

NORTH TEXAS FARM & RANCH



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Jerry Keeter



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letter from the editor

Hello readers and welcome

to the March 2020 issue of North Texas Farm and Ranch magazine.

By this time of the year, I am tired. I am tired of the cold, the

weather changes, the feeding, the worrying about calves being born in the cold, the list goes on and on. Long story short, I'm not a cold weather person. However, I am a person who likes to look on the bright side of things, and as Bishop Reginald Heber said, "If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant."

Those words resonated with me. If we did not have the cold weather months, would I truly appreciate the warm sunshine and spring blossoms? Most likely I would take them for granted. So here is to having survived another cold winter season and excitement as the warm season is upon us.

This issue I hope you will enjoy the story of an agricultural aviation pilot who knew from a young age what career path he would take, and 39 years later, that career is still going strong as he serves the farmers and ranchers of North Texas.

Also inside find stories on twin momma cows, cowgirl and singer Mikki Daniel, the history of black farmer inventors, a glimpse of agriculture in Colorado and Montana, a mountain lion hunt, a college cowgirl, delicious recipes and fashion tips, an introduction to new contributor Ryndi Perkins and so much more.

Visit our website at www.NTFRonline.com where you can subscribe to an online edition.

To subscribe by mail call 940-872-5922 and make sure to like our Facebook page and follow us on Instagram and Twitter. Wishing you all the best this March.

Dani Blackburn

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ON THE COVER

Jerry Keeter of Olney, Texas, has been in the ag aerial business for 39 years with more than 25,000 hours of flying. Find out how he got his start at just 16 years old. (Photo courtesy Zane Francescato)



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North Texas Farm & Ranch

Published by Dani Blackburn [?] · January 17 at 10:44 PM · 🌐



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January 17 at 7:40 PM · 🌐

We are underway in the INAUGURAL night for the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo at Dickies Arena! This is truly legendary! 🍌 #FWSSR #DickiesArena #OurFirstRodeo

TWITTER FEED



FWSSR @fwssr · Feb 8

The Grand Champion Steer, a Hereford named Cupid Shuffle, has sold to GKB Cattle for a record \$300,000! Exhibitor Ryder Day is 12-years-old and from Meadow FFA



🗨 56

🔄 1.5K

❤ 7.1K



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

John Curry submitted this photo of the prize he won at the annual Wise County judge's office Christmas cookie contest for county employees using one of Lacey Newlin's delicious recipes. The entrance fee and money earned from the sale of the cookies after the judging is donated to the Wise Area Relief Mission in Decatur.



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MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH

Spring is on the Horizon

By Rayford Pullen | rcpullen@yahoo.com

We're on the verge of having winter in our rear-view mirror and an end to the winter feed bills that came with it. March 15 is when our last freeze of the winter usually occurs, but the green up has already begun around our place and it couldn't have come at a better time.

Beginning the first of March or so, we will have about four months or so of the best forages we will have the entire year as it relates to the perennial warm season grasses, legumes and cool season annuals. Our cows will be milking great, calves will be putting on lots of pounds, and our females will be breeding back.

Our cost of gain will be fairly cheap, and if we have been managing our breeding programs correctly, our calves will be old enough to make it work.

As mentioned in previous articles, a calf's rumen doesn't become full functionally until it is around eight weeks old and for calves born in February, they will be turning the crank in, regards to gains, whereas calves born in April and May will not have a functioning rumen until grass quality heads south when the ambient temperatures begin to spike.

I have been a proponent of spring calving for many years, but as I get older, calving in the fall when the temperatures are a little more to my liking has me taking a harder look at fall.

Also, when the best pastures of the year arrive in March, those fall born calves will be four to five months old and ready to get it done when spring arrives. With fall calving, you will probably



Rayford Pullen predicts that beginning the first of March or so, we will have about four months or so of the best forages we will have the entire year as it relates to the perennial warm season grasses, legumes and cool season annuals. (Photo courtesy Rayford Pullen)

have higher winter feed costs, but the extra cost will be offset by the extra gains.

My position now is that I will probably have both (spring and fall calving) since this is not a perfect world. I will be able to utilize fewer bulls by using the same set in the spring and the fall, calf working is a little easier and selling seed stock bulls and females, this balance lets us have bulls for sale for both the spring and fall.

Spring time is a wonderful time of the year, seeing the little ones racing around the pastures with concerned mommas hot on their trails, calves nursing, and seeing that one mamma babysitting a bunch of calves while the others drift away to graze.

If you know how this is decided among the cows let me know, as I've never seen them drawing straws, guessing numbers or doing rock, paper, scissors. Just another one of those "mother nature" things I guess.

As our calves approach the age of two to three months old, we will begin to make plans to vaccinate them for blackleg and deworm them.

When we are vaccinating, and we have calves less than two months old, they also are going to get a blackleg vaccine as well. As a matter of fact, if they can walk, they are getting vaccinated, and during the many years I have been doing this I have never had a problem from these younger calves. Deworming at vaccination

time also is something I believe is extremely important, particularly in how it relates to the average daily gain of calves while on their moms.

If you cannot or do not want to get your calves up to worm them, you can at least use the worming blocks on the market.

Vaccinating your calves will require you to lot them, but saving one or two will go a long way towards paying someone to help you to do this.

Let's enjoy this time of year and do what is best for our cattle to ensure they have the best health and nutrition in order for them to be productive and ensure our way of life economically.

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PHOTO | DESCRIPTION BY LINDSEY MONK



Calving season is just getting started in Montana. Here's to short days, long nights and big cups of coffee. Hope it goes smoothly for everyone, critters and the caretakers alike. ☺

RANCH, RODEO and Randomness

By Pepper Stewart

Fort Worth Stockyards: Old West Cowboy Atmosphere

Looking for that old west cowboy atmosphere and don't have a time machine yet?

The Fort Worth, Texas, Historic Stockyards is the place for you to go in the present day.

Catch the longhorn cattle drive through the original brick street past plenty of historic buildings, bars and old wooden holding pens.

There is a lot of original old west history to see while walking around, then top it off with some rodeo action in the world's first indoor rodeo arena, Stockyards Coliseum.

I could spend all day rambling about everything to see and do, but what fun is that? Get up and head to the Fort Worth Stockyards for your next weekend getaway.

There are plenty of hotels to stay in to fit your budget, but if you want the old days' boarding house experience, there are a few that will set you back in the 1800s.

Nightlife? Well, of course. What would the stockyards be without live cowboy tunes?

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Drop in at Billy Bob's and you can get it all: live music, dancing, bull riding, food, shopping, and games for the whole family. With all that being said, be sure to add the Fort Worth Stockyards to your North Texas travel plans in 2020.®



(Above) Pepper Stewart stands in front of the historic Stonehouse Hotel. (Left) An inside view of the Stonehouse Hotel. (Photos courtesy Pepper Stewart)

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THE BEES KNEES

Be All In

By Ryndi Perkins

I knew who he was and what he did before I met him. That is why when he first messaged me I wouldn't respond. I figured I didn't belong in that sort of lifestyle. I had seen my parents not be able to handle the strain it puts on a relationship. Although, I thought something: God had a different plan.

My family is always doing something together. We are the type that you can call on each other and we will find some sort of shenanigans to get into. One night I called my cousin to get together. I remember the phone call when he said, "Yes, let's go eat, but I have so and so with me." In my mind I was thinking, "Great. Him again." That night is when my life changed forever.

The person I call my forever is from a family that buys and sells cattle. He works a job that has no set hours. When we first met I was taken aback on how important work was to him. I was angry when work came before "our time." I was always so worried that I would end up in a relationship like my mother and father where the strain and stress of the "lifestyle" couldn't be handled.

I always knew my person was the one for me, but in some ways I found myself wondering how in the world could I do this? How can I sit here and always wonder what time will he be done today? How can anyone handle the stress when they don't hear from them hours throughout the day? Later that evening, I made the decision I'm either all in or I better get out. That is when I asked God, "Is he the



Ryndi Perkins urges us to be all in. (Photo courtesy Ryndi Perkins)

one for me? Am I doing the right thing?" I got the sign I needed and I chose to be all in.

I realize women are thrown into all different circuits when it comes to rodeo, livestock and even farming. You have to make a choice to stand behind your person and sacrifice all the things other women get to have. Yes, other women get

to go on a date on Friday night, they get to see a movie on Saturday night and they get to make the church service on Sunday. Women in the lifestyle we live in don't get those things. We plan around how many head the sale is going to have, how many more acres need to be farmed before the first rain or when the next rodeo is.


Listen ladies, you may find yourself in those shoes wondering what you are doing and if it is worth it. Be all in! God wouldn't put you where you are if you weren't meant to be there.

Put on your boots (I prefer Twisted X shoes; they are more comfortable), put on your gloves and pack you some snacks (Our men sometimes forget to eat). You are going to be sore, your house is going to be a disaster and you may find out you can go without sleep for longer than you think. Stand behind your person and travel along beside them. I realize it's not what "other women" get to have, but you have so much more. You get to see the person who is meant for you do the work to provide for others.

He is the carrier of the legacy this world needs to survive. He is the person who isn't afraid to get his hands dirty to make sure your family has everything they need to live.

Love your person. Love him when you are so angry he didn't make it home when he said. Love him when your date day turned into work day. Love him when he is tired and just wants sleep after a week of nonstop work. Love him even after the screaming match you had working cattle.

Last but not least, love yourself because there aren't many women who are strong enough to stay in this lifestyle.

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Calf Vigor

By Barry Whitworth, DVM / Area Food/Animal Quality and Health Specialist for Eastern Oklahoma

The initial overall physical strength and good health of a newborn, referred to as calf vigor, is very important to the future health of a calf. In order for a calf to thrive, it must accomplish several things within hours immediately after being born. The calf must be able to sit up (sternal recumbency), stand, locate the teats and nurse. Any delay in nursing will have a major impact on the calf's future since the immunoglobulins that are present in a cow's colostrum are best absorbed in the first four hours of life. Immunoglobulins are what protect a calf from disease causing agents, and the absorption of immunoglobulins rapidly declines 12 hours after birth. Calves that are vigorous at birth have a much better outlook on a healthy future than those that are less vigorous and are not able to stand and nurse soon after birth.

Assessing a calf's vigor and recognizing when to intervene and help a calf is something all producers need to be able to do. In human medicine, newborn babies undergo an APGAR test following birth. APGAR stands for appearance, pulse, grimace, activity, and respiration. The test is given one and five minutes after birth. The purpose of the test is to assess how well the baby tolerated the birthing process and how well the baby is doing outside the mother's womb. An APGAR test for calves similar to the one in human medicine would give cattle producers a clue when to intervene in a newborn calf's life. Unfortunately, most attempts to develop such a test for calves have not been successful; however, there are several studies that provide some practical



In order for a calf to thrive, it must accomplish several things within hours immediately after being born. (Courtesy photo)

advice on when to intervene with a newborn calf.

In two studies Dr. Homerosky and associates found two good predictors of calf vigor. Consuming colostrum within the first four hours following birth was dependent on calving ease and suckle reflex. Most producers have the ability to assess both components. First, was the calf born in a timely manner with no assistance? Calves that require assistance are more likely to have acidosis. Acidosis is associated with failure of immunoglobulin absorption, sickness and death in calves. Dr. Homerosky found a correlation between acidosis and the inability of a calf to withdraw its tongue after being pinched. A producer can check a calf for acidosis by pinching the calf's tongue. If it cannot withdraw its tongue after being pinched, it is likely acidotic

and a good candidate for early colostrum intervention.

The second predictor producers can check for is does the calf have a strong suckle reflex? Suckle reflex can be determined by inserting two fingers in the mouth and rubbing the roof of the calf's mouth. A calf that has strong jaw tone with a rhythmic suckle would be determined to have a strong suckle reflex. The opposite of this would be considered a weak suckle reflex and may indicate the need for intervention.

In another study, Dr. Murray found that calves that did not sit up (sternal recumbency) within 15 minutes of birth had reduced absorption of immunoglobulins. Also, calves born to cows that had difficulty birthing took longer to stand. These would be clues that the calf will require more care and colostrum intervention to increase

the chance of survival.

Most producers are capable of assessing calf vigor based on the above parameters. Any calf born to a cow that has difficulty birthing and/or a calf that has problems with the above tests would be a candidate for early intervention. The best treatment for these calves is to give the calf two to three liters of colostrum from the mother within the first four hours of life. Any delay in getting colostrum into the calf will increase the chance of the calf having problems in life. This does require more work from the producer but should pay off with more pounds of beef at weaning.

If producers would like more information about calf vigor, they should contact their local veterinarian or local Oklahoma State University County Extension Educator.



Any delay in nursing after birth will have a major impact on the calf's future. (Courtesy photo)

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The 'Secret' Inventors

By Milton Ammel

When it comes to early American agriculture, one almost always thinks of white farmers. Equally important, and not very well recognized, are the contributions by black farmers, especially those who also were inventors.

Perhaps one of the better known early American black farm inventors was a man named Henry Blair. Born in 1807, Blair was never believed to have been a slave, for one noteworthy yet tragic fact.

The online resource myblackhistory.net had this to say: "Little is known of the life of Henry Blair, except that he was probably a freefarmer of Montgomery County, Md.

It is assumed he was a free man since the patent would not have been approved to be in the name of a slave."

