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Do you feel lucky?

Hello OKFR readers and welcome to the March issue of the Oklahoma Farm & Ranch magazine. As we celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the arrival of spring, we are lucky to show you some great content this month.

The 101st Oklahoma Youth Expo will take place this month. More than 250,000 youth are estimated to have participated in the program since 1915. Read how this 10-day livestock show has taught Oklahoma students life lessons over the past century.

The last thing a horse owner anticipates is their equine athlete becoming no longer sound. *Lameness in the Horse* walks horse owners through the process of what to expect in a lameness exam and recovery process. Read how today's technology can help bring your horse back to soundness and how much it will cost.

This month, I traveled to Oklahoma City to watch March profile, Bradley Chance Hays compete in the International Finals Rodeo. Hays is a well-known calf roper and contemporary abstract western artist from Bristow, Okla. Hays was handed a pink rope at the age of six and illustrated a children's book at 12. Read how Hays blended his passions of roping and art into one successful career in *Son of the State*.

The Pre-War Swap Meet, hosted by Mike and Susie Ersland, will also take place this month in Chickasha, Okla. Mike's father, Joe Ersland had the idea of starting the swap meet in the late '80s. The swap meet features automobile or transportation-related items manufactured before 1945. Read how the swap meet has evolved over the past few decades.

If you have an event, photo or topic idea that you would like to see in Oklahoma Farm & Ranch, send it our way at editor@okfronline.com.

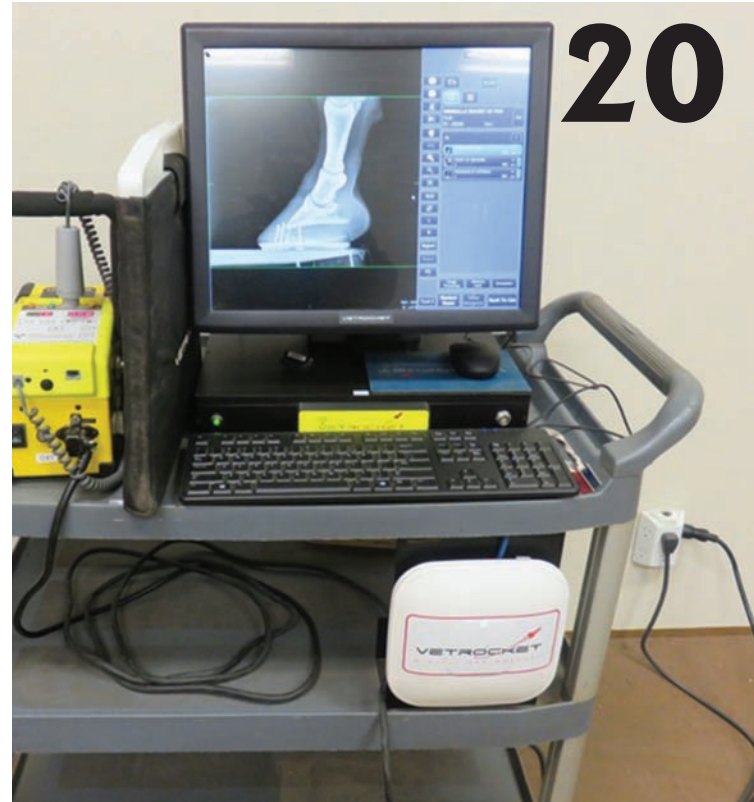
We have also launched the OKFR Twitter page @OKFRMagazine. Keep up with new OKFR updates on our Facebook and Twitter pages. For more information or subscription information, visit our website www.OKFRonline.com.


Until next month,




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OKFR / socializing

ON THE COVER

Bradley Chance Hays, a well-known calf roper and artist from Bristow, Okla., has always stayed true to his culture. Hays got his start as a roper when his dad handed him a pink rope at the age of six, and as an artist by drawing cartoons. He now uses different mediums, but the subjects of his art has never changed. He uses a combination of contemporary and traditional to pay tribute to his home state. (Photo courtesy of Jan Hopkins Hays)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OKFR is now welcoming letters to the editor for its Socializing page, but some rules apply. They include:

1. 125-word limit.
2. Deadline for submission is the first Wednesday of the month.
3. Only one letter per writer per issue.
4. All letters must include a name, address and phone number. Only the name and city of residence will be published.
5. All letters will be verified by the news staff by a phone call prior to publication. If the news staff is unable to contact the writer of a letter, the letter will be held until such times as contact is made.
6. Letters containing libelous statements or those intended as advertising will not be published.
7. Letters that target previous letter writers will be edited to remove the name of such letter writers who are non-candidates or non-public figures. Letters critical of previously published guest columns may identify the writer only once, and then only to make it clear which column they are writing about.
8. NTFR reserves the right to edit or reject any letters to the editor.
9. Letters must be mailed to OKFR Letter to the Editor, P.O. Box 831, Bowie, TX 76230 or emailed to editor@okfronline.com.

FACEBOOK WALL



Spring is coming early this year, according to Punxsutawney Phil. Here are 5 common winter horse care mistakes just in case he is wrong!
#GroundhogDay #TuesdayTips

<http://okfronline.com/.../5-common-winter-horse-care-mistakes/>



5 Common Winter Horse Care Mistakes – Oklahoma Farm & Ranch

5 Common Winter Horse Care Mistakes February 2, 2016 bowienews Equine 0 By Laci Jones With the winter season in full swing, it is especially important to make...

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Oklahoma Youth Expo

IMPACT

Oklahoma City spring show teaches life skills and builds leaders.

The anticipation built all winter. While classmates planned spring break vacations, nothing compared to the excitement of preparing for the Oklahoma Junior Livestock Show. The chance to show the livestock you had worked so tirelessly with at the world's largest youth livestock show was monumental.

No matter if you called it the Oklahoma City Fat Stock Show in the 1920s, the Oklahoma Spring Fair in the mid-1990s or the Oklahoma Youth Expo in 2002, showing at Oklahoma City was and continues to be the highlight of the year.

"To me the Oklahoma Junior Livestock Show was a goal to achieve toward," said Shelly Ramsey, now of Jones, Okla. "Whether it be working hard throughout the year to get my heifers ready or bettering my showmanship skills for the big show, it was always a great end goal to achieve."

For me, an alarm was not needed on move-in day. I never

understood why my family could not load the trailer faster. Yes, you waited in line... forever... while trucks and trailers wrapped around the state fair coliseum waiting to unload. But it is a memory I will forever have waiting in the truck with my dad as we inched closer.

I remember one March so cold that I made quick friends because we had a propane heater in the far north barn. People would come for a quick warm-up or to watch pennies melt on top of the heater.

The scare of having our truck broken into one year still remains clear. It appeared they took the top layer of items and ran. The burglars missed the new sewing machine my parents had purchased for my 4-H Dress Review projects.

To a cowgirl who enjoyed the solitude and peace of the barn, the fact that the robbers did not want to sit inside and sew was not surprising.

The spring show was where I learned Hereford heifers from

OYE's
Impact on Oklahoma

2016 marks the **101st** Anniversary

50,000 attend the show

7,594 exhibitors expected in **2016**

\$2 Million in prizes and scholarships awarded in **2015**

More than 250,000 Youth are estimated to have participated in the program since **1915!**

\$2 Million impact on **Oklahoma City**

*Source: Tyler Norvell, executive director of OYE

south-central Oklahoma did not know what to think about those white, wooly critters showing on the other side of the ring. After several bovine breakdowns, I learned to host sheep introductions beforehand at our county show.

I always stood far right of ideal when the class was lined up, but the lessons learned when you left the class last were probably more valuable in life than if I had won that blue ribbon. Life is not always fair, and sometimes you have to work harder than others to achieve success. When I handed out ribbons one year as my breed's
See OYE page 13



BY LISA BRYANT
PHOTO DETAILS

OYE's impact on Oklahoma.
(Photo by Laci Jones)

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Lot 15

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Lot 12

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	\$B
+1	+2.6	+62	+107	+25	+142.34



Lot 3

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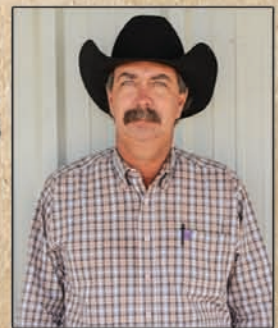


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**Mike Petit,
Livestock Manager**

OYE

queen, I took special care to always try to inspire the exhibitors who placed toward the bottom when I handed them their ribbon.

After the show, my family and I would drive home talking about the heifers that beat us. What characteristics did those cattle have that mine didn't? What did those exhibitors do that I didn't? What could I do differently to improve next year?

I would groom my livestock longer. I would walk my cattle farther and I would set them up with a show stick more times. I learned that a strong work ethic could overcome many obstacles in life. The memories made at the show and the show's significance in the lives of past exhibitors are still amazingly fresh. One lifelong friend I made at the show was Cara Ferrell, now of Stillwater, Okla. For her, the main prize was not necessarily for the quality of her livestock, but of the Super Show-

man Award created by the late Dr. Joe Hughes.

"It was one of the highest honors you could earn. No matter how well you placed in the show ring, the real prestige was getting selected as a Super Showman," Ferrell said. "It was no easy accomplishment!"

As an exhibitor, an ag teacher's wife and the show photographer, Shelley Scifres, now of Roff, Okla., has made many memories at the spring show and captured memories for thousands of others. From showing cattle and sheep with her brother to showing hogs with her daughters, Scifres said she could write a book. Her daughter, Sami Jo, even met her husband at the show.

She notes the enormous number of volunteers and staff who work so hard to make the show a success. "Thank you so much to the breeders of all species, ag teachers, 4-H leaders, Diamond

Hats, Sirloin Club, OYE staff and the OYE board for making this the world's largest and best junior livestock show," she said. The rewards of this show far exceed any long hours or disappointments I have had over the years.

Thanks to Oklahoma City, I now have lifelong friendships and adopted families across the state. The breeding herd I started helped to pay for my college education. The show introduced me to college roommates. It led me to know professors who influenced my enrollment and major at Oklahoma State University, and most importantly, gave me the education to shape and mold my future.

The roles have changed since I first exhibited in third grade. From working the ring as a director of my national junior breed association to selecting superior showmen as a member of the OSU livestock judging team to taking backdrop photos for the breed

association I worked for, helping other youth obtain their dreams at the spring show has always been dear to my heart.

That college degree later guided me to a role of helping to organize OSU Day at OYE. It was exciting to share the opportunities available in agriculture with youth and to ignite the fire about their own future careers.

Now in its 101st year, the 10-day show offers exhibitors more opportunities than ever. Oklahoma's 4-H and FFA members will receive more than \$2 million in hard-earned prizes and scholarships for their livestock projects. For a century, the show has turned youngsters into talented and passionate leaders while building better genetics in Oklahoma.

OYE is perhaps one of the single greatest events shaping the lives of young people in our state, and I am betting the best is yet to come! ★

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JW Lane and County Road X
Ray Scott
Steve Brack
Tyler Wilhelm
Kaitlin Butts & Elaina Kay
Ward Davis
Mike Chism and Hollow Point
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Nutrient Requirements after Calving

Calving season has started for some and will be starting for other producers relatively soon.

Nutritional management of the cow herd is more important during the periods of late gestation and early lactation than any other. It has a huge impact on the performance of both the cow and newborn calf. During late gestation, the fetus grows exponentially in the cow's uterus, causing a directly proportional increase in nutrient requirements.

