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# INTER

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# And all at once...

**H**ello readers and welcome to the October issue of North Texas Farm and Ranch magazine. I hope by the time you read this, cooler temperatures will have finally arrived, bringing some relief for our farmers and ranchers. As Oscar Wilde said, "And all at once, summer collapsed into fall." Of course, this is Texas, so summer will probably return at least once or twice, then collapse into fall again.

As cooler temperatures arrive, so does the busiest time of year. When my family is not in the basketball

gym with my two sons or watching my brother-in-law play, my husband and sons are out in the fields bonding over coyote sightings and rifles, while more often than not I am left at home with a blonde curly headed little girl....at least for now. It will be no time before the little daddy's girl is trumping along behind her father and brothers. In between all the excitement, the cattle and kids must be fed, and the holidays will soon arrive, offering up time with loved ones and a chance to remember what is truly important.

As busy as my life gets, I'm not sure it will ever compare to the eventful times of this month's profile. College football player, Marine, salesman, wildcatter, cattle and horse rancher, professional television and movie actor and team penner - that is not a list of the careers of multiple individuals, but the accomplishments of a single man by the name of Ken Farmer. These careers only led him to his true passion, when at the age of 69, he found his calling as a novelist.

Also in this issue, Jelly Cocanougher begins her new column, and this month's topic is dove hunting. Pepper Stewart gets us in the mood for Halloween by providing his take on spirits. Turn the pages to read about fall calving, a rodeo funny man who brought a 60-year career full circle, the importance of everyday life, sunflowers, the Texas Polled Hereford queen, a true Texas musician, caring for boar goats, weed control, the Texas High School Rodeo Association state champion saddle bronc rider and stink bait hot pockets - yep, you read that right. Our contributors are full of great things this issue and I can't wait for you to read.

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

Wishing you all the best this October.

*Dani Blackburn, editor*

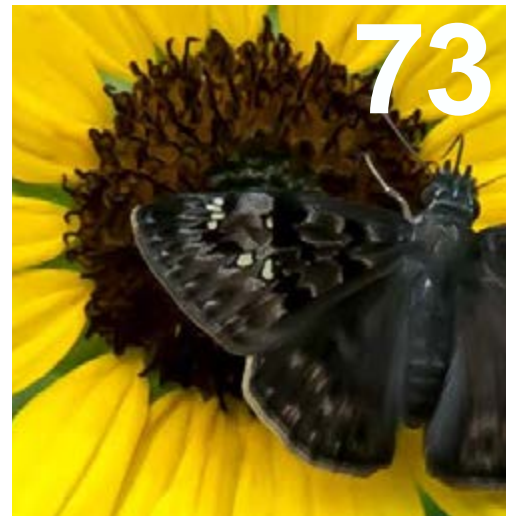


## ON THE COVER

Ken Farmer flashes a smile for the camera at his home in Gainesville, where he has been spinning out best-selling novels for almost a decade. Prior to becoming a bestselling author, Farmer served his country as a Marine, played college football, was a true wildcatter, owned a ranch and discovered his love for acting when he landed the role for a Dairy Queen commercial introducing the BeltBuster. The commercial led to a 40-plus year career in front of the camera, where his talent for storytelling was apparent, a gift he continues to use in his writing. (Photo by Dani Blackburn)



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### Ken Farmer

Ken Farmer of Gainesville, Texas, has lived life to the fullest, with careers as a Marine, professional television and movie actor, rancher, wildcatter and more. They all led him to his true passion, writing novels.





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# SOCIALIZING

## TWITTER FEED




The North Texas Fair and Rodeo provided two weeks of fun, including the night Pat Green rocked the stage. Follow North Texas Fair and Rodeo on Facebook and Twitter as they begin preparations for the 2020 event.

## FACEBOOK WALL




We would like to thank Lindsey Walls for her kind words, and for playing such a big role in the August issue of NTFR featuring her longtime friend, Shelly Mowery. We look forward to seeing what the future holds for both of these wonderful women.

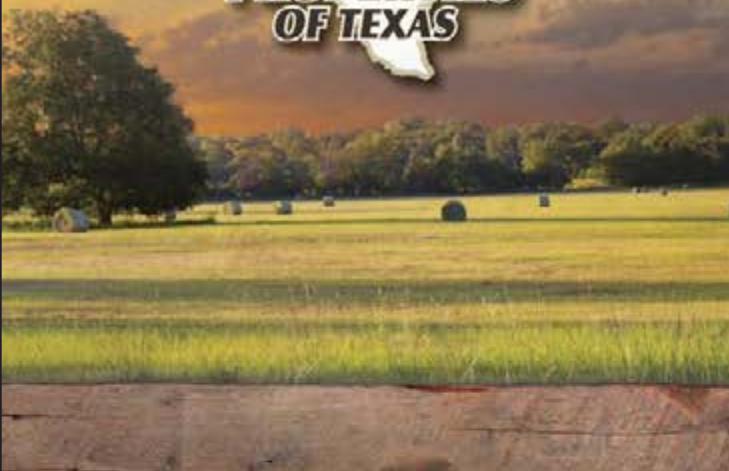



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# MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

By Rayford Pullen | [rcpullen@yahoo.com](mailto:rcpullen@yahoo.com)

**L**ate August and early September rains allowed us to get our discing done, our ground packed and our ryegrass seed and fertilizer broadcast.

Now all we need is moisture and good growing conditions the next few weeks and our fall and winter grazing will be made, but when you're farming outdoors anything can happen but since we do we are required to be optimists, which we are, and hopefully we will have at least somewhat normal or above normal moisture. Let's keep our fingers crossed and our optimism high for the weather and our pastures.

Fall calving is underway here at Pullen Angus and in addition to our fall calving cows we have 40 first calf heifers shelling out calves like clockwork. Bred to our low birthweight bulls and having heifers weighing about 1,000 pounds, we don't expect any problems, but we do check them twice a day to be on the safe side.

If you're wanting a good set of foundation cows to build a herd around, this group of heifers will do the trick. These heifers all bred early and will calve in about a six week window. If you're interested, just give us a call, text or send us an e-mail.

Since we have both a fall and a spring calving herd, we are in the process of weaning our spring born calves. If you can fence line wean your calves, you will reduce stress on the calves and have a lot less sickness.

It really doesn't take a net wire fence to do this, but it does require a decent fence. This allows the cows and calves to actually touch each other, and after about three to four days, the cows will begin to wander away from their calves, and the calves will wander away



Let's keep our fingers crossed and our optimism high for the weather and our pastures in the coming weeks. (Photo courtesy Rayford Pullen)

from the fence, and life is good for both groups.

You cannot put them back in the same pasture for a while or they will begin nursing. Like your kids, this is a huge step for them not having mom looking over them and not quite sure what they can or cannot do.

If you are retaining your calves to run on winter pasture, now is a great time to give their initial set of vaccinations for the various viral diseases, blackleg again and deworm. Normally the viral disease vaccines will need to be boosted (repeated) in two to three weeks. That's what we do and have been getting along with this program for many years.

On calves we cannot fence line wean, we will give them an intranasal vaccine for the viral complex using a product called Enforce 3. This will provide about six weeks of immunity and it goes to work immediately. The first six

weeks after weaning is the time these cattle are most susceptible to getting sick and this even works great if you are going to buy cattle to turn out this fall. You still need to give the modified live vaccines mentioned above, but this will buy you a little time to get these cattle straightened out in the first 45 days.


Having calves not getting sick and not requiring antibiotic treatment is one of the biggest concerns of our customers. Whatever we can do to add value to our calves is important, but it also is important to do our best to keep them from getting sick for our buyers.

Whether you have a short load or a truck load, finding or getting to know potential buyers and letting them know what you are doing to reduce stress and the vaccinations you are giving, will make them glad to get them and hopefully give a premium over what calves with unknown vac-


cinations and handling receive. It also is in the best interest of the entire beef cattle business to do the right things for ourselves and our customers.

We're about six weeks away from our first frost of the year (Nov. 15) in our neck of the woods. If you feed lots of hay but have lots of standing forage when the first freeze occurs, the forage will maintain its nutritional quality for about two to three weeks.

That will put you into December before you will need to supplement protein, and if you still have pretty good standing forage, supplementing protein for the next two to three weeks will get you into January before you need to feed hay. While this will not work for those with little or no forage, it may be something to consider as we try to keep our overhead down and our profits higher.

It's a wonderful time to be in the cattle business. 





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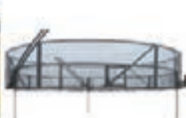
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# AG *elsewhere* SCOTLAND

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 Scotland sheep farm. 



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# AG *elsewhere* MONTANA

PHOTO | DESCRIPTION BY LINDSEY MONK

Fall brings a variety of seeds, including Hounds Tongue.  
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# RANCH, Rodeo & Randomness

By Pepper Stewart



## ARE GHOSTS REALLY AMONG US?

There are many people who believe in supernatural, paranormal, ghosts and spirits. Are you one of those? Have you personally had an experience with something you couldn't explain?

Many religions are based on it with massive followings worldwide of spirits and beings they've never seen but fully submit to daily. What kind of spirits are out there? Only good and evil or are there additional ones in the mix? In my youth I watched plenty of the Twilight Zone episodes and it always got my mind spinning.

Tales of ghosts and spirits have been around since the beginning of time in folk lore, bedtime stories and campfire tales. My thoughts on the subject are similar to a wasp nest: if you poke at it you just might get stung. Same with poking at spirits: if you get ahold of one it might not be what you expected. I've seen the exorcist.

My wife is a believer, but I'm skeptic and we often travel to places to stay in the haunted rooms and tour active sites. We take along a bag of paranormal investigation equipment hoping to capture some activity, but it's not been easy. For those active paranormal places, it just so happens the night we are there the ghosts are out for the night or on vacation.

Depending on where you are, here is a short list of the



A room in the Excelsior House in Jefferson, Texas. (Photo courtesy Pepper Stewart)

most active haunted places we have visited:


- Miss Molly's & Stonehouse Hotel in the Stockyards Fort Worth, Texas.
- Haunted Hill House in Mineral Wells, Texas.
- Excelsior House in Jefferson, Texas.
- The Tudor Rose Hotel in Gloucestershire England.
- The Black Horse Pub in Pluckley England.
- Kytellers Inn in Kilkenny Ireland.

Some say it's just your mind playing tricks on you while others fully believe we are not alone on this earth. I've never had anything happen to me or seen any supernatural activity at any of these haunted locations. I'd admit it does feel a little creepy walking around these places, mainly in the dark, which adds to the unknown.

Being in the dark, it's easy for your mind to wander and paranoia to kick in. I've often thought "Why does it have to be night-

time? Why are the lights off? Do ghosts and spirits only come out at night?"

Too often my mind wanders maybe a little much. Could it be that I'm trying too hard not to see anything, or do the spirits only reach out to those who seek them? There is possibly a spirit right behind you reading along with you.

Some of you have had something happen you couldn't explain, so tell us about it. I'd like to hear your story. 



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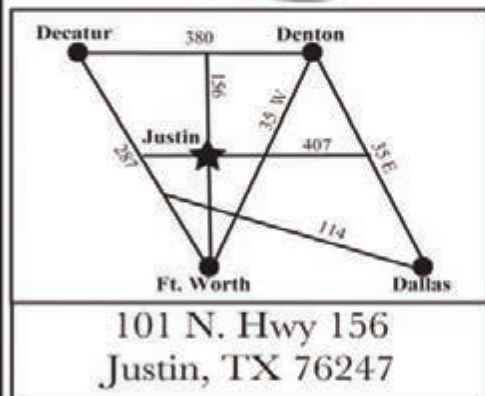
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# LAND MARKET REPORT

## AUGUST 2019 RURAL LAND SALES

This summer has proven to be an odd year for land sales in North Texas and Southern Oklahoma. While August is typically a very slow month for closings, this August proved to be very sporadic. While Montague County had zero transactions close, Wise County had a much busier month than in 2018. Title companies are reporting that month-to-date for September has been non-stop closings, indicative of a very busy August for writing contracts. As we enter into fall, we can expect an increase in calls and showings for rural properties for various reasons: tax advantages, recreational use and increased production property.

There is still the ever present demand for recreational tracts and ag production land, which far outweighs the available supply. If you are on the fence about selling land, this is a good time to talk to a rural property specialist to see just what your property might sell for. As we approach the end of the year, this is a good time to get a reality check on your property value if, for no other reason, you can update your financial statements.

### COOKE COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Gainesville	11.494	\$8,265.18	88.87%	88
Gainesville	11.0	\$12,636.36	100%	101
Valley View	65	\$14,165.01	91.64%	65
Gainesville	75	\$4,750	100%	93
AVERAGES:	29.04	\$9,954.14	95.2%	87

NOTE: There were NO land transactions for August of 2018.

### DENTON COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Sanger	10.66	\$15,666.04	93.3%	18
Justin	19.874	\$27,171.18	90%	64
AVERAGES	15.267	\$21,418.61	91.65%	41

NOTE: There were three land transactions for August of 2018.

### MONTAGUE COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
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There were no sales in Montague County for the month of August.

NOTE: There were 4 transactions for August 2018.

### WISE COUNTY

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Alvord	17.21	\$5,257.01	78.33%	321
Paradise	10.3	\$12,718.45	97.04%	94
Decatur	10.01	\$13,486.51	101.5%	134
Rhome	19.67	\$8,986.27	88.38%	6
Paradise	13.669	\$12,985.59	100%	37
Chico	26.23	\$7,624.86	81.81%	467
Boyd	14.636	\$14,143.21	94.13%	374
Paradise	33.3	\$6,817.72	86%	320
Boyd	10.015	\$23,464.80	88.68%	8
Decatur	29	\$8,913.79	96.37%	452
Sunset	43.88	\$7,976.30	93.33%	31
AVERAGES	20.712	\$11,124.96	91.42%	204

NOTE: There were only five land transactions for August of 2018.





# RICK YOUNG:

*A career comes full circle*



By Phillip Kitts

As with all careers, there comes a time when a person must just step away.

What is different about the sport of rodeo is for many there is no stepping away. Many young athletes get their start in rodeo at a very young age. As they progress through youth on to junior high and eventually high school, they all are looking to “go pro.” Young pro athletes approach every day with a no holds barred approach and they make every run or ride with no fear.

Eventually when the broken bones, aches and pains have gotten to be enough, you would think a person would walk away from a sport. In other major league sports, once an athlete is done you will occasionally see them in advertisements endorsing a brand or promoting a product, but when they make their exit from the sport it is permanent. There are the occasional cases in which the player moves to the coaching side of things but those are rare.

However, in rodeo it is as

much of a lifestyle as it is a sport. It is not uncommon to see world champion rodeo athletes coaching, judging or working in media. At the minimum you will often go to various arenas around the nation and see several well-known rodeo athletes just attending the rodeo to support the sport.

