

# OKLAHOMA FARM & RANCH OKFR

April 2016

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Volume 1 Issue 4



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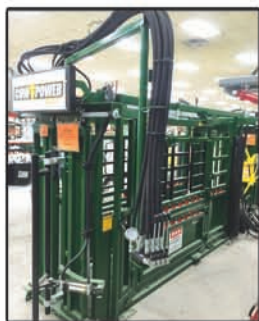
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## April showers...

Hello OKFR readers and welcome to the April issue of the Oklahoma Farm & Ranch magazine. With the spring season in full swing, this time of year is always busy. On behalf of the OKFR team, we hope you are getting enough rain and enjoying the season!

What better way to celebrate spring than go to the Bud Break Festival in Lexington, Okla.? Each year, Canadian River Winery hosts the annual event to celebrate the "bud break" and will have a small blessing ceremony for a great harvest year. The festival will take place on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and will have a wine fundraiser to support Relay For Life.

Next, read how surface landowners can benefit from pore space in *What to do with all that space*. Pore space was not considered a property right until recently. In fact, in 2011 Oklahoma legislature made it clear that pore space is a property right owned by the surface owner and not the mineral owner.

Parasitism is one of the most common diseases in horses, especially during the spring and early summer months. Luckily, there are effective dewormers and management recommendations to keep horse's digestive tract healthy. Lauren Lamb, DVM, MS, walks horse owners through the steps of formulating a deworming program and environmental control of parasites in *Gastrointestinal Parasites Management Guidelines*.

I traveled to Canton, Okla., to visit with this month's profile, Ralph Chain. Chain Ranch is a six-generation ranch with more than 60,000 acres in seven different locations across Oklahoma and Kansas. Ralph Chain's granddad, Oscar Chain purchased the first 160 acres with \$50 and a shotgun. In *How Times have Changed*, Ralph Chain reminisces over a time when technology and farming were a little different.

Turkey hunters across the state are getting ready for spring turkey season in Oklahoma! Ron Jordan of Muskogee, Okla., was given his first turkey wing bone call about 15 years ago. Little did he know he would start My Wing Bone Calls post-retirement. Read how Jordan blends art and turkey calls with turkey bones and feathers in *The Art of Turkey Calls*.

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. Keep up with new OKFR updates on our Facebook and Twitter pages. For more information or subscription information, visit our website [www.OKFRonline.com](http://www.OKFRonline.com).

Until next month,





# TABLE OF contents

- 08 Socializing
- 10 What to Do with All That Space
- 15 What's Grass Tetany?
- 16 Breeding Soundness Exams
- 18 Glitz, Glamour & Rodeos
- 20 Gastrointestinal Parasites
- 22 Trailer Safety Checklist
- 24 Lacey's Pantry
- 25 First Impressions
- 28 Times Have Changed
- 34 Celebrating the Bud Break
- 36 Water Zoo Indoor Water Park
- 38 Calendar of Events
- 41 On the Road
- 42 The Art of Turkey Calls
- 46 Boiling Springs State Park
- 50 Grazing Oklahoma
- 53 Marketplace
- 54 Parting Shot







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# OKFR / socializing

## ON THE COVER

Chain Ranch is a six-generation ranch located ten miles west of Canton, Okla. Oscar Chain purchased the first 160 acres with \$50 and a shotgun in 1883. Oscar's grandson, Ralph Chain watched the ranch grow to more than 60,000 acres in seven different locations across Oklahoma and Kansas. At nearly 90 years old, Ralph's hobbies include his longhorn herd and using a bulldozer to preserve the land his grandad and dad left for him. (Photo by Laci Jones)

## CORRECTION

In *Horse Pasture Management* printed in the March issue of OKFR, alfalfa is commonly used and may emulate a warm-season production timing, but it is not a warm season legume.

Bermuda grass is the most common warm-season introduced grass in Okla., but it may not be the most commonly used grass for horse forages.