Only the second African American to receive a patent, he was a forerunner of a long line of future black inventors.

His invention, a corn-planting machine, was able to seed corn in a checkerboard fashion, a system that provided good weed control.

"Henry Blair was the only inventor to be identified in the Patent Office records as a colored man. Uneducated, and unable to read or write, Henry Blair had a gift for invention and did not allow his race, lack of education or other negative factors of the time hold him back."

"Signing his name on Patent No. X8447 with a simple X, Henry Blair helped improve farming and the livelihood of farmers."

More detail on the corn planter is given by "Today in Science-History" in an article excerpted from the 1836 "Mechanics Magazine."

"Corn and Planting Machine - A free man of colour, Henry Blair



When it comes to early American agriculture, one almost always thinks of white farmers. Equally important are the contributions by black farmers, especially those who also were inventors. (Courtesy photo)

by name, has invented a machine called the corn-planter, which is now exhibiting in the capital of Washington."

It is described as a very simple and ingenious machine, which, as moved by a horse, opens the furrow, drops (at proper intervals, and in an exact and suitable quantity) the corn, covers it, and levels the earth, so as, in fact, to plant the corn as rapidly as a horse can draw a plough over the ground. The inventor thinks it will save the labour of eight men.

"He is about to make some alterations in it to adapt it to the planting of cotton." - New York Paper.

Another device patented by Blair was the cotton planter. Similar in concept to the corn planter,

the cotton device, of course, had a few differences. In the Feb. 1, 1818, issue of "New York Amsterdam News," an article on Blair has this description of the cotton planter:

"Blair's second patent was for a cotton planter, issued Aug. 31, 1836."

Very similar to his first invention, this one functioned by splitting the ground with two shovel-like blades that were pulled along by a horse or other draft animal. Behind this device was a wheel-driven cylinder with blades that deposited seed into the freshly plowed ground.

One of the benefits of the machine was it quickly and evenly distributed seeds while removing weeds.

One of the most famous farm inventions is that of the reaper, commonly credited to Cyrus McCormick as the inventor. The story is more complicated than just another white man inventing something.

In this case, although history is scant, the reaper was actually a cooperative project between a black man and white man. We will pick up the story from the Feb. 5, 2013, issue of the "Richmond Times Dispatch."

"Jo Anderson was born in 1808, who became a slave," on the McCormick family plantation, whom McCormick descendants and some historians acknowledge as a major contributor to the design and creation of the reaper.

Continued on page 24

Continued from page 23

Anderson “has as much to do with the later development of the reaper as Cyrus McCormick,” said Lester R. Godwin Jr., retired curator of the McCormick Farm in Augusta and Rockbridge counties.

“Unfortunately, history likes to put things in neat boxes, and often those who are involved in the creation of something don’t get credit for it.”

The year 1831 was a significant year for American agriculture.

“On that day in July 1831, when the reaper was first tested before an audience of friends, neighbors and skeptics in the Shenandoah Valley, McCormick’s grandson wrote, ‘Jo Anderson was there, the Negro slave who, through the crowded hours of recent weeks, had helped build the reaper.’ Jo Anderson deserves honor as the man who worked beside him in the building of the reaper. Jo Anderson was a slave, a general farm laborer and a friend, and the Negro toiled with him up to the hour of the test and after.”

So, to be accurate, the true inventors of the reaper were Cyrus McCormick and Jo Anderson.

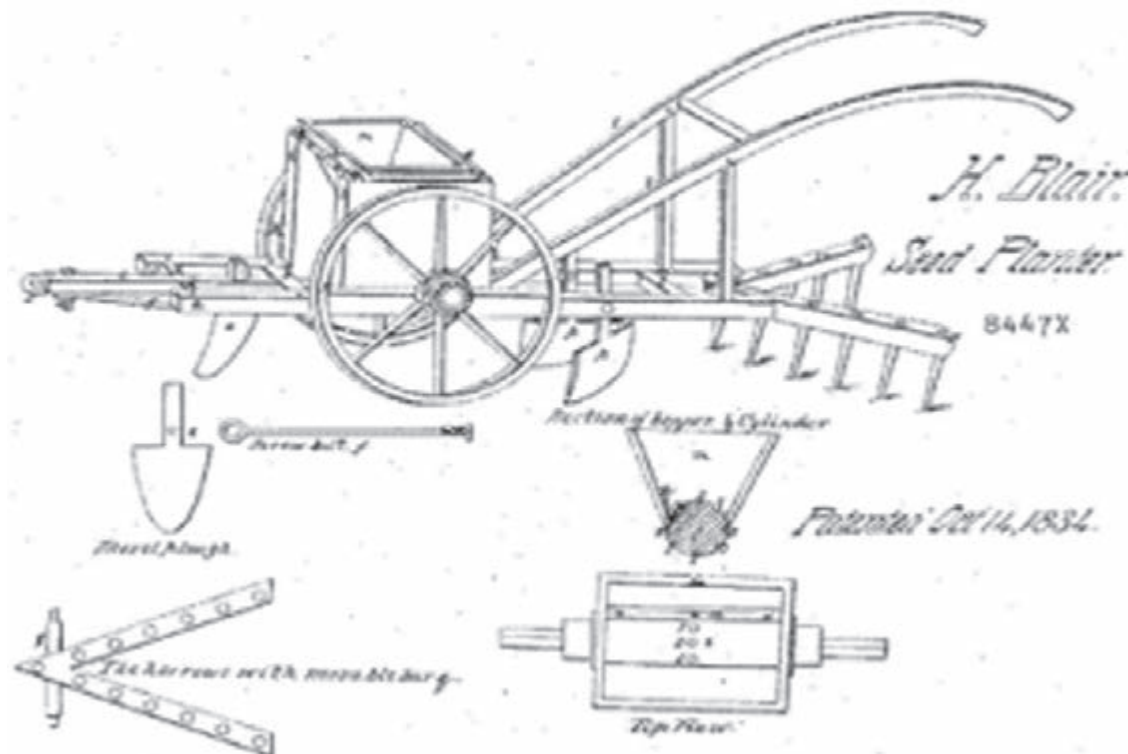
We now turn to the tangled story of perhaps the most famous farm invention of all, the cotton gin.

History books for more than 200 years have told us that Eli Whitney, a white man, invented the cotton gin.

That is accurate, but again, he really only deserves partial credit. In an audio episode called “Engines of Our Ingenuity” by John H. Lienhard, there is this most insightful point.

“The grand irony of all this is that the person who provided Whitney with the key idea for his gin was himself a slave, known to us only by the name Sam. Sam’s father had solved the critical problem of removing seeds from cotton by developing a kind of comb to do the job.

Whitney’s cotton gin simply



Patent drawing for Henry Blair’s mechanical corn seed planter. (Courtesy photos)



Henry Blair.



Jo Anderson.



Cyrus McCormick.

mechanized this comb.

“The technologies of the Old South, of course, flowed from the people who were doing the jobs that had to be done. The story of Sam was repeated in different ways over and over. Slaves invented technology, but they couldn’t patent it. In 1858, the United States Attorney General, a man named Black, ruled that

since slaves were property, their ideas also were the property of their masters. They had no rights to patents on their own.”

It only makes sense that when black slaves were the ones doing all the farm work, they would be the ones to come up with ideas for devices to improve the situation.

The tragic reality, of course, is that inventions often made their

situations even worse. The cotton gin, for example, enabled the mass enslavement of blacks to pick cotton.

The best that can be done in hindsight is simply to pay tribute to those who deserve it: black men and women who, without knowing it, helped build the United States just as much as the white men and women did. ®



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LAND MARKET REPORT

By Jared Groce

JANUARY 2020 RURAL LAND SALES

January land sales have been somewhat slowed by all of the rain we have had so far, but the demand is still brisk and still outweighs the available supply. Buyers who are trying to take advantage of a 1031 exchange, and are up against a timeline, have been wading through the mud to get a property in contract before their time expires, and a few other die-hard folks have ventured into the mud to view properties. The phones have been ringing with buyers who are beginning the year with a desire to buy land. Most of the other brokerages I have spoken with are waiting and hoping for more sellers to enter the market as we get closer to spring.

Cooke, and Montague Counties saw a January 2020 average price per acre that was above the 2019 monthly average. Denton and Wise Counties saw a decrease from the 2019 monthly average.

Information from North Texas Real Estate Information Service (NTREIS) for raw land data, for 10 or more acres for the month of January 2020.

Cooke County

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Valley View	11.91	\$8,396.31	\$119,100	\$100,000	83.96%	46
Valley View	20	\$8,000	\$180,000	\$160,000	88.89%	74
Valley View	13	\$13,230.77	\$185,000	\$172,000	92.97%	117
Valley View	20	\$8,750	\$184,500	\$175,000	94.85%	230
Valley View	20	\$8,750	\$184,500	\$175,000	94.85%	225
Whitesboro	22	\$10,500.00	\$231,000	\$231,000	100%	189
Whitesboro	33.31	\$9,607	\$335,000	\$320,000	95.52%	58
Valley View	182.44	\$6,700	\$1,255,731	\$1,222,348	97.34%	811

Denton County

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Justin	14	\$18,928.57	\$280,000	\$265,000	94.64%	149
Pilot Point	34	\$15,294.12	\$525,000	\$520,000	99.05%	80
Pilot Point	64.1	\$36,110.08	\$2,500,000	\$2,314,656	92.59%	387

Montague County

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Sunset	30.03	\$6,993.01	\$225,225	\$210,000	93.24%	140
Montague County	34.62	\$6,499.13	\$300,000	\$225,000	75%	252
Forestburg	51.8	\$6,538.46	\$379,000	\$338,692	89.36%	143
Nocona	160.63	\$2,350	\$377,480	\$377,480	100%	1,133
Bowie	99	\$4,404.04	\$495,000	\$436,000	88.08%	177
Bowie	611	\$2,200	\$1,344,200	\$1,344,200	100%	\$81

Wise County

AREA	ACRES	PRICE/ACRE	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE	SELL TO LIST PRICE	DAYS ON MARKET
Decatur	10.01	\$9,790.21	\$98,000	\$98,000	100%	34
Boyd	10.01	\$13,486.51	\$139,000	\$139,000	97.12%	41
Paradise	11.47	\$12,990.41	\$149,000	\$149,000	100%	4
Decatur	10.003	\$16,195.14	\$210,000	\$210,000	77.14%	84
Paradise	12.4	\$14,516.13	\$180,000	\$180,000	100%	93
Paradise	48.17	\$3,894.08	\$240,850	\$240,850	77.88%	251
Aurora	12.89	\$15,515.90	\$200,000	\$200,000	100%	183
Decatur	23	\$8,695.65	\$205,000	\$205,000	97.56%	267
Alvord	41.84	\$6,550	\$274,052	\$274,052	100%	\$143
Bridgeport	105.34	\$5,695.84	\$600,000	\$639,000	93.90%	147
Paradise	127.85	\$8,212.75	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000	100%	2



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The grand entry at Kissimmee, Fla. in 2019. (Photo courtesy Avid Visual Imagery Rodeo Photography)

Winter Rodeo Heats Up

By Phillip Kitts | Photos courtesy PRCA

With the colder months arriving, the top-level rodeo athletes are focused on big checks. When the air is cold, the places that can entertain rodeos are limited so during January, February, March and part of April, the great majority of outdoor rodeos are held in the Deep South. When April rolls around, the rodeo world sees the start of a slow migration north, but even then, a lot of the rodeos are

still indoors.

However, this does not mean rodeo is not happening. Many of the big venues have learned that bringing indoor rodeos with huge payouts has a huge value. January is the start to the series of large payout rodeos hosted in facilities that can support an indoor arena. The first major player is Denver. The Denver Livestock Show and Rodeo is a multi-week

event that is highlighted with a stop from the Professional Bull Riders as well as one of the bigger Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association rodeos. In addition to these great associations, they also host a Colorado Versus the World event that has become very popular. With a contestant payout out more than \$293,000, this is one of the first heavy hitter rodeos that athletes run to.

The historic Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo also emerges in January. For many years this event was held in the world-famous Coliseum but in 2020 the rodeo made its move to the new Dickies Arena. The FWWSR event has been a main stay for fans and athletes for years and continues to be one of the most popular events of the year. With the move, the

Continued on page 33

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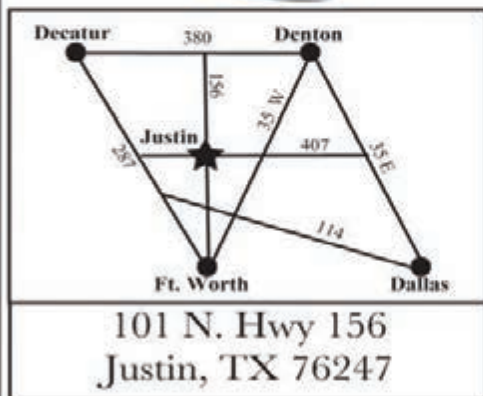
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Continued from page 30

rodeo has been downsized a few performances, but even with less opportunities to see the action there are still droves of people who want to take part in the pageantry and legends that are associated with the event. On the competitor side, who wouldn't want to take your shot at more than \$1 million in prize money? The PRCA Xtreme Bulls event pays out more than \$60,000 while the main rodeo pays out more than \$950,000.