From the non-athletic side of rodeo there are tons of people who join the lifestyle of rodeo by performing duties as barrel men, funny men and numerous other jobs that are very significant to the sport of rodeo.

The rodeo funny man is most likely one of the greatly appreciated but under celebrated positions in rodeo. Many people do not relate the high demand and unique stress a funny man must work under. Yes, their primary job is to tell jokes and perform acts to entertain the crowd as the rodeo transitions from one event to another, but they also have other very important tasks. Have you ever noticed when a competitor is injured in the arena the funny

man quickly springs into action to remove the focus of the activities in the arena to himself?

Not only do they draw the attention away, but they also are charged with keeping the energy high during the rodeo and being able to control the emotion of the crowd through humor after unfortunate events. This is a lot of burden to carry, but there are many funny men out there who have mastered the task.

Four years ago, our team provided coverage of a rodeo in Sikeston, Mo., a rodeo that has been making a meteoric rise to the top of the rodeos in America. This massive climb can very well be credited to an amazing committee, a great setting and some top-notch rodeo entertainment.

This year in our fourth year of covering the Sikeston Bootheel Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeo, we saw the legacy of rodeo entertainment end. This legacy has been built during many years and a lot of the success can be connected with one man.

Rick Young started his rodeo career as a bareback rider out of the state of Louisiana. His pedigree includes a bachelor’s degree from Louisiana State University in animal husbandry, but his real calling was making people laugh. His first introduction to be a rodeo funny man came when he was asked to step in and tell jokes at a rodeo where the funny man had not shown up. This influential moment led to a 60-year career in pro rodeo entertaining millions of fans.

In 1969 Rick Young made the choice to take his brand of comedy to the rodeo world. He went on to start booking rodeos in the professional setting. One of the first rodeos he booked was then a small Jaycee rodeo in Sikeston, Mo. Like anyone in the rodeo world, he was not going to turn down any job that came his way. So, in 1969 Young made his first entrance into the uniquely shaped rodeo arena.

During all these years without fail, Rick made his annual appear-



ance in Sikeston. In what may be one of the longest running appearances at a rodeo, Mr. Young not only performed his comedy, but he also became a steward for the sport to the community.


Every passing year you would see Mr. Young making appearances all across town as well as taking the time to sign autographs and share a moment with the fans. Every performance he would walk the fence lines shaking hands with the kids and addressing the parents with funny antics and a million-dollar smile.

Sixty years later on Aug. 10, 2019, Rick Young entered that same arena for the last time. He did so, not knowing the grateful community of Sikeston had planned a proper farewell to a great man who had made a lasting impact on their town.

Shortly after bareback riding had ended and before steer wrestling could start, the infamous Boyd Polhamus stopped all activities and guided the crowd to watch the big screen.

During a solid four minutes, pictures and video of years of service Rick Young had been a part of with the pro rodeo and the community in south east Missouri streamed by. As it came to its conclusion, one would have been challenged to find one dry eye anywhere near the arena. Even the rough and tough Rick Young fought back tears of appreciation as he addressed the crowd one more time in Sikeston, Mo. His farewell words were full of emotion and appreciation but were summed up with a simple "thank you."

Everyone may always remember a champion's name; some may always have a lasting impression of a person they connected with at or near the sport of rodeo.

Not many can say they accomplished what Rick Young did during 60 years: Mr. Young left an impression on an entire community and did so for many generations to come. 



A 60-year career came full circle on Aug. 10, 2019, when Rick Young entered the arena that started it all. (Photos courtesy Phillip Kitts)



Rick Young entered the arena on Aug. 10, 2019, not knowing the grateful community of Sikeston had planned a proper farewell to a great man who had made a lasting impact on their town. (Photos by Phillip Kitts)



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# Vesicular Stomatitis

By Barry Whitworth, DVM

**A**t the writing of this article, cases of Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) have been found in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Oklahoma. The last VS outbreak occurred in 2015. The outbreak involved eight states, and there were 823 infected premises. The reason for this article is to alert the public about the disease and the restrictions placed on incoming livestock from those four states.

Vesicular stomatitis is a viral disease that affects primarily horses and cattle. Pigs, sheep, goats, llamas and alpacas also can be infected, and on rare occasions humans can be infected. The disease normally occurs in the western and southwestern United States during the warmer months of the year and tends to be seen along waterways. Transmission occurs by direct contact with infected animals or by blood feeding insects.

Most animals do not die from this disease, but the economic losses can be significant in the lack of milk production and weight loss. The biggest concern with vesicular stomatitis is distinguishing it from foot and mouth disease and swine vesicular disease, both foreign animal diseases with similar clinical signs. The only way to distinguish these diseases is through laboratory tests. Because of this concern, vesicular stomatitis is a reportable disease.

Production losses are not the only economic consequence of VS. There also are economic losses due to restrictions since VS is an internationally reportable disease in cattle, swine, sheep, goats, and cervidae (deer).

During an outbreak, some countries may elect to restrict imports of animals or products from the United States. Also, states may impose regulations on interstate travel of livestock from infected states or counties where VS has been diagnosed. Farms or ranches that are infected with VS are quarantined for 21 days until after the last infected animal has healed. It may take several weeks for all the animals to recover from the disease. This sometimes results in lengthy quarantines.

The disease characteristics include fever at the onset. The most commonly recognized sign is excessive salivation or drooling. If



Vesicular Stomatitis primarily affects horses and cattle, although pigs, sheep, goats and more also can be infected. (Courtesy photo)

the mouth is examined in early stages of the disease, it will reveal blister like lesions known as vesicles.

Normally the vesicles are not seen because they have ruptured before the animal is checked. It is more likely to find ulcers or erosions of the inner surfaces of the lips, tongue, dental pad, and gums. Sometimes crusty lesions can also be seen on lips, nostrils, teats, prepuce, vulva, and coronary bands. Due to pain and discomfort, animals are reluctant to eat and drink. Animals may be lame due to

the feet lesions. The disease normally resolves in 10 to 14 days.

An official diagnosis of the disease is based on laboratory testing. The disease cannot be determined on clinical signs alone.

The reason the disease sporadically occurs in some years and how it is transmitted is not known. Insects, animal movement, and mechanical transmission probably play a part in the spread of the disease. Once in the herd, the disease moves from animal to animal through  
**See STOMATITIS page 24**



# Stomatitis

Continued from page 23

contact with the saliva or ruptured vesicles of an infected animal.

There is no specific treatment for the disease. Infected animals are given supportive care such as soft food, rest, and water.

Veterinarians will attempt to control pain and treat any secondary bacterial infections.

Since no vaccine is available, prevention begins with a good biosecurity plan.

Producers should isolate any newly purchased animals for at least 30 days before introducing them to the herd. Any animals that appear ill should be separated from the herd and placed in quarantine. Also, producers should control insects.

Any producer that suspects his/her animal(s) have VS should

have their animal(s) examined by a veterinarian. If the veterinarian is suspicious, he/she will contact the state and/or federal animal health authorities.

Any livestock entering Oklahoma from a county infected with VS should go to <http://www.oda.state.ok.us/ais/VesicularStomatitis.htm> for the latest interstate requirements.

Producers who would like more information about VS should contact their local veterinarian or local Oklahoma State University Extension Educator. Additional information about VS is available at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/horse-disease-information/vs/vesicular-stomatitis.>®



As of August, cases of vesicular stomatitis had been found in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and Oklahoma. (Courtesy photo)

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# EQUINE SUPERSTARS & EVERYDAY HEROES

By Janis Blackwell

## Sparky: From Kill Pen To Service Career

In this issue of “Equine Superstars and Everyday Heroes,” we will meet a sure enough equine everyday hero named Sparky.

Sparky is a seven-year-old registered black and white tobiano paint gelding whose registered name is Chey Sparky Thunder Junior. Sparky belongs to Ruth Christensen. Sparky and Ruth reside in Azle, Texas, along with Ruth’s other horses, who are barrel racing horses. That was what Ruth intended Sparky’s career to be also, but according to Ruth, God had other ideas.

Now to understand that statement, you have to know the whole Sparky story, so here goes. Three years ago, Ruth had finished ground working with a friend’s horse, when out of boredom she decided to get on Facebook and look at what horses were in some of the kill lots.

Ruth admits at the time she really didn’t need another horse, but she had noticed a large number of really nice horses were being sent to the kill pens around so she continued to browse those pens thinking she might pick up something she could train for barrels and resell. She already had three horses, but couldn’t resist looking anyway.

Before starting to look at the websites, she had prayed, a prayer she admitted was only halfhearted and not too serious, and told God she would purchase something only if there was a young horse who was a paint who was registered and had some good bloodlines. Within about two weeks of her starting to watch those pages,



Ruth Christensen and Sparky. (Photo courtesy Ruth Christensen)

on the page for a kill lot in Oklahoma City, her eyes were drawn to an undernourished four-year old black and white paint gelding who was registered and was Boston Mac and Versary Bars, who goes back to Three Bars breeding. Ruth could hardly believe she had actually stumbled onto a horse that met all the requirements of her “tossed up” prayer but proceeded to go through the steps to purchase him.

She stated she only bought him at the 11th hour. She finished

processing her paperwork late on Saturday, and he was due to be loaded on the kill truck on Sunday morning. She kept second guessing herself about the purchase because no one seemed to be showing any interest in him. Now she realizes that was because he was supposed to be hers. Because you must immediately pick up your purchased horses or they will still be loaded out when the truck arrives, she called a friend who lived near and asked him to pick up Sparky for her, which he did.

Within a week, Ruth made the trip to the Oklahoma City area to pick up her new horse. Much to her surprise, when she arrived to pick up a horse whose description said he was 14’2” hands, she found she had purchased a four-year-old who was right at 16 hands. So Sparky came to Texas and went into a quarantined pen until Ruth was sure he didn’t have anything he could spread to her other horses, but Sparky was healthy, just extremely undernourished.

During the time Sparky was in the quarantine pen, a neighbor was having a garage sale so Ruth went out to help set up. While they were working, a friend and her son walked up and began to visit. She told Ruth she had been trying to get her son, who was severely autistic, to pet a horse, but he was terrified of them and asked if he could pet her horse.

Ruth admitted she wasn’t sure how this was going to go since the whole time they had been talking, the boy had been running around the yard screaming and waving his arms in the air, but she was willing to try so she agreed, and they started toward the pens.

She knew none of her other horses would be agreeable for this task so she headed for the pen in which she was keeping Sparky. She had managed to get the boy to stop screaming and waving his arms as they walked. Sparky had noticed they were heading toward him (remember now, he’s less than two weeks in Ruth’s possession). He walked all the way to the fence, softened his whole body, lowered his head to the ground and pressed



his head against the fence. Just as soon as they reached the fence, the boy began to scream and wave his arms again. Sparky did not move or even flinch. He kept his head against the fence and waited until the child was calm again and allowed him to pet him. As they walked away, Sparky resumed his normal stature and demeanor and Ruth was amazed thinking what was to be this horse's job. She had heard of horses that seemed to just be able to read people, but she had never known one...until now.

Meanwhile, she set about breaking and training him. It was just shortly after starting that process she realized he was already broke and had a great handle and easy way of going. In Ruth's words he was like riding in a "big old rocking chair."

Ruth had been praying for a way to serve God and work with kids and horses, which she had assumed would be in the rodeo and barrel racing field since that was her area of experience.

Then a couple of years ago, a friend asked if she could help with a special needs girl who was learning to ride and getting equine therapy and whose instructor had moved, leaving the family with no one to work with her. Ruth was hesitant because she had never done anything like that before, but her friend who had asked was a teacher and had the experience to help with the special needs requirements, so together they made it work.

That is when Ruth met Liana Alley. At that time, Liana had her own horse, an aged mare who took good care of her, but sadly, this past winter the mare had gotten so old and unable to keep going that it was just her time. Ruth told Liana's parent not to buy another horse right then because Liana could use Sparky, and it would give them time to look for an appropriate replacement.

That turned out to be a match literally made in heaven. When Liana goes to catch Sparky, he low-



Liana and Sparky working the barrels. (Photo courtesy Ruth Christensen)

ers his head for her and patiently waits for her to get the halter on him. Sometimes her medication causes her to shake, and it takes her a while to get the halter on, but that does not matter to Sparky. He will wait for her no matter how long it takes and sometimes will tilt his head toward her when she is having an especially hard time.

When she is ready to mount, he stands quietly at the mounting block no matter how long it takes for her to climb on and get her feet in the stirrups. Then he calmly moves out at her request. He just takes care of her.

Liana's dream is to ride in a rodeo, but that is not really feasible, but after working with Liana and Sparky, Ruth was able to take the pair to a playday. Even amidst the crazy playday chaos - horses and kids running in every direction, Sparky never made a misstep. Ruth led Sparky into the arena, turned him around and told Liana

it was up to her, to which Liana replied, "I can do it."

It is important to know Liana doesn't like to go faster than a trot and we remember Sparky is only seven. She and Sparky went to the first barrel at a walk, turned it and excitement kicked in on Liana.

Her face beaming, she kicked Sparky, who trotted to the second barrel, slowed to a walk and went around it. With even more excitement over their progress, Liana urged him to the third, which he approached at a trot, slowed to a walk and turned. With mounting confidence, Liana kicked a little harder to come home. Ruth said you could read on Sparky's face his question of "lope?" So he broke into a lope, but that scared Liana, so after only two strides she pulled him up and they trotted back across the score line, fulfilling a young girl's dream.

Ruth has been working with the Chisholm Challenge four years,

which is an event during the Fort Worth Stock show for special needs individuals, and recently worked with the Special Olympics of Texas Equine Event at College Station. I believe Ruth and Sparky have truly found their calling and their ministry, and what better call could you have than to help these precious individuals with special needs?

This is the kind of story that should be a movie. A horse is saved from a horrible death, young special needs people get to experience and enjoy horses and a devoted woman finds her ministry calling. I believe if you have read this story to here without a tear in your eye, you might need to check your pulse.

So here is a big Equine Superstars salute to Ruth and Sparky. May your ministry continue for many years. Until next month faithful readers...very happy trails.





# Equine Sarcoids

## Unsightly Skin Lumps and Bumps

By Garrett Metcalf, DVM

**S**arcoids are the most common cutaneous skin tumor of horses that come in various forms with varying degrees of virulence. Sarcoids are small gray to cherry red tissue that appears similar to granulation tissue or proud flesh that does not seem painful and do not spontaneously regress. These masses range from a very flat hairless area to very large raised aggressive forms. There are actually six forms or classifications of sarcoids in horses based on the appearance and behavior the mass exhibits. Sarcoids can appear around the face, eyes, ears, lower limbs, neck, groin and areas of previous injury or wounding.