Seventy-five percent of the fetus' growth occurs in the last three months of gestation. This often requires the need to provide higher quality feed in late gestation to overcome lost capacity for forage intake. A cow's nutrient requirements will increase 30 to 40 percent with calving, and forage intake will generally increase about 30 percent at calving.

Nutrition of the cow during late gestation and early lactation is also very important to calf performance. Adequate nutrition to the pregnant cow will improve the nutritional status of the growing fetus inside the cow. This will lead to a strong calf that will have good vigor so that it stands quickly and suckles colostrum soon after

birth. All of this is important to the early development of the immune system.

Lactation is the most nutritionally stressful activity for the cow. The modern commercial cow produces around 25 pounds of milk each day during lactation. Milk contains a high concentration of protein. Therefore, lactating cows, particularly during early lactation, require nearly twice the daily protein of dry cows.

Research shows cows in moderate condition at calving should at least maintain body weight from calving to rebreeding for good conception rates. Failure to take into account the increased protein demand brought on by lactation may result in long intervals before rebreeding.

Beef breeds with superior milking ability and selection for high milk production within a breed have an even higher protein requirement. Lactation also represents the greatest need for additional energy beyond that needed for maintenance. An average milking beef cow requires nearly 50 percent more total digestible nutrients (TDN) or net energy than when dry. Energy requirements for first-calf heifers are higher than for mature cows because energy is

needed for growth in addition to body maintenance and lactation.

The period of time between calving and breeding is crucial to the development of replacements and certainly a period where nutritional requirements should be met. This group of females has requirements for maintenance, growth, lactation, and reproduction with reproduction only occurring if the other production functions are satisfied. Inadequacies during this period can have a significant influence on reproduction. Also, it is important to keep in mind that milk production has a higher biological priority for nutrients than reproduction. Thus, attempting to feed a thin cow more just prior to the breeding season to increase condition may only result in more milk production.

Increasing cow size adds to the daily protein and energy requirements but not nearly to the extent that lactation does. As mature size increases, more protein and energy are required to maintain the heavier muscle mass and to permit faster gains that must be made for young females of larger breeds. If the cow is not fed to meet her nutritional demands, she will fail or be delayed in rebreeding and lose weight. ★



BY MARTY NEW

marty.new@okstate.edu

PHOTO DETAILS

Lactation is the most nutritionally stressful activity for the cow. The modern commercial cow produces around 25 pounds of milk each day during lactation. (Photo by Laci Jones)

Veterinary Feed Directive



Under the Animal Drug Availability Act (ADAA) of 1996, the U.S. Congress created a new category for drugs called veterinary feed directive (VFD) drugs. Prior to this new rule, all drugs were classified by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as over-the-counter (OTC) or prescription (Rx) drugs. The VFD drugs are antimicrobials placed in or on feed that requires veterinary oversight for their use. Until now, only a select few drugs have been designated VFD drugs.

Over the past several years, the FDA has been reviewing antimicrobial resistance. From this review process, the FDA proposed new guidelines for the judicious use of medically important antimicrobial drugs used in food-producing animals. These drugs are those that are considered important for therapeutic use in humans.

Two important guidelines that have come about from this review are limiting the use of medically important antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals for health reasons only and placing the use of these drugs under the oversight of a veterinarian.

In keeping with the FDA's theme of judicious use of medically important antimicrobials, pharmaceutical companies have voluntarily agreed to remove any growth performance claims from the label of these drugs. This means using any of these drugs for weight gain or improved feed efficiency is prohibited.

Emphasis is placed on using these drugs for prevention, control and treatment of diseases under the oversight of a veterinarian. This revision will change all OTC feed grade antimicrobials that are medically important to humans to VFD drugs.

A few drugs that are not consid-

ered important in human medicine such as iopnophores, coccidiostats, bacitracin, bambarmycin carbadox and pleumutlin will continue to be available OTC. Drug companies must have new labeling on the drugs that have changed status by December 2016.

On Jan. 1, 2017, producers will be expected to follow the new guidelines.

For more details producers may wish to read *Guidance for the Industry #209: The Judicious Use of Medically Important Antimicrobial Drugs in Food Producing Animals*.

Now is the time for producers to begin preparing for the changes that are coming. Producers should take an inventory of the feed grade antimicrobials that they are currently using. Producers should establish a good working relationship with a veterinarian and share the current list of drugs being used **See VFD page 17**



**BY BARRY
WHITWORTH**

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PHOTO DETAILS

On Jan. 1, 2017, producers will be expected to follow the new guidelines. Producers should begin preparing for the changes that are coming. (Courtesy photo)

in the operation. This will ensure that no interruption occurs in the drug supply come Jan. 1, 2017.

In order for the veterinarian to write a VFD, a proper veterinary-client-patient-relationship (VCPR) will need to be established. The definition of a VCPR is:

1. A veterinarian has assumed the responsibility for making the medical judgements regarding the health of (an) animal(s) and the need for medical treatment, and the client (the owner of the animal or animals or other caretaker) has agreed to follow the instructions of the veterinarian.

2. There is sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) by the veterinarian to initiate at least a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal(s).

3. The practicing veterinarian

is available for follow-up in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of therapy. Such a relationship can only exist when the veterinarian has recently seen or is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s) by virtue of examination of the animal(s), and/or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal(s) are kept.

Many more details will become available over the next few months about VFDs. Producers should watch for meetings, articles and webinars about the subject. Information may be obtained from many websites including www.ResponsibleAntibioticUse.com/vfd or the FDA CVM website.

Producers should also remember that there is plenty of time to prepare for the changes. ★



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Horse Pasture Management



Horse owners are eager to turn their horses out to graze and exercise as spring weather arrives, but is their pasture ready?

“If managed correctly and well, pastures can be a great source of high quality forage as well as appropriate spaces for horses to exercise,” said Alex Rocateli, Oklahoma State University extension forage and pasture management specialist. “With right management, the forage production season can be extended along the year, which decreases hay expenses.”

If pastures are not properly managed, Rocateli said they will have weeds that do not provide enough nutrients and may result in health issues.

Rocateli said producers can improve their pasture in five steps.

1. Soil testing, fertilizing and liming

Producers should ideally conduct a soil test each year, but it can be costly. Rocateli recommends soil testing every fifth year in grazing pastures and every third year in hay fields.

“In grazing pastures, part of the nutrients ingested by the horses will return to the soil as urine and feces,” he explained. “On the other hand, all nutrient content of the harvested forage in a hay field will be exported to other locations.”

Rocateli said this causes nutrient soil depletion to be slower in grazing than hay fields, which requires more frequent soil analysis.

Producers can also refer to Oklahoma Forage and Pasture Fertility Guide, developed by Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and OSU’s Division of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources for more information on proper soil sampling, fertiliza-

tion and liming.

2. Over-seeding and renovating bare spots

Over-seeding and renovating bare spots can replenish forage stands within a pasture, Rocateli said.

“Consider using a high quality pasture seed mix,” he recommended. “However, limit the legume content in the seed mix to no more than 25 percent to prevent horse drool.”

3. Presence of sacrifice area

“The presence of a sacrifice area is a small fenced area of 300 square feet per animal that will allow the pasture to recover due to extreme grazing or severe weather conditions,” Rocateli explained.

Horses kept in the sacrifice area should have enough hay and drinking water, he added. The sacrifice area should also have proper drainage and waste removal.

See **HORSE** page 19



BY LACI JONES

editor@okfronline.com

PHOTO DETAILS

A producer’s decision regarding forage species depends on factors including management philosophy and expertise of the producer, the land resource and the capital available. (Photo by Laci Jones)

Horse

4. Rotational grazing

Horses are more selective when grazing than ruminants such as cattle.

"They will defoliate their favorite plants repeatedly until plant death by root nutrient depletion if they occupy the same pasture for a long time," Rocateli explained.

Spot grazing (i.e. bare spots in pastures) will appear and evolve to whole pasture destruction if a rotation system is not put into place, he added. Horses rotated to different pastures allows plant regrowth.

Trampling can also cause forage waste and adds to the spot grazing effect.

"Also, horses tend to excrete their manure in specific pasture areas reducing the grazing area and reducing the pasture's nutrient distribution," Rocateli said. Rocateli recommends rotating horses to other fields when the forage has been grazed to three to four inches high.

"Rotational grazing will increase forage utilization by alleviating trampling manure concentration and spot grazing," he said.

5. Weed control

The use of chemical weed control is the most common technique used today, Rocateli explained. He said a proper identification of weeds is key to determine the most effective herbicide.

"Avoid using the same herbicide or active ingredient for long periods in the same pasture because it can result in herbicide resistance weeds," he explained. "Opt for other techniques such as regular mowing."

He also suggested adequate fertilization and rotational grazing will be favored among horses. Rocateli said all of these steps are equally important to properly manage horse pastures.

Rocateli said a producer's decision regarding forage species

depends on factors including management philosophy and expertise of the producer, the land resource and the capital available.

"Typically, the combination of cool-season and warm-season forages will result in the lowest cost forage to feed horses on a year-round basis," he explained.

To produce high quantity of forage and nutritive value, introduced warm-season grasses require nitrogen fertilization. The most common warm-season introduced grass used for horse forages is Bermuda grass, Rocateli said.

"Bermuda grass, if managed properly, can produce large quantities of dry matter, can have high nutritive value that results in good animal performance, can tolerate considerable abuse and responds well to nitrogen fertilizer," Rocateli explained.

Other warm-season grasses can be used including old world bluestem and crabgrass.

Alfalfa, a warm-season perennial, is the most utilized legume hay fed to Oklahoma horses, he explained. Alfalfa can be grazed, but Rocateli said this may not be an economically feasible alternative.

"Cool-season grasses can be sod-seeded into dormant warm-season grass sods to extend the green grazing season," he explained.

Rocateli said wheat, rye, oats, barley and/or ryegrass are cool-season forages used in horse pastures.

"Using ryegrass with small grains like oats can provide for extended grazing later into spring when compared to using a small grain only," Rocateli added.

Some cool-season clovers can be used for forage as well including red clover, white clover and rose clover because of their Oklahoma adaptation and produce excellent nutritive value.

Rocateli said horse owners need to be careful of potentially toxic plants when turning their horses out including bitterweed, black locust, cocklebur, horsetail, milkweed, ornamental yew, pigweed, snakeroot, St. John's wort, wild parsley or carrot, and yarrow.

"Grass members of the genus Sorghum may contain prussic acid causing muscle weakness, urinary tract failure, neural degeneration and death," Rocateli explained.

Producers should also watch for mold in humid environments with clovers and small grains, he added. When looking at pasture costs, he said cost may be divided into establishment costs and maintenance costs.

"Establishment costs may appear high at first glance," Rocateli

explained. "However, when the cost to establish perennial pastures is spread over several years, pastures compete quite favorably with feed programs that use hay and grain alone."

Compared to establishment costs, maintenance costs can vary depending on several factors including soil type and production goals.

"The challenge is to provide adequate pasture of acceptable quality as inexpensive as possible," he explained. "A forage enterprise budget may be used to estimate the costs of establishing and maintaining forage for pastures."

Producers can use software tools to evaluate cost of forage production found at www.agecon.okstate.edu/budgets. *



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Lameness in the Horse

Every horse owner dreads the day they go out to ride or exercise their horse and notices that their equine athlete is lame.

For a horse owner, this can create multiple questions and concerns relating to what may have caused the lameness, how serious the injury is, what it is going to cost, etc.

Calling your local veterinarian and scheduling a lameness examine is the first step to fixing your lame horse.