Rolling into February, other Texas rodeos come on the radar. San Angelo, Texas, hosts a monster event that will pay rodeo athletes more than \$300,000 in prize money. On the north side of the United States, the cold country of Rapid City hosts over a week worth of rodeo activity that pays the professionals more than \$150,000 if they collect a piece of the pie.

Outside of the traditional rodeo events, the Professional Bull Riders make their Global Cup Appearance in Arlington, Texas, at AT&T stadium. This unique event brings riders from the United States, Brazil, Mexico, Canada and Australia to a two-performance event where they ride for the pride of their country.

In addition to the early February rodeos, Jackson, Miss., kicks off one of the largest rodeos in the Southwest with the Dixie National Rodeo. At the same time rodeo kicks off in Mississippi, San Antonio brings in a monstrous couple of weeks. Amongst these couple of large events there are a handful of smaller sized rodeo sporadically spread around the southern side of the United States.

Once March comes the tone turns even more serious, bringing in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. During the month of March, Houston will host more than 20 performances of PRCA rodeo that will entertain thousands of rodeo fans and pay out some of the biggest prize monies of



Tyler Pearson at the American in 2017. (Photo courtesy Avid Visual Imagery Rodeo Photography)

the year.

If that is not enough, Arlington and the home to the Dallas Cowboys see the return of rodeo action with the world largest two-day rodeo. The RFDTV American will bring in the creme de la creme of rodeo athletes all working at a chance to win big money.

March also brings in rodeo Austin, which may not have the glitz and glamor of Houston or the American, but it still draws the best in rodeo and impressive crowds during its multi-performance series.

Rodeo fans are always excited to see the month of April come around; this means the Ram National Circuit Finals in Kissimmee, Fla., are on the horizon. This event has been dubbed by many as the miniature National Finals Rodeo. During the first weekend of April, all the circuit champions

of the 12 Pro Rodeo Circuits converge on Kissimmee to compete for the big checks and awards that go with being the Ram Nationals Circuit Finals Champion.

The die-hard bull riding fan may feel a little different about the arrival of April. The Professional Bull Riders wrap up the first half of their season on April 24 through April 26 in Albuquerque, N.M. They do not return to action until July 20 and July 21, where they make one short appearance in Cheyenne, Wyo., and then do not compete again until August.

Along with the big rodeo in Florida, April means the weather is starting to warm and rodeos can commence. By this time of the year, places like New Mexico, southern Oklahoma, Arizona and parts of Missouri are starting to host events. This also is the time where the rodeo athletes start to

gear up for their heavy runs.

The next thing you know, May has arrived, and summer is knocking on the door. Any rodeo fan can tell you by the time May hits, the rodeo pay outs may not be as big, but the plentitude of rodeos around the United States becomes immense. This also means the rodeo athletes will really start to lay on the miles along with counting pennies. Some will be looking for the super money and the battle to compete for a spot in Vegas at NFR while others will be focused on securing themselves a spot at their individual circuit finals for a shot at the RNCFR the following year.

As one can see, Pro Rodeo has plenty to offer during the winter, but the face of the events is just a little different, the money is bigger and the geography is a little farther south. ®

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Foal Joint Ill

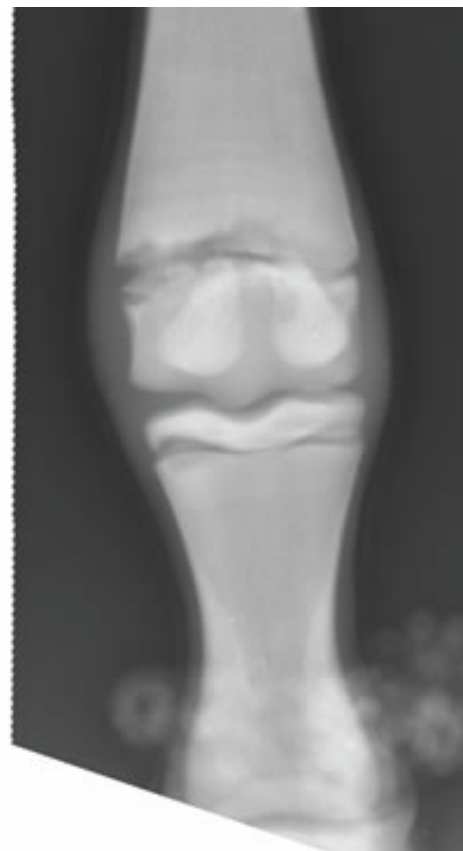
By Garrett Metcalf, DVM

Foal season is upon us and it is expected to have sick foals. A common problem newborn and young foals experience is joint ill caused by a variety of reasons. A common misconception of a lame foal is that it was caused by trauma generally blamed on the mare. The rule all horse owners and veterinarians should live by when it comes to lame foals is that it is a septic joint until proven otherwise. The goal of this article is to discuss the risk factors for joint ill on foals, clinical signs of joint ill and treatment options.

Joint Ill

Joint ill is more a horseman's term for septic arthritis and/or septic physitis in newborn or young foals. Septic arthritis is a bacterial infection of a joint or joints leading to inflammation, heat, pain, swelling and cartilage injury. The biggest question that many owners want to know is how did the bacteria make its way to the joint in the first place to ultimately prevent it from happening. Well the reason is just like all newborns, foals do not have a developed immune system and rely heavily on consumption and intake of antibodies from the mare's colostrum. Without adequate intake and absorption of antibodies from colostrum foals are at high risk of sepsis. Remember, there is a narrow 24-hour window that the gut of the foal can absorb the large antibody proteins before the gut closes. Without these very important antibodies foals are wide open to infection from any form of bacteria from its environment. Foals that do not receive adequate amounts of antibodies from colostrum are called FPT or failure of passive transfer.

A common area that is blamed for the entrance of bacteria in a foal is through the umbilicus which is a very important potential source but not the only pathway into the foal. Bacteria can enter the foal through their lungs and gastrointestinal tract as well. It's thought that if the foal is able to absorb colostrum they are also able to absorb bad things like bacteria through their gut wall. If you have witnessed a newborn foal searching for its first meal then you can appreciate how a newborn foal is exposed to potential pathogens almost immediately after birth and also how frustrating it can be to watch. While searching for the udder they commonly nurse on other areas of



Joint ill is a horseman's term for septic arthritis and/or septic physitis in newborn or young foals. (Courtesy photo)

the mare and also on objects in the stall like feeders, walls and buckets.

Once the bacterium enters the blood stream there are several possible outcomes.

1. The bacteria are cleared from the blood stream by means of white blood cells and antibodies and no further harm is done.
2. The foal becomes septic from the bacteria in the blood and quickly becomes ill.
3. Low levels of bacteria enter the blood and become deposited on small blood vessels near the foal's joints. If the foal does not have adequate antibodies from colostrum it is easy to see the foal is very susceptible to infection.

There is unique blood supply to the growth plates (physis) and other parts of the bones that make up the joints in the foal. The theory is blood will sludge or slow in these small blood vessels and with the unique loops that the vessels make creates an ideal place for bacteria circulating in the blood to be deposited and start infections. There are several

areas that infection can set up shop in areas around the joint and can lead to infection of bone (osteomyelitis) or infection of the joint structures (synovitis). These different types are as follows:

S-Type – Synovial infection (inside the joint)

E-Type – Epiphyseal osteomyelitis (part of bone nearest the joint)

P-Type – Physeal osteomyelitis (at the growth plate level)

Diagnosis/Treatment

Joint or bone infections in foals require multiple diagnostic tools to get to the bottom of the problem. Radiographs and ultrasound are used to image the area of concern and samples of joint fluid or bone are taken for culture. Complete blood counts, checking IgG antibody levels and blood cultures are submitted to identify the bacterium that is causing the infection. Even specialty imaging such

Continued on page 36

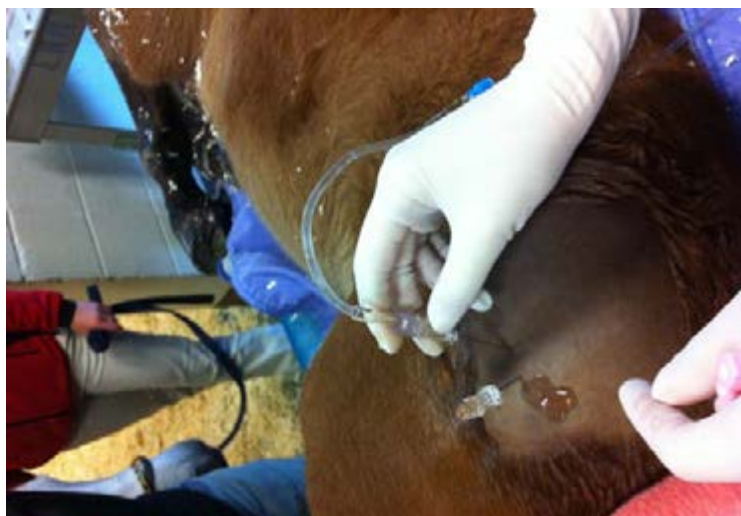
Continued from page 35

as CT or MRI may be needed in more difficult cases. Cell counts in the joint fluid and total protein levels are used to make the initial determination of infection when it comes to septic arthritis.

Foals that develop infection in or around the joint will require aggressive treatment to have a successful outcome with as little as possible complication after the infection is resolved. When it comes to joint infections aggressive antibiotic treatment with multiple methods of delivery is employed such as injection antibiotics into the joint, delivery via regional limb perfusions, systemic and other local slow release methods. Also a key to eliminating bacteria from the joint is washing the bacteria out of the joint by performing joint lavages where sterile fluid is flushed in via a needle or arthroscopic camera and a needle or cannula lets the fluid out at another point.

In cases of bone infection often surgical debridement or removal of infected bone is needed to eliminate the bacteria as quickly as possible before more harm is done. Depending on the location of the infection the bone is either approached through the joint in question or approached through incisions over the infected bone. The diseased bone is removed by drilling, chiseling or curettage to get rid of as much infected bone as possible. The defects left behind can be filled with antibiotic impregnated bone replacement products to help clear the infection.

Besides just treating the infected joint or joints the whole foal needs to be treated as well. If the foal has failure of passive transfer concurrently then plasma products are administered to deliver antibodies from donor plasma to make up for the lack of intake that the foal would have received from colostrum. Addressing nutritional needs are always important in the



Joint ill or joint sepsis can be a rapidly occurring disease that can develop in what seems like a matter of hours. (Courtesy photo)

born foals especially if they are so lame they cannot stand to nurse or have other systemic illnesses preventing them to have intake milk via nursing.

In these cases feeding tubes are placed and milk replacers or milk taken from the mare is administered via the feeding tube every two to four hours depending on the age of the foal. Pain management and gastro-protectants also are necessary treatments needed to keep the foal comfortable, prevent overloading of other limbs that can lead to growth deformities and prevention gastric ulceration at the same time. Umbilical infections need to be addressed as well if they are present. Sometimes this requires surgical removal of the umbilical remnants which includes the umbilical artery, veins and part of the urinary bladder. These structures once infected harbor bacteria that could have been the primary source of the joint infection. The reason these structures are prone to infection is because clotted blood is a great breeding ground for bacteria to thrive in.

Prevention/Controlling Risk Factors

Unfortunately it is nearly impossible to stop every cause of joint ill in foals but there are a few key steps that can be taken to help reduce the risk of having this

happen to your foal.

Prepare a clean environment for the foal to be born in especially if it is going to be born indoors.

A nice clean pasture will do but weather often does not permit this so most foals are born in stalls.

Vaccinate the mare as recommended during the pregnancy. Mares should be vaccinated at five, seven and nine months during gestation for equine rhinopneumonitis and with core vaccines four to six weeks before foaling to help the mare generate good quality colostrum.

Foal watching and making sure the birth goes smooth. Rule of thumb for foals is they should be born within 30 minutes of labor, standing within one hour and nursing within two hours.

Making sure the foal gets adequate amount of colostrum. A simple blood IgG test can be drawn at 24 hours of age to make sure that enough antibodies were absorbed.

Bathing the mare before foaling can help reduce the amount of bacteria the foal is going to get exposed to while trying to nurse.

Dipping the navel several times a day with antiseptic products. The most recommended navel dip is Nolvasan or chlorhexidine solution diluted 3:1 with water.

All antiseptic solutions are more powerful diluted believe it or not. Putting undiluted antiseptics on the navel are not only less effective but also can damage the tissue leading to more possible infection.

Administering plasma transfusions to newborns. Plasma transfusions with hyperimmunized donor plasma can reduce the risk of foals getting infections in the first few weeks of life and lead to healthier foals.


Early Detection

Joint ill or joint sepsis can be a rapidly occurring disease that can develop in what seems like a matter of hours. Just remember again that any lame foal is septic until proven otherwise. It is too easy to blame newly developed lameness in a foal on other causes besides infection but don't fall for it.

It is always possible trauma occurred, acute injury or other causes besides infection but it is always worth the extra precaution in the end especially if the foal does have an infected joint or bone.

Inflammation is characterized by five cardinal signs: heat, pain, swelling, redness and loss of use. It is hard to see redness on a foal's skin but the other four signs are all used by veterinarians to determine or locate infection.