### How Do Sarcoids Form?

Sarcoids are commonly found more often in younger horses and Quarter Horses or stock breeds. It has been found Quarter Horses are twice as likely to develop sarcoids compared to thoroughbreds. Research has linked genetic causes for the development of sarcoids in certain breeds and the lack of a particular gene makes other breeds less susceptible to sarcoidosis. It also has been discovered close housing of a group of donkeys resulted in sarcoids being transmitted to donkeys without sarcoids. A fly vector of transmission was believed to lead to the spread of the sarcoids.

Viral etiologies have been known for some time to cause warts and plagues on horses. A common disease among young horses is called papillomatosis, or grass warts, that form around the muzzle and face caused by Equine Papillomavirus. The warts are commonly self-limiting with the maturation of the horse and their



A recently validated method to improve the delivery of the chemotherapy drug in the cells of the tumor is through electrochemotherapy. (Courtesy photo)

own immune system to eliminate the disease.

This information led to further research that discovered almost all sarcoid masses contained the DNA of a virus called Bovine Papillomavirus.

Horses do not develop diseases from bovine types of papillomaviruses, but rather the viral infection is nonproductive leading to the virus to remain latent in the skin of horses without causing disease.

It is hypothesized trauma to the skin or a wound can cause a trigger event leading to the formation of sarcoid masses with the help of this latent BPV. Papillomaviruses are known to cause oncogenic (tumor formation) transformation of normal tissue into cancer cells in many species including humans, so it is logical to investigate if this also occurs in horses.

### Diagnosis

To make a definitive diagnosis of sarcoidosis in a horse is to take a biopsy of the mass and perform histopathology at a lab.

Many times the mass can be correctly identified based on the appearance, location, response to treatments and age of the horse. Depending on the location of the mass, it may be possible to fully remove the mass and submit it to the lab for evaluation. This is important because excision alone has a high recurrence rate in several journal reports.

Masses located around the ears or eyes are sites where quick and early diagnoses are needed to begin treatment as early as possible. There are some other masses or growths that can mimic similar lesions as sarcoid, further making it important to perform biopsies.

### Treatment

There is a plethora of treatment plans, protocols and methods to treat sarcoids in horses with a wide variation of success, but no universal treatment plan has seen overwhelming success. Many times multiple methods need to be implemented to treat the same sarcoid to reach a successful outcome. Unfortunately, these treatments need to be performed multiple times, leading to frustration by owners and low compliance to stick to the treatment plan. Although most of these techniques or treatment protocols have been validated through scientific research, there are some methods that are not, so it is hard to evaluate the success of all of the available methods. The options include surgical excision, laser ablation, cryotherapy, hyperthermia,





radiotherapy, immunotherapy, intralesional chemotherapy, topical chemotherapy and brachytherapy. Other therapies that are used are herbal topical products, other chemical infusions such as formaldehyde, autologous vaccines or implantations.

Veterinarians often must choose a treatment method that is 1) tailored to the type of sarcoid 2) the locations of the sarcoid 3) the availability of equipment or products and 4) their comfort level to use these various methods. Some of the techniques or equipment are not readily available and come with varying cost differences per treatment.

#### Electrochemotherapy

A recently validated method to improve the delivery of the chemotherapy drug in the cells of the tumor is through electrochemotherapy. This electrochemotherapy treatment has been used in humans for several years

to increase the effectiveness and uptake of the chemotherapies locally in tumors of the skin and other organs. It has recently made its way into the veterinary market as well. The electrical generating device passes a very short interval of high voltage or current into the tumor, which changes the permeability of the cancer cells' outer membrane allowing chemotherapeutic drugs to enter the cell. The lesion is injected before the electrical current is discharged several times into the tumor, and the drug of choice to treat sarcoids is called Cisplatin. Cisplatin disrupts the DNA of the tumor cells causing the cells to die, but the delivery or uptake into the cell is difficult to achieve alone consistently until using electrochemotherapy. This treatment method in one research paper had successfully destroyed 99.5 percent of the sarcoid tumors treated using electrochemotherapy and had a nonrecurrence of more



Sarcoids are the most common cutaneous skin tumor of horses that come in various forms with varying degrees of virulence. Sarcoids are small gray to cherry red tissue that appears similar to granulation tissue or proud flesh that does not seem painful and do not spontaneously regress. (Courtesy photo)

than four years. The treatment method is now available in equine referral practices in Oklahoma and has been delivering the similar success that has been reported.

Sarcoids are a frustrating and cosmetically unsightly skin dis-

ease of horses that requires aggressive and cutting edge treatments to be successful. With newer treatments available and new research to come, hopefully sarcoids will be a much more treatable skin disease of horses.®



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# JACK WRIGHT

## MAKING A NAME FOR HIMSELF

By Krista Lucas

There is a new group of saddle bronc riders on the horizon, and Wright is a common last name seen in the sport. Jack Wright, of DeRidder, La., is the newly crowned Texas High School Rodeo Association state champion saddle bronc rider and is also ranked 11th in the United Professional Rodeo Association standings. He grew up around rodeo and inherited his love of the sport from his parents and grandparents.

"My sister and brother also compete, but I'm the only rough stock rider," Wright said. "I guess my earliest memory is traveling to rodeos with my mom and dad."

His dad rode broncs and retired from Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association competition when Wright was three years old. When the kids started school, his dad did not want to be gone all the time and went to work for the Gray Ranch in south Louisiana.

"All of us kids started riding as soon as we could hold on. There was a little weekly youth rodeo about five minutes from our house so that is where we all started competing. I started sheep riding, then riding calves, then steers, and started getting on broncs in high school," Wright said.

Wright cannot remember a time where he wanted to be anything other than a cowboy. Many people may not understand why someone would choose one of the more dangerous rodeo events and willingly get on a bucking horse, but for Wright, being a saddle bronc rider is what he has always loved about the sport of rodeo.

"I've been told it's the hardest roughstock event to learn because there are so many components like your rein, saddle and balance, but when it finally comes together, it's the best feeling in the world," Wright explained.

He carried on his family's winning tradition at the 2019 THSRA state finals. He won the saddle bronc riding championship, which qualified him for the national high school finals, a goal he has had for a long time.

"My national finals didn't go very well. I got on some awesome horses and had a great experience, but it just wasn't my time, and I'm okay with that," Wright said. "Things like that



Jack Wright of DeRidder, La., is the newly crowned Texas High School Rodeo Association state champion saddle bronc rider. (Photo courtesy Jack Wright)


just prove that there is never a day when you can quit working."

Wright has already tried his hand at professional events including UPRA and World Champions Rodeo Alliance events. It is safe to say Wright has his sights set on rodeoing for a living, but first comes obtaining a college degree. Wright will be a college freshman at Southwestern Oklahoma State University this fall and is excited to add college rodeos to his already busy schedule.

"My goals are the same as a lot of guys

going. I'd love to win the Resistol Rookie of the Year, and one day win the world," Wright said.

Wright is committed and ready for the higher ranks and has great supporters behind him in companies that have invested and believe in what he is doing.

Saddle bronc riding is filled with young, new talent, and this Louisiana cowboy may only be 18 years old, but he is one to watch for. There may just be another Wright in the professional ranks before long. 



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# Gracie Oates: Texas Polled Hereford Queen

By Dani Blackburn

This month, state queens from across the nation will vie for the title of National Hereford Queen at the American Royal in Kansas City, Mo., earning the right to wear the all-white banner for the year to come while representing the breed they love.

Contestants will include Texas' own Gracie Oates of Paradise, who claimed the 2019-2020 Texas Polled Hereford Association Queen title at the Texas Junior Hereford State Show in June.

The 17-year-old is the daughter of Leslie and Denise Oates and a third-generation Polled Hereford breeder.

"I remember growing up on the farm and going out with my dad and grandpa as they were checking calves. I had a little calf named Moon, and it is when my passion for the Polled Hereford industry started," recalled Oates.

The queen contest is conducted by the Texas Poll-Ettes, the Texas Polled Hereford women's organization. The group of cattle women represent leadership, scholarship, achievement, hospitality and Texas Polled Hereford juniors.

For Oates, becoming their queen didn't just happen by chance but is a long-fulfilled dream for the Paradise High School senior.

"Running for queen has always been a dream of mine; it is not just another leadership role for me. It is an opportunity to meet youth of this industry and leave my mark as the queens before did for me. I want to meet and engage with farmers across an industry that has taught me so much," said Oates.

Oates' priorities as Texas Polled Hereford Association queen include starting new traditions that unite membership and bringing juniors together to work as a whole.

"I hope to work with my royalty team to inspire the younger generation just beginning their show career to follow their dreams and not to be afraid," said Oates. "We need more people in our corner who care about the agriculture lifestyle, and I am certain the youth in the TJPHA are just that, along with passionate and hard-working."

The Texas Poll-Ettes are behind their new queen and ready to support Oates in her new role.

"We are excited to work with Gracie this year and look forward to cheering her on during her National Hereford Queen pursuit in October," said Keely Hamman, Texas Poll-Ettes president and royalty chairman.

To become queen, a candidate is required to interview in front of a selected panel of judges. Hamman explained candidates are asked detailed and extensive questions to help ensure the candidate chosen is well-rounded and knowledgeable in both her community and the beef industry. Candidates are quizzed on their knowledge of expected progeny differences and their opinion on what the most important EPD is, the current cattle/beef market, unique marketing characteristics of Polled Hereford cattle and their involvement with the community and organizations.



Gracie Oates of Paradise, Texas, claimed the 2019-2020 Texas Polled Hereford Association queen title at the Texas Junior Hereford State Show in June. (Photo courtesy Southern Girl Photography by Julie Horner)

"It was a really good interview. I really enjoyed sitting down with judges and letting them know my intentions. There were a variety of questions," said Oates.

As Texas Polled Hereford Association queen, Oates will be responsible for helping directors

in the show ring and being the face of the organization.

"I have to make sure I am always on time. At the national show, I always had to be in the ring even during showmanship when it was not required, because  
**See QUEEN page 34**



# Queen

Continued from page 33

I wanted to represent our state to the best of my ability,” explained Oates.

The selection process this October for National Hereford Queen will be similar to the state queen contest, with candidates filling out an application, completing an online interview prior to the main event and a face-to-face interview with judges during the American Royal as they evaluate the candidates on their behavior as queens. Oates also completed the Masters of Beef Advocacy program in preparation for the contest.

If she earns the national title, Oates will become the 11th queen crowned by the National Hereford Women.

The National Hereford Women was founded on Oct. 31, 2009, by the merging of the American Hereford Women and the National Organization of Poll-Ettes.

However, the tradition of white boots gracing the Hereford show ring representing the breed, industry representatives and producers from across the country dates back much further.

The position of National Hereford queen will require similar responsibilities as her position as Texas queen, but the travel will be extensive.

“As national queen you have to go to Fort Worth, and you just get to go everywhere. You get to meet so many more people; however, I can see how it would be stressful for me being a freshman in college, but I think it is a great opportunity to still be connected with the industry after graduation,” said Oates.

The Texas queen is no stranger to time management and juggling multiple responsibilities. Aside from being queen, Oates manages school, and throughout her TJPHA career, she has participated in



Gracie Oates (middle) with other royalty crowned this past June, including Sweetheart, Abby Jo Wohleb; Sweetheart, Kenley Carr; Junior Princess, Rylee Blacksher; Princess, Kaylee McInvale; Sweetheart, Katie Denton and Sweetheart, Zella Williams. (Photo courtesy Show Photos by Katina)

many contests, such as illustrative speaking, team sales, livestock judging and shadow showmanship.

She has attended the National Junior Hereford Expo exhibiting cattle and is currently serving as a TJPHA director. Oates also is actively involved in her Future Farmers of America chapter, where she has been a chapter officer for four years.

In 2017-18, Oates served as an Oil Belt District officer and is currently an Area IV FFA officer.

Through FFA, Oates competes in public speaking, livestock judging, radio broadcasting and many other career and leadership development events.

Oates explains while time management is an issue she faces by being involved in so much, she has been able to keep up by assigning days to organizations.

For example, Monday is college application day as well as the time for practicing FFA speeches, but the key to success is making sure the organizations she chooses to be involved in hold a special place in her heart.

“If you get involved, get involved in something you are passionate about and have an endless love for. I guarantee if I were doing sports or something like that, I wouldn’t be worried about managing time or getting more involved,” laughed Oates.


Oates plans to continue a life in agriculture as she attends a four-year university to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural communications while continuing to be involved with the breed she loves so much.

“I think growing up around the Polled Hereford breed gives everyone a trait you wouldn’t

get showing any other breed of animal,” said Oates. “The people you meet and the people you grow up with are what I want my future family and friends to be involved in as well.”

However, for now, Oates is eager to serve as Texas queen and explained what the opportunity means to her is sometimes difficult to express.

“I cannot put into words what it meant to me to become queen. It just meant so much. I knew I got the opportunity to represent this industry and leave an impact on the youth of this organization like the past queens have left an impact on me. I cannot wait to get more involved and leave my impact as queen as the Texas majors roll in,” said Oates.

To learn more, visit <http://tx-pha.org/poll-ettes/> or follow them on Facebook and Instagram. 



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Photo credit: Susanna Claire Photography Find all this and more at [www.jessesjewelz.com](http://www.jessesjewelz.com).

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# LACEY'S PANTRY

*By Lacey Newlin*

## Burst Cherry Tomato Sauce with Homemade Pasta

**Serves:** 4-5

**Time:** 40 minutes

### Fresh pasta

#### Ingredients:

2 eggs  
1 tbsp. water  
2 3/4 cups flour  
1/2 tsp salt

#### Directions:

Place eggs, water, flour and salt in mixer bowl. Attach bowl and flat beater. Turn to speed 2 and knead two minutes. Remove dough from bowl and hand knead for one to two minutes. Let it rest for 20 minutes. Start boiling water in a pot with salt to cook the pasta. Divide dough into four pieces before processing with pasta sheet roller attachment. Transfer freshly rolled pasta into boiling water and cook until tender.