## TWITTER FEED

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## FACEBOOK WALL

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February 26 at 10:53am · 🌐



**Oklahoma CattleWomen, Inc.** with Frankie Woodall and 3 others.  
February 25 at 11:48am · 🌐

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# What To Do With All That Space?



**I**t is now possible that landowners can make money out of thin air...or pore space.

Natural resources trial lawyer, Trae Gray, said surface owners can benefit from pore space, the empty space between the grains of rock, fractures and voids.

The owner of LandownerFirm, located just west of Coalgate, Okla., said pore space can be used to store carbon, waste water, and natural gas.

"When an oil company comes in and extracts the oil and gas, they extract that from the pore space," Gray explained. "That space becomes open or available to do something with it."

Gray reviewed laws related to pore space in more than 10 states, including Oklahoma, in his thesis as a Master of Laws student at the University of Oklahoma. He explored states that used pore space heavily, either for oil and gas production, or carbon sequestration production.

"In some formations, you have carbon sequestration, where they inject carbon into the ground to get rid of greenhouse gases and things

like that," Gray added.

Interest in hydraulic fracturing and the need to store the salt water by-product produced by the oil and gas industry has made pore space popular in recent years.

"In the oil and gas context, they take oil and gas out of the ground, and then they have waste water that's produced from the earth and inject the waste water back down into the pore space," Gray explained.

In his thesis, Gray explored both the historic and current status of the law regarding pore space in Oklahoma, as well as the valuation of pore space.

Several cases in Oklahoma address pore space to some extent, including *Ellis v. Arkansas Louisiana Gas Co.*, in 1980.

In *Ellis*, a group of surface owners, who owned surface rights for 78 acres in Pontotoc County, Okla., claimed the mineral owner unlawfully utilized "the underground strata for storage of natural gas."

The surface owners argued the natural gas company did not have the right to store natural gas in

a porous reservoir rock after the minerals were depleted.

The court's decision granted the surface owners the right to create lease agreements for pore space. The decision allowed landowners to profit from the space.

Other cases like *Ellis v. Arkansas Louisiana Gas Co.*, addressed pore space ownership in terms of wastewater injection and natural gas storage, Gray explained. However, pore space was not considered a property right at all until recently, he said.

"In many states, the law is uncertain," Gray explained. "In Oklahoma, the law is pretty certain because we have a state statute that says the pore space belongs to the surface owner."

In 2011, the Oklahoma legislature made it clear that pore space is a property right owned by the surface owner and not the mineral owner, but Gray said he has not heard of any litigation surrounding the statute.

"What we haven't seen is how the courts are going to interpret that statute, or how specific fact  
**See SPACE page 13**



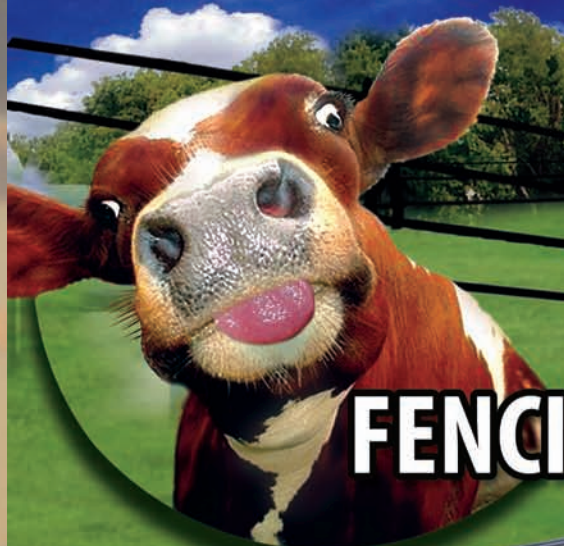
**BY LACI JONES**

editor@okfronline.com

## PHOTO DETAILS

Pore space is defined as the empty space between the grains of rock, fractures and voids. (Photo by Jacob Redway)





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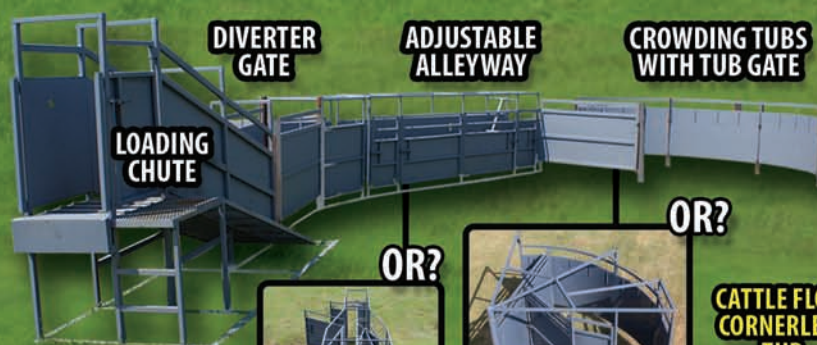


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# Space

Continued from page 10

scenarios are applied to the statute and how the courts are going to rule,” Gray explained.

Surface owners need to keep in mind the right of reasonable use, he added.

“An oil and gas operator has the right to use as much pore space as reasonably necessary for their oil and gas operations,” Gray explained. “But, if they start doing something that’s beyond the right of reasonable use, they wouldn’t have the right to do that.”

When dealing with pore space, Gray said landowners need to make sure they retain ownership. If the landowner leases pore space, there is an end point in time where the landowner can forfeit the pore space.

“I believe, as we go on and move into the future, [pore space] is going to become a more and more valuable asset for the surface owners if they are able to hold on to it,” he added.

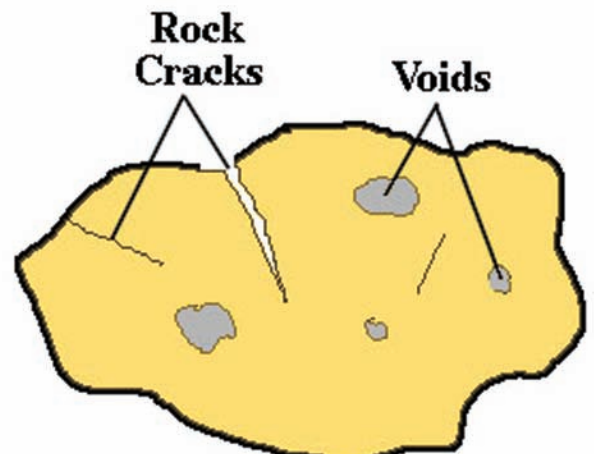
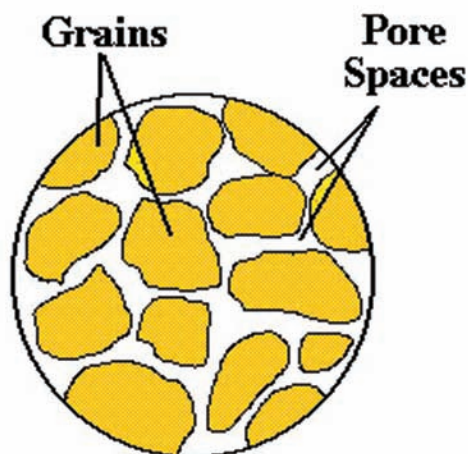
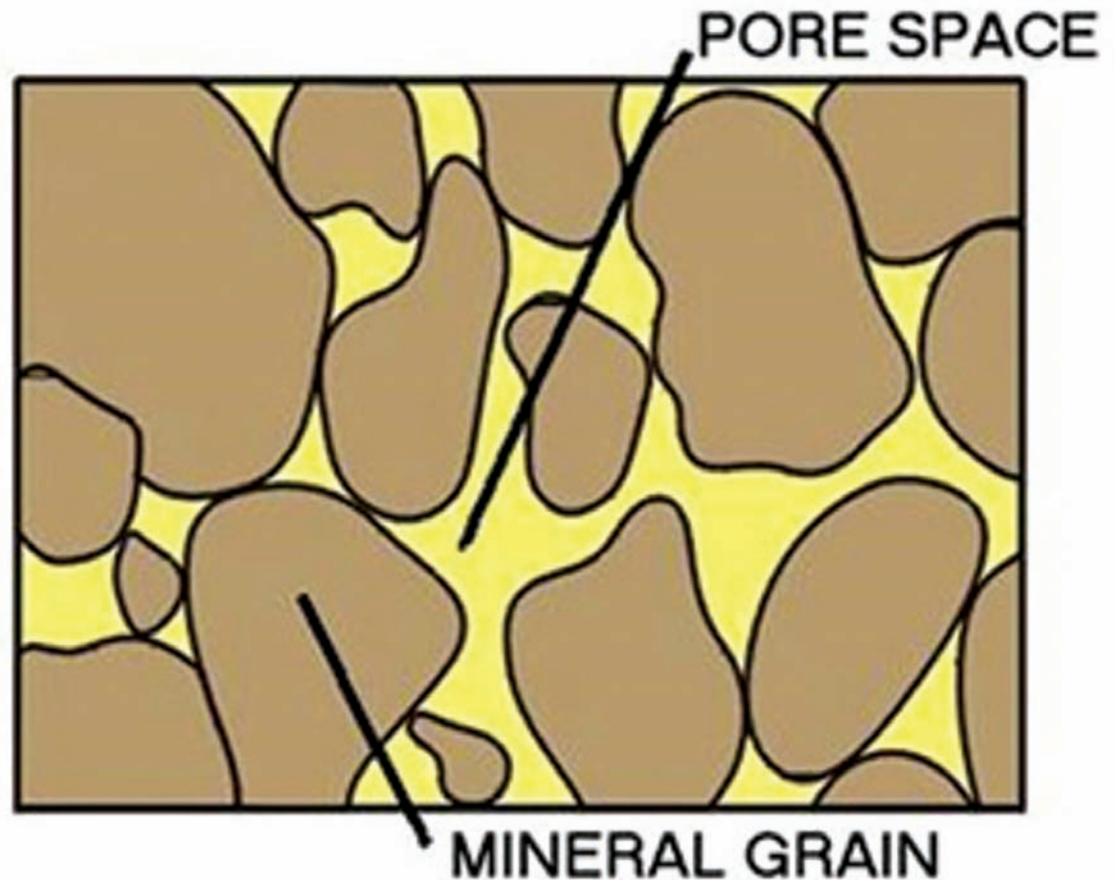
Many landowners have forfeited their mineral rights over time in the past, and Gray does not want the same thing to happen with pore space.

“Obviously if they had to do it all over again, they would probably like to have the minerals,” Gray explained. “They don’t want to do the same thing with the surface or the water or the wind.”

Valuing pore space can be difficult because there is no set market value for pore space, he explained. The value of pore space is determined by what it is going to be used for and how much the user is going to pay.

Pore space is also difficult to value if the pore space is not utilized prior to the company wanting to use it.

Although the litigation on pore space is relatively new, Gray believes it will be a “hot topic” in future years. Gray theorizes there is a possibility of cases involv-



Pore space can be used to store carbon, waste water and natural gas. (Photos courtesy of LandownerFirm)

ing wastewater seeping from one property to another landowner’s property in the future in his 2015 thesis.

“Practically speaking, it is a theory wrought with evidentiary problems and political pressure in a state known to favor the energy

industry,” Gray wrote. “Oklahoma is set to be a proving ground for surface owner rights as they relate to pore space.” ★





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# What's Grass Tetany?

**G**rass tetany, also known as grass staggers, wheat pasture poisoning, and hypomagnesemia, is a magnesium deficiency of ruminants usually associated with grazing cool-season grasses during spring.

It is most prevalent among older cows in early lactation, but it may also affect young or dry cows and growing calves. The reason is thought to be older cows are less able to mobilize magnesium reserves from the bones than younger cows.

Grass tetany occurs most frequently when cattle are grazing lush, immature grass and tends to be more prevalent during periods of cloudy weather.

Symptoms include uncoordination, salivation, excitability, and in the final stages, tetany, convulsions, and death. Since the progression of the disease is relatively rapid, often the only sign of a problem is a dead animal.

It is known that factors other than simply the magnesium content of the forage can increase the probability of grass tetany. Calcium deficiency in Oklahoma oc-

curs when pregnant and lactating cows graze cool season forages that are high in phosphorus and low in calcium during immature stages of growth.

During this time grass tetany is frequently observed. High levels of potassium in forages can decrease absorption of magnesium, and many lush, immature forages are high in potassium. Consequently, the incidence of grass tetany on wheat pasture often occurs in central and western Oklahoma on soils that are quite high in potassium.

High levels of nitrogen fertilization have also been shown to increase the incidence of tetany. Feeding supplements containing high concentrations of non-protein nitrogen to cattle grazing lush forage could also increase the risk of grass tetany.

Other factors such as the presence of certain organic acids in tetany-prone forages have been linked with tetany. It is likely that a combination of factors, all related to characteristics of lush forage are involved.

When conditions for occur-

rences of tetany are suspected, cows should be provided a mineral supplement containing between six and 30 percent magnesium with daily mineral intake ranging from two to four ounces per day.

The higher inclusion rate and level of intake is appropriate for high-risk situations. In high-risk situations, cows should consume approximately one ounce of magnesium oxide per day. This is difficult due to magnesium oxide being very unpalatable to cattle.

Most commercial products formulated for the purpose of minimizing the risk of grass tetany contain between six and 15 percent magnesium.

It is best for the high-magnesium supplements to be provided at least one month ahead of the period of tetany danger so the proper intake can be established. Because tetany can also occur when calcium is low, calcium supplementation should also be included.

Cows grazing lush small grain pastures should be fed mineral mixes containing both calcium and magnesium. ★



**BY MARTY NEW**

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## PHOTO DETAILS

Progression of grass tetany is relatively rapid, and symptoms include uncoordination, salivation and excitability. (Photo by Laci Jones)



# Breeding Soundness Exams



**A** breeding soundness exam (BSE) is a procedure performed by a veterinarian that ensures that a bull has met a minimal set of standards that reflect his reproductive potential.

The exam is not a guarantee that the bull will breed cows because some bulls are not aggressive breeders. The test does ensure that the bull has the potential to breed cows. However, the exam does have limits. The exam is only true at the time of the test and cannot ensure results for the future.

The exam has three components. A physical exam is performed to ensure that the bull is in good health. A reproductive exam evaluates the health of the reproductive organs.

The final component is an evaluation of the semen for motility and normality. For most producers, a BSE is a small investment to make certain a fertile bull may

reduce the number of cows found open when they are pregnancy checked.

The BSE begins with a general physical exam. The breeding bull should have a body condition score of six. Since a good aggressive breeding bull will most likely lose weight during breeding season, a bull with poor body condition may not service cows as the breeding season progresses for lack of stamina.

A bull will be on the move during the breeding season, so good mobility is essential. Any feet, joint or leg problems would be considered not satisfactory. A bull should have good eyes for finding those cows in heat. Any abnormality in the physical exam is a cause for concern.

Next, the veterinarian will evaluate the internal and external reproductive organs. A rectal exam is performed to assess the

internal organs for any abnormality. Organs that are abnormal will likely affect semen quality.

The scrotum is examined and measured. The testicles should be of similar size, and move freely in the scrotum. The testicles should not be soft or have any palpable abnormalities. A scrotum that only has one testicle is a disqualification.

The skin is examined for abnormalities such as frost bite. Problems in the skin could result in problems regulating the temperature of the testicles. Variations in temperature could result in abnormalities in the sperm.

The size of the scrotum is measured in centimeters. A scrotal measurement of 30 centimeters is required for bulls of 15 months of age and the minimal size increases with age up to two years, which is 34