
\$2,400,000



GRAFORD

Venado Canyon Ranch is 386+/- acs of one of the finest recreational ranches in the area! Possum Kingdom Lake is just minutes away. A 2 Brm cabin sits at one of the highest points on the ranch overlooking the 4 ac lake. Home sells furnished. Perfect for running cattle, horses and hunting. Blinds and feeders included, fence in excellent condition with solar powered well.

Bobby Norris -
\$1,228,468



NOCONA, TX

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

Bobby Norris- **\$390,000**



POOLVILLE, TX

Fantastic view and location to build you a home on. Total 17 acres (7 acre tract & 10 acres tract) each tract has a well. The 10 acres has well, septic, 3 carport, very clean 2016-38 foot travel trailer with 2 slid-outs. Also a John Deere model 4555 tractor can be bought separate. Need to look at the property.

Pete Rehm- **\$245,000**



CLEBURNE

This beautiful custom-built 4 bed, 4 bath home features an elevated view on over 20 manicured acres. Gated entry off a dead-end road guarantees privacy. Just outside Cleburne and 10 minutes to Chisholm Trail Pkwy. The custom features of this designer home will capture your eye. From the stone exterior to the custom flooring and counters. Ample room for a growing family.

Bobby Norris-
\$839,000



WEATHERFORD

Freshly remodeled 3 bedroom 2 bath home on 5 acs, just 11 minutes from the square in Weatherford. New paint inside and out. Lots of natural light. Large kitchen and spacious living room. Master bedroom with walk-in closet and en suite bath. Mudroom with laundry and hard surface floors throughout. All of this on 5 acs to enjoy as you please.

Gabe Webster-
\$280,000



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Gabe Webster
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