### Cherry tomato sauce

#### Ingredients:

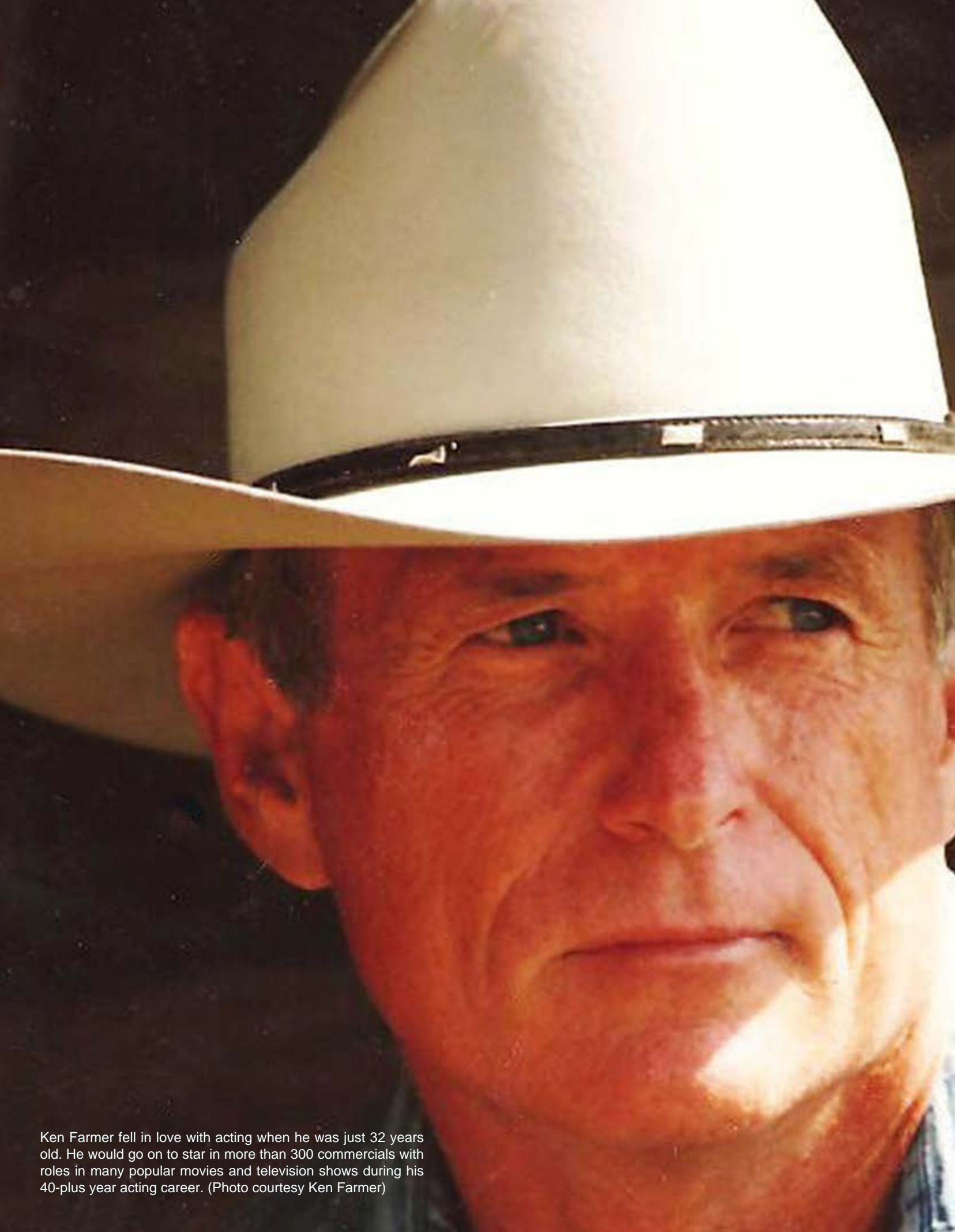
20-30 ripe cherry tomatoes  
1/4 cup olive oil  
1 clove garlic  
Salt  
Pepper  
Parmesan cheese

#### Directions:

Fill a medium sauté pan with olive oil, cherry tomatoes, garlic, salt and pepper. Cover pan and let cook on medium until cherries burst, about 10 minutes. Add parmesan cheese to taste and combine with cooked pasta, coating all the noodles. Enjoy.®







Ken Farmer fell in love with acting when he was just 32 years old. He would go on to star in more than 300 commercials with roles in many popular movies and television shows during his 40-plus year acting career. (Photo courtesy Ken Farmer)





# KEN FARMER

## *Western storyteller*

College football player, Marine, salesman, wildcatter, cattle and horse rancher, professional television and movie actor and team penner - that is not a list of the careers of multiple individuals, but the accomplishments of a single man by the name of Ken Farmer. However, these careers only led him to his true passion, when at the age of 69, he found his calling as an author. Since that time, he has written more than 30 novels that frequently top the Amazon best seller list in the western science fiction and military action categories.

Not many would be daring enough to begin a new career so late in life, but failure is something that never crossed Farmer's mind.

"It was very fulfilling. I am very heavy right brained, and I have a lot of creativity, and it wasn't going anywhere after I retired from acting. I was not a happy camper. I do speaking engagements, and my theme is usually 'it ain't ever too late,'" explained Farmer. "My daddy used to tell me 'If you think you can or think you can't...you're right.' It never occurred when I started writing that I would fail at it."

Farmer has written more than three million words since he began writing. The humorous 78-year-old makes his home near Gainesville, Texas, where he has been spinning out bestselling novels for nearly a decade, but his journey to success began long before that.

Farmer was born in Kilgore, Texas, the younger of two sons to Robert Reese and Johnnie Vertis Jolley Farmer. Robert Reese Farmer was a driller for Shell Oil, and at the time Kilgore was the big boom town. His father's career choice meant a lot of moving for the family, and as a child he attended 21 schools in seven states. Farmer took a somewhat unique approach to fitting in at new schools.

"You learned to adjust," said Farmer. "When I was in second grade I figured out I was going to be the new kid, so I would find out who the school bully was and pick a fight. You win some you lose some, but you're instantly accepted. I tried being the new kid for a while and that wasn't working, so I learned to adapt."

Farmer wrapped up his high school education in Gainesville in 1959 and made his way to the University of Oklahoma to play football, but he hit a spout of bad luck when he came down with mono and missed his finals. Around the same time, his best friend from his high school days, Dennie Clark, called and urged Farmer to join the Marine Corps with him.

"I thought 'what the heck' so I boogied off to the Marines. I did what they call the six-month active duty. They had a program back then, and you were in the reserve for the next eight years," explained Farmer. "Later on, I enrolled in the PLC officer program, but flunked the physical when they found I had fractured the Atlas, the first vertebrae, in my neck playing football."

He was close to getting out of the Marines when he received a call from his high school football coach, Buddy Ryan, who would later become coach of the Philadelphia Eagles and Arizona Cardinals.

Ryan wanted his former player to join him at Camp Dale Robertson at Lake of the Pines near Marshall, Texas, as Water Front Director since he was a certified Water Safety Instructor.

"I said okay and I boogied down to Marshall, and we did the camp; it was a summer camp, very exclusive high dollar summer job," said Farmer. "At the end of the summer, coach asked where I was going to college. I told him 'Heck, I don't know coach.' He told me he knew the coach at Stephen F. Austin College and said he would tell him I was coming down and maybe the coach would let me try out."

Farmer arrived in Nacogdoches on the first day of two-a-days, but the team had already ran a timed mile with a goal of six minutes to ensure the players were in shape. The newcomer ran his alone, earning the second-best time of the group at 4:56.

"Coach said, 'Okay, go check out your gear and we'll start work.' On the second day, the coach called

See FARMER page 42





# FARMER

Continued from page 41

me into his office. I said, ‘Utho,’” recalled Farmer. “I went in and he told me they were giving me a full ride for the three years of college I had left on full scholarship. I was a linebacker, and I loved it.”

Farmer graduated in 1964 with a bachelor’s degree with a double major in business and speech and drama.

“I was good at it (speech and drama). Well, I don’t know if I was good, but it was easy. Piece of cake. I can get up and talk for four hours on any subject in the world with the possible exception of quantum nuclear physics, I can only do about two hours on that,” laughed Farmer. “It was improv acting, and I have been a ham all my life. I just loved doing theater.”

After college graduation, Farmer followed in his dad’s footsteps and went to work for Shell Oil in the marketing division. After realizing he did not see much of a future with the company, he began selling insurance in Tyler, Texas, when he was offered a job with IBM in Sherman. He had much success in sales with the company, even selling the first word processor in the United States but saw the same writing on the wall – there just wasn’t much room for growth.

“There were guys who had been there 10 years making nothing more than me. I led the nation in sales and they rewarded me by doubling my quota and cutting my territory in half,” said Farmer. “I thought, ‘Okay, this doesn’t make a whole lot of sense.’”

It was time for Farmer to step out on his own, and he became an entrepreneur and genuine wildcatter, founding a drilling company with his cousin called Texas Western, punching holes all over west Texas until his cousin bought him out at the age of 30.

Next up was life as a rancher down in Henderson County. Farmer began raising registered Beefmaster cattle and quarter horses for the next 15 years. However, along the way at the age of 32, Farmer found himself at the Kim Dawson modeling agency in Dallas with his girlfriend, who was a model.

“I would go into the agency with her sometimes in my blue jeans, boots and cowboy hat. Kim, the agent, would come out and say ‘You have a great look; I could get you a lot of work.’ I would look around at all the pictures of the



Ken Farmer received a full scholarship to play football at Stephen F. Austin College in Nacogdoches. (Photo courtesy Ken Farmer)

guys on the wall and say ‘Eh, I don’t think I fit into your program, but golly thanks anyway,’” laughed Farmer.

The agent didn’t give up, and one day Farmer walked into the agency and was asked if he rode horses.

“I told her ‘Yeah, I’ve been thrown off one or two, yes ma’am.’ She said they didn’t have anyone in the agency who could ride. I looked around at the pics again and said ‘I can believe that,’” said Farmer. “She explained they needed to send someone to represent the agency for a Dairy Queen audition. I still had

not told her I had a degree in theater. I didn’t have any pics, but she said that didn’t matter, they would take a Polaroid. I agreed and asked where she wanted me to go.”

Farmer was hired by the director for the part introducing the Dairy Queen BeltBuster, still a staple item on the menu today.

“Two big patties, one big bun, takes a real Texan to finish one,” said Farmer in the same voice used in that first commercial.

“I got to the commercial set and they had me on a horse my grandma could have ridden,”

**See FARMER page 44**



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# FARMER

Continued from page 42



Ken Farmer (Deputy Kyle) and Kevin Costner on the set of "Silverado."



Ken Farmer and Gene Hackman in "Uncommon Valor." (Photos courtesy Ken Farmer)

recalled Farmer. "I made about \$1,700 that day, and I thought if they are going to pay me this kind of money to sit on a horse and eat a hamburger, I can do this."

The actor quit counting commercials at 300, which included a commercial for Wolf Brand Chili that made a nine-year run and included Farmer and his own horse, Scooter de Gold, a grandson of Doc Bar. He also appeared for other name brands such as Good Year, McDonald's, Coca Cola, Pepsi and numerous big-name automobile companies.

His movie career began with a role alongside Robert Fuller, who also makes his home in Cooke County, in a pilot called "Jake's Way" as a bad guy. Farmer would go on to act in television shows and movies for the next 40 years, with parts in "Silverado," "Uncommon Valor," "Split Image," "Friday Night Lights," "Dallas," "Walker, Texas Ranger" and "General Hospital." A full list of his work can be found on [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com).

"I never played a character similar to me. I usually like the opposite kind of thing. I guess the bad guy was a little similar to me because I am sort of a smart alec," said Farmer. "My favorite part was probably the main bad guy in "Another Pair of Aces" with Willie (Nelson) and Kris (Kristofferson)."

During that time, he made the move to California, but at the age of 55, Farmer decided he had 'his belly full of California' and chose to retire. His accountant informed him there was land available in Cooke County, and Farmer and his horses moved back to Texas on 54 acres in Woodbine, east of Gainesville.

"I had taken the horses out to California, which saved my sanity," recalled Farmer.

His best friend was his horse, Scooter de Gold, who he birthed, and then 30 years later would hold as he passed.

"I think I cried for about a full month, still do on occasion when I think about him," said Farmer.

The horse could be found following behind Farmer without a lead when leaving rodeo arenas and loading up in trailers by himself.

The actor became a professional team penner, taking part in the Ben Johnson Celebrity

**See FARMER page 46**

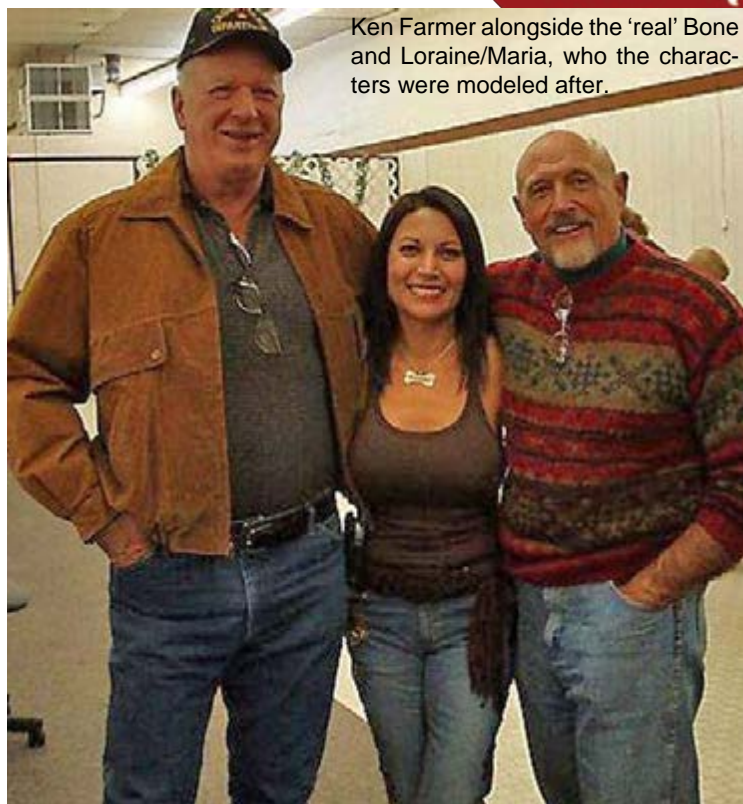




Ken Farmer joined the Marine Corps in 1960.