In the meantime, your horse should be kept in a stall or small paddock until he or she can be examined by your veterinarian. You may administer Bute or Banamine while your horse is on stall rest; however, your horse should not receive any Bute or Banamine at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled lameness exam because they may mask the lameness and distort the lameness exam results.

Early diagnosis and appropriate “pinpoint” therapy is the best and quickest way to get your horse back to performing at a high level. An additional benefit to early diagnosis is the reduced amount of ongoing damage to the injured joint, ligament or tendon.

Pinpoint therapy involves treating a specific joint, ligament, tendon, etc., that is causing the lameness rather than using a “shot-gun” method of treating the entire horse with anti-inflammatories or supplements. Pinpoint therapy, which can only be initiated after appropriate diagnostics, will speed up the healing and decrease the risk of re-injury later.

Frequently, owners will opt for the “rest and time off” method of therapy for their lame horse. In most cases, this method will not resolve the lameness long term.

It may fix the lameness for a short period but the underlying



cause of lameness still has not been addressed.

One of the most useful lameness diagnostic tools available to veterinarians is a simple lameness exam. An important part of a thorough lameness examination includes a detailed history. Some of the more common questions asked during the history include:

- What supplements or medication has the horse received?
- Any history of prior lameness or joint injections?
- Last time the horse was shod or trimmed?
- What is the horse used for?
- How old is the horse?
- How long has the horse currently been lame?
- Did the lameness get better with rest?
- Did the horse become lame while

being ridden or while turned out?

During the lameness exam, your veterinarian is going to palpate for heat and/or swelling over your horse’s joints, ligaments and tendons. This heat and/or swelling can be a big clue to unravelling the lameness puzzle.

The next step in the lameness exam is to watch the horse walk and trot on a flat, smooth, hard surface in a straight line and in a circle to the left and right.

Depending on the type of lameness, your veterinarian may also ask you to ride the horse during the lameness exam.

Your horse’s degree of lameness is graded on a 5-point scale that has been established by the American Association of Equine
See LAMENESS page 21



**BY LAUREN LAMB,
DVM, MS**

PHOTO DETAILS

This horse is having a palmar digital nerve block performed. The block will numb the heels and the sole of the horse’s foot. If the lameness resolves with this block, that would indicate the source of lameness is in this region of the foot. (Courtesy of Lauren Lamb)

Lameness

Practitioners. The following is an outline of the grading system according to this scale.

Lameness Scale

The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) developed a lameness scale to aid veterinarians and horse owners in communicating about cases and recordkeeping:

0: Lameness not perceptible under any circumstances.

1: Lameness is difficult to observe and is not consistently apparent, regardless of circumstances (e.g. under saddle, circling, inclines, hard surface, etc.).

2: Lameness is difficult to observe at a walk or when trotting in a straight line but consistently apparent under certain circumstances (e.g. weight-carrying, circling, inclines, hard surface, etc.).

3: Lameness is consistently

observable at a trot under all circumstances.

4: Lameness is obvious at a walk.

5: Lameness produces minimal weight bearing in motion and/or at rest or a complete inability to move.

Once a baseline lameness is established, the next step will be to localize the cause of lameness by flexing joints and performing nerve and joint blocks.

Local anesthetic can be injected into a joint or adjacent to a nerve to numb a region of the horse's leg. If the horse becomes sound after numbing a region of its leg, the source of lameness can be localized to that region of the leg.

The next step is to perform an ultrasonographic and/or radiographic exam on the region of the limb that is the source of lameness.

Radiographs are better for imaging lesions or abnormalities in the bone, whereas ultrasonography is better suited for imaging lesions in the soft tissue.

In some instances, the cause of lameness cannot be identified with radiographs or ultrasonography. In these cases, more advanced imaging may be needed such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), nuclear scintigraphy and/or computed tomography.

The downside to performing these advanced imaging techniques is their cost, which can range from \$500 to \$2,000, and the potential need for general anesthesia.

The upside to performing these techniques is the detailed images of the anatomical structures in your horse's leg, which lead often lead to an accurate diagnosis.

Occasionally a lameness exam is contraindicated because of a specific injury. For example, a hairline fracture of a bone would contraindicate the usual lameness exam as it could lead to a complete bone fracture.

If your veterinarian suspects a hairline bone fracture, which can be seen with a severe lameness (grade 4 or 5), your veterinarian may decide to take radiographs prior to performing any further test.

Successful lameness diagnosis takes a skilled veterinarian and an owner who can provide a detailed history.

With today's advanced technologies, you have a better chance than ever of finding the problem and starting a treatment regimen that will bring your horse back to soundness. ★

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MAMA WADE'S MAD DOG STONE



Alice (Hawkins) Wade saw many changes in her lifetime.

"I came to Indian Territory from Missouri as a young girl, riding a mule most of the way following a covered wagon," Wade once said. "I lived to see a man walk on the moon."

She passed away a few days short of her 101st birthday, having borne 13 children of her own and raising a stepdaughter, leaving 263 descendants at the time of her death and scores of others who knew her simply as "Mama Wade."

She became a modern woman in some ways, but in many others she clung to old traditions and home remedies, many of which were handed down from her Hawkins ancestors.

One of these was a mad dog

stone.

The term "dog days of summer" actually began as "mad dog days of summer" because the hot days of August and September were when rabies (hydrophobia) infection among dogs and other animals was at its highest. Doctors were few and far between, and the mad dog stone was a frequently used remedy for the disease.

A stony concretion found in the stomachs of several kinds of animals, much like a hairball, only those from a deer are supposedly curative. Their potency varies. The best come from a white deer, with the most powerful from an albino deer, which is pure white with pink eyes.

Stones also vary in size and color. Oval or round in shape, most are three to four inches in diameter, with a flat, smooth

surface. Most are brownish-green with a highly polished, porous surface. Mama Wade's is whitish in color, flat on the bottom, egg-shaped and a little over two-inches long.

It is theorized that the stone forms after the deer licks rocks, which contain some salt, and then licks its body, resulting in the sort of hair ball.

Sometimes called "bezoars," some mad dog stones were reportedly brought to the United States by immigrants from Europe. Supposedly, one such stone is mentioned by Sir Walter Scott in his novel *The Talisman*.

When someone is suspected of having rabies, the stone is boiled in sweet milk to remove impurities and is placed on the wound. The wound must be bleeding; if not, it

See STONE page 23



BY JUDY WADE

PHOTO DETAILS

Mama Wade's mad dog stone is flat on the bottom (right) while the top (left) is more egg-shaped. (Photo by Judy Wade)

STONE

Continued from page 22

is scraped until it bleeds. If rabies is present, the stone will adhere to the wound. If rabies is not present, the stone will not stick. If it sticks, it is left in place until it turns loose and falls off.

The stone is boiled in milk again, and the process is repeated until the stone no longer sticks. This can take several hours each time. When the stone no longer adheres, the person is declared cured.

There is a strict set of rules associated with the mad dog stone. It must be passed down from generation to generation within the family. It must never be sold. The person suspected of being exposed to rabies must come to the owner of the stone; the stone is never brought to the patient. There is never a charge for its use.

One story says that in 1859 Abraham Lincoln took his son

Robert, who had been bitten by an animal suspected of having rabies, to be cured by someone with a mad dog stone in Terre Haute, Ind.

Other stories tell of the stone being used successfully to treat snake bites and insect bites using the same method.

Mama Wade's grandsons remember her telling of a man who came to her, having been bit by an animal suspected of being rabid. He was so afraid he would go mad, he made her promise to lock him in a room during the treatment so he could not hurt someone. Either the cure worked, or the animal that bit him did not have rabies.

Mama Wade has been gone many years, but in keeping with the tradition, her mad dog stone is being passed down to the next generations, and is a valued reminder of this special lady. ★

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First Impressions by Sara Honegger

7 pieces, 7 outfits

Day 1: Graphic tank top, Leggings, Jean shirt

Day 2: Black Dress

Day 3: Graphic tank top & Jeans

Day 4: Dress and Graphic tank top

Day 5: Jean shirt, Leggings

Day 7: Black Dress & Jean shirt buttoned



Packing clothes for a trip is always a stressful task for women. I am so envious of men who can pack for an entire week in five minutes, and I can't seem to put one outfit together in that time. So, what if we made it that easy? We are getting into the time of year when we start taking trips, and if the weather cooperates, we may start seeing some warmer days. With that optimism in mind, here is a week of outfits that would fit into one duffle bag. With a jean button-up, black dress, leggings, jeans and graphic tank top you can create a whole week of cute outfits. Accessorize them with big statement pieces to help add some variety to the looks and fun shoes which can vary based on the weather. Options for shoes could include booties, sandals or even a pair of sneakers. I love dressing outfits down with my favorite pair of sneakers to add a little bit of unexpected flair. Lastly, I would pair a fun belt over the dress or the graphic tank top to add an additional pop of color or uniqueness to the look. Tank top: RockinAdesign, Leggings: hm.com, Jeans: Dear John, Belt: NRS World, Shoes: American Rag, Black Dress: Polyvore, Jean shirt: Soletopia

LACEY'S PANTRY

By Lacey Newlin



PISTACHIO COOKIES

Serves: 2 dozen cookies

Ingredients

- 1 2/3 cups all purpose flour
- (1) 3.4-ounce box instant pistachio pudding mix
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon clear vanilla extract
- 1 egg, room temperature
- 1 cup white chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped pistachios

Directions

Whisk together flour, pudding mix, baking soda and salt. Set aside. Cream sugars and butter together until light and fluffy. Add in egg and vanilla and beat until well blended. Gradually stir in dry ingredients. Fold in chocolate chips and pistachios.

Refrigerate dough for at least 30 minutes. Preheat oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper or lightly grease. Scoop out rounded tablespoons of cookie dough and place on prepared cookie sheet. Bake for 11-13 minutes or just until they are set. If you see any brown, pull them out. Remove from oven and let cool on baking sheet for several minutes before moving to a rack. *



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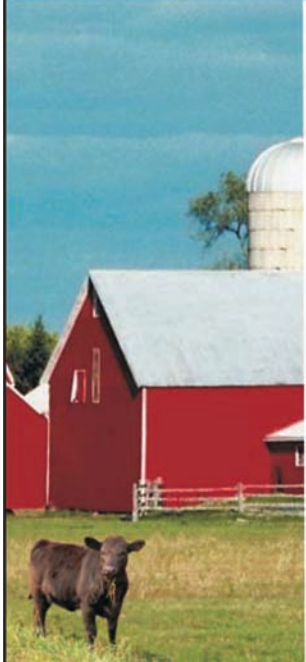
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Son of the State

“One thing I’ve learned living in Oklahoma is stay true to my culture. I’m trying to broaden my horizons with a western modern style of art.”

Roper. Artist. Trainer. Bradley Chance Hays is a man of many talents. Hays was born in Tulsa in 1985. Growing up, he had the opportunity to explore his talents and eventually combine his passions to one successful career.

“When I was a kid, my mom was an elementary school teacher,” Hays said. “My father was a rodeo cowboy.”

Hays’ father is an interim preacher, but he was also a tie-down roper and a professional bulldogger. His father also attended Oklahoma Panhandle State University and rode with Robert Etbauer, world champion saddle bronc rider.

At six years old, Hays’ father handed him a pink rope.

“I asked him why,” Hays explained. “He said, ‘I knew you wouldn’t like it. If you use it enough, it will fall apart and you can get another one.’ That was his philosophy.”

Hays used the pink rope, and he eventually told his father the rope had a kink in it. He received a new rope and got to work.