So it is important for owners to get familiar with feeling or palpating foal's limbs for heat around joints or growth plates, changes in size of joints such as swelling or increased joint fluid volume and pain when gently squeezing on these structures. If these signs are noted it's probably worth a visit by your veterinarian.

If you have concerns or any doubts about the well being of your foal it is always worth a visit with your local veterinarian about proper care and meeting your foal's needs. Using basic principles of good mare and foal care can go a long way to prevent heart-breaking outcomes and hopefully ensure a healthy foal. 

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Archer County



Bic Ranch-201 Acres

Just minute or 2 from Archer City, TX 76351. The BIC Ranch is located just down River Rd off Hwy 25. The BIC has approx. 201 acres including 2 hay barns one with 4 horse runs, circle pen, working pens, an additional loafing shed with 2 runs, a shipping container with overhang for additional storage, practice arena and much more.

1580 Acres Young County



HDH Ranch

Located on S Furr Rd in Young County near Newcastle, TX 76370, this 1580 ranch is perfect for cattle and outfitting operations. Two ponds stocked with bass, crappie and catfish. The hunting possibilities are exceptional with whitetail deer, hogs, assorted varmints and more. Many improvements including single family residence as well as hunting lodge.

Harmon Co, Oklahoma



Begen Ranch - 5735 acres

Approximately 5,735 acres crossing into both Beckham and Harmon Counties. Scenic hills, ridges and rock outcroppings. Ample fresh water and native grasses sustain the great elk, mule deer, white tail deer, hog, turkey, Aoudad Sheep and varmint populations and grazing cattle.

Lake Possum Kingdom



Breathtaking 237 Acres

Nestled in between Cedar and Veale Creek sits this gem of a property! The ranch is very diverse with rolling hills and excellent timber w/good native grass flats. The property sits on well maintained cr and has well maintained private rd that will take you to your spring and summer hideaway cabin that's hidden within hundreds of oak trees.

Archer County



Harmel Ranch-633 acres

Grazing, good hunting, Kickapoo Creek, a 2 acre lake, additional ponds and approx 233 acres cultivation. Rural water access on south side and east side of ranch, electricity to property. Located in Archer County just north of Megargel, TX 76370, this mixed use recreational, farm, ranch and possible residential land is located close to FM 210 and Hwy 114.

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College Cowgirl

By Krista Lucas

The 2019 United Professional Rodeo Association finals saw a Kansas cowgirl, who is not only a hand with a rope and a horse but also one in the classroom, dominate the women's events. Timber Allenbrand moved from Paola, Kan., to Stephenville, Texas, to chase her dreams and is someone whose hard work has translated to many areas of her life. Before that, she grew up competing in 4-H, youth rodeo and barrel races.

"I was a part of various parts of 4-H growing up. My mom, Trisha, barrel raced some in her twenties, but other than that I learned as we went in the rodeo world," Allenbrand said. "Going way back, I first remember going to a barrel race in my pink boots. My mom stood at the gate and pointed to each barrel I was supposed to go to."

Fast-forward to today, she has accomplished a lot on horseback. She gained an interest in young horses early on in her career and grew up training various projects. Allenbrand can now say she has run barrels or roped on horses she has trained herself.

In the UPRA, Allenbrand competes in the breakaway roping and barrel racing, and she also competes in goat tying at the collegiate level. She has several horses in her trailer now that have allowed her to be at the top of her game.

"In the breakaway I have two main horses. Hot Pockets is a 12-year-old mare Jackie Crawford trained, and I bought her a little over a year ago. My other horse is a nine-year-old gelding, Gambler. I am very thankful for two rope horses with all of the breakaway opportunities that are available now," Allenbrand said.

"In the barrel racing, I compete on Birkeley, an eight-year-old mare I got off the track and trained in barrels." At the Cinch United Finals Rodeo, she competed on her main mounts in both the breakaway and barrels and was able to win the first round in the barrels and a third place in the breakaway.

When all was said and done, Allenbrand walked away as the year-end women's all-around champion.

"The all-around has always been so special to me. I have loved to do multiple events since a young age. To be able to excel at more than one event is an ongoing goal for me. The last



The 2019 United Professional Rodeo Association finals saw Kansas cowgirl Timber Allenbrand dominate the women's events. Allenbrand is not only a hand with a rope and a horse, but also one in the classroom. (Photo courtesy Timber Allenbrand)

year-end all-around title I achieved was my senior year of high school about four years ago. Coming to Texas brought a whole new level of competition, so I had to learn to step up my game in various aspects," she said.

Not only was she a tough competitor in the UPRA all year, Allenbrand also was an Honors student at Tarleton State University, graduating at the top of her class Magna Cum Laude. She has learned through rodeoing and being a full time student that hard work will

always pay off.

Allenbrand will be staying at Tarleton to pursue a Master's degree in Science of Management and Leadership, while also competing on the college rodeo team. She was able to fill her Women's Professional Rodeo Association permit last year and bought her professional card for the 2020 season.

She is excited to see what new opportunities arise this year, and it is safe to say she will have a full plate again in 2020.



Ag Aviation

Jerry Keeter



Jerry Keeter has been in the ag aerial business for 39 years. (Photo courtesy Zane Francescato)



ion Keeter

The skies beckoned to pilot Jerry Keeter from the time he was a young child. Born and raised in Throckmorton County as the son of farmers, he would take his love of flying and his love for agriculture, combining the two in an exhilarating, edge-of-your-seat agricultural aviation career.

“I knew the whole time growing up I wanted to fly,” Keeter recalled. “Every time I would see an airplane up in the skies, even from three years old, I would just sit back and watch.”

At just 16-years-old, Keeter began secretly taking flying lessons from Jay and Mark Evanson at the Olney Airport. By the time his parents found out, he had already flown solo.

“I had to sneak off and take flying lessons from a local crop duster. The first time I went up to fly, I got airsick. I hate to admit that,” Keeter laughed. “It got better every time. I wasn’t going to let it make me stop. My parents found out

Continued on page 42





Ag Aviation

Jerry Keeter

Continued from page 41

from a neighbor who told them, ‘I heard your son has been flying solo.’”

Keeter obtained his license and ratings to qualify as an ag pilot by the age of 21. Ag pilots have their commercial pilots’ license and must be registered as commercial pesticide applicators in the states in which they make applications and meet the requirements of Federal Aviation Regulations Part 137 which allows for low-level aviation operations.

The other local crop duster had moved south by that time, and Keeter took over the business around Olney with many customers he had known his entire life. His first crop dusting job was with Terry Bailes from Iowa Park. It was a natural transition for him to work in the area he had grown up in and loved so dearly. Since that time, the pilot has expanded his business to two locations, has three pilots and flown more than 25,000 hours.

According to the National Agricultural Aviation Association, aerial application is often the only, or most economic, method for timely pesticide application. It allows large or remote areas to be treated quickly, much faster than any other form of application.

It is conducive to higher crop yields, as it is non-disruptive to the crop by treating above it and not with-in it. A study by a crop protection product manufacturer of applications on corn showed it increased yield by eight percent more than ground application. It also does not cause soil compaction and results in greater harvest yields of crops.

“The airplanes are fast with a faster response time. With three planes, we can cover 10,000 acres a day, and unlike a ground machine, if it is wet they can’t go, but we can still spray. Ground machines also get stuck if it rains, but we can still go. It is efficient and effective. If there are mesquites or cactus, they can’t even drive though; the only way is by air,” Keeter explained.

The agricultural aviation industry treats 127 million acres of cropland each year. In addition to agricultural aviation, the industry provides firefighting and public health application services to combat disease-carrying mosquitoes. Based on a 2019 survey, the five most com-



Jerry Keeter must balance being both a pilot and a business owner. (Photo courtesy Jerry Keeter)

monly treated crops are corn, wheat/barley, soybeans, pastures/rangelands and alfalfa, but aerial application can be done on all crops.

There are 1,560 aerial application businesses in the United States, of which approximately 87 percent of the owners also are agricultural pilots. Eighty-four percent of the aircraft used by these businesses are fixed-wing; the remaining 16 percent are rotocraft/helicopters. Ag aircraft are ruggedly built and can handle 30 to 100 takeoffs and landings every single day. Today’s aircraft use global positioning systems, geographical information systems, flow controls, real time meteorological systems and precisely calibrated spray equipment.

“There is no other job where I can combine aviation and agriculture. It’s the only way. I didn’t want to do anything else, and I still don’t

want to do anything else,” Keeter said.

However, it hasn’t always been easy. A long drought that began in 1996 almost forced him out of business, but Keeter began taking jobs at other locations during the slower times, including Corpus Christi and Wyoming.

According to the Texas Water Resources Institute, in 1996 a drought came, causing more agriculture losses than any other one-year drought, and from there, a series of droughts occurred with catastrophic consequences. In 2005 to 2006 alone, the state experienced losses of \$4.1 billion. The droughts had serious repercussions for the agriculture industry and local businesses such as Keeter Aerial Spraying.

“I always traveled through the summer.

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316.9 ACRES | CLAY COUNTY



BYERS FARM \$2,350/Ac

This is a productive farm located west of Byers fronting Airport and Raymond Evans Rd. There is 265 acres of farmland, broken down into a north 76 acre field and south 188 acre field. The balance is located between the two fields. It consists of native grasses, has a seasonal creek, mostly cleared with some mesquites. The entire boundary is fenced and each field is cross fenced. Other improvements consist of livestock corrals and a small wooden barn. At the improvements is a water well and an electric meter.

100 ACRES | CLAY COUNTY



STANFIELD RANCH \$2,750/Ac

The Stanfield Ranch is about half wooded and half farmland. The east half along Zachary Lane is farmland. The west half is primarily wooded with mesquites, a few scattered oaks, with rolling to sloping terrain and great views. There are two stock ponds and a seasonal creek. The Little Wichita River is approximately 1 mile south and the Red River is approximately 2 miles east. For the most part this ranch is surrounded by large acreage neighbors. Electricity is available and well water appears available.

67 ACRES | JACK COUNTY



MCBEE RANCH - TRACT 3 \$2,950/Ac

67 acres located in northern Jack County. It is heavily wooded with primarily oaks, a few scattered mesquite. The terrain is gently rolling across most of the ranch with good elevation change. The highest point is located along the south portion then generally slopes south. Access is off FM 2190 and a private deeded all weather road. Electricity is available on the property and well water is available. Additional acreage available. Various size tracts available.

326 ACRES | BAYLOR COUNTY



FARR RANCH \$1,995/Ac

Great combo ranch, primarily native mesquite pasture, 80 acres of farmland, level to rolling topo with various overlooks and steep embankments offering many scenic vantage points, 4 stock ponds, some with fish, Coal Creek and a seasonal creek. There is a 30x50 insulated workshop with 300 sf of finished space, 2 large sliding doors and carports on either end of the shop, a 30x60 metal equipment shed and steel livestock corrals, boundary is fenced and interior is cross fenced.

1909.35 ACRES | CLAY COUNTY



HAMMON RIVER RANCH \$2,723/Ac

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

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- Mesquite Hill Ranch - 473 Acres - Clay Co - \$2,450/Acre

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Ag Aviation

Jerry Keeter

Continued from page 42

When it was hot and dry here in the past, I would always go somewhere to help pay the bills, but I was looking for places already irrigated because the drought that started in 1996 was about to break us,” Keeter explained.

While the drought was difficult, it led to the expansion of Keeter Aerial Spraying to Monte Vista, Colo. In 2014, he received a call from Colorado. At the time, Keeter was flying into Wyoming for a government contract.

“We were heading to Wyoming to spray a half a million acres for grasshoppers through a government contract. We would go up there and they would block it off for us and we would work all the acres in a week. We would blow and go. I received a call from a lady who had heard we were going through Colorado on our way to Wyoming, and all of their pilots in Colorado were nearing 65 to 70 years old and they were looking for someone new. I told her I wasn’t looking for any more dry land without irrigation, but if they had a fully irrigated place I was interested,” Keeter said.

It turned out there was irrigated land in the San Luis Valley containing potatoes, Coors barley and alfalfa needing to be worked. The acreage was fully irrigated out of snow melt from the Rio Grande River, whose entrance sits right next to Keeter’s Colorado hanger.

Now, the three pilots of Keeter’s Aerial Spraying take turns working the area, with one living in Colorado. As soon as spraying starts slowing down in North Texas, the Colorado pilot heads up north to get started, and three weeks later, the next pilot



Jerry Keeter has loved flying since he was 16 years old. (Photo courtesy Jerry Keeter)

goes as it begins to slow here. When it gets really hot and dry in the Olney area, Keeter then heads to Colorado himself.

“I am the last one to go and the first one to come back. I come back early if army worms or other threats come up,” Keeter explained.

While Keeter loves his job and flying in Texas and Colorado as well as Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming and Iowa, he is fully aware of the risk his career choice imposes.

Pilots and flight engineers have the third most dangerous job in the country, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’ National Census of Fatal Occupation

Injuries report. In 2018, there were 58.9 fatal injuries per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers with a total of 70 fatal injuries and 490 non-fatal injuries. Ag pilots perhaps have an even more dangerous job, as they conduct performance turns with a loaded airplane at low altitudes.

From 2009 to 2018, nine percent of aerial application fatalities were the result of collisions with towers, while collisions with power lines account for an additional 13 percent of the accidents and 12 percent of the reported fatalities in the industry, according to the NAAA.