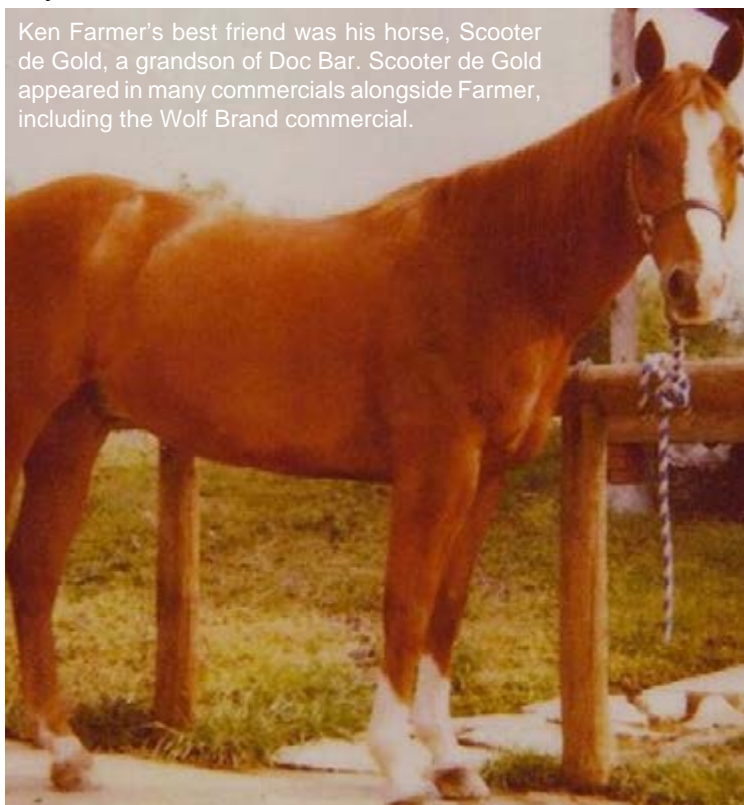


Ken Farmer alongside the 'real' Bone and Loraine/Maria, who the characters were modeled after.

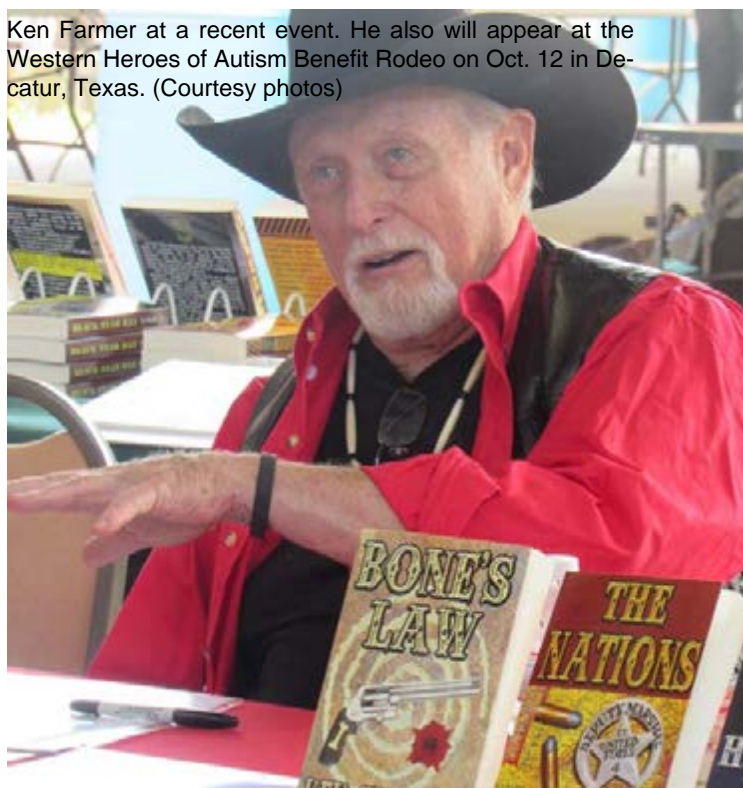


*"(I want to put you on the) rollercoaster. (I want you laughing, (I want you crying. That's, enter-  
tainment to me. Entertain me. When (I put the) book down, (I want the) reader to slide in, side-  
ways, to the end and go "Whew. Wow. What a ride....(I wish it was longer." - Ken Farmer*

Ken Farmer's best friend was his horse, Scooter de Gold, a grandson of Doc Bar. Scooter de Gold appeared in many commercials alongside Farmer, including the Wolf Brand commercial.



Ken Farmer at a recent event. He also will appear at the Western Heroes of Autism Benefit Rodeo on Oct. 12 in Decatur, Texas. (Courtesy photos)





# FARMER

Continued from page 44

Rodeos and other charity events.

"As a celebrity I got invited to do the Ben Johnson. They asked me if I rode, and I did, and I had worked cattle most of my life. When I found out about this event called penning, I thought it looked like fun. I went to the finals twice up in Enid," said Farmer.

Along the way, Farmer also wrote a few screenplays.

"Every actor in the world will look at a screenplay and question 'Who wrote this crap? I can write better than this.' I started writing some stuff. Comedian Leslie Jordan had written a play called 'Rockabilly Baby' and I asked him if I could write a screenplay out of it," said Farmer.

His many successful roles in life gave him the perfect background for telling stories. In 2008, fate stepped in when Farmer walked into Lone Star Shooting Supply in Gainesville and met the owner, Buck Stienke, who knew Farmer had been in show biz and written a few screenplays. Stienke asked Farmer to send him some of his work.

"It took me almost two months to get him one because I had written 20 to 30, but I finally brought him a couple," said Farmer.

One of those screen plays included "Rockabilly Baby," which takes a fictional look at the birth of rock and roll in the 1950s with a lead character that is a cross between Elvis and Jerry Lee Lewis, an actor Farmer wrote from Jordan's stage play. After reading it, Stienke asked how much it would cost to produce. Farmer gave him a number, and Stienke's response was, 'Let's make it.'

By this time, Farmer had been teaching acting, as well as voice-over and writing workshops, for

10 years, even writing a book "Acting is Storytelling" as a classroom book for his students, which they referred to as their bible. The movie "Rockabilly Baby" was cast completely from his acting class and produced in Gainesville. Farmer called up his good friend Jim Roberson, whom he had met while working on "High Mountain Rangers" with Robert Conrad, and asked him to come to Texas to be the director of photography. The movie was shot with three cameras simultaneously.

"We filmed it in 457 setups, which is every time you change the lights and move the camera, in 12 days with one outtake," said Farmer. "That's when you screw up and have to do it again. One. Count 'em...one."

After wrapping, the movie went to Los Angeles for editing and color correction, and went on to win Audience Favorite, as well as Best Actor for the lead, Denton Everett, at the Trail Dance Movie Festival in Duncan, Okla., and third in drama at the World Film Fest in Houston.

Another friend Farmer knew from the Marine Corps called him up one day and asked for him to turn his novel into a screenplay. Farmer and Stienke agreed but were a bit shocked when they received a 732-page novel. However, they managed, and 12 weeks later the novel was converted to a screenplay – and it is still making the rounds at Disney.

"When we finished the screenplay Buck and I looked at each other and said, 'Heck we can write a novel.' Three months later, we finished "Black Eagle Force: Eye of the Storm," a military action sort," said Farmer. "Think Clancy and Dale Brown."



Ken Farmer atop his horse, Two-Eyed Tippy, at a Team Penning in Coto de Caza, Calif. (Photo courtesy Ken Farmer)

The pair found a publisher but it took close to a year for the novel to be released.

"We said 'Well, this sucks.' We had already had a company that produced a movie, so we realized if we had a vehicle to produce movies, we could publish books, too. While we were waiting on the other company to publish the first novel, we wrote three more," said Farmer.

The novels included another "Black Eagle Force" novel called "Sacred Mountain," as well as a screenplay Farmer had written in 1988 called "The Nations" they turned into a novel. It tells the story of the Indian nations with the lead character of Bass Reeves, the first black United States marshal

west of the Mississippi. Appointed by Judge Isaac Parker, the hanging judge, he served for 32 years as a deputy marshal and executed more than 3,000 felony warrants in the Indian nations – a third of the 9,000 total issued by Parker.

"A lot of people believe Reeves was the inspiration for the fictional character of the "Lone Ranger," including me. He never had a warrant he didn't serve, and nobody had written about this guy," exclaimed Farmer. "You'll remember when the Lone Ranger would hand out silver bullets to people that helped him, Bass Reeves would give out silver dollars."

"The Nations" would go on to win the Laramie Award for Best Classic Western in 2014 and was





one of three finalists for the Academy of Western Artists Elmer Kelton Awards – Western Fiction and the second in the “Nations” series, “Haunted Falls” would win the Laramie Award for Best Action Western.

Eight more novels were written with Reeves as the lead protagonist with much care taken to facts. Farmer started writing novels by himself with “Hell Hole” and just released novel 13, “Silke Justice” with number 14, “Silke’s Quest” scheduled for an October release.

“I am very, very factual,” explained Farmer. “I hate watching most Hollywood westerns. It just drives me crazy to see tied down guns or guns that shoot forever and never have to reload and on, plus totally incorrect tack. Just things that aren’t correct.”

Through his research, other characters were created, including characters inspired by Brushy Bill

Roberts, who claimed to be Billy the Kid and a female character by the name of F.M. Miller.

“I do detailed research; I am very particular in that. I came across a Deputy U.S. Marshal F.M. Miller who had a piece written in the Fort Smith Elevator, a newspaper at the time, on Nov. 6, 1891. Miller was a dashing brunette of charming manners, a superb horsewoman and expert marksman, brave to the verge of reckless, the only female deputy marshal to work the Indian nations in the 1800s. The only one, and again, no one had ever written about her. What’s up with that? I brought her in and added her,” said Farmer.

Characters also are based on people Farmer knows in real life, such as the character Bone who was modeled after a 6’8 police officer, and his partner, Loraine Rodriguez, modeled after one of Farmer’s acting students, Vivian

Jimenez Hall. She also was the inspiration for another character, F-18 and M-600 pilot, Maria in the “Black Eagle Force” series.

“I write what I call faction. I take facts and blend it with fiction. You get to figure out which is which,” smiled Farmer. “I will explain exactly how everything happened. I write it to the point you think ‘It could be. Maybe so.’”

When asked if he has a favorite character, Farmer replied it is typically his newest character. Right now, that character is Silke Justice, a name from the Latin derivative of Celia, which means heavenly, a female Pinkerton detective.

“I really like strong women characters, love them,” said Farmer.

The books come in series, with characters making appearances in many of the spinoffs. While each book stands on its own, they are all tied together.

“The characters are what make a great story. People don’t really give a darn about the story; they fall in love with the characters. That’s why I write series: all of my books have the same characters recurrent, and I’ll add one and just keep things going. I write characters everyone can relate to,” said Farmer.

The author also pays special attention to dialogue in his books, leaving out unnecessary words and making conversation flow as it would in real life. As an actor, his ability to story tell was often apparent to the directors and he was given permission to ad lib by every single director. The gift carries over into his writing.

“You don’t need pronouns, you don’t need names, you don’t even need complete sentences. I hear the lines and I write them down because as an actor I became each character, and each character has  
**See FARMER page 48**

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# FARMER

Continued from page 47

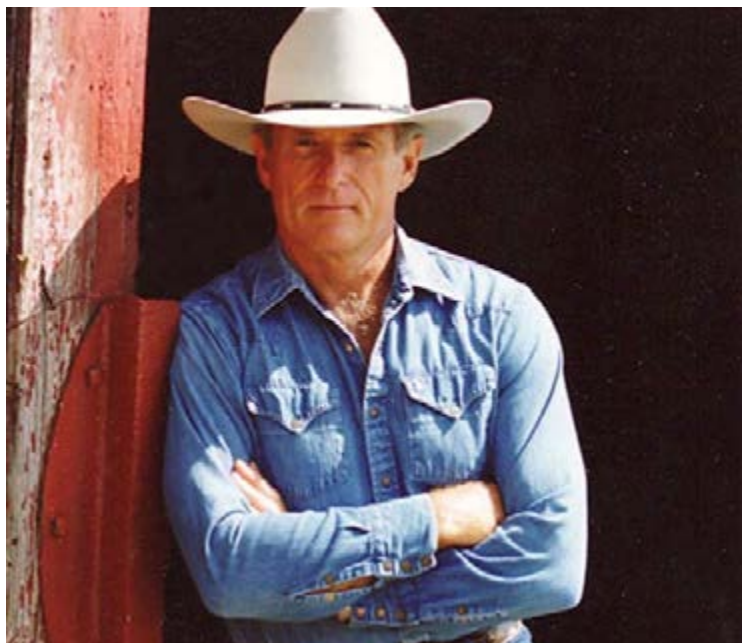
a different voice. Some are more educated than others, men talk different than women and vice versa. I love the practice behind the setting of the characters," said Farmer.

North Texas becomes the setting for many of his character's excursions. A sheriff from Jack County by the name of Mason Flynn goes undercover with Fiona Mae, the name Farmer gave the character based on F.M. Miller, and head to Gainesville to a big horse race to chase a gang. The characters of Bone and Loraine head to Possum Kingdom Lake for a fishing trip. They take shelter in a cave that had ancient Amerindian petroglyphs, one signifying the cave was a portal, when a lightning storm hits, and when they come out, the lake is gone. The two had traveled back in time to before the creation of the lake. Through more research, Farmer discovered at one time one of the deadliest places in the United States, along with Tombstone and Deadwood, was Delaware Bend in Cooke County, mostly under Lake Texoma now. Of course, that had to make an appearance in the novels.

"I write westerns with a tinge of science fiction (occasionally), but I want readers to question 'Is it really?' I use a lot of Amerindian mysticism, myths and legends," explained Farmer.

Westerns came easy to Farmer who had spent his life around horses and cattle, and while many say the western is dying, the author thinks the opposite is true.

"It really got a lull, but if you notice, one of the last best movies, 'The Revenant,' was western. The British had Shakespeare, the French had Molière and the United



After a successful 40-plus year career in acting, Ken Farmer found his true passion as a novelist. (Photo courtesy Ken Farmer)

States, the western. It is unique in all the world. The stories only happened over a 50-year span, but it is the romance of it, the cowboy code, it's just something that never gets old. I get passionate about this sort of thing," said Farmer.

However, the characters are the foundation of each of the author's novels. After creating a character, the story flows from there. Many writers follow an outline, but Farmer chooses to create a character and general storyline, similar to acting improv – who, what, where and when, and let the story flow from there, and sometimes the story surprises even himself. Many of the novels end with a twist that sometimes doesn't come to the novelist until he is well over halfway done with a novel. His motto is don't think about it; just tell the story.

"I write a lot of very emotional stuff. I wrote one particular scene in 'Haunted Falls' that took me

three days because I would cry so hard I couldn't see the screen," said Farmer. "I figure if I don't cry, you won't, and that's what, to me, telling stories is all about. I want to put you on the roller-coaster. I want you laughing, I want you crying. That's entertainment to me. Entertain me. When I put the book down, I want the reader to slide in sideways to the end and go 'Whew. Wow. What a ride...I wish it was longer.' That's why I turn out a book every three months," said Farmer.

Each chapter he completes is sent to beta readers for proofing, including a retired English professor, Terry D. Heflin, a retired Marine colonel, Clyde DeLoach, Steinke and Mary Deal, another best-selling author. Farmer also creates his own covers, except for the one used for *Silke Justice*, which was created by artist Rush Cole out of Santa Fe, N.M. Farmer said when he saw the painting she

did, he knew it was perfect.