When asked if roping came naturally, Hays laughed and said, “It mostly started with me being terrible.”

His father started him roping calves when he was seven or eight. The calves were bigger than he was, and the calves would run over the top of him. He often had a bloody nose, he added.

“[My father] took me to a roping school—Stran Smith, world champion roper in Childress, Texas. “He was pretty good. I roped with him and hung out. I picked up on a few things.”

Hays remembered the first rodeo he competed in, but it did not go as well as he expected.

“I was entered in bull riding and roping,” Hays said. “I was smoked by the bull, and I missed my calf.”

Hays rode bulls until he was 15 years old. He got hung up on a bull at the Northwest Oklahoma Junior Rodeos in Woodward, Okla., and did not like it, he explained.

“Now, I am 6 feet 4 inches tall,” Hays said. “Most bull riders are about one foot less than that, but I fit in pretty good with calf ropers.”

Hays said getting hung up on the bull made him a better roper because he was able to focus more on honing his calf roping skills.

He gained his start as an artist through his mother. Besides teaching school, Hays’ mother is also a cartoon artist.

“My mom always kept paint supplies around,” he said. “She painted herself, and she encouraged me to paint, draw or do whatever I wanted. When I was a kid, I started drawing cartoons, and that’s how I got my start.”

Hays said he drew western cartoons—“an Ace Reid-style.” His ability to draw cartoons came more naturally than roping, he added. Hays began entering his art in competitions across Oklahoma and Kansas.

“I started off in whatever I could enter,” He explained.

He also entered his work into a conservation poster contest in school. He illustrated a children’s book at 12 years old. Hays had the opportunity to meet “cool people” because of his art. He even met and had lunch with Pete Laney, State of Texas Speaker of the House.

“I tried to immerse the two things—rodeo and art,” Hays explained.

Before attending college at Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, Okla., Hays was paid a visit by Craig Latham.

“When I was getting ready to go college, a guy named Craig Latham, who has been to the National Finals Rodeo several times and rodeoed with Robert, Billy, Danny Etbauer, came down to Bristow and watched me rope a few calves, and he gave me a scholarship to college,” Hays said.

After two-and-a-half years at OPSU, Hays transferred to Oklahoma State University. Hays said his college experience was great, but one experience in particular was memorable.

“I was headed to a college rodeo in Fort Scott, Kan.,” Hays said. “I ran my long-round calf, and I was like nine seconds.”

Hays thought he was not going to make it to the short-go round, so he traveled back to Stillwater, Okla., for an OSU football game. That night, Hays received a call saying he placed in the long-round, and he had to come back and rope the next morning.

He loaded his truck and trailer and drove back to Fort Scott, Kan., but he wrecked his truck in an intersection just two miles outside of town due to the icy roads.

“I saddled my horse in the middle of the intersection and rode him to the rodeo,” Hays explained. “I roped on him and rode back.”

Hays placed in the short-round and rode back to the scene of the accident. He had to explain to the police why he left the rig there, and they did not find it amusing, he added.

“They tried to tow the truck and trailer,” Hays said. “Since the truck and trailer were attached to each other, they just pulled it over to the side. They were trying to find out who owned the vehicle.”

It was not a laughing matter at the time, but Hays said it was not that big of a deal looking back now.

After receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts from OSU in May 2009, Hays pursued a Master of Fine Arts from West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas.

“[A Master of Fine Arts] is like getting a Ph.D. in art,” Hays explained. “It’s the highest degree in studio art that you can get.”

When he was 18, Hays’ paintings sold for \$300 to \$500. Now, his art sells for \$3,000 to \$15,000. He contributes his success to leaving Oklahoma to grow as an artist. He was an ap-

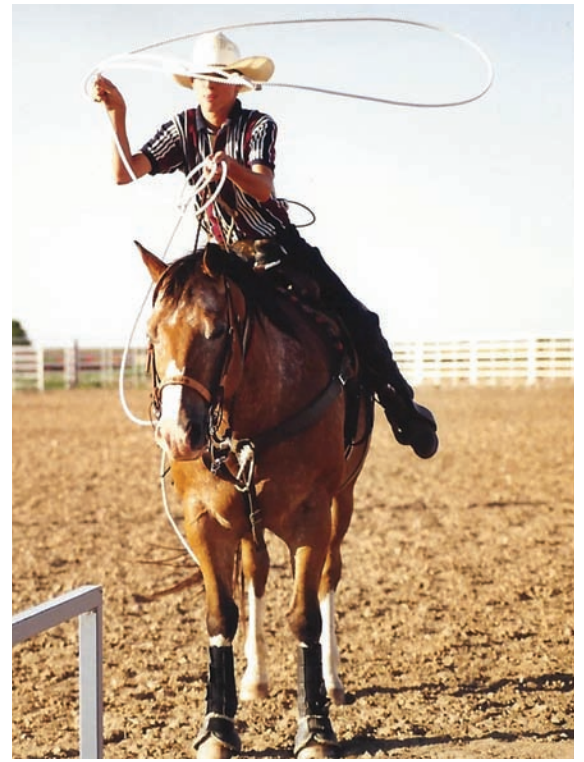
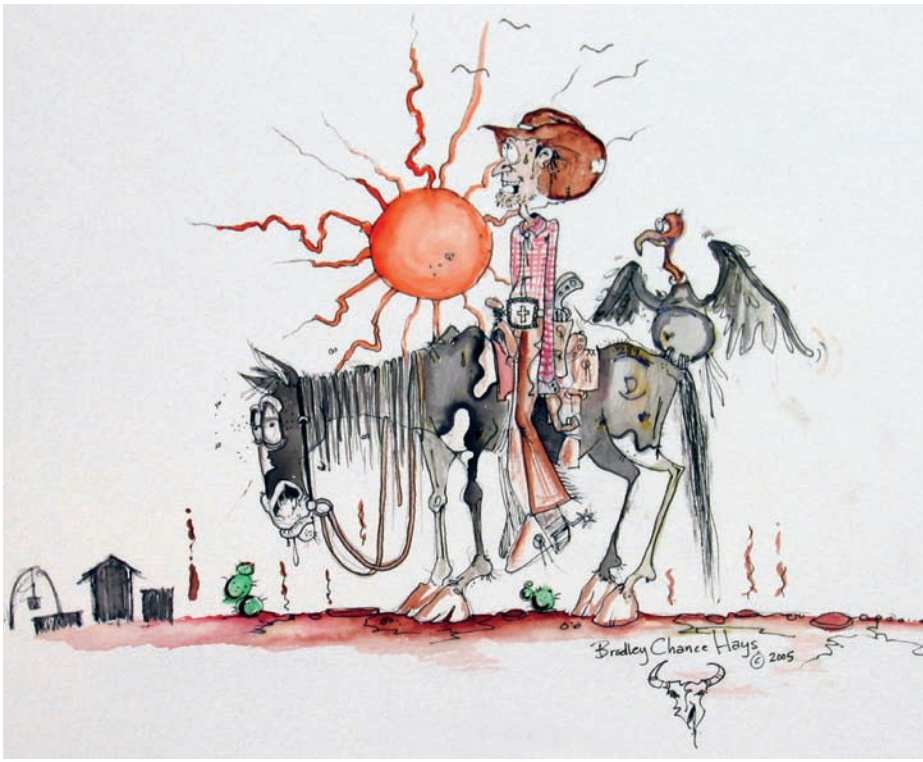


PHOTO DETAILS

(Top to Bottom) Bradley Chance Hays started drawing cartoons at a young age and were an “Ace-Reid” style, but the subjects of his art have never changed. Hays learning the technique of calf roping at a young age. Hays quit bull riding when he was a teenager, and he was able to focus more on calf roping, making him a better calf roper. Hays roping his calf at the International Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City in January 2016. Hays received a scholarship for calf roping to Oklahoma Panhandle State University. He transferred to Oklahoma State University two years later and competed in many college rodeos. (Courtesy of Jan Hopkins Hays)

Son of the State

Continued from page 30

prentice under a world-renowned artist in Santa Fe, N.M., and then started setting up his work across the United States and internationally.

"If you stay here in Oklahoma, nobody is going to give you what you are worth," Hays said. "You have to leave and come back. You have to prove yourself because it's a tough crowd."

Today, Hays works with different mediums including pastels, acrylics, watercolor and oils. In five years, Hays said he sees his art growing.

"It's hard to balance both art and roping," Hays said. "It's hard to be the best at both."

Hays is a member of the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association, Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association and the International Professional Rodeo Association.

Apart from Hays' busy lifestyle, he manages to make time to train working cow dogs like Kelpies to compete in tournaments. Hays said he does not enjoy the little things in training like potty training and cleaning them.

"I have been training kelpies for four or five years now," Hays said. "I don't like the little things to get up to a trained dog, but once you see them in action, it's the greatest thing of all time."

Besides his art, Hays said he also sees his horses and cow dogs doing well in competitions in the future.

Hays lives in Bristow, Okla., for the most part, but he travels across the globe with his art and roping. Despite his travels, Hays still considers himself as "a son of the state."

"One thing I've learned living in Oklahoma is stay true to my culture," Hays said. "I'm trying to broaden my horizons with a western modern style of art."

As far as art goes, evolution has to occur for it to grow, Hays

explained.

"Look at the National Western Heritage Museum, also known as the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City," Hays said. "Progressively look at the percentage of people who purchase a ticket to walk through the museum. Most are over 70 years old."

Hays' art is for some of these people too, but he said he is glad to also have young collectors. Hays is humbled by his collectors, and he said his inspiration comes from hauling horses, art galleries, seeing new places and meeting different people.

"People always ask how long it takes to make a painting," Hays explained. "I say it usually takes my whole life, meaning everything I've learned to this date."

The artist said he paints every day. His paintings evolve from ideas in his mind, but Hays said his finished paintings often change from the sketch. Some of his paintings can take three days to complete, while others take three months, Hays said.

"I sometimes get mad, throw it in the closet and don't finish it for a while," Hays explained.

Besides his own work and inspiration, Hays said he also looks up to other Oklahoma artists.

"My favorite artist that I look up to is Harold Holden out of Enid, Okla., and he's an oil painter," Hays said. "I also like Poteet Victory, an abstract artist out of Idabel, Okla. I look up to those two."

Hays said marrying his two passions has opened many doors for his career. He recently signed a Wrangler endorsement deal and he shows his paintings in art galleries in Vail, Colo.

Hays' work can be found in restaurants and galleries across the United States.

Hays also believes other people should follow their goals regard-



Hays also donates some of his art for different events, including this piece. It was donated to the coronation ceremony for Miss Rodeo Oklahoma 2016, Sydney Spencer. (Courtesy of Jan Hopkins Hays)

less if they are athletic, spiritual or artistic.

"I'm tired of people in society trying to lie to themselves and be something they're not," Hays said. "If people are passionate about something like art, even if it's western or not, make the art."

"Some people are out singing Christian gospel, but they have a bluegrass song they wrote in their living room they want to produce," Hays said. "Just do it."

Hays describes his art as 21st century western expressionism. Hays' art is a combination of contemporary and traditional. Hays said the subjects of his art have never changed and pays tribute to his home state.

One time, Hays said an older man at an art show tried telling Hays what real western art is. He was a cowboy all of his life, but Hays understands his art is not traditional western art.

"But I'm also trying to make history," Hays said. "This means you got to be different, and that is what's cool about being a cowboy and an artist."

Part of Hays' motivation is knowing other ropers and artists are always working to get better in their craft and can potentially be better than he is.