“The one thing I don’t like about the industry is you can do


everything right and still lose your life in a split second. I have buried too many friends over the years,” Keeter said. “You can hit power lines and towers, but I have been very fortunate, and my pilots have been very fortunate. We have never lost a pilot. I am going to be doing this another 15 years, and hopefully we can still say that.”

Keeter plans to expand within the next year by building a new facility at the Munday, Texas, airport.

“I’m still having fun doing this,” Keeter said. “It is a good lifestyle. We work hard and we are honest. When you get time off, you get time off to work on the plane’s maintenance and catch up. When you do work, it is sun up to sun down, but it’s a good life, and it has put my kids through college.”

Outside of work, Keeter enjoys traveling. He also farms and runs cattle, which helps give him an inside look to his customer’s needs.

“I farm and run cattle and I know what works and doesn’t work. I grew up doing this and I have been in the business for 39 years. I started when I was young and I have flown 25,000 hours. It allows me to really help my customers. I love my customers, and I always tell everyone I have the best customers in the world. They are hardworking, loyal customers. I have known most of them my whole life, and the ones in Colorado are awesome guys. They are all great, and it’s not always like that. They understand me, and I understand them,” Keeter said.

For more information on Jerry Keeter and Keeter Aerial Spraying, visit his website www.keeter-aerial.com.



Pilot Jerry Keeter can remember loving planes from as young as three as he would watch them fly high in the sky. (Photo courtesy Zane Francescato)



Jerry Keeter loves flying, but is aware of the dangers that come with ag aviation. (Photo courtesy Jerry Keeter)



Keeter loves being able to help his customers. (Photo courtesy Zane Francescato)



Lacey's Pantry

By Lacey Newlin

Sun-Dried Tomato Pasta with Chicken and Creamy Mozzarella Sauce

Time: 40 minutes

Servings: 5

Ingredients

- 3 garlic cloves , minced
- 4 oz sun-dried tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 lb. chicken breast tenderloins , sliced
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 1 cup half and half (or use 1/2 cup heavy cream + 1/2 cup milk)
- 1 cup mozzarella cheese , shredded (do not use fresh Mozzarella, use pre-shredded)
- 8 oz penne pasta (for gluten free, use gluten free brown rice pasta)
- 1 tablespoon basil
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1/2 cup reserved cooked pasta water or more
- 1/4 teaspoon salt to taste

Directions

1. In a large skillet, sauté garlic and sun-dried tomatoes (drained from oil) in 2 tablespoons of olive oil (reserved from the sun-dried tomatoes jar) for 1 minute on medium heat until the garlic is fragrant.
2. Remove the sun-dried tomatoes from the skillet, leaving the olive oil.
3. Add sliced chicken (salted and lightly covered in paprika for color) and cook on high heat for 1 minute on each side. Remove from heat.
4. Cook pasta according to package instructions. Reserve some cooked pasta water. Drain the pasta.
5. Slice sun-dried tomatoes into smaller pieces and add them back to the skillet with chicken.
6. To make creamy pasta sauce, add half-and-half and Mozzarella cheese to the skillet, and bring to a gentle boil.
7. Immediately reduce to simmer and cook, constantly stirring, until all cheese melts and creamy sauce forms.
8. Add cooked and drained pasta to the skillet with the cream sauce, and stir to combine. Add 1 tablespoon of basil and at least 1/4 teaspoon of red pepper flakes. Stir to combine.
9. If the creamy sauce is too thick: Add about 1/2 cup of reserved cooked pasta water to the skillet to thin it out. Do not add all of pasta water at once - you might need less or more of it. (N)

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WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

Twin Momma Cows

Our cattle ranching neighbors expressed their condolences when I announced the successful birth of twins. I did understand their concerns. We've had twin calves before and many times the momma cow didn't immediately allow both to nurse.

That didn't happen this go around. Our dear momma cow had no problem with both of her calves nursing together. Her biggest challenge was remembering she had two babies. When she was ready to move to a different area of the pasture, she would head out with only one of them.

Day after day we would find "Twin Momma," as we call her, with only one calf and we would drive all over the pasture until we found her second one sleeping hidden in the tall grass. We would load the sweet thing into our Ranger and reunite her with her momma and sister.

We did soon learn "Twin Momma" was much more aware than we thought. On this occasion, as usual, we could not find her second calf and indeed were about to give up.

Sitting in our Ranger in dismay and frustration, we watched "Twin Momma" call out for her missing calf and walk in the same direction where we had just searched aimlessly. Sure enough, up popped her missing twin's head in the middle of an extra tall grassy patch. The baby clearly heard her momma's call and "Twin Momma" knew precisely where her calf was taking her afternoon nap.

Just before the twins' second



Annette Bridges' twin momma cow with four calves. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

birthday week, they both suddenly became very sick. A trip to the vet confirmed they had pneumonia. Sadly, one did not respond to the antibiotic treatment and died.

What would happen next was quite astonishing.

"Twin Momma," with her apparent over-abundance of milk and her amicable spirit, started allowing any calf that wanted a little extra milk to get some from her.

At first, my husband was very concerned, fearing her own calf would be deprived of its much-needed nourishment, but this

didn't prove to be the case. Her calf was thriving and growing.

Our biggest surprise happened during one of our evening rides to check the cows when we found Twin Mamma and four calves nursing from her at the same time.

I couldn't help but be in awe of her willingness to be so accommodating to four of them, at the same time.


Because I'm always looking for lessons to be learned in my everyday life, I've been thinking a lot about our beloved "Twin

Momma." Did she have something to teach me? Could I become more like her?

More compassionate and unconditionally accepting.

Stay calm when I feel like I'm being pulled in many different directions.

Have the ability to do whatever is needed, even in the face of loss or great difficulty.

As you can probably tell, I have great admiration of "Twin Momma," and I sincerely believe, my friends, we can learn much from our cows. 



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140 Bones Chapel Road | \$1,249,000



11 ACRES - VALLEY VIEW

Gorgeous 11-acres in the beautiful area between Lake Ray Roberts and Lone Oak Road. Offers a great home site overlooking a rolling pasture, trees, and a scenic 1-acre pond. Ag Exempt, Sandy loam soil.

Ottos Drive | \$385,000



38 ACRES - CROSS ROADS/AUBREY

Impeccably maintained horse ranch features a 125X250 covered arena, 12-stall show barn, covered round pen, outdoor riding track, a 3,300sf home with pool and a 1st class duplex in a prime location.

8400 Fishtrap Road | \$2,495,000



50 ACRES - PILOT POINT

Striking equestrian estate features a 4,500sf luxury home with pool, a 16-stall heated show barn, a 10-stall shed row barn with pipe runs, outdoor arena and a 50x70 storage bldg w/ 2 apartments.

9538 Wilson Road | \$2,250,000



10.7 ACRES - KRUM

Eye-catching property includes a nice 2,600SF 4BR home, inground pool, a detached 2nd garage, a 30x50 insulated workshop, 4-stall horse barn with pipe runs, riding arena and a large fenced pasture.

110 Fm2450 | \$649,900



22 ACRES - SANGER

This beautiful tract with elevation changes, expansive views and a stock pond is minutes from a boat launch and full-service marina on Lake Ray Roberts while being less than 3 miles from I-35. Ag Exempt.

Lakecrest Drive | \$419,750



8.2 ACRES - PILOT POINT

With frontage on US Hwy 377, this choice property offers a custom home, guest house, a 10-stall barn and arena. Ideal for a multitude of uses with great visibility and directly in the path of growth.

8075 Hwy 377 | \$1,599,000



10 ACRES - AUBREY

Pretty tract of land has a good balance of pasture and trees in an ideal setting for developing into a single-family residence. Additional 10-acres available. Sandy loam soil, Ag Exempt.

Grubbs Road | \$387,000



120 ACRES - PILOT POINT

Located across from the Isle de Bois State Park in an area of high-end estates and horse ranches, this eye-catching tract is fenced in pipe & cable, has a stock pond and sandy loam soil. Ag Exempt.

7773 Fm 455 | \$898,110

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Howdy North Texas music fans.

I've had the honor of working with some very talented performers throughout my career from country music legends and heroes to the young guns of our industry who will carry on the traditions and maintain the bar set by those of us before them.

Mikki Daniel is one of those people. I can no longer call her a youngster as in the past few years she has graduated from college, gotten married and settled into an incredible Arizona ranch as one of the nation's top horse trainers along with her husband Brody.

I caught up with her this past year in Ruidoso, and we discussed her life as a cowgirl and a singer.

One thing that hasn't changed is her beautiful voice and her will to share it with people the cowboy way.

Mikki is a true professional. She has studied her craft and is now able to apply the tricks of the trade to continue her success.

Most importantly, she's found a way of life that makes her happy. I am so very proud of her for that and will continue to watch her bloom. Google her. You'll be glad you did.

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DAVE'S UPCOMING SHOWS

March 7

Ray Price Tribute, Gainesville, Texas

March 8

Ray Price Tribute, Garland, Texas

March 19

Concert, McKinney, Texas

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By Jesse Kader

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

February 25

Managing Crops in Hoop Houses

Noble Research Institute, Entry 5, Kruse Auditorium, 2510 Sam Noble Parkway, Ardmore, OK 73401. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 25. Specialty crop growers worldwide continue to adopt high tunnel hoop houses because they provide an element of environmental control not possible with field production. During this course, you will learn how to manage the growing environment unique to hoop houses to produce high yielding, high quality crops. There is no registration fee for this event, but we ask that you preregister prior to the event. Visit www.noble.org for more information.

February 24-29

Wise County Youth Fair

Decatur, Texas. Wise County Future Farmers of America and 4-H students will showcase their hardwork and dedication as the Wise County Youth Fair gets underway. Plan to be there and show support for the local youth. Visit www.wcyouthfair.org.

February 29 - March 1

CowTown Marathon

Fort Worth, Texas. The largest multi-event race in North Texas with distances for everyone including ultra, marathon, half marathon, four-person relay, 10K, adult 5K and kid's 5K races. This race celebrates the 42nd year. Proceeds from every race entry go towards helping low-income children in North Texas receive a free pair of running shoes. Visit www.cowtownmarathon.org.

MARCH

March 3 - March 22

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

NRG Center, 3 NRG Park, Houston, Texas 77054. The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo promotes agriculture by hosting an annual, family-friendly experience that educates and entertains the public, supports Texas youth and showcases Western heritage. Connect via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. For ticket info and scheduling, visit www.rodeohouston.com.

March 2

Reverse Rocking R Ranch Annual Bull Sale

Reverse Rocking R Ranch, 358 Laguna Madre Rd, Maxwell, NM 87728. Reverse Rocking R Ranch, where the grasslands meet the Rockies. Annual bull sale at 1 p.m. MT on March 2 at the Ranch in Maxwell, New Mexico. Selling 120 Angus bulls, over half of the offering aged bulls, two-thirds can be used on heifers or cows, many are full embryo transplant brothers. Free nationwide delivery, volume discounts, repeat buyer discounts. Bid live on DV Auction. Chris and Krista Earl, owner, **630-675-6559** or svfchief@aol.com, Trent and Emily Earl, manager, **719-557-9915**, Garrett Earl, herdsman, **630-400-1225**, or visit <http://ck6consulting.com/reverse-rocking-r-ranch>.

March 5

Beef Quality Assurance Certification

Noble Research Institute, Entry 5, Kruse Auditorium, 2510 Sam Noble Parkway, Ardmore, OK 73401. The Noble Research Institute presents Beef Quality Assurance Certification from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on March 5 at the Noble Research Institute, Entry 5, Kruse Auditorium. Beef Quality Assurance raises consumer confidence through proper management education and guidelines for the beef industry. This workshop will give insight into BQA standards for animal care, record-keeping, nutrition and carcass quality. You can become BQA certified with successful completion. There is no registration fee for this event, but we ask that you preregister prior to the event. Visit www.noble.org.

March 5

Cross Timbers Prescribed Fire Field Day

Cross Timbers WMA Headquarters, 7761 Stockton Road, Burneyville, OK 73430. Prescribed fire is a natural process in the southern Great Plains, where the landscape evolved under fire and grazing. Fire can improve wildlife habitat, reduce woody plants, remove thatch and improve forage quality and quantity for livestock. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cross Timbers WMA Headquarters. Please email brandon.baker@odwc.ok.gov or call **405-823-9038** by Feb. 29.

March 6

2020 International Super Sale

HLSR NRG Center. Don't miss the 2020 International Super Sale at the HLSR NRG Center at 6 p.m. on March 6. Quality females consigned. The Santa Gertrudis herd bull you choose today will improve tomorrow's profits. Choose from Wendt Ranches - the Herd Bull Replacement Center. Email wendtranches@hotmail.com.

March 7 - March 8

RFD-TV The American

AT&T Stadium, 1 AT&T Way, Arlington, Texas 76011. Mark your calendars now to attend the World's Richest Weekend in Western Sports from March 7-8. Qualifying events take place across the country as ropers and riders hope to compete at the world's richest rodeo. Athletes are still competing in qualifying events in the hopes of earning a chance to rope and ride at the annual final rodeo event. Amateurs compete with a mixture of champions and top athletes from the PRCA. Visit www.americanrodeo.com for more information on The American.

March 7

Cowgirls and Champagne

The Forum, 2120 Speedway, Wichita Falls, TX 76301. Cowboy True is hosting a Style Show: Champagne & Cowgirls. This exciting event will feature local retailers' most fashionable cowgirl looks including clothes, jewelry, boots and more. Visit <http://wichita-falls.org/events-list/champagne-cowgirls-2/> for more information on this annual must-see event.

March 10

Hedging to Increase Pecan Population

Montz Pecan Orchard, 867 Old T Bone Road, Wichita Falls, TX 76305. Managing pecan trees for consistent production and high quality nuts is key to a successful pecan operation. Join Noble Research Institute pecan specialists as they review strategies for hedging pecan trees and discuss management practices to maintain high quality pecans on a more consistent basis. 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Montz Pecan Orchard. There is no registration fee for this event, but we ask that you preregister prior to the event. Visit www.noble.org for more information.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 10 - 13

Richard Mifflin Kleberg, Jr. Lectureship on Grazing Management

Noble Research Institute Pavilion, 2510 Sam Noble Parkway, Ardmore, OK 73401. Food and fiber productions, it all starts with soil, water and plants capturing energy from the sun. Effective grazing management involves both science and art and is essential for long-term ranch success. This course provides students the tools to determine correct stocking rate - the ever-changing interface between plants and herbivores. Instructors will share from their wealth of grazing system experiences and emphasize the connection between strategic natural resource stewardship and achieving ranch goals. This lectureship, held in partnership with King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management, will start participants down the trail to developing a sustainable grazing plan for their ranch. 8 a.m. to noon. Registration is \$500. Covers materials, lunch and refreshments - to King Ranch Institute of Ranch Management. www.noble.org.

March 11-12

Wichita Falls Ranch, Farm and Hemp Expo

JS Bridwell Ag Center, 111 N Burnett, Wichita Falls, TX 76301. Plan to attend the annual Wichita Falls Ranch, Farm and Hemp Expo March 11-12 at 111 N. Burnett at the JS Bridwell Agricultural Center. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on March 11 and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 12. This event features more than 400 vendors from 27 states and Australia, as well as 175,000 square feet of exhibit space, not to mention more than \$5,000 in prizes and giveaways and a beer garden. Fun for the entire family. Free to the public. Visit www.wichitafallsranchandfarmexpo.net.

March 21

Blue Bonnet Classic Santa Gertrudis Sale

Hallettsville, TX. Don't miss the 2020 Blue Bonnet Classic Santa Gertrudis Sale on March 21 in Hallettsville, TX. Quality females consigned. The Santa Gertrudis herd bull you choose today will improve tomorrow's profits. Choose from Wendt Ranches, the Herd Bull Replacement Center. Email wendtranches@hotmail.com, or call Gene at 979-240-5311 or Daniel at 979-240-5312.

MARCH 26

Lone Star Angus Spring Bull and Female Sale

Cooke County Fairgrounds, 1901 Justice Center Rd., Gainesville, TX, 76240. Selling 70 powerful, ranch-raised bulls ready to go to work. Also featuring the customer appreciation commercial female sale. Over 150 head of top quality replacements from quality Lone Star genetics. Video and EPD spreadsheet available online two weeks before the sale. For more information, visit www.LoneStarAngus.com or call 940-367-0064.

March 27 - March 29

Cattle Raisers Convention

Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St., Fort Worth. Improve your ranch management skills, learn about state and national issues, enjoy live music and entertainment and shop the largest ranching expo in the region at the Cattle Raisers Convention March 27-29 at the Fort Worth Convention Center. Attendees at the 2020 Cattle Raisers Convention and Expo will hear a familiar voice at the annual event - that of President George W. Bush, who will address a group of cattle raisers in Fort Worth. Visit <http://cattleraisersconvention.com/>.

March 27-28

Cowboy True

The Forum, 2120 Speedway, Wichita Falls, TX 76301. The mission of Cowboy True is to educate the region about the honor, art and beauty of the cowboy's daily life. Cowboy True is a celebration to honor working cowboys and the artwork that comes from their daily lives. Cowboy True was originally inspired as an effort to raise awareness and funding for The Forum, formerly the home of The Woman's Forum, which has a long association with the women and families of the North Texas cattle industry. Categories include: bits, spurs, buckles, jewelry, gun/knife engraving, saddles, boots, trappings/gear, photography, paintings, drawings, sculptures, carving and cowboy cartoons. Friday night events include the artist's reception and opening, Saturday evening will consist of a night dinner, live auction and entertainments. All proceeds go to The Forum to assist with programming and mission fulfillment. Call 940-766-3347 or email cowboytrue@artscouncilwf.org.

MARCH 28

Equipment Auction

The E.W. Belcher Estate, Sanger, Texas. Farm and ranch equipment from the B-7 Ranch. Tractors, batwing mower, hay equipment, G/N stock trailer and much more. For complete listing and photos go to www.heugatterauctions.com.

APRIL

April 4

Chisholm Trail Heritage Festival

Bowie Community Center, 413 Pelham St., Bowie, Texas 76230. Save the date for the Chisholm Trail Heritage Festival Cowboy Ball from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on April 4 at the Bowie Community Center. KR Woods Productions and Camp Cookie Band. Saunders Costumes available Tuesday through Saturday. Call 940-872-1173 for more information.

April 4

Cowboys and Cobbler Throwdown

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, 1000 Chisholm Trail Parkway, Duncan, OK. A new event 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cobbler contest, live music, longhorns on the property and a bit of cowboy poetry peppered throughout the day to keep things lively. This tasty fundraiser is open to all cowboys, cattle queens and of course, bakers, youth ages 10-17 and adults, 18 and older. Bakers must enter their own home-cooked cobbler. Bakers are limited to two different recipes. Dutch oven cobblers, large casserole and deep dish cobblers are all acceptable, but pies will not be accepted. There is no early entry fee with registration forms due by March 27. Forms will be available at <https://onthechisholmtrail.com/> and in the main lobby beginning March 1. Contact Leah or Toni at the Heritage Center at 580-252-6693.

April 4

Deleu Ranch 1st Annual Open House and Private Treaty Sale

Deleu Ranch, 899 Patton Rd., Collinsville, TX, 76233. Join us for our first annual open house and private treaty bull and heifer sale at our ranch in Collinsville, Texas. For more information, contact Kevin Deleu at 903-651-1481, Carlos Deleu at 903-651-8329, or visit the website at www.DeleuRanch.com.



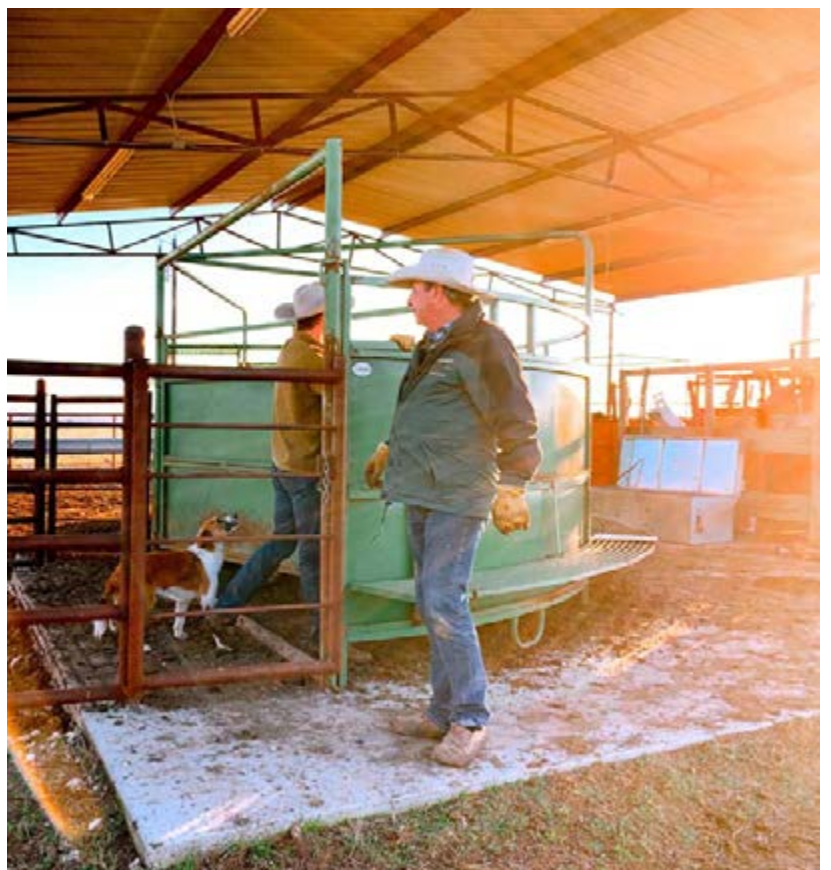
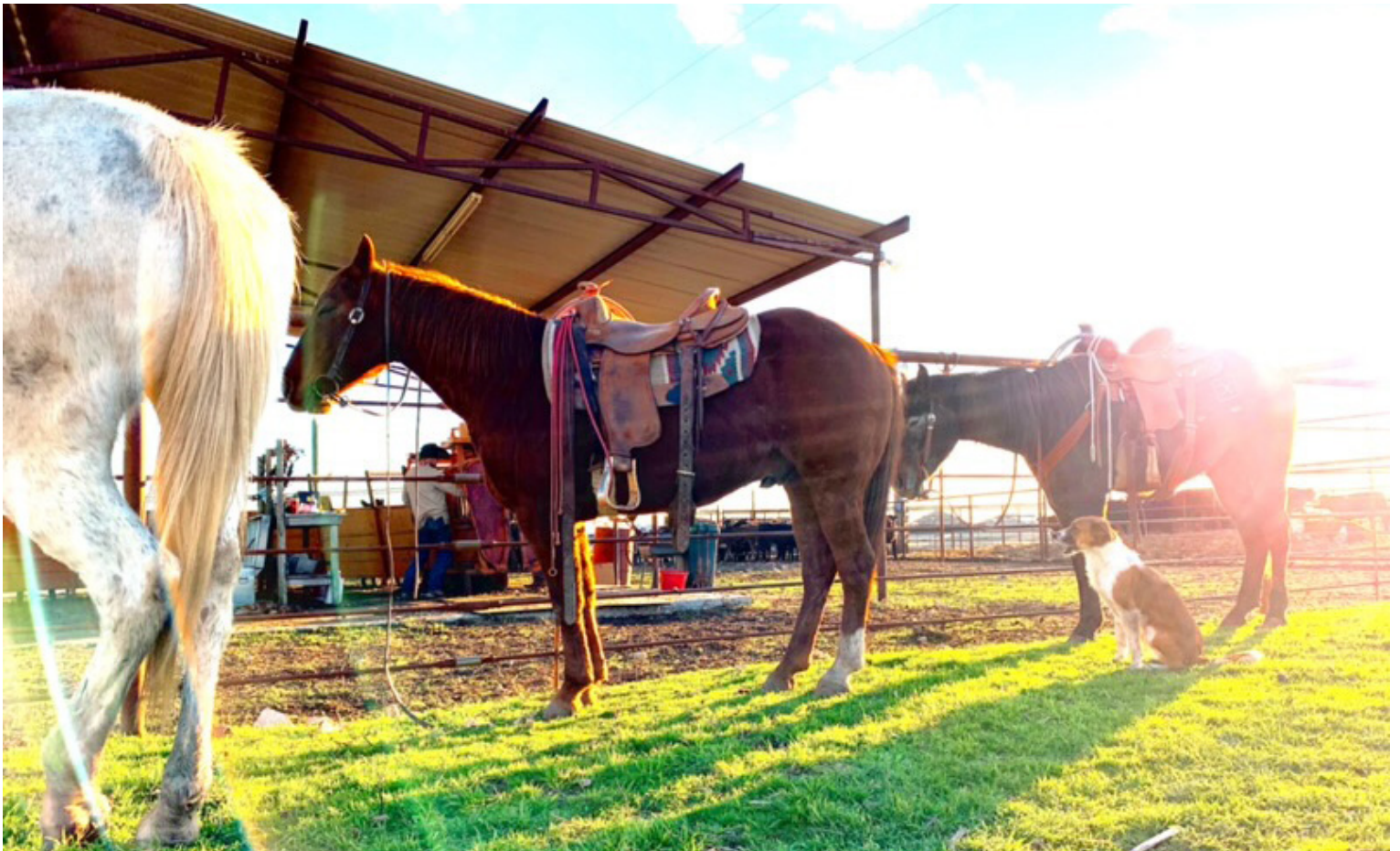
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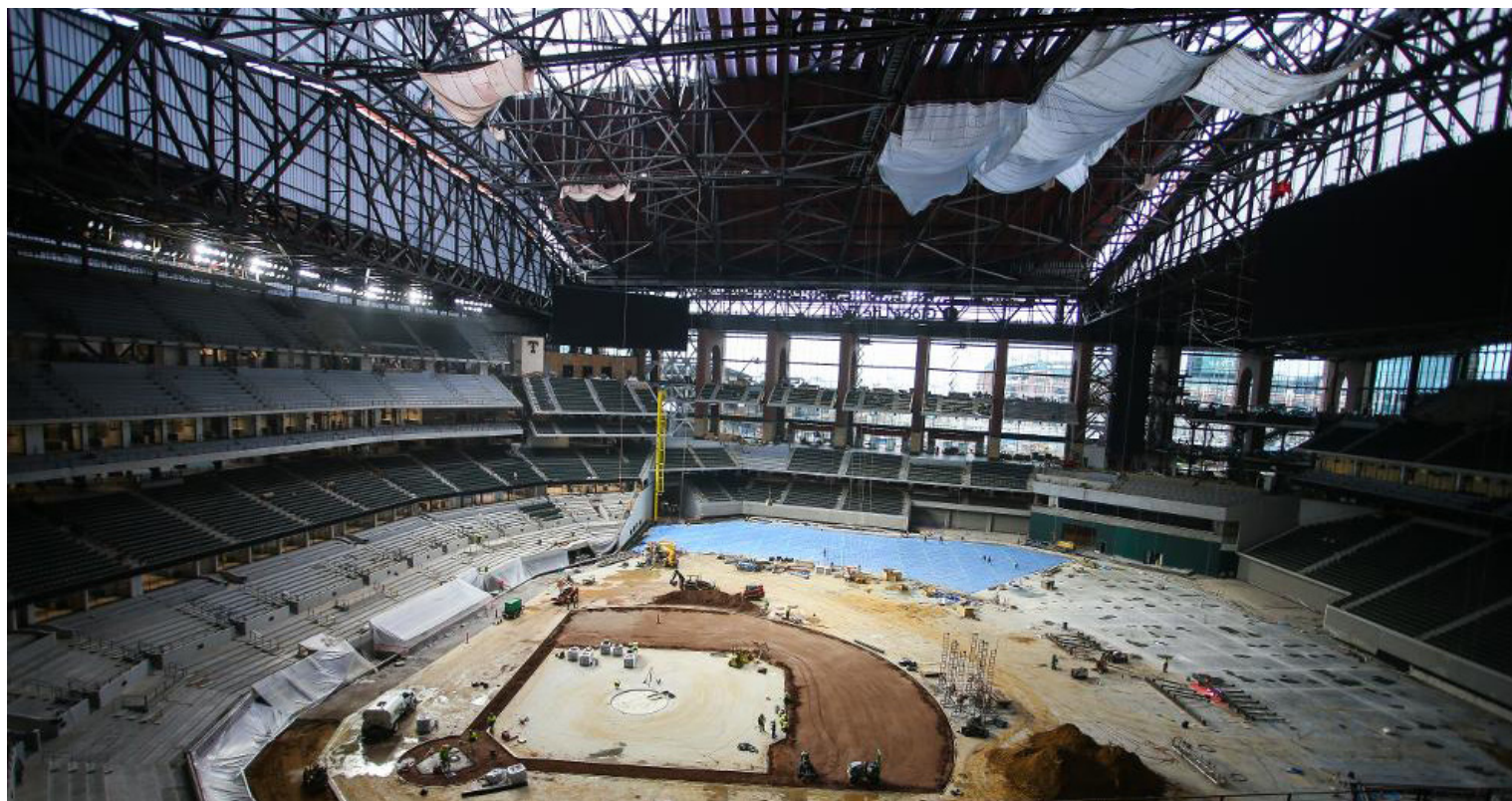
BY JELLY COCANOUGH

WV

White smoke fills the air, thickening the view of the chute. I try to move around so the smell of branding doesn't come to me. I gather up on the fence line where the horses are tied and attempt to push back the strays that easily think I'm the size of a timid mouse. (V)







Globe Life Field is the new home to the Texas Rangers. (Photo courtesy of TexasRangers.com)

Spring Into Action

By Mandi Dietz

March 19 marks the official first day of spring, and with that comes a season of beautiful, blooming bluebonnets, planting vegetable crops, such as cantaloupe, eggplant, sweet corn and lettuce, and baseball, America's favorite pastime.

Perfectly aligned with the Texas Rangers' home opener game against the Los Angeles Angels, scheduled for March 31, construction of the team's new ballpark, Globe Life Field, in Arlington, will soon be complete, putting an innovative twist on tradition by creating air-conditioned comfort for up to 40,000 fans. Now, we can enjoy the beloved fun without the triple-digit heat and humidity.

Year after year, football's popularity increases, but baseball still holds the title of the nation's long-standing, go-to, family-friendly sports activity, and many opportunities invite us to become part of the game.

The Rangers offer a variety of celebratory theme nights, honoring branches of the military, first responders, school spirit, movies, music, and more, ranging from wildlife and



A life-long Texas Rangers fan, Kayla McMillian now works for the Texas Rangers as an assistant for the mascot captain. (Photo courtesy of Kayla McMillian)

dinosaurs to weather, space and Whataburger, with giveaways, usually a cap or t-shirt worth the value of a ticket price.

A variety of youth camps and clinics offered during spring break and summer help children hone their baseball skills.

For \$25, ages 13 and younger can join the Jr. Rangers Club, receiving savings on camp, merchandise and tickets for family and friends, vouchers for some home games, a VIP membership pass and lanyard, a Kid's Ballpark Tour, front of the line access to Sunday afternoon Run the Bases, exclusive Q&A sessions with Rangers and official gear: bag, tee, cap and socks, etcetera, (all a \$220 value). Club events include a mascot party April 12, an autograph session TBD, Catch on the Field June 13 and Aug. 8, and Jr. Rangers Parade Sept. 13.

For a fee, ages five and older can kick start the game by calling "play ball" from the field, with their name announced and featured on the main video board (\$200), and/or deliver a game ball to the pitcher's mound, with their

name announced and featured on the main video board, plus a t-shirt (\$200). Ages six to 12 can Take the Field with Rangers players, receiving an autograph, ball and t-shirt (\$250). Ages seven to 12 may race to Steal-A-Base, taking home a major league base, t-shirt and video of the run (\$300).

Request a seat visit from the team's mascot, Rangers Captain and gift bag (\$100), or personalize a scoreboard message (\$100).

From custom jerseys and balls, team-building activities and valet parking, to Kid's Zone birthday parties, Globe Life Field tours with a peek at luxury suites and the Rangers' dugout, rehearsal dinners, weddings and receptions with catering, additional experiences abound.

Fans can also bid on Texas Rangers' game-used and autographed memorabilia through an official online auction at Texas-

Rangers.com.

Prior to the home opener, the Rangers will play an exhibition game against the minor league Rangers Futures March 24. Interestingly, many refer to the branch-like system of "feeding" players from independent teams, whether indoor soccer, professional wrestling, or NASCAR, from minor to major leagues, as a "farm system," "farm club," "nursery club," and "farm team(s)." According to hearsay, these associations stem from a near century-old remark about small towns and "growing players down on the farm like corn."

The Rangers' regular season ends Sept. 27.

Whether a special occasion or simply time with family, coworkers or friends, celebrate the kid in you with a Texas Rangers' baseball game and the inauguration of Globe Life Field.®

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Terry Hinton, MS - "I like my calf catcher very well. It saves lives and doctor bills. Planning to purchase a second calf catcher yet this year."

Grazing North Texas

By Tony Dean

Prairie Agalinis

Late in the summer of 2019, I discovered a forb that had taken up residence in a “calving pasture” that joins our ranch headquarters in central Clay County. This plant has probably always been in our back yard, but somehow I never noticed it. I suspect that it has existed as scattered single plants or small groups of plants and thereby escaped attention.

Prairie agalinis is a native, warm-season annual and a member of the Foxglove family. It is sometimes called Prairie gerardia. This plant produces purple to lavender tubular flowers during summer to late fall. It can grow from one to nearly three feet tall.

Prairie agalinis spreads itself by reseeding. When the small seed capsules split, the tiny seeds can be carried great distances by the wind.

Prairie agalinis is highly desirable as a native flower addition to landscaping projects. An article by Native American Seed said, “A beautiful flower appeared around Texas in abundance last fall. Prairie agalinis bloomed profusely in some parts of the state.”

Each season seems to encourage a different set of plants, and 2019 must have been just right for germination of Prairie agalinis. We have a couple of areas of agalinis that cover two to three acres each, and it is definitely noticeable.

The first thing we noticed during late summer, in areas where agalinis was dominant, is an almost total lack of grass. Where the agalinis stopped growing, the



Sideoats grama grew well in the foreground of this picture, but grass was virtually non-existent in the darker area in the background which was covered by Prairie agalinis during summer of 2019. The stems of Prairie agalinis turn black in the fall. (Photo courtesy Tony Dean)

grass grew as usual. There was a very definite line across the pastures where the agalinis grew and grass was almost nonexistent.

Another noticeable trait of this forb is that when the plant matured, especially after frost, the leaves all fell off and the remaining stems turned totally black. After several months, the stems are turning brown.

A review of literature on Prairie agalinis revealed that it has been identified for an extended time and was referenced in older vegetative documents. I was, however, surprised that there has apparently been limited study or research on this family, especially considering it can be so devastating to a



Prairie agalinis is highly prized as an addition to a wildflower landscape. It is, however, a problem for ranchers because it seriously reduces grass growth in a pasture. (Photo courtesy of Billie L. Turner of UT at Austin)



Grazing Value of This Plant

Prairie agalinis

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Prairie agalinis is not only poor grazing for livestock but also reduces grass growth where it is dominant in a pasture.

grass cover.

An article by Plants of Texas Rangelands states Prairie agalinis is sometimes called “grass killer” because it can shadow and suppress lower growing grasses. A paper by Prairie Moon Nursery goes on to say the agalinis genus, or False Foxgloves, are partially parasitic, using specialize roots to tap into the roots of other plants. These characteristics apparently combine to enable this plant to seriously suppress other plants, including grasses.

Prairie agalinis, like many annual forbs, is much more dominant in pastures with significant bare

ground such as our “calving pasture” that was historically overgrazed in years past. Pastures next to the calving pasture have been properly managed and have very little bare ground and a healthy grass cover that prevents growth of agalinis.

We are working hard here at home to establish fencing and livestock water to begin a rotation grazing system. I am confident we will reduce our growth of Prairie agalinis as our grass cover improves in years to come.

Prairie agalinis is usually considered poor grazing for livestock and fair for wildlife.®

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Confessions of a HUNTER

By Andy Anderson

Hunting the Hunter

A few years ago, I met a man from Utah, Steve. Steve is very nice, professional and passionate about the outdoors. He hunts the west side of the United States mostly in Utah, Nevada and Arizona chasing everything from mule deer and elk to prong horn and mountain lion.

I have always wanted to go on a lion hunt. It's just something about how beautiful, dangerous and elusive they are that captured my interest in hunting one. For me, when I am walking around Texas Trophy Hunters or Dallas Safari Club and I see a lion mount, I just stop and stare. They are truly captivating.

Fast-forward to February 2020. I had the chance to embark on the hunt of a lifetime with Steve, a mountain lion hunt. I arrived in St. George, Utah, and was shown around. Steve first took me to Zion National Park, a place that just left me in awe with the spectacular views with rock formations that looked as if God himself poured them out from a bowl, layers upon layers of rolling rock and towering ponderosa pine trees with scattered cedar trees. The colors varied from light pastels to vibrant dark earth red clay and white sand. The park was unbelievable. I saw desert big horn sheep and mule deer. Although few in numbers, it was good to see them. While traveling through the park, Steve explained the need for lion hunting, how without proper management of such an awesome predator, the deer, sheep and other game species were under constant threat. Mountain lions breed year-round and can over populate an area quickly and as such can decimate their natural food sources quickly. Which means once they run out of food, they enter cities and towns to prey on our beloved pets, and in some cases, people.

I awoke early the next morning, still groggy



A cat in the tree. (Photo courtesy Andy Anderson)

as I could hardly sleep the night before, but excited to see what the day brought. It was a very windy day. A cold front was blowing through and with it some snow in certain areas within the region. I jumped in the truck with Steve and headed to meet the other guys going out to hunt that day. I met Tyler and his boys as they were loading hound dogs into trucks, and they were all too happy to go. With names like Charlie, Fat Boy and Taco, these hounds were ready for the hunt. They could hardly contain their excitement. Every now and then one would let out a deep bawl just to let us know they were ready to hit the road.

We loaded up and headed out into some of the most beautiful country I had ever seen. We were rolling around on narrow dirt roads, sheer cliffs on one side or the other, the sun slowly rising, casting an amber haze and warm red glow of shimmering light across the mountains. After about an hour we crossed a cattle guard. Tyler and Steve rolled down their windows, and the cold mountain air cut through the warmth of the cab quickly bringing a chill to the back of my neck. I looked to see both men hanging their heads out the windows, intent on looking at the ground.

Continued on page 68

Continued from page 67

“We’re looking for tracks, Andy. These cats cross the roads quite a bit while they are hunting,” Tyler said. Well, I thought I would help, so I rolled down my window and started to look out at the ground. At 30 mph with a windchill of about -6, the ground was going by way too fast, my eyes watered up and my nose began to run about as fast as what we were driving, which further convinced me these boys didn’t need my help; after all, I had never seen a lion track anyways.

After about 20 to 30 minutes, Tyler slammed on the breaks, reversing back a few feet, stopping abruptly as his door flung open. “Here we go boys!” Tyler yelled out. I got out to walk around to see my first ever lion track. As I stared at the ground at what I now know to be a lion track and not a big dog, Tyler squatted down, and using a small twig, he pointed out details in the track making it a few days old, not worth turning the hounds on, he said.

We quickly loaded back up and headed on down the road. The day wore on, stopping and checking tracks. It was hard even for these professionals to tell what was fresh and what was not. The wind was howling 20-30 miles per hour, gusting to 50, blowing dust and filling in even the freshest of our own foot prints. We kept pushing hard though, never a thought of just giving up. I enjoyed the windshield time: no phone service allowed me to take in and really enjoy the picture-perfect mountain scenery. We closed out the afternoon at a small-town hamburger joint where I learned what fry sauce was. I always called fry sauce ketchup, but this was ketchup’s blond brother. Pretty tasty. You should try it if you get a chance.

Later that night Steve called and said to pack my bags, we were headed to Ely, Nev., in the morning. They had gotten six or more



The hounds patiently waiting.



Zion National Park. (Photos courtesy Andy Anderson)

inches of snow and that's where our best chances were going to be to catch a cat. It was about a three-and-a-half-hour drive from St. George so we had to leave early in the morning to be able to start hunting by first light. That drive was pretty much a blur until the sun began to rise, giving way to the snow-covered mountains. Unlike Texas, the roads were kept clear so we made good time. As we neared the mountain pass, we pulled over into a parking lot where we switched trucks and headed to a nearby dirt road.

We were not even on the road 10 minutes when Steve slammed on the breaks and jumped out like he was on fire, and yelled out, "Big tom track!"

I jumped out to see. Steve, part hound dog himself, followed the tracks a short distance. He came back walking straight up to me, wide-eyed and clearly excited and stopped; he looked me right in the eye and said, "We got a big tom and his girlfriend!"

Steve headed to the truck to call the other guys over to start a track when I heard in the distance the all too familiar sound of hound dogs bawling. About the time I was calling for Steve to bring my observations to his attention, he heard it, too.

We drove down the road a short distance to find out another hunter got there just a little earlier than us. We left the area to give the hunters the best chance possible. It was the right thing to do. The rest of the day was spent much like the first, lots of driving around looking for tracks. As the day wore on, it was clear the early morning start was catching up and we were getting tired. We checked into the hotel, grabbed some dinner and turned in for the night.

The alarm came quick the next morning. I quickly dressed and headed to the hotel lobby to find coffee. Clearly, I wasn't the only one with the same plan. Most everyone else was already there and



Andy Anderson with the mountain lion. (Photo courtesy Andy Anderson)

on their second cup. We headed out just as the sun was peering over the mountain range; not a breath of wind could be felt. The air was cold and crisp, just 10 below to start the day. It didn't take long for one of the guys to find a track, and a good one, real fresh. We headed over to meet up and turn the hounds loose. Like rockets they shot out of the bed of the truck, hitting the ground right on track. They needed no help; this track was as fresh as it gets. As the dogs disappeared into the tree line, we retreated to the pick up where Tyler had a television screen with all the dogs' GPS


collars entered and we were now tracking the trackers.

What seemed like an eternity was really about two hours when Tyler said they had him treed. We looked at the maps and found the closest road to where the hounds had the cat treed. We drove in as far as we could. The snow was deep, about one to two feet on average. A couple other guys from the group had beat us there and had a fire going, the smoke slowly rising from the hill, the smell filled the valley floor. As I stepped out of the truck, I could hear the hounds bawling, the echo bouncing off the surrounding mountains. We

geared up and started up the hill. It was steep and felt like I was climbing a ladder. Each step I sunk down into the snow and my breathing was labored.

These Texas lungs were on fire, digging deep for each breath of air, but I pushed forward. Finally, I couldn't go any more; I needed a break. Thinking I had covered some ground, I stopped and looked back. I might have made it about 50 yards from the truck. I laughed at myself, took a breath and held it for a second as I looked at the sheer beauty I was surrounded by and the reminder of just how deadly it can be in this environment. One of the dogs yelped out, as if encouraging me to continue on or just telling me to hurry. They were tired of waiting; either way I pushed on through the snow and burning pain in my lungs.

I neared the tall pine tree where the dogs had the lion surrounded, bawling and trying to climb it. I looked up to see it, the distinct outline of a cat, much like seeing a house cat in a tree, only much, much bigger. I moved around to the high side of hill near the tree to get a better look at the cat.

As I watched it perched up high, it looked straight at me, right into my eyes. It was as if it were staring into my soul. The realization set in that this cat, this perfect killing machine and hunter of all hunters, could just as easily kill me. With a single shot from a 357 pistol, it was over. The experience of a lifetime was near its ending as I walked up to it on the ground. A careful inspection of its teeth, massive paws and claws revealed the perfect design of a killing machine. I grasped it around its shoulders and chest like a bear hug, heavy and hard to hold; it was as big as me. As we loaded it up, filled out the tag and went to meet the state biologist, I reflected back on the trip and one I hope to repeat soon. Hunting a hunter, an experience of a lifetime. 

How to Recognize Grafted and Native Pecan Trees for Best Management of Your Orchard

By Will Chaney, Senior Research Associate 2

The pecan is America's native nut. Pecans have been harvested for hundreds of years, with crops originally harvested in native groves. Over time, agricultural producers developed techniques for producing genetically identical nuts on each tree by grafting a piece of scion wood onto a rootstock tree.

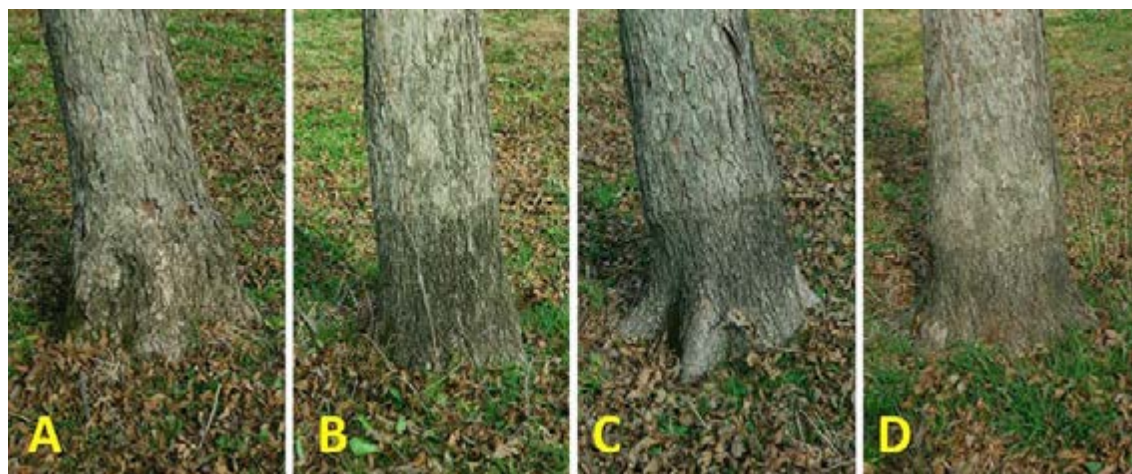
Management needs differ among pecan cultivars. Management between natives and improved pecans can differ dramatically as well. Being able to identify which cultivars you have in your orchard, as well as which trees are native and which are grafted, can influence the management styles you select for optimum production.

Pecans are a long-lived crop. In agriculture, you have crops that are annuals, such as corn, wheat and rice. You also have plants that are perennials, such as alfalfa and red clover. Pecans are a particular type of the latter known as a woody perennial. Pecans can grow and produce a crop over hundreds of years. While production can vary from tree to tree and under different management regimes, with the right care, adult trees have the potential for a long production life.

From groves to orchards

Improved grafted pecans began to increase in numbers in pecan's native range of the lower Mississippi River Valley. Eventually, the cultivation of pecans expanded into states that were not part of the native range, planted in orchards with rows and rows of improved trees in straight lines. The design of these new orchards improved management and production.

Orchards also were developed



A. Rootstock overgrowing the scion B. Rootstock and scion have the same growth pattern. C. Scion growing faster than rootstock. D. Scion growing faster than rootstock.

in the native range of pecans in Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and other states in the lower Mississippi valley. However, in these states, a producer might have a pecan grove along his creek bank and then have a planted orchard next to the grove. In these areas, you also would see more natives that had been grafted within the grove.

How grafts work and appear

In the grafting process, a point on the tree will be selected. Everything above that point will be removed and a piece of scion wood grafted onto that point. A successful graft will grow once the cuts have healed and the scion wood becomes the growing point for that tree. Everything below the union is rootstock. That scion wood is a selected cultivar chosen by the producer for desired traits.

When looking at pecan trees, you can look for signs to see if a tree has been grafted. Generally, you will find an area on the main trunk that looks like a vague line that circles the tree. The bark above and below the line appear completely different. One side

Pecan terms

Groves – Groups of naturally occurring trees

Grafting – Inserting a shoot or graft into a selected rootstock

Orchards – An intentional planting of trees that are maintained for food production

Annuals – Plants that complete their life cycle, from germination to the production of seeds, within one growing season

Perennials – Plants that live more than two years

Cultivars – Plant varieties that have been produced in cultivation by selection

Natives – Species whose presence in a region is the result of only natural processes

Improved – Contains certain traits that are improved better than other varieties, such as pest and disease resistance

Scion wood – A piece of last year's growth (containing approximately two buds) that is inserted into the rootstock during grafting

Rootstock – Stem with a well-developed root system onto which a graft can be made

Bark – A nontechnical term for the outermost layer of stems and roots, usually referring to all of the tissue outside the vascular cambium

Top-worked – Act of changing out the variety of a tree through grafting on the limb and branches

Hickory – A type of deciduous tree with pinnately compound leaves, comprising the genus *Carya*, which includes approximately 18 species

might be smooth, the other rough; color might be darker or lighter. Scion and rootstock will usually vary in these two traits.

Any tree that has been grafted has been top-worked. However, if a single-graft joint can be seen, it is common to say the tree is grafted. If multiple limbs have been grafted in the tree, it is often said that tree has been top-worked. A top-worked tree could have any number of graft points in its branches, but the entire production area of the tree has been changed to a selected cultivar.

Sometimes you might see signs of grafting which are more unusual than the ring dividing different textured or colored bark. Pecan is a species of hickory that includes about 13 other close relatives. You can graft between these relatives, but their growth patterns are not all the same. Because of this, you might have a huge rootstock that quickly shrinks to a small top or even a narrow rootstock that bulges out to a large scion.

When working to restore pecan



In the grafting process, a point on the tree will be selected. Everything above that point will be removed and a piece of scion wood grafted onto that point. (Photo courtesy of Noble Research Institute) production acreage that might have fallen out of use, it's not only important to identify cultivars that have been used, but it also it can be important to look at your native grove for any signs of grafting. Knowing what you have can go a long way to aid planning and management. (N)

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THE GARDEN GUY

OUTDOORS



The Rising Sun Redbud. (Photo courtesy Norman Winter)

The Sun Is Rising on North Texas Redbuds

By Norman Winter | Horticulturist, Author, Speaker

Redbuds blooming in North Texas are always a cause for celebration, even more so in Denton where they have been hosting a Redbud Festival since the 1930s. It went away for a while, but who is counting.

Sometimes we feel sad when the redbud stops its blooming, but with one variety you will celebrate until the leaves drop in fall. Think of it this way: the sun is not setting on the redbud season but instead it is “The Rising Sun.”

The Rising Sun, simply put, is a spectacular new variety catching on across the country. To know that it has those glorious purple rose spring blooms is just icing on the cake. The leaves, however, with their fiery glow that persists all summer, are the real reward. I

spotted these growing 100 yards away and was drawn like a computerized missile.

The Rising Sun is indeed a selection of our native redbud, *Cercis canadensis*. I say ours because it is native over such a huge range, some 32 states and as far north as Canada. This one was selected by Ray Jackson in Belvidere, Tenn., and has already garnered the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society’s prestigious Gold Medal. Nurserymen are raving about it from north to south.

The Rising Sun is the perfect size for today’s urban landscape. It reaches about 12-feet in height with a rounded structure. When I first saw it in full sun in early August, I was seeing typical dark
Continued on page 74



The Rising Sun. (Photo courtesy Norman Winter)

Continued from page 73

green heart-shaped leaves but all new growth revealed yellow-gold, orange and apricot-red.

As a horticulturist, my first thought would have been that the leaves would have surely been torched without ample shade, but this was not the case. The hardiness is listed as zones 5-8, which means North Texas can revel in their beauty.

I am seeing ads for them in North Texas garden centers so you should be able to pick them up. I say them because this is such an awesome variety you will probably want three or four to spread throughout the landscape.

Once you have yours, select a site in full sun. This will give you the best blooming in the spring and leaf coloring during the growing season. Don't panic if you have a little afternoon shade. It is ideal to plant when trees are dormant,

but I assure you April and May also are choice months to plant. This has really become the norm with today's excellent container grown stock.

Typically, you think of a redbud in companionship with other spring bloomers like azaleas, dogwoods and spring flowering bulbs. This would certainly work, but the vibrant summer colors mean that you could use it in a tropical-like setting where coarse textured foliage from elephant ears, cannas and bananas would create a stunning partnership.

The Rising Sun redbud will certainly open up the door to plant combinations most of us have never considered for eastern redbuds. This is especially true now that we have a selection that is so riveting in the hot summer months. Talk to your garden center today.

Follow me on Facebook @ NormanWinterTheGardenGuy.®



The Rising Sun in bloom. (Photo courtesy Norman Winter)



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GODLEY, TX

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