Farmer still makes appearances at western events, including the first annual Western Heroes of Autism Benefit Rodeo on Oct. 12 in Decatur, Texas, where he will be joined by Don Quine, Mark Staggs, Barry Corbin, Burton Gilliam, Buck Steinke, Dean Smith and Billy O'Neal. One of his favorite events is the Cowboy Way Fest in Ardmore.

When asked what he does for fun and to relax, Farmer quickly responds "writing." He emerges himself in his stories, at one time writing 7,000 words in one sitting, only slowing down briefly after a long hospital stint where he stopped breathing not once, not twice, but three times – and even during that time, he still wrote.

"Honestly, and I truly believe this, if I weren't writing during that time, I would have developed Alzheimer's or dementia, or something. I kept my mind working all the time. Writing is exercise, the more you write, the better it is. When you don't write, you get stale, rusty. My biggest regret is that I didn't start sooner," said Farmer.

However, the author knows everything happens in its due time, and he says the same for his writing career.

"It was a great experience having so many careers. I think it gave me a lot of basis for stories, because with all those you just meet a lot of people, but this is my calling. I enjoy this more than anything I have ever done," said Farmer. "I just enjoy the heck out of it."

Visit his website at [kenfarmer-author.net/bio.html](http://kenfarmer-author.net/bio.html) and make sure to follow him on Facebook for up to date releases. 



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# WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

Annette and her husband, John, on a hay delivery. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)



I've been perusing through our 38-year collection of photos thinking about fitting ones to use with my columns. I've found many pictures from vacations and special occasions and not so many of everyday life.

I'm wondering if this speaks to the perspective that our everyday life isn't noteworthy. My pondering has led to a review of what everyday life has generally looked like for us through the years.

When we first married in 1981, I was a public school teacher. Our home life took on what some would describe as traditional roles with my husband doing most of the outside chores and me doing most of the inside ones - the typical stuff like cooking meals, doing laundry and tidying the house.

The time of year has often determined our daily routines - at least the outside ones around the ranch. Mornings are about checking, feeding and moving livestock to new pastures.

When we tag team, one opens and shuts gates while the other drives through. Loading cattle into the trailer and working cattle to deworm, vaccinate and tag are other team tasks.

When it comes to hay production, my husband sprays, fertilizes, cuts, rakes and bales. I have raked before, but my husband is faster than I am, and he's pretty picky about the process so he prefers to do those jobs. I drive my beloved red tractor when picking up square bales and a truck when picking up and moving round bales.

Along the way through the years we did juggle raising a baby girl, homeschooling and caregiving other family members, but those topics are stories for another day.

I must admit it doesn't surprise me that we have few photos of our everyday life. I'm pretty sure I never thought about them as momentous events. Of course, in our early years cell phones didn't exist so we weren't walking around with a camera in our pockets either.

During my photo browsing, I was amused by one that was obviously taken by my husband. I'm not happy. I showed it to my husband to see if he had any memory about what impelled him to take it. He didn't.

I suspect it had something to do with the fact I was dressed in fence-painting clothes,





and I'm quite certain at my obvious youthful age I would not have wanted my photo taken wearing such stylish attire. I wish I could say that expression on my face only happened that one time in our long marriage, but I suspect that is not the case. It is, however, the only unhappy photo I found among thousands.

It did remind me how important it is in a marriage to remember there will be times when we are not happy or we get upset and angry. By the same token, that those times will pass into a faded memory and we can't even recall what made us unhappy or mad at the time.

I think turning 60 and having many loved ones pass away in recent years has made me reevaluate what's most important - even pay more attention to how I spend my precious time on this earth.

I do believe the new craze of taking selfies has significant meaning. I see people recording their everyday moments and mini milestones. Selfies are becoming a celebration of the small things in our lives.

I've started capturing such moments like us delivering hay bales to our customers, and that, my friends, is reason to celebrate.®



The only unhappy photo of a young Annette found among thousands during a recent photo browsing. Her husband claims he doesn't remember what impelled him to take it, but Annette suspects it has something to do with the fact she was dressed in fence-painting clothes, and is quite certain at her youthful age she would not have wanted her photo taken wearing such stylish attire. (Photos courtesy Annette Bridges)

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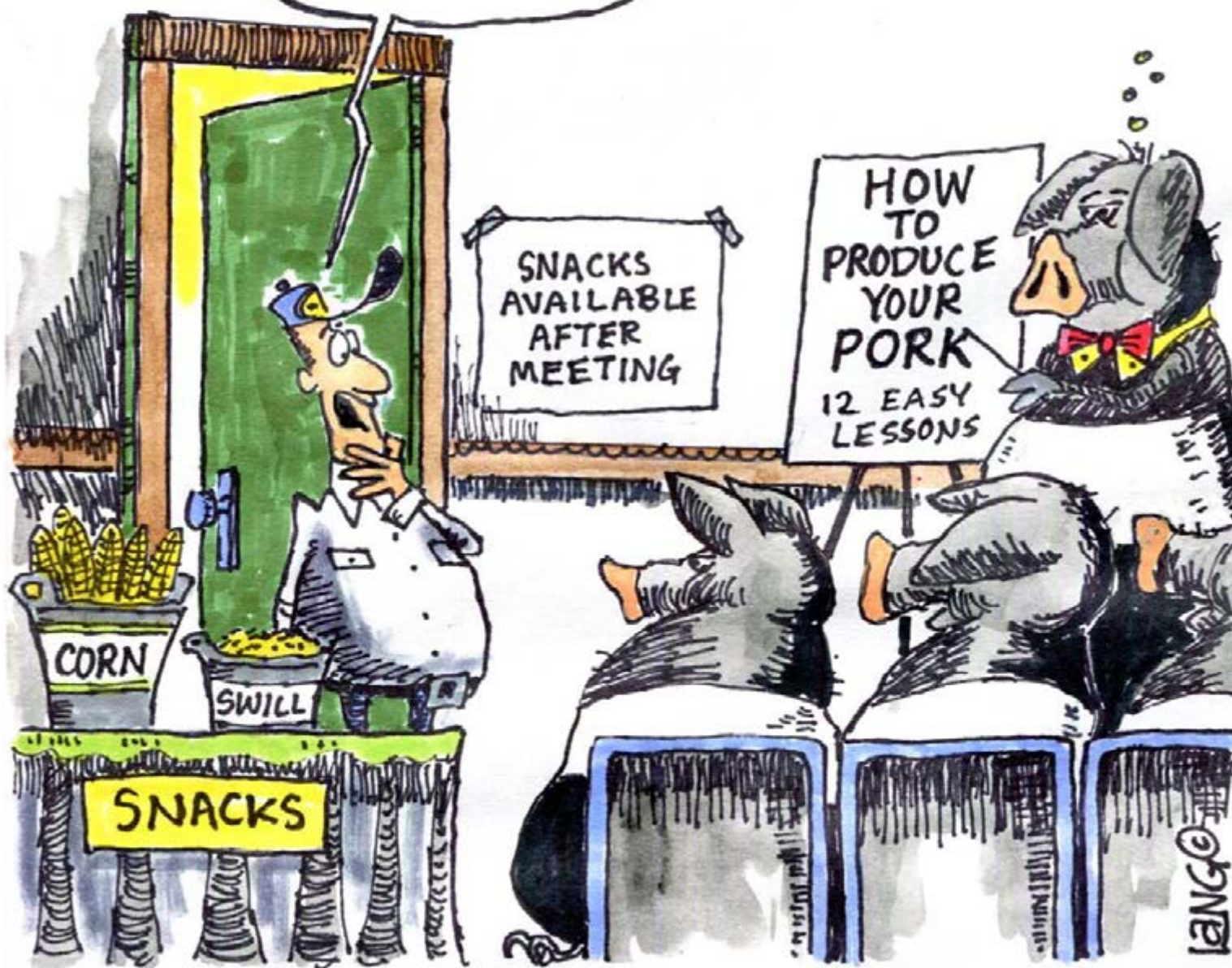
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# On the Road with Dave Alexander



Ponder, Texas musician Jay Parr has made a career out of imitating the biggest country star ever - George Strait. (Photo courtesy Shad Ramsey Photography)



**H**owdy Texas Music Fans!!

They say imitation is the greatest form of flattery. However, when it comes to the top country music stars, true imitation can be hard to achieve, but this is not the case when it comes to a Texas musician who resides right here in the Ponder area.

Jay Parr has made a career out of imitating the biggest country star ever. His tribute to George Strait, "The Strait Experience," is probably one of the best recreations of the real thing I've ever seen.

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sound down, he's got the look as well. Most who experience his shows begin to believe they're actually at a George Strait concert.

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# Caring for Kids

By Mandi Dietz

**B**efore moving to Fort Worth from Texarkana, Rod Arnold didn't foresee his future, becoming a special education teacher several years ago, and more recently, experiencing farm life.

Between manning a school garden, selling farm-fresh eggs and spending time with kids, Arnold helps work WTX Boer Goats with partner John Duvall and a farm belonging to Duvall and family, previously of Poolville.

Duvall grew up in the country with animals, then spent time living in the city, but returned to his roots. Their ever-growing farm off bustling Interstate 20 and historic Bankhead Drive naturally echoes that of his childhood, housing two llamas; a peacock and peahen; Bourbon Red turkeys; seven dogs; and chickens; but primarily goats, specifically registered Dappled, Paint and Traditional Boers, a breed advanced in South Africa for meat production.

Fond of goats, Duvall initiated the business, knowing he could keep more goats than cows on the property. Although they've sold some for food, WTX chose to raise Boers primarily because they're currently popular among livestock shows. The focus now is quality over quantity.

Duvall can often be found watching online goat sales and made a first trip to San Angelo to consign theirs plus buck semen in a Color Connection event. With coast-to-coast transportation available, their kids relocate countrywide. Likewise, they buy.

Similar to other local farms, fall and soon winter present the challenge of completing chores before early sunsets.



(Above) A happy kid at open farm day, thanks to WTX Boer Goats. (Photo courtesy Mandi Dietz)  
(Left) John Duvall of WTX Boer Goats caring for kids. (Photo courtesy Rod Arnold and WTX Boer Goats)

Primarily March and a bit of October offer a busy birthing season for the Boers.

Arnold, being a teacher, uti-

lizes spring break for this exciting season. He also invites coworkers and their kids to the farm during summer.

For more information about WTX, please visit WTX Boer Goats on Facebook and Wtx\_boergoats on Instagram.®



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Larry Lemons: A Texas State of Mind

JULY 4 - SEPT. 22 • DUNCAN, OK

*Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, 1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway, Duncan, OK 73533.* Texas award-winning artist, Larry Lemons, is painting new works for this exhibit at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center. This new work, and many pieces of his current collection will be available to purchase. Bold colors, big subjects and humor are signatures of Lemons' work. Lemons, with wife Donna, stay busy with their Texas Trails Art Gallery in Nocona, Texas. [www.onthechisholmtrail.com](http://www.onthechisholmtrail.com).

## Young County First Responders BBQ Lunch and Concert

SEPT. 28 • OLNEY

*HDH Pavilion, 841 Hwy. 114 E., Olney, Texas 76374.* You are invited to come eat and support the Young County First Responders at the barbecue lunch from noon to 2 p.m. at the HDH Pavilion in Olney on Sept. 28. The lunch is provided by the Young County Serving Our Servants, Inc. (YC-SOS) non profit. Donations will be accepted. All proceeds go to aid the Young County First Responder in the event of death or injury in the line of duty. Tickets will be available at the event or by e-mailing [youngcountysos@gmail.com](mailto:youngcountysos@gmail.com). Tickets are \$10 per adult and \$7 per child, 10 and under. Don't miss the Chris Shackelford Band and Jake Hooker and The Outsiders Band benefit concert at the same location, HDH Pavilion, from 7-10 p.m. The benefit will raise proceeds to provide a communication tower for Young County responders. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$40 per person. Email [youngcountysos@gmail.com](mailto:youngcountysos@gmail.com).

## Paradise Main Street Festival

SEPT. 28 • PARADISE

*Paradise, TX.* Gear up for the annual Paradise Main Street Festival. Free to the public. Enjoy vendors, food trucks, live entertainment, exhibits, kiddy train and bounce house, auctions and raffles, vintage camping trailers, quilt show, baking contest and much, much more. Fun for the entire family. Proceeds from donations, sponsors and vendor booths benefit the Paradise Veteran's Memorial Park and the Paradise Museum. Contact [paradisemainstreetfestival@gmail.com](mailto:paradisemainstreetfestival@gmail.com) or call 940-859-3691 for more information. Visit [www.paradisehistoricalsociety.net](http://www.paradisehistoricalsociety.net).

## Managing Weather-Related Risk for Specialty Crops

OCT. 1 • ARDMORE, OK

*Noble Research Institute Kruse Auditorium, 2510 Sam Noble Pkwy., Ardmore, OK 73401.* Managing Weather-Related Risk for Specialty Crops, 6:30-8:30 p.m. No registration fee. Registration closes on Sept. 24. Visit [www.noble.org/events](http://www.noble.org/events).

## Sarah Rodefelf Exhibit

OCT. 1- JAN. 6 • DUNCAN, OK

*Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, 1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway, Duncan, OK 73533.* Whether it's a pair of deer in the woods of Oklahoma, or the delicate points of a snowflake in Wisconsin, Maud photographer Sarah Rodefelf is patient and steady as she aims her lens. Her finished work is proof of her patience. "Designed by Nature" featuring the wildlife and landscape photography of Rodefelf will exhibit Oct. 1-Jan. 6 at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center. [www.onthechisholmtrail.com](http://www.onthechisholmtrail.com).



## DOG DAYS OF DENTON OCT. 5

## BFA World Select Barrel Horse Catalog Deadline

OCT. 1 • GUTHRIE, OK

*Lazy E Arena, 9600 Lazy E Drive, Guthrie, OK 73044.* Consign now for the BFA World Select Barrel Horse Sale, catalog deadline Oct. 1. Prospects from all incentive programs accepted. Live web-cast of sale and demonstration provided by 321 Auction Video. Demo at 7 p.m. on Nov. 29, sale at 6 p.m. on Nov. 21. Held during the Barrel Futurities of America World Championship. Call Gary Lohman at 405-226-0630, email [Lohmanranch@aol.com](mailto:Lohmanranch@aol.com) or visit [westernheritagesales.com](http://westernheritagesales.com).

## First Monday Trade Days

OCT. 4-6 • WEATHERFORD

*Fort Worth Hwy and Santa Fe Dr., Weatherford, TX.* Event will be Oct. 4-6. One of the oldest open-air markets in the state of Texas. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. all days. Visit [ci.weatherford.tx.us/883/](http://ci.weatherford.tx.us/883/) First-Monday-Trade-Days.