"That's where I'm at in my life," Hays said. "I'm just trying to make art that I'm passionate about." ★

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EXPRESS CLYDESDALES

Winston Churchill once said, “There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man.”

That describes the feeling visitors get when entering the Express Clydesdale Barn in Yukon, Okla.

The barn, originally built in 1936, was restored by Amish carpenters especially for the Express Clydesdales in the late '90s.

It features gorgeous pine wood walls, walnut trim and brass fixtures. Though beautiful inside and out, the horses inside are what make it worth a visit.

The Express Clydesdales have been a working team since 1998.

“It all began when Bob Funk, founder of Express Employment, was attending a horse show in Canada called Agribition,” said Benjamin Minshull, the Express Clydesdales trainer. “[When he was] introduced to the Clydesdale breed, he immediately fell in love with them and decided he’d like a hitch of his own to represent the company.”

Funk said it was love at first sight on that fateful day in Canada. His home state of Oklahoma was already rich in equine history, and he saw an opportunity to add something unique to the mix.

Minshull said Clydesdales, originating from Clydesdale, Scotland, are one of the four main draft breeds that exist. They typically have four white socks and a white mark on their faces called a blaze.

They also have long hair on the lower part of their legs, which is known as the feather.

According to legend, the horses were ridden in battle by medieval knights and used in jousting tournaments.

However, when the medieval era came to an end, they assumed typical draft horse duties such as



plowing fields and pulling carts.

Nicknamed the “Gentle Giants,” Clydesdales typically stand between 18 to 19 hands (six feet at the shoulder) and weigh around 2,000 pounds.

Their color varies between different shades of bay, chestnut and black, with black making up only 10 percent of North America’s Clydesdale population. The Express Clydesdales help to make up a portion of that percentage.

“There are roughly 35 Clydesdales at Express Ranches,” Minshull said. “About 20 to 25 of them are used in events and/or shows.”

Two different teams of horses spend roughly 220 days of the year on the road.

They travel across North America as ambassadors for Express Employment Professionals, competing in horse shows, helping to raise money for charities and even starring in major parades such as the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Kentucky Derby Pegasus Parade and the Rose Parade.

The horses pull a wagon or stagecoach in parades, give wagon rides, stand for photo-ops and appear at rodeo competitions, Minshull added.

“One interesting fact is that they pulled Prince William and Kate in the Express Stagecoach at the Calgary Stampede in Alberta, Canada,” said Mica Gibson, the accounting assistant at Express. See **EXPRESS** page 35



BY AMANDA MARTIN

PHOTO DETAILS

Benjamin Minshull, Express Clydesdale Trainer, taking King out for a grooming session in preparation for a PBR Rodeo performance. (Photo by Amanda Martin)

EXPRESS

Continued from page 34

Ranches.

The Express Clydesdales also partner with the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals to do appearances at Walmart stores across the nation to help raise awareness.

"We also host a barn party every year on Memorial Day," Gibson said. "There are pony rides, face painting, inflatables, animal booths, pet adoptions and more—all by donation.

It is a great fundraising event for Children's Miracle Network and it really helps market the barn to people who didn't know about us."

In addition to making appearances at major events and fundraising activities, the teams also compete at world-class horse shows.

Minshull said they compete against other hitched draft horses in classes ranging from a single horse pulling a cart to eight horses pulling a wagon.

They are judged on their uniformity, style, athleticism and their ability to respond to commands given by the driver.

"They won the eight horse hitch at the World Clydesdale Show in 2015," Gibson said. "The show only happens every three years. It's kind of like the Clydesdale Olympics!"

When not on the road, the horses start their day with a 7 a.m. feeding. Stalls are cleaned, the barn is swept, and then the fun begins.

"They get worked every morning," Minshull said. "We drive a few teams of two and finish up with a grooming or a good rinse. The farrier comes out about every six weeks and they get a whole new set of shoes every six months."

Gibson mentioned that their feet are about the size of a dinner plate—each shoe weighs about

three pounds!

Being such massive animals, it is assumed they eat a lot. They do—12 pounds of feed, 12 to 15 pounds of hay and 30 gallons of water a day, to be exact.

Though often on the road or busy preparing for upcoming events, the Clydesdale's favorite thing is meeting new friends at the barn.

Open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 12:30 to 5 p.m., the Express Clydesdale Barn offers a wonderful family environment and a welcoming staff. It just so happens to be the only Clydesdale barn in Oklahoma.

They allow visitors to go on self-guided tours, but someone is always free to answer questions or introduce the horses.

Larger groups such as schools, retirement centers and birthday parties can schedule tours in advance that include hands-on learning opportunities and photo-ops.

"The number one reason to visit is education," Gibson said. "It is a great way to learn about horses, especially for kids who live in the city. We even have regulars with favorite horses who visit every weekend."

In addition, the barn hay loft is available for event rentals, complete with a gorgeous view of rolling Oklahoma farmland. Gibson said weddings, birthday parties and dances have really taken off.

If planning a visit this spring, visitors may get lucky enough to see a Clydesdale foal!

"We have recently gotten some mares and started breeding," Gibson said. "It's really fun to have babies around for the first time."

Whether small foals or extra-large World Champions, the Express Clydesdales are winners in every way.

A visit to the barn is a must. ★



Clydesdales are nicknamed "Gentle Giants." These horses weigh around one ton. (Photo by Amanda Martin)

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PRE-WAR SWAP MEET



Mike Ersland, host of the National Pre-War Swap Meet in Chickasha, Okla., said his father's favorite color was rust. His father, Joe, was a collector of all things including combines, rakes, plows, road graders and antique cars.

"Dad was collecting antique cars before I was born, so I grew up with it," Mike said. "In my shop, we still have our 1903 White, which dad got in 1958—almost 60 years ago."

When Mike's father died 2010, he left the car to Mike's son.

"I got started working on steam cars at a very young age," Mike said. "I more or less grew up in it, and I was mesmerized by steam cars."

Mike now specializes in steam cars. Susie, his wife and co-host of the Pre-War Swap Meet, said she fell in love with antique cars after meeting Mike, and their son inherited the same love.

"As a kid, I went to early car swap meets back in the '50s and '60s," Mike said. "By the '70s and '80s, it got to be late model cars like Mustangs and Corvettes."

Joe got the idea of having an early car meet in the late '80s and held the first Pre-War Swap Meet in 1987. The swap meet was tied in with the Antique Car Club Association, but the idea "fizzled out" after a couple of years. In 1991, Mike and his father decided to start the swap meet back up.

"The first one was successful," Mike said. "It has done nothing but grow ever since."

Susie said the history of the swap meet has to do with the history of the fairgrounds in Grady County.

In the '90s, the swap meet vendors and buyers complained about the condition of the fairgrounds. Joe was on the board of the fairgrounds and helped implement a 25 cent county-wide sales tax. More than \$7 million was spent on restoring and building new facilities.

"Dad was kind of an instigator on helping to totally remodel or restore the county fairgrounds," Mike said. "All of our buyers and vendors are ecstatic."

Mike said another county-wide tax was implemented and im-

provements continue to be made on the fairgrounds.

"With them adding more buildings, we can actually hold the whole thing inside if we wanted to," Mike said. "Restoration of the fairgrounds had a lot to do with the success of our swap meet."

With a motto of "Where East Meets the West," the Pre-War Swap Meet buyers come from all over the world including England, Australia, Norway, France and the Czech Republic. Mike said most of the vendors are from the United States with one or two from Canada.

"You never know what you are going to see when you come to a swap meet because these people come from coast to coast," Susie said.

The swap meet is sponsored by the Old Pueblo Touring Association, based out of Tucson, Ariz., he said. The Pre-War Swap Meet is also associated with the Horseless Clubs of America, an organization based out of northern California, Susie said.

"On their tours, you have to **See SWAP MEET page 37**



BY LACI JONES

editor@okfronline.com

PHOTO DETAILS

Mike and Susie Ersland win a first place ribbon for the 1905 White Steam Car. On many of these tours, men and women dress in vintage clothing. (Courtesy of Mike and Susie Ersland)

SWAP MEET

dress vintage,” Susie said. “We have people come in with vintage clothing, and it goes along with what we are doing.”

Both men and women dress in turn of the century and 20s and 30s clothing, he added.

The swap meet will be held on March 17 and 18, but it is always held on the third week of March. Mike said buyers may get there the day before in the hopes to find the car part they need.

“We call that the set-up day,” Susie said. “That’s the day that the vendors are supposed to get on the fairgrounds at a certain time and they set up their spots for their displays.”

Mike said the set-up day is equivalent to the Oklahoma Land Run. The vendors wait at the gate until 4 p.m. and rush to unload their items. Most restored automobiles do not make it to the swap meet because they are purchased before making it through the gate at the fairgrounds, Susie added.

For the next two days, Susie said the swap meet is constant buying and selling. Buyers come from all over looking for a particular part. If they do not find it at the swap meet, they find someone who knows where to get it. The swap meet can also be competitive if more than one person is looking for the same part, Mike added.

Susie said the Pre-War Swap Meet is special because it is the only swap meet of its kind. With it being a specialized swap meet, the Pre-War Swap Meet is smaller than other car swap meets. Buyers do not have to dig through newer car parts to find what they need, she added.

“We like to have every one of our vendors bring only car, automobile or transportation-related items,” Mike said. “Everything needs to be manufactured before 1945.”

Vendors bring anything horse-drawn, railroad-related items, trac-



Joe Ersland was a collector of all things including antique automobiles and tractors. These antique items had to be rusted for Joe to keep them. (Photo by Laci Jones)



With a motto of “Where East Meets the West,” the Pre-War Swap Meet is like a reunion. (Courtesy of Mike and Susie Ersland)

tors and memorabilia including porcelain signs. While the swap meet does not allow any new automobile-related items at the swap meet, Coker Tire sells tires for antique cars.

“There is an upholstery vendor who does early antique seats and tops,” Mike said. “There’s a guy who does the early brass radiators. We do have vendors that offer services, but other than that, it’s early car stuff or it’s related to early car stuff.”

Several national clubs have meetings during the swap meets including the Model T Ford Club of America and the White Steam Car Registry.

A lot of people look at restoring antique cars as a business, but Mike said he considers it a hobby because of the cost. The Pre-War Swap Meet is like a reunion, where antique car enthusiasts pick up parts, brainstorm and socialize.

“The number of man hours in-

volved and the advertising is what Susie and I do for the antique car hobby,” Mike said. “We bring all of these people together.”

Susie said not many younger people attend the Pre-War Swap Meet, but she believes the love for antique cars skips a generation.

“You may not see as many young people at swap meets,” Mike said, “but what inspires people is seeing an antique car running around once they are done.” ★

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SAYRE STREET RACES



A cacophony of sounds assaults the ears of spectators gathered for the Sayre Street Races as engines roar, tires squeal and the crowd cheers. Smoke fills the air as drivers speed down a straight, quarter-mile stretch in a grudge race, with the winner receiving bragging rights.

Daddy Dave, a celebrity driver from Street Outlaws on the Discovery Channel, greets fans and signs autographs.

Drivers from across Oklahoma and as far away as Minnesota gather for the Sayre Street Races once a month from March to October at the Sayre Industrial Park in Sayre, Okla.

Sayre Chamber of Commerce executive director, Belinda Graham, started the Sayre Street Races in May 2014. The Sayre Industrial Park, which was empty, was the perfect place to hold the races due

to the long, straight, flat stretch of road. There is not a track, but instead a road in the middle of a field, giving an organic feel to the Sayre Street Races not typically found at other race tracks.

Spectators feel as if they are part of the action as they watch the race a mere 100 feet away from the road. The event has grown from about 200 attendees to now over 2,000 most months. The number of drivers has increased from 41 for its inaugural race to 100, which is the limit.

“The reason I started these races was for the drivers,” Graham said. “The fans have just come along and supported it.”

Attention to detail is key to preparing for the street races. Because safety is the number one priority, Graham secures \$1 million in liability insurance for the crowd about two weeks before the

race. Spectators will find portable toilets along with bleachers, lighting and food vendors.

A live band entertains the crowd during intermissions and any delays, making the time pass quickly. Graham coordinates with local emergency services for each race so that an ambulance and a fire truck are on site.

On the day of the race, she and her assistant DeShawna Smyth, along with up to 50 volunteers, prepare the road by removing stickers and other debris. At the race, staff and volunteers man the registration table, direct parking, help with tech inspections and provide security for crowd control.

Graham is grateful for local support.

“We couldn’t do this without the full support of the City of Sayre, the Sayre Fire Department, See **RACES** page 40



BY STACI MAUNEY

prestigeprose@gmail.com

PHOTO DETAILS

The Sayre Street Races provide revenue for Sayre and Beckham County, bringing tourists from across the world to fill their gas tanks, eat at local restaurants and sleep in local hotels. (Photo courtesy of the Sayre Chamber of Commerce)



Late model cars, older muscle cars, modified street cars, and pickups and diesels all compete, with drivers choosing their matches based on their competitors' cars. (Photo courtesy of the Sayre Chamber of Commerce)

RACES

Continued from page 39

the Sayre Police Department and the Beckham County Sheriff's Department," she said.

Celebrity drivers from Street Outlaws who attend the races provide the biggest draw. Street Outlaws has filmed episodes at the Sayre Industrial Park, and other production companies have used the location for private filming. The largest crowd to date was when David Comstock, whose nickname on Street Outlaws is Daddy Dave, first attended the street races.

Daddy Dave, from Guthrie, Okla., builds his own race cars that he uses to entertain crowds. He has been back to the Sayre Street Races several times due to the hospitality he found throughout the city of Sayre, the crowd and the organic feel of being involved in street racing. Daddy Dave will return to the Sayre Street Races for the first race of the 2016 season on March 12, 2016.

This year, the Sayre Street

Races will hold a cruise in the night before four of the races. City officials block off downtown streets in preparation for each cruise in. As the crowd cheers, drivers participate in a burnout in downtown Sayre.

Tourists traveling on Route 66 from as far away as New Zealand and France have stopped to discover the street racing culture in western Oklahoma.

Drivers show up in a variety of cars, hoping to prove their mettle. Late model cars, older muscle cars, modified street cars, and pickups and diesels all compete, with drivers choosing their matches based on their competitors' cars.

A shootout is held for big tire, small tire, trucks and strictly street categories, with drivers paying into a pot for the winner to take all.

Due to the popularity of the Sayre Street Races, the Sayre Chamber of Commerce has plans to build a facility specifically for

these races during the next two years. It will consist of a concrete road for a track to retain the organic feel. The local economy will be a factor when the facility is built.

The local economy relies on the oil and gas industry, along with agriculture and a local prison, for jobs and revenue. The oil industry recently took a downturn and the prison closed.

The Sayre Street Races provide revenue for Sayre and Beckham County, bringing tourists from across the world to fill their gas tanks, eat at local restaurants and sleep in local hotels.

"We are thankful to have the opportunity to have such a dynamic economic impact," Graham said. "We're creating a subculture for this area."

Dates for the 2016 season include March 12, with a cruise in on March 11; April 9; May 21, with a cruise in on May 20; June 25; July 23, with a cruise in on

July 22; August 27; September 24, with a cruise in on September 23; and October 15.

From September 23 to 25, Sayre Street Races will host the Hawgs and Rods festival, including a car show, bike show, celebrities, mud bog, tractor pull and Saturday night race.

All drivers are welcome to race as long as they meet the following qualifications: car must be tagged and street legal; insured; working headlights and tail lights; no loose parts; no leaks; no flip flops; wear a helmet and have a working seatbelt; and drivers of modified cars must have fire protective clothing.

Drivers who wish to participate must preregister for a spot to be held for them, and spectators should car pool because parking is limited. To preregister for a race, follow the Sayre Street Races on Facebook or Twitter and visit their website at www.sayrestretraces.com. ★



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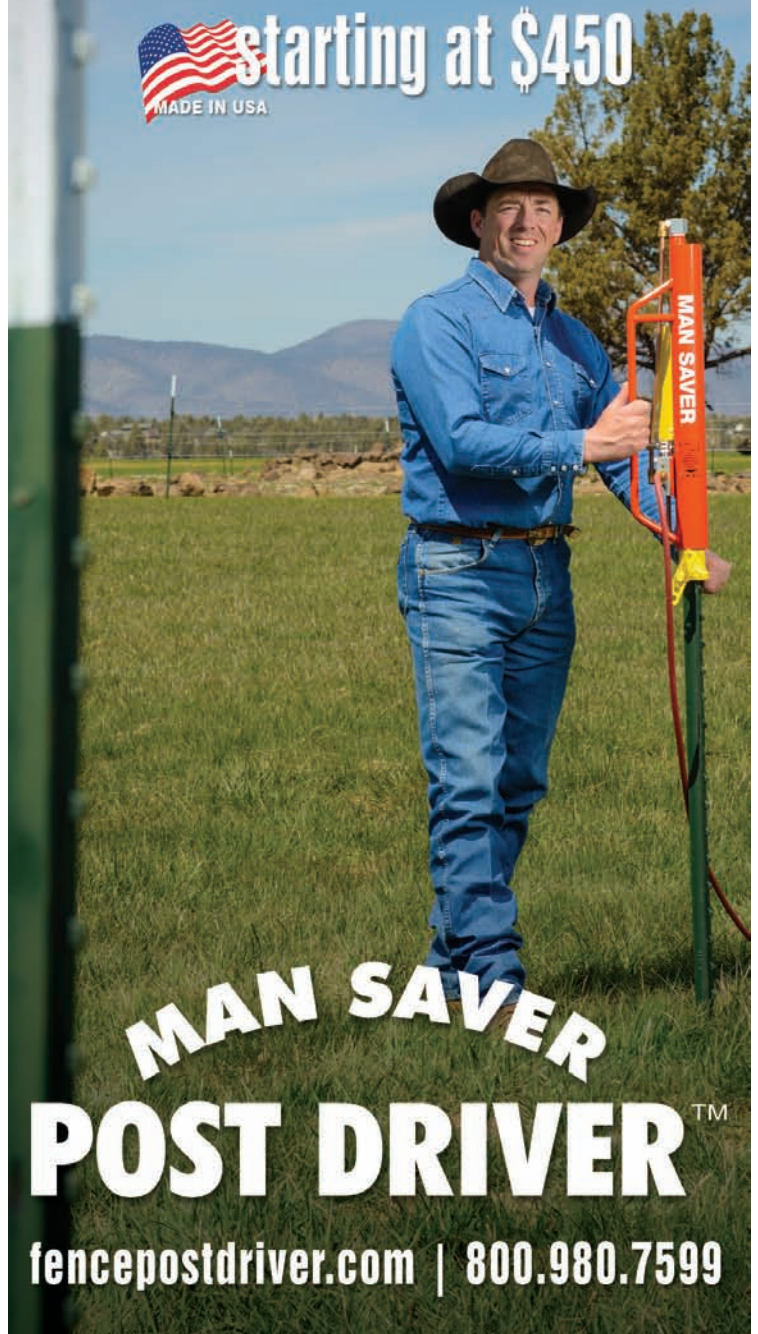


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EVENT LINEUP

MARCH 2016

MAR 04

TIMED EVENT CHAMPIONSHIP, Lazy E Arena. Guthrie, OK 73044. Witness as Guthrie's Lazy E Arena plays host to the Timed Event Championship on March 4-6, an annual event

that features the top 20 PRCA cowboys in the world competing for the world championship title of "World's Best All-Around Timed Event Cowboy." The Timed Event Championship is one of the most prestigious events in professional rodeo and will include three days and five performances of competition.

MAR 04

BASSMASTER CLASSIC LAUNCH, Grove, OK 74344. Called the "Super Bowl of Bass Fishing", the Bassmaster Classic returns to the Grand Lake/Tulsa area again for three

days of non-stop action. Skilled anglers from across the country will gather in the early morning mist at Grand Lake O' The Cherokees in Grove each day with the hopes of taking home their share of the prize money. Grand Lake offers 46,500 surface acres and 1,300 miles of shoreline, so head out to the Wolf Creek boat launch where you can spot anglers heading out for the catch of their lives.

MAR 04

OKLAHOMA CITY INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW, Oklahoma State Fair Park. Oklahoma City, OK 73107. The Oklahoma City International Auto Show on March

4-6 is your chance to see the newest and brightest stars on the auto market. This show promises special appearances, 2016 model debuts, a classic car show, special events, vendor booths, activities for the kids and more. Come to the Oklahoma City International Auto Show to pick out your next car or truck, and check out amazing concept cars, pre-production cars, specialty cars and hybrid vehicles. Visit www.okcautoshow.org for more information.

MAR 04

WATONGA TROUT DERBY, Roman Nose State Park. Watonga, OK 73772. Bring your favorite fishing pole and try your hand at catching trout for cash and prizes. A total of 100

tagged trout will be released into the lake in addition to the normal trout stocking; each caught tagged trout will be a winner of cash or prizes. Register for the Watonga Trout Derby at www.watongachamber.com.

MAR 05

STAMPEDE THE TRAIL 5K & MARATHON, Simmons Center. Duncan, OK 73533. Dust off those running shoes and head to Duncan for the Simmons Center Stampede 10K,

5K Run & Walk. At this USATF sanctioned race, participants will enjoy a free t-shirt, as well as a 10K course for runners only. Race medals will be handed out for first and second place for each age division, male and female. Trophies for overall runners, male and female, will also be awarded. For more information, visit www.simmonscenter.com.

MAR 05

PEORIA STOMP DANCE, Ottawa-Peoria Cultural Center. Miami, OK 74354. The annual Peoria Stomp Dance in Miami is a festival of American Indian dance. This cultural dance

event of the Peoria Tribe is an exciting display of slow, stomping steps set to rhythm. Head to this Miami event to enjoy Native American heritage in a festival atmosphere complete with old-fashioned cake walks and raffles. Visit www.peoriatribe.com for more information.

MAR 08

BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE WORKSHOP, Noble Foundation Kruse Auditorium. Ardmore, OK 73401. This one-day workshop will give insight into BQA standards for animal

care, record keeping, nutrition and carcass quality. Participants can become BQA-certified with successful completion of the workshop and a test. For more information, visit www.noble.org/events.

MAR 09

OKLAHOMA YOUTH EXPO, Oklahoma State Fairgrounds. Come out to the World's Largest Junior Livestock Show on

March 9-18 to support Oklahoma's youth as they exhibit their FFA and 4-H projects. For more information and a full schedule, visit www.okyouthexpo.com.



**MAR
11**

ST. PADDY'S PARTY, Downtown Claremore. Claremore, OK 74017. Wear your green and celebrate St. Patrick's Day in downtown Claremore. This annual celebration of Celtic traditions includes live music and dance performances in a festive atmosphere. The St. Paddy's Party kicks off with a parade through downtown. Stick around for festival foods and plenty of fun.

**MAR
11**

SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE EXPO, Southeast Expo Center. McAlester, OK 74501. The Southeastern Oklahoma Wildlife Expo in McAlester is an exciting event for the whole family on March 11-13. Hunting and fishing enthusiasts will love the special hunting and fishing seminars presented at the event, including archery and skeet shooting demonstrations. Visit the Southeast Expo Center for this showcase of hunting and fishing supplies and techniques, complete with a fish pond and plenty of hands-on exhibits for the kids. Shop a variety of boats and hunting blinds at this one-of-a-kind event. You won't want to miss it. For more information, visit www.cityofmcalester.com.

**MAR
12**

OKLAHOMA CITY ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE, Sheridan Ave. & Oklahoma Ave. Oklahoma City, OK 73102. The Oklahoma City Saint Patrick's Day Parade invites guests to enjoy a grand day of Irish music and fun. Watch this great parade as it marches through the heart of Oklahoma City. Come for the parade, be Irish for a day and stay for a while in fabulous Bricktown. Bring your lawn chairs, enjoy a glass of green beer, listen to live music and see authentic Irish step dancing. Watch as decorated floats, animals, antique tractors, civic clubs, clowns, motorcycles and more make their way down the street. Be a part of the Oklahoma City Saint Patrick's Day Parade to welcome the "green" of spring to this great city.

**MAR
12**

EXPRESS RANCHES HONOR ROLL SALE, Express Ranches. Yukon, OK. Visit www.expressranches.com for more information.

OKLAHOMA CITY ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



**MAR
12**

HENNESSEY HOMETOWN HOOTENANNY, Library Auditorium. Hennessey, OK 73742. Come to the Hennessey Hometown Hootenanny and enjoy an evening of country, bluegrass, gospel and folk music featuring area musicians and local entertainment acts. Buck Goucher is the one regular performer and a local favorite. Many times his musical family members join him on stage to help him play all the classics of Johnny Cash, Hank Thompson, Ernest Tubb and many others. Other artists at the event include local music students and former theater performers. A concession stand is available during intermission. For more dates and information, visit www.hennessey-hometownhootenanny.com.

**MAR
19**

COWBOY ROUND-UP, Oklahoma History Center. Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Bring the whole family to the Oklahoma History Center for Cowboy Round-Up day. This fun, family-friendly event featuring cowboy re-enactors and a chuck wagon will bring the cattle drive era to life for visitors of all ages. Children are encouraged to dress the part as they make their way to the museum, and will be able to take part in a number of hands-on activities like rope making, pretend branding, Dutch oven cooking and more.

**MAR
24**

OKLAHOMA QUARTER HORSE SPRING SHOW, Oklahoma State Fair Park. Oklahoma City, OK 73107. The Oklahoma Quarter Horse Spring Show at Oklahoma City's State Fair Park is four exciting days of equestrian skills on display. See cowboys and cowgirls of all ages show off their abilities in Western pleasure, Western riding, barrel racing, pole bending, tie down and breakaway roping as well as other categories. All performances are judged so be sure to hang around afterwards to see who will be named the champion in their specialty. Visit www.okqha.com for more information.

**MAR
26**

GO WILD HOG FESTIVAL, 601 W. Prairie Rd. Temple, OK 73568. The Go Wild Hog Festival in Temple is a celebration based around a wild hog hunting tournament. Hunters will enjoy their sport with a 24-hour hog hunt while other participants enjoy shopping over 60 unique Oklahoma vendors in a festival atmosphere. Hunters can enter one of two classes and may begin the Friday before the festival. They will have 24 hours to hunt then submit their best catch at 6 p.m. on March 26. Pre-registration is required for hunters. For more information, call 405-226-9404.

OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS

Greenleaf State Park



With one way in and one way out, Greenleaf State Park, located near Braggs, Okla., is considered one of the first seven Oklahoma state parks.

Steve Evans, state park naturalist at Greenleaf State Park said this is both true and false. The park was built in the 1930s, but it was not recognized as an Oklahoma State Park until 1954. However, the park's history began before the 1930s, he explained.

French trappers and traders traveled from Canada to eastern Oklahoma in the 1700s. They set up trading posts near the location of Fort Gibson, he said.

"Many rivers and other natural features in eastern Oklahoma were named by the French with names like Poteau, Sallisaw, Verdigris and Choteau," according to Ev-

ans. With the influx of new immigrants to the United States in the early 1800s, a group of Cherokees, known as the Old Settlers, relocated to northwest Arkansas, he said. By 1828, the Cherokee moved again to northeast Okla.

Between this period and the Civil War, the time was known as the Golden Age for the Cherokee tribe, Evans explained. Cherokee tribe members were divided once the Civil War began.

The battle of Honey Springs occurred 20 miles southwest of Greenleaf State Park on July 17, 1863. It is considered the largest Civil War battle fought within the Indian Territory, he added. Following the Civil War, many non-Indians moved to the Indian Territory.

"The Dawes Commission

sought to persuade members of the Cherokee tribe to divide Indian-owned land into individually-owned allotments," according to Evans.

Evans said a census was taken of all Indians within the Cherokee tribal boundaries and the land was surveyed. Only the Cherokee who agreed to enroll in the census received the allotment, he explained.

The Department of Agriculture's Resettlement Administration in the 1920s paved the way for Greenleaf State Park, Evans said.

"The idea was that the government would buy non-productive farms. Then the farmers would take that money and buy productive farms, so they would not be on welfare," Evans said.

Resettling was volunteer-based
See GREENLEAF page 45



BY LACI JONES

editor@okfronline.com

PHOTO DETAILS

Greenleaf lake takes up 930 acres and was built in the late 1930s. The lake is home to various wildlife. (Photo by Laci Jones)

GREENLEAF

at first but later became mandatory, he explained. The Resettlement Administration acquired 30,000 acres of land in the Cookson Hills between 1935 and 1936, he added. The eroded lands were re-forested and recreational facilities were built.

“For some reason, they were looking for a place for the Works Progress Administration to have a project,” Evans said. “I don’t know why or how they came up with this, but they decided to create a park on Greenleaf Creek.”

The construction of the park, also known as Cookson Hills Development Project, began on Nov. 25, 1935. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, along with the WPA crew built the dam across Greenleaf Creek forming the 930-acre lake, he said.

“A lot of people reference CCC working at Greenleaf,” Evans said. “I have never seen anything, and I am convinced it was strictly a WPA project.”

The crew built park facilities including a stone bathhouse and ten native stone and wood frame cabins, he said. Five other rock veneer cabins were built at a later date. Trees were planted and signs and park roads were built as well.

The Greenleaf Recreation Area grand opening was Aug. 5, 1938.

“They had a big party with a picnic on the ground and many people attended including politicians,” Evans said. “The lodge was on the top of the hill, and they had performers including Johnnie Lee Wills and Ernest Tubb.”

America recognized World War II was approaching in 1939, he said. The park was shut down and the entire Cookson Hills Project was assigned to the U.S. Army. Construction of Camp Gruber began in January 1942.

“They were building a building a day, and there were thousands of



The WPA crew built ten native stone and wood frame cabins. Five other rock veneer cabins were built at a later date. (Photo by Laci Jones)

troops who came through all the way through the war,” he said. “They used the park for military maneuvering.”

When the war was over, Camp Gruber was decommissioned as a federal training facility and the park was turned back over to civilian operations, he said. The park and Greenleaf Lake became Greenleaf State Park in January 1954.

Since the park was established as an Oklahoma State Park, several facilities have been built including a swimming pool, golf course, heated fishing dock, marina and more.

The Cabin on the Lake was built by Telephone Pioneers specifically for the physically challenged—the third of its kind in

the United States. The cabin was modeled after two built in Wisconsin State Parks.

The stone bathhouse built by the WPA was later remodeled and turned into the Discovery Center.

Greenleaf State Park has been voted “park of the year” several times.

“There are people who come by and say, ‘I didn’t know there was a place like this in Oklahoma,’” Evans said.

Evans said Greenleaf State Park is “family-oriented,” which sets it apart.

“We push Greenleaf as a family fun park, and we like that,” Evans continued. “There are several things we do, in my opinion, that make it more family oriented.”

The Greenleaf crew puts on many activities in the summer including an astronomy program, a snake program, campfires, movie nights as well as arts and crafts.

“We are doing a thing now where we are pushing people to plant milkweed seeds to help the monarch butterflies,” Evans said.

In the wintertime, Evans puts on school programs. He said the most popular is the animals of eastern Oklahoma program, where he brings animal pelts and skeletons and life-like puppets.

“If you keep the kids happy, you keep the parents happy,” Evans said.

For more information on Greenleaf State Park, call 918-487-5196 or email GreenleafCabins@travelok.com. ★

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Grazing Oklahoma Hairy Vetch

Characteristics: Hairy vetch is an introduced annual cool-season forb. It belongs to the family Fabaceae (legume family). Many species in this family, including hairy vetch, have the ability to fix nitrogen. Hairy vetch is native to Europe and western Asia. It grows to six feet tall and has pinnately compound leaves with 10 to 20 leaflets that often terminate in tendrils. Its stems are decumbent, ascending, twining or climbing. The inflorescence consists of five to 60 white to purple flowers in a raceme, which is apparent in April to August depending on latitude (late April through May in Oklahoma). The fruit is a relatively short, fat dehiscent pod. Hairy vetch is winter hardy, and it is the only species of vetch that can be fall-seeded and reach maturity the following summer. It is naturalized in Oklahoma and reseeds under proper management.

Area of Importance: There are about 150 species of vetch, and about 25 species are native to the United States. Hairy vetch is cultivated throughout much of the United States and other temperate climates of the world. Since it is winter hardy, it is the only vetch

that may survive in the upper Midwest. Hairy vetch grows well on a wide range of soil types, but it is best adapted to loamy and sandy soils. It is tolerant of soils with high pH.

Attributes: Because hairy vetch is a legume, it can be grown on nitrogen-depleted soils without the addition of nitrogen fertilizer. Its primary uses are interseeding as forage in pastureland, harvesting as hay or silage and cover cropping for soil improvement or stabilization.

Hairy vetch is sometimes interseeded into warm-season pastures to provide early cool-season forage for livestock. In Oklahoma, most hairy vetch herbaceous production occurs from March to May, so grazing animals can utilize it before warm-season forages are abundant. It can endure trampling by livestock and has good feed value that is only slightly lower than that of alfalfa and clover. Incorporating vetch into other forages also allows the entire plant community to benefit from nitrogen enrichment.

A small grain makes a good companion crop for vetch grown for hay or silage. Seeding hairy vetch with a companion small

grain like rye allows the vetch to climb. This leads to greater efficiency when harvesting. The protein content of vetch hay ranges from 12 percent to 20 percent.

Hairy vetch is commonly used for soil improvement and bank stabilization. It can often be found along roadsides or ditches where it was planted to hold soil in place. Hairy vetch is also a popular cover crop species. It breaks down quickly if cut to incorporate as green manure. Well-nodulated hairy vetch can enrich the soil with 60 to 120 pounds/acre of nitrogen through nitrogen fixation.

Hairy vetch is often used in wildlife food plot mixes. Hunters often plant it in food plots because it provides forage for one or more wildlife species during a time when other natural forages are less abundant.

Regardless of whether or not it is mixed with other forages, hairy vetch is a preferred food for many species of wildlife in Oklahoma. White-tailed deer forage on the leaves and seed pods of many legumes, including hairy vetch, and upland game birds like mourning dove and northern bobwhite quail eat the seeds after the pods have shattered. ★



**BY JOSH
GASKAMP**

jagaskamp@noble.org

PHOTO DETAILS

Hairy vetch is an introduced annual cool-season forb that is commonly used for soil improvement and bank stabilization. (Photo courtesy of The Noble Foundation)

Playing with

FIRE



The smell of fire fills the air. It is that time of year again—prescribed burning.

Prescribed burning is a management practice for landowners to safely reduce excess amounts of brush, shrubs and trees. Fire is almost as important as rainfall to the land, explained John Weir, Oklahoma State University fire ecology research associate.

“We always talk about being in a drought,” Weir said. “We are in a severe drought with fire.”

If we did not have rainfall, we would not have fuel to burn, Weir added.

“Probably the biggest thing landowners are missing out by not burning are all the benefits of fire,” Weir said. “Fire is not a tool; it’s an ecosystem process.”

Weir said the benefits of prescribed burning include nutrient cycling, increased nutrient content in plants, improvement of wildlife habitat and increased animal livestock gain and performance.

By not burning, Weir said land-

owners may face an encroachment of woody plants.

“They are going to take over,” Weir added. “Mainly eastern redcedar if you are in Oklahoma or Texas, blue berry or mountain junipers if you are in some parts of Texas and the Arbuckle Mountains in Oklahoma.”

Brandon Reavis, Natural Resources Conservation Service state rangeland management specialist said using prescribed burning to manage brush, shrubs and trees can be a benefit for livestock forage production as well as wildlife habitat.

“Using fire over an extended period of time every three, four or five years, depending on where you are in the state, is a low-cost alternative to doing a large-scale herbicide application,” Reavis added.

How frequent a landowner burns depends on their goals and objectives. From a standpoint of controlling woody plants, landowners need to burn at a minimum of every three years, Weir said.

“Three seems to be a magic number whether you are in north-west Oklahoma all the way down in southeast Oklahoma,” Weir explained.

However, a landowner can burn more frequent, Weir added. Once a landowner gets his land the way he wants it, then it is about maintenance.

One of the first steps to conducting a prescribed burn is to determine goals and objectives, Weir said.

“Some folks burn just to burn without a true objective,” Reavis explained. “Sometimes defining what those objectives are upfront will get the outcome we want rather than just applying a practice just to simply do it.”

Reavis said there is a big difference between controlling cedar trees that are two feet tall versus cedars that are maybe 10 feet tall.

“If you are using fire, a lot of that has to do with how much vegetation or how much fuel is needed or what season you are going to



BY LACI JONES

editor@okfronline.com

PHOTO DETAILS

When picking the perfect day to conduct a prescribed burn, landowners need to check proper wind direction and make sure burning will not cause a problem in towns, highway or any other places. (Photo courtesy of the Natural Resources Conservation Service)

burn in,” Reavis explained.

Goals and objectives allow the landowner to plan for a prescribed burn, Reavis said. If a landowner needs a certain amount of fuel, then they may change their grazing management to accommodate.

The other side of planning is looking at the weather, determining whether it is safe to burn and what needs to be completed before the burn, Reavis continued.

When picking the perfect day to conduct a prescribed burn, Weir said checking proper wind direction is priority. Make sure burning will not cause a problem in towns, highway or any other places, Weir added.

Weir said also pick a day with good atmospheric lift, where the smoke will go up. The OK-FIRE website has a good smoke dispersion model, he added. The National Weather Service website can also tell landowners if it’s a good day to burn.

A landowner will want to develop a written burn plan. A written burn plan helps landowners think through the process of the burn—how to burn, checklists, pre-burn management, setting parameters under specific weather conditions, who to notify, desired burn dates, equipment needed and how many people are on-site, Weir explained.

Fact sheets on writing burn plans are available on the OSU website at www.pods.dasnr.oktate.edu. NRCS also offers technical services for writing burn plans, Reavis said.

“Our folks can provide technical assistance and meet with the landowners to, talk about their objectives, what they want to accomplish with the fire and come up with a plan together to help them implement that burn,” Reavis said.

The NRCS can also help determine how much fuel is needed, where to place and how many fire breaks are needed and how far to keep volatile fuels away from a fire line.



To conduct a prescribed burn, landowners need some kind of pumper unit to deliver water and some kind of ignition device. (Photo courtesy of John Weir)

While prescribed burning may take some time, it does not require a lot of specialized equipment, Reavis said.

“Most folks have what they need in their barn or can get with their neighbor’s and be able to have the majority of what is needed to conduct a burn,” he added.

Although Landowners need some kind of pumper unit that can help deliver water, Weir said. This could be either a slip-on brush rig type firetruck or a cattle or herbicide sprayer. Landowners can also use several small 15 to 20 gallon sprayers and place them on an all-terrain vehicle. They also need some kind of ignition device like a drip torch, Weir advised.

“It can be costly if you have to buy all new equipment to conduct a burn,” Weir said. “That’s why we are working in developing burn associations where we get groups of landowners to pool their equipment and resources together.”

Oklahoma has 21 prescribed burn associations across 36 coun-

ties to help landowners conduct a prescribed burn safely. The Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association website (www.ok-pba.org) has information on fire laws and burn plans as well as maps and locations.

Depending on the situation and the priorities for conservation, Reavis said landowners can apply for financial assistance.

A group of people can apply for grants to purchase equipment to make it cheaper to burn, Weir added.

Reavis said prescribed burns have minimal negative impacts, especially within Oklahoma.

“In Oklahoma, we don’t have any kind of permitting or anything required for burning,” Weir said. “We do have a little bit of limited liability.”

Landowners need to notify adjoining neighbors and make sure they have adequate people and equipment on-site, Weir said. Landowners also need to complete a notification form from the Division of Forestry and turn it in to

the local fire department.

“Doing this limits your liability to actual damages that do occur,” Weir said, “but that is very rare.”

Weir said OSU conducts impact studies on livestock, wildlife, forest and grassland situations as well as studying burning in different seasons.

“One study that has been happening over the last 15 years or more would be the patch burn studies,” Reavis said. “They look at the use of fire during different seasons in the same pastures. It’s kind of a way to have cattle graze in different areas and creates a lot of diversity.”

Landowners do not necessarily have to burn in the spring, Reavis said. While spring is traditionally the time that most burns occur, vegetation responds to fire throughout all seasons according to OSU studies.

“The summer months have been shown to have more days that fit a prescription rather than the spring months,” Reavis explained. ★

Kubota Revolutionizes Comfort and Cargo



From the floor of GIE+Expo, Kubota Tractor Corporation today introduced a new addition to its popular RTV-X Series line. The new RTV-X1140, featuring an innovative Kubota K-Vertible cargo conversion system, transforms the vehicle with minimal effort and time from two passengers and a large cargo bed to four passengers and a cargo bed. Kubota is the top-selling diesel utility vehicle in North America, 10 years running, according to Power Products Marketing, North American Utility Vehicle Report, and the company continues to set the standard for ruggedness and reliability.

“The RTV-X1140 has a unique ROPS design that makes it easy to convert from crew to cargo,” said Eric Goins, Kubota RTV product manager. “With the RTV-X1140, Kubota offers industry-leading cargo capacity and comfortable seating for four adults in three simple steps – when you need to move your crew, swing in the cargo bed sides, fold the bed up, and flip down the rear seat – conversion

is quickly and easily performed by just one person.”

The new five-point ROPS design increases RTV-X1140’s legendary workhorse characteristics allowing for more cargo volume and side loading. The RTV-X1140 also comes standard with hydraulic dump bed with 19.1 cubic feet/9.9 cubic feet capacity, two-seat and four-seat configuration, respectively.

Power When and Where Needed

The RTV-X1140 delivers a powerful 24.8 horsepower Kubota liquid-cooled diesel engine, work-proven for dependable performance even in the harshest terrains. With convenient tilt steering and simple inline shifting, the RTV-X1140 has a Variable Hydraulic Transmission that offers wide torque band and large oil cooler that boost performance and durability. Front and rear independent suspension on all four wheels ensures a truly exceptional ride enhancing drivability and handling in most off-road conditions. And Kubota raised the bar

on ground clearance with the new RTV-X1140, offering a full 10.8 inches of suspension travel with the ability to glide over bumps and rugged terrain.

A New Level of Driving Comfort

The RTV-X1140 offers a variety of standard and optional features to enhance productivity and operator comfort. Options include alloy wheels and a factory-installed bed liner to protect the cargo bed from dirt and damage. Driving comfort comes standard with an ergonomically-designed, split-bench style seat designed to provide hours of smooth riding. With sophisticated technology and easy-to-operate features, the RTV-X1140 offers a digital meter cluster with bright, easy-to-read indicators to keep the operator informed of critical driving conditions, including speed, hours, and miles traveled. Secure lockable storage is king with a large glove box on the passenger side and under-seat storage compartments beneath the split-bench seats to

See KUBOTA page 51

RANCH RIGS & FARM FIXTURES

PHOTO DETAILS

Kubota introduces the RTV-X1140, featuring the innovative K-Vertible cargo conversion system, which transforms the vehicle from two passengers and a large cargo bed to four passengers and a cargo bed. (Courtesy photo)

Kubota

provide convenient storage space for tools, tie-downs, and personal items.

The RTV-X1140 debuted at GIE+Expo and will start shipping in November to Kubota dealers nationwide.

Kubota Introduces PTO K-Connect for the RTV-X1100C

Also introduced at GIE+Expo is Kubota's new front 4-point PTO K-Connect for the RTV-X1100C, giving it the ability to transform into the ultimate snow removal machine, with four new snow attachments: a 66 in. Snowblower, a 66 in. Rotary Broom, a 78 in. V-Plow, and 78 in. Straight Blade.

□ The Snowblower is a 66 in.-wide, two-stage commercial snowblower that throws snow farther than the competition and with less dispersion and more precision for professional grade

snowblowing.

- The PTO-driven Rotary Broom Sweeper is 66 in. wide and loaded with 34 water brushes that turn at more than 240 RPM, designed for even wear of the bristles and with floating wheel placement to follow ground contour and avoid obstructions.

- Kubota's V-Plow is designed for heavy-duty snow applications offering 78 in.-wide blade to accommodate the width of the RTV-X1100C when fully angled at 30 degrees.

- The Straight Blade offers new curvature to better roll the snow, also at 78 in.-wide, the blade can operate in float or down pressure for superior, reliable performance.

With K-Connect, these new implements connect in seconds without tools and can be removed

easily for seasonal storage. The PTO is gear-box driven for durability, less maintenance and quieter operation. The control handle and PTO switch offer simple and intuitive control for all implements. The control handle is designed for left or right hand operation, with a blue LED indicator that confirms the floating action of the hitch for immediate use. The PTO switch is ergonomically-located and easily-reachable for double action intuitive control, similar to tractor functionality.

About Kubota Tractor Corporation

Kubota Tractor Corporation, Torrance, Calif., is the U.S. marketer and distributor of Kubota-engineered and manufactured machinery and equipment, including a complete line of tractors of up to 170 Gross hp, performance-

matched implements, compact and utility-class construction equipment, consumer lawn and garden equipment, hay tools and spreaders, commercial turf products and utility vehicles. For product literature or dealer locations, contact: Kubota Tractor Corporation, 3401 Del Amo Blvd., Torrance, CA 90503, (888) 4-KUBOTA [(888) 458-2682], Ext. 900, or visit www.kubota.com.

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real estate

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OKFR / parting shot



Vintage Trucks

Automobile enthusiasts, Mike and Susie Ersland have a large collection of antique vehicles and parts in their shop in Ninnekah, Okla. The chipping paint on these trucks evokes nostalgia from an earlier time. (Photo by Laci Jones)

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