## 26th Annual Dog Days of Denton

OCT. 5 • DENTON

*North Texas Fairgrounds, 2217 N. Carroll Blvd., Denton, TX.* Dog Days of Denton is celebrating 26 years as Denton's most original festival for pooches and their people. The event is typically on the first weekend in October and is free to the public. The event features arts, crafts, educational demonstrations, canine talent contests, entertainment and fun for the entire family. If imitation is the finest form of flattery, Dog Days certainly has a strong legacy. Texas' original event for and about dogs has frequently been borrowed from both locally and state-wide. This unique 26th annual event is made possible by event sponsors. For everyone's safety, all dogs must remain leashed and owners must provide proof of current vaccinations. Owners are responsible and liable for their pets. [www.dentondog-days.com](http://www.dentondog-days.com).





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475.03 ACRES | WICHITA COUNTY



### DUCK BILL RIVER FARM

**\$2,250/Ac**

Nice farm with over 3 miles of Wichita river frontage. It's located in Wichita County 20 minutes west of Wichita Falls. It consists of about 350 acres of improved Bermuda and Klein grass fields with the ability to flood irrigate. The remainder is heavily wooded along the Wichita River and Antelope Creek. The entire boundary is fenced and the interior is cross fenced. It has public water and electricity. There is a Quonset barn with living quarters, hay barn and two sets of livestock corrals. This is a productive farm with lots of potential.

Will Divide & Owner Finance Available

1,319.71 ACRES | CLAY COUNTY



### BELL SCOTT RIVER RANCH

**\$2,100/Ac**

The Bell Scott River ranch consist of 1,319.71 Acres with 1.5 miles of Red River Frontage. It is primarily heavily wooded river bottom with approximately 35% being farmland and improved Bermuda pastures. Improvements consist of a frame house, workshop, equipment shed, hay barn, 2 sets of corrals, fenced and cross fenced two water wells and electricity. Its located between Charlie and Byers with easy access from FM 171 to Airport Rd, to Raymond Evans Rd. This is a well rounded recreational property. An additional 320 acres of farmland is available.

473.07 ACRES | CLAY COUNTY



### MESQUITE HILL HUNTING RANCH

**\$2,450/Ac**

This is a prime turn-key hunting and fishing property located in Clay County, northwest of Petrolia. It primarily densely wooded with mesquite, scattered open areas and a heavily wooded creek bisecting the property. It has rolling elevation changes offering great views. There are 6 ponds, 3 of them were recently built with a max depth of 25 feet, 1 to 3 acres and were stocked with bass, catfish and crappie. There are 12 blind and feeder set ups that will convey with the property. Electricity is available.

3,206.82 ACRES | CLAY COUNTY



### TRIANGEL T-NORTH DEAN RANCH

**\$1,600/Ac**

This ranch is a great cattle and hunting ranch. It's located in western Clay County, 15 minutes northeast of Wichita Falls. The ranch is primarily wooded with young and mature mesquites, quality native grasses, hardwoods located along the Wichita River which serves as the north boundary. The ranch is cross fenced into 9 pastures, it has 21 stock ponds, well-built metal livestock corrals with scales, brick ranch house, scale house with living quarters, public water and minerals available.

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- Stanfield Place - 100 Acres - Clay Co - \$2,750/Ac
- Hammon River Ranch - 1,909.35 Acres - Clay Co - \$2,723/Ac
- Sanders Ranch - 52 Acres - Clay Co. - \$2,650/Ac
- Casa Del Rio - House + 50 Acres - Wichita Co - \$574,900
- Kincaid Hunting Farm - 250.72 Acres - Wichita - \$1,975/Ac
- Lost Creek Ranch - 206 Acres - Young Co - \$2,375/Ac

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## East Texas Fall Frenzy Horse Sale

OCT. 11 • LUFKIN, TX

George H. Henderson, Jr. Expo Center, 1200 Ellen Trout Dr., Lufkin, TX 75904. East Texas Fall Frenzy Horse Sale in Lufkin, presented by Premier Equine Auction. Oct. 11 sale schedule will include roping, reiner and barrel horse demo, cutters will be shown on cattle or mechanical cow while selling, Premier Riding Horse Session selling ropers, reiners, cutters, sorters, penners and pleasure horses. Consignment fee is \$250 (includes cattle charge), eight percent commission, no PO fee. Oct. 12 sale schedule includes Premier Mixed Session, consignment fee is \$150, eight percent commission, no PO fee. No hidden fees or charges. Auctioneers Steve Friskup and Wade Shaw, licensed and bonded. Consignment deadline Sept. 5. **337-494-1333, PremierEquineAuctions.com.**

## Tarrant County Sheriff's Posse Trinity Trail Ride

OCT. 12 • FORT WORTH

Fort Worth Stockyards, Fort Worth, TX. The TCS Posse represents the Sheriff's Office at ceremonial events, parades and community functions, including those at the Fort Worth Stockyards. Since 2016, Stockyards Heritage Development Co. has hosted the Tarrant County Sheriff's Posse at Stockyards Station before they go on the trail for a fun day of riding, a Chuck Wagon style lunch, entertainment and door prizes given out during lunch. For more information on rider release forms and rules, visit their website at **tarrantcountysheriffposse.com**. Check-in begins at 8 a.m., ride starts at 9 a.m. Lunch will be at Coopers BBQ at noon. Start in the Stockyards and ride along the Trinity River.

## Introduction to Land Stewardship

OCT. 15 • MARIETTA, OK.

Noble Research Institute Coffey Ranch, 16877 State Hwy. 32, Marietta, OK 73448. 8:30 a.m. to noon on Oct. 15 at Noble Institute Coffey Ranch. No registration fee, registration closes Oct. 8. This course will provide an understanding of the principles, processes and tools to effectively implement land-stewardship-focused management strategies on your operation. The focus will primarily be on applying Aldo Leopold's five tools to meet stewardship goals and objectives. **www.noble.org/events.**

## Red River BBQ Battle

OCT. 18-19 • VERNON

Wilbarger County Events Center and Bradley Arena, 301 Wilbarger, Vernon, TX. If you are a food connoisseur or a self-proclaimed foodie, then make your way out Oct. 18-19 to watch the best barbecuer's battle it out for bragging rights. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Register fee is \$200 for all four categories which include brisket, ribs, chicken and pulled pork. First 15 entries are entered in a drawing for a \$200 United Supermarket gift card. Call **940-552-2564.**

## 3rd Annual Burkburnett Community Fish Fry

OCT. 19 • BURKBURNETT

Community Center, 735 Davy Dr., Burkburnett, TX 76354. Community fish fry benefiting the Meals on Wheels program. Local entertainment throughout the evening and the first annual silent auction. Local nonprofit organization Redneck Culinary Academy will provide the evening meal, including all you can eat fried fish with all the trimmings. \$12 at the door. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Call Valarie Maxwell at **940-867-2185.**

## Ridin' for the Brand Cowboy Church Annual Trade Show

OCT. 26 • SANGER

Ridin' for the Brand Cowboy Church, 5926 FM 455, Sanger, TX, 76266. Ridin' for the Brand Cowboy Church will host its annual trade show on Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A wide variety of items will be available, including leather works, jelly, home decor, wooden furniture and more. Lunch will be served by the church. For more information, call Dr. Roger Marsh at 940-367-1940 or email **rogerrftbcc@gmail.com. www.RidinForTheBrand.org.**

## Trunk or Treat and Horse Costume Contest

OCT. 26 • SANGER

Ridin' for the Brand Cowboy Church, 5926 FM 455, Sanger, TX, 76266. Ridin' for the Brand Cowboy Church will host a Trunk or Treat and Horse Costume Contest at 5 p.m. on Oct. 26 in the arena. All ages welcome. **www.RidinForTheBrand.org.**

## Using Grazing to Manage Wildlife Habitat

OCT. 29 • BURNEYVILLE, OK

Cross Timbers Wildlife Management Area, 7761 Stockton Rd., Burneyville, OK 73430. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. No registration fee. Registration closes Oct. 22. Most people think cattle and wildlife are incompatible. This is not the case. When managed correctly, native rangelands can produce optimal wildlife habitat and forage production for cattle. When native rangelands are not utilized or are overutilized, both cattle and wildlife suffer. Come find out how you can use cattle, fire and mechanical means to make productive rangelands that will benefit your cattle and wildlife. **www.noble.org/events**

## 29th Annual Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering

OCT. 25-27 • FORT WORTH

Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District, Fort Worth, TX. Attend the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District for the Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering and Western Swing Festival. This celebration of the nation's premier western heritage event has been voted 'Best Gathering and Best Family Event' by the readers of American Cowboy Magazine. Come enjoy these great events during the weekend: wagon train and trail ride from Jacksboro, TX, exciting ranch rodeo action, chuck wagon camp and competition, trappings show, cowboy poetry and cowboy music, Ranch Cutting Horse Assn. Rodeo Finals, youth poetry contest, youth fiddle contest, youth chuck wagon cook-off, Texas Trail of Fame, Cowboy Church, Cowboy Gospel Concert, western swing dances and the Texas Lone Star Open Live Bid Calling Contest. Visit **www.red-steagallcowboygathering.com.**

## Oakwood Cemetery's Annual Saints and Sinners Tour

OCT. 26-27 • FORT WORTH

1701 Grand Ave., Fort Worth, Texas. One of the best places to add history to your Halloween month is Oakwood Cemetery's Annual Saint and Sinners Tour. Guided, walking tours 1-3:30 p.m. You can hear the reenacted stories of 'residents' at the cemetery established in 1879 by John Peter Smith. Other costumed characters as well as the century old chapel and casket vaults will add to your visit. Adults \$10. Students/children \$5. Buy tickets at the cemetery gates. Visit **stockyardsmuseum.org** or call **817-625-5082.**





ATTRACTIONS

# THE ROAD GOES ON *Forever* BY JELLY COCANOUGH







With fall approaching and summer nearly ending, there could not have been better ingredients to the recipe of opening day.

The illuminated birds broadcast above as they follow the morning and evening ritual of the sun. Huntsmen hiding in the brush and against trees waiting to harvest dove to be eaten as the hours of darkness awaited festivities. Generations together, handing down the skillset of a mindful predator. The cook camp sets atop a small hill in the midst of a freshly rained out pasture line by tress.

Twinkle lights hang from the branches providing a haven to those who choose to bow their heads to eat with us. Steak and other find meats provided, to gain back the strength of the tired searchers.

Dove wrapped in bacon - a traditional delicacy in September. Dogs waiting underneath the standing fire in hopes of a piece of dove breast to plummet to the earth. It's the little things - that we sometimes forget to enjoy.

Being beneath the stars in the middle of nowhere. Minimal light pollution, not knowing where the next human is aside from the ones that stand with you. A thing we forget about as soon as we leave the gates of this pasture.







## ATTRACTIONS



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**Hollis, Harmon, Co. OK,**  
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Fantastic opportunity for outdoor enthusiast and/or cattleman. Approx. 35 acres cultivation, remainder in native pasture. Good tank water, rural water meter available, excellent location between Wichita Falls and Lake Arrowhead!

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477 Sales Road-Beautiful Custom Home on 3 acres - Windthorst TX  
117 Acres - Jack County | New Listing 220 Acres - Wichita County  
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80 Acres - Baylor County | 253 Acres - Clay County | 201 Acres - Clay County

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# Grazing North Texas

By Tony Dean

## Weed Control on Native Rangeland

**S**hould you spray weeds on native rangeland? This can be a difficult question to answer. Every year brings different climatic conditions and a different set of weeds, making the whole idea of spraying a moving target.

However, the goal of spraying is to grow more grass. Who can argue with that? Maybe we can run a few more head if we keep the weeds down, but are there alternatives to spraying chemicals on the land?

This discussion on weed control is not intended to be an in-depth financial analysis of spraying weeds, nor will it give a final black and white answer. Our goal here is to give you some food for thought in order for you to make an informed decision.

The different species of broad-leaf weeds across North Texas are too numerous to mention, but two of the most notorious on native rangeland are Western ragweed and Annual broomweed.

Western ragweed is a perennial that reproduces both by seed and by slender lateral roots that grow two to four inches below the surface. New plants emerge every few inches along these lateral roots enabling Western ragweed to form large colonies.

Mature ragweed can grow from one foot to two and one-half feet tall. It is sometimes consumed by livestock and wildlife when very small. When mature, the seed is a source of food for quail. In his book "Range Plants of North Central Texas," Ricky Linex said, "Even though it is important for

quail, Western ragweed is a strong competitive weed that can inhibit grass growth and forage production for livestock."

Annual broomweed is a robust bushy annual that normally grows from a single stem and resembles a small tree when mature. If the stem is damaged when young, multiple stems may grow in its place. In wet years, these plants may reach two feet to three feet in height and two feet in diameter.

The seed of Annual broomweed also is an important source of food for quail, but, as in the case with Western ragweed, broomweed can become so dense perennial grass growth is severely reduced.

Gerald Hobson is a Range and Pasture Specialist for Bayer, and part of his job is to work with farmers and ranchers to help them identify brush and weed species and decide if controlling weeds on their land fits their plans.

He also teaches CEU classes to educate these producers on the do's and don'ts of using pesticides. When asked about the point in time ranchers should consider controlling weeds on rangeland, he said, "Most of the time this question gets back to rainfall. When we get good fall rains, several species of weeds, including Annual broomweed and Texas thistle, germinate and form small rosettes that can survive the winter months. Then, if spring rains come, these plants have a head start, and this usually means a heavy summer weed crop. Since ragweed is a perennial, it can be a problem most any year, wet or



Western ragweed can spread by lateral roots and can form large colonies (Photo courtesy Tony Dean)





dry. So these conditions, in my opinion, can warrant a rancher considering spraying weeds.”

Hobson added different weeds respond to different rainfall patterns, and you really never know what is going to show up.

When you do have a dominant weed in a pasture that is controlled at the right time, research shows every pound of weeds controlled results in grass production increase of three to four pounds if moisture is adequate.

“When you are deciding whether to control weeds or not, you need to first decide if your primary interest is livestock or wildlife. Sure, you can increase grass production by killing weeds in a heavy weed year, but there are consequences,” Ricky Linex, Biologist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service stationed at Weatherford, Texas. Linex said when asked a similar question.

“When you take out all of the

ragweed and broomweed, you remove a major food source for quail and other wildlife, along with a reduction in vegetation used for escape cover. Also, green vegetation like weeds attracts insects, so removing these plants means less insects for quail and turkey chicks.”

“And one more thing,” Linex said, “When you spray for weeds like ragweed and broomweed, you also take out some very important beneficial forbs, like Engelmann’s daisy, that are highly palatable for livestock and also for wildlife. A low rate of 2, 4-D may only take out some annual weeds, but a higher rate of a broader spectrum herbicide can remove almost all forbs and even some brush species.”

#### Other factors to consider:

• Hobson addressed the question of killing beneficial forbs by suggesting when planning weed control, pick your areas of good

soil and with adequate grass cover that will respond favorably to the reduction in weeds. Other areas and riparian areas can be left unsprayed so as to create sanctuaries for preserving beneficial forbs for wildlife and livestock.

• What about the financial side of spraying weeds? If a commercial applicator is used, cost can run \$15 per acre or more. Sometimes we can spray weeds ourselves and save a little money, but over rough terrain or areas infested with brush, we usually use an aerial applicator. If cost turns out to be \$15 per acre and we are running a cow to 15 acres, the cost per cow is \$225. Weed control done earlier in the spring can be less expensive than when done later in the year because less chemical is usually necessary to control smaller weeds. If weed control enables us to run a few more head, then the cost per cow can go down some. Any way we look at it, weed

control can be a serious financial outlay. We should evaluate these costs to determine if it can pay for itself. This is part of the decision making process.

• The better we are at grazing management, the more we can influence weed production in our pastures. A thick stand of perennial grass can choke out many weeds that would otherwise become a problem. Also, if we can rotate cattle rapidly through pastures during early spring months, they will consume many weeds and can often reduce weeds to a tolerable level. Sheep and goats are good at consuming forbs and brush.

• Mesquite and other brush can be reduced by a process called suppression. Suppression is the application of a weed spray chemical to the brush species in late spring. Usually the mesquites are defoliated, then application is repeated for at least two more years.

See **GRAZING** page 69

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- Bunching of animals and changes in grazing patterns-
- Cattle congregate in the driest, dustiest areas to help combat flies. As a result, cattle overgraze in those areas, and under-utilize other areas
- Decreased milk production
- Reduced weight gain and reduced weight of weaning calves

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We focus our attention on helping ranchers protect their cattle against flies through the summer, thus reducing stress, helping with grazing behaviors and increasing milk production and weight gains.

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and happy ranchers!**



# Grazing

Continued from page 67

A small percentage of mesquites will likely be killed by the end of the third year, but you have grown a lot of grass due to defoliating the brush and possibly reducing the weed population.

Although weeds in the pasture are affected, suppression is not a good weed control method because the weeds are usually too mature at the time of spraying. It is difficult to do a good job of spraying brush and weeds at the same time.

- When we decide to spray weeds by aerial application, we must be 100 percent sure our aerial applicator knows exactly where to spray on our land. Mistakes that result in spraying our neighbor's land are usually completely by accident, but are not good for neighbor relations.

- We must also work with applicators to be sure herbicide labels are followed in application, including environmental factors.

- Some producers elect to have their pilot fly every other swath which greatly reduces the cost of application. This should only be considered where weeds or brush are not a critical problem, but rather in a maintenance situation.

So, the question of whether or not to spray weeds on rangeland comes down to what is important to each rancher.

Are you interested only in grass production, or are other considerations also important to you? We should be doing our homework so we are able to make an informed decision.

It's your land (or your grass lease) and you have the right to make your own decisions.

As long as you don't harm anyone else, your property rights give you the authority to do what you think is best. Isn't this a great country? I wouldn't have it any other way.®



Western ragweed is a perennial forb and can be a problem in a wide range of moisture conditions.



Annual broomweed germinates in the fall when rains are adequate which results in a broomweed crop the next spring. (Photos courtesy Tony Dean)



# Confessions of a Hunter

By Andy Anderson

## Stink Bait Hot Pocket

Growing up I was obsessed with catfishing; I would go every chance I had and as I was about nine or 10 years of age, I had a lot of time for it. I collected several good poles, had a few secret places that I reserved for just myself, but my buddies, Jason, Mika, Gary and I had a spot we went to all the time. It was a walk, a few miles down to the Trinity River. There were two large ponds next to the river that was a little hidden oasis no one knew about. We had this place all to ourselves, or so we thought.

One afternoon we were set up fishing as usual, pulling in some small ones ever so often when an old man standing on the ledge above us caught my eye. I said hello and invited him down to fish with us, told him he could use one of my poles; I had four of them.

The old man didn't say a thing, just turned around, disappearing from sight. Shortly afterwards I heard someone coming down the path, cursing each step. The narrow path was covered in switch grass, bull nettle and a few other plants that would cut you or poke you if you were not careful. I was set up at the foot of the path where there was a large bank area with plenty of room for two or three people. I was looking back as I could begin to see the figure of an adult making his way down the path, the sun was behind him revealing only a figure of a tall slender man wearing a cowboy hat. As he came closer blocking out the sun, I saw it was the man



Andy Anderson and his group of friends started landing fish left and right with the use of some stink bait. (Photo courtesy Andy Anderson)

from the ledge. He came down next to me, introduced himself as Cecil.

Cecil appeared to be in his 70's, weather worn and a little rough around the edges and with his tongue. He reminded me of the grandpa described in the song sung by Randy Travis, "He Walked on Water" white shirt, buttoned to the neck and all.

Cecil sat on the ledge, hands on his knees and just watched us for a while, didn't say much, just asked who we were and where we were from. We answered his questions, shared our water and Vienna Sausages with him and continued fishing. It was getting late, so we

started packing up, collecting our trash and offered to help Cecil back up the hill. We made it up the hill and started to part ways when Cecil told us he enjoyed the time with us and appreciated the loan of a pole. Cecil then said we were fishing on his land and if we would clear out the path to make it easier to get down to the pond, we could keep fishing there. He also said we could use his tools in the barn, just put them back when we finished up.

The next day we spent working on the path, cut the grass and shrubs back, cleared the rocks and cut a few steps into the side of the hill like stairs. We even found an

old metal lawn chair we hauled down the bank for Cecil to sit in.

Cecil would join us from time to time. Just sit and visit with us, tell us stories from when he was a kid. He talked about a lot of things, from when he used to fish to help feed his family during the depression to when he got his first horse. He taught us to set a rig up, how to set bait off the bottom and more. We used any and all bait we could get our hands on from the fridges our mothers stocked regularly. Hot dogs, bacon, bread, just about anything we could get as we didn't have any money to buy any bait.

One day Jason showed up with





some “Strike King, Stink Bait” and man did it stink. Cecil grabbed the bag from Jason, opened it up and took a big whiff of the contents. Cecil started hacking, gaging and coughing as he quickly shoved the stink bait back towards Jason exclaiming (in proper content for this article), “That smells horrible, and if you can’t catch a fish with that, at least you’ll catch some flies.” We all giggled and grabbed a chunk of this new stinky bait.

Man, it was awesome; we started landing fish left and right. It was a feeding frenzy. Cecil was laughing at how fast we were bringing in the fish. He kept repeating, “If I didn’t see it, I wouldn’t have believed it.” About that time Greg yelled out, “I need help! I got a big one!” Sure enough, Greg was fighting a beast, his pole bent over, the drag was screaming. Just then Greg slipped and fell. Still holding onto

the pole, he was sliding on his rear down the bank towards the water. The grass was so tall and slick it made a perfect ramp.

Standing in awe, I was frozen as I watched Greg inch closer to the water. Just then Cecil yelled at me to get over there and help Greg. I shoved the three or four chunks of bait into the pocket of my jeans and rushed over to help Greg. We hauled in what was to us at the time, the biggest catfish ever, a real monster. It took three of us to drag him up the bank and to Cecil. He was so proud of our accomplishment. Then, Cecil reminded us of the time and that we had best be getting home. We were having so much fun time slipped away. We hauled our fish home where Greg’s dad helped us clean them. He said the big one weighed about 20 pounds.

The next day I went to school. It was a normal day with exception

to the bragging of the giant catfish we caught. No one believed us, said it didn’t happen. Later that afternoon we gathered on the play ground as we usually do, discussing our plans for going fishing later and then onto playing some football. The bell rang signaling the end of recess and to return to class.

As I sat in the desk, sweat still beading on my forehead, an all too familiar odor began to pierce the air. Just as I realized what it was, I reached down grasping the outside of my pant pocket to find the stink bait from the day before.

In horror I sat there trying to convince myself no one else could smell it, it was just me and it would be ok.... NOPE! The girl in front of me turns around and yells out loud “What’s that smell? You stink!” Well, it didn’t take long before the whole class was in an uproar, laughing at my

misfortune, which yielded new nicknames such as Stinky Pants and Puke Butt.

That afternoon we arrived to the fishing hole to find Cecil already there waiting on us. As I walked up with my head low and my pride in my throat, Cecil asked what had me down. Well, Cecil laughed in my face as I told him what happened. Cecil then gave some great advice, “Boy, you’re fishing with the wrong bait if you’re trying to catch a girl. A kind gesture and silver tongue is all ya need.” Cecil laughed it off and told us to get after it, see if we could catch a bigger one.

With that I learned to never make a stink bait hot pocket again and to be thankful Greg brought the head of the catfish to school the next day in his backpack to show everyone who didn’t believe us, thus diverting the attention off of me.®

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# THE GARDEN GUY

OUTDOORS



By Norman Winter | Horticulturist, Author, Speaker

## *Suncredible Yellow* EVER-BLOOMING BUSH SUNFLOWER FOR NORTH TEXAS

**E**verblooming and bush habit are not two adjectives or descriptors you would ever expect to give a sunflower, but that has all changed. It's called Suncredible Yellow, and botanically speaking it is a *Helianthus* hybrid and perfect for North Texas.

I planted it about three months ago right close to a clump of Rockin salvias. Amazingly, it has been blooming all summer and continues to do so, giving no indication its life as an annual will be coming to an end.

This will be a totally new plant product for the gardener, reaching 42-inches tall and around 36-inches wide. The flowers are four inches wide and produced in abundance, bringing in bees and butterflies. Those of you with roaming deer populations will rejoice that this plant is typically not on the menu.

It will be reaching garden centers in mass next spring and I know your first thought will be sunflowers don't last that long in the garden, but this will simply not be true with this new breeding of our loved native *Helianthus*. It will thrive in just about any soil and will be riveting as long as you give it good sunlight. Space your plants 18 to 24-inches apart.

Suncredible Yellow will keep blooming whether you deadhead or not. In my garden I have snipped them off a couple of times. Because of their bushy habit they will excel as the thriller plant in mixed containers or look stunning as a monoculture plant growing with no partners.

The look screams cottage garden but will be simply amazing just mixed in with perennials and other annuals. Of course, those of you  
**See GARDEN GUY page 74**

Suncredible Yellow sunflower produces 4-inch flowers all summer. (Photo courtesy Norman Winter)



# GARDEN GUY

Continued from page 73

working on a backyard wildlife habitat will be pleased beyond your wildest expectations.

The Garden Guy really used a layered design up a gentle slope. In the front I have the Rockin Deep Purple salvia and the Rockin Blue Suede Shoes. Then going up the slope is the Suncredible Yellow. Next is the amazing Summerific Holy Grail hibiscus. The look is a subtle triadic harmony with blue salvias, yellow sunflowers and deep red hibiscus.

It has been scoring very well in plant trials. Most trials rate on a score of 1 to 5 with 5 being the best. In the University of Georgia trials from June through August, it has an average of 4.75. It has seen similar scores in the south. When you score well above 4 the

consumer can rest assured they are getting a good 'bang for their buck.'

As you can tell from the length of bloom, this native is heat tolerant and I can testify it has a strong degree of drought tolerance as our summer in west Georgia has crept into the miserable category. We celebrate, however, with colorful flowers.

One last thing very worth touting is this plant's ability to give you cut-flowers for the vase. What is better than sunflowers, salvias and zinnias in the summer vase? It is a great time to be a gardener and the new Suncredible Yellow Sunflower will give you the green thumb and a bounty of flowers too. Follow me on Facebook @ NormanWinterTheGardenGuy.™



Suncredible Yellow sunflower brings in an assortment of pollinators like this Horace's Duskywing butterfly. (Photo courtesy Norman Winter)

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# PARTING SHOT

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## *It's a hot tamale!*

Let's take a step back and view a moment in time. I blink with furrowed brows, mouth open with dry lips....Wishing I could find my yeti cup I put down somewhere in this tack barn. It should stand out because it's orange and everything out here is brown. I turned around and spot a tiny gato wanting some attention. You know it's going to be a good barn kitty when they want to be petted that young of age. Horse I'm by is swatting nasty flies. They always know how to ruin a good time. My dogs, looking at me with great depth. Like they're trying to use ESP on me while sitting in the truck. They probably wish they had thumbs so they could text me - that they don't care about the tiny kitty on the ground, but that they only wanted to roll in the dirt. I'm no dummy. They always avoid bath time when soap is involved. If it was up to them, a fish grown pond would suffice. He wasn't paying attention to all of this, but he didn't want me to get a picture of the trailer in the background. Hindsight is 20/20. (Photo and description by Jelly Cocanougher) ®



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## PREFERRED PROPERTIES

FARM & RANCH RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL

5240 Camp Bowie Blvd. Fort Worth, TX 76107 | 817-626-2000



Pete Rehm  
BROKER  
940-682-8825

### DUBLIN

#### TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME

Huge, gorgeous Live Oak trees A little bit of History with limestone rock structure, built in 1800s. Was a stop for the Stage Coach back in the day. A huge rock system & windmill adds to the character of this property from the era Wildlife in abundance, good grasses for grazing....etc. So much ambiance!

Debbie Moran-  
\$450,000



### LIPAN

This amazing 150-acre property is a horse trainer's dream. An incredible 3 bedroom two and half bath home with vaulted tongue-and-groove ceilings, a floor-to-ceiling stone fire place and 60 ft. sunroom. Excellent fencing and plenty of water with 7 tanks on the property. Full training facility with plenty of room for cattle. Barn has a two-story apartment, 11 stalls and 2 stud stalls, hay storage, tack room and wash rack.

Bobby Norris - \$1,595,000



### 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- \$389,500



### 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 interior to the custom flooring and counters. Ample room for a growing family.

Bobby Norris-  
REDUCED \$775,000



### LIPAN

One of a kind Corporate Retreat or family ranch less than an hour West of Downtown Fort Worth. This custom home has all the upgrades including an outdoor kitchen with rock fireplace and heated saltwater pool with waterfall and spa. Excellent hunting and fishing from 3 stock tanks. Beautiful lake site where buck and turkey creek join. New fences, cross fenced into 3 pastures. Automatic gate, barn and holding pens.

Bobby Bowden- \$1,259,800



Larry Porter  
817-597-8699



Gabe Webster  
817-204-3452



Tri Goldthwaite  
817-266-5501



Colton Childs  
817-913-1806



Deborah Moran  
817-821-9118



Tory Dwyer  
405-416-0423



Lori Dugdale  
817-296-8732



Gina Marx  
817-312-5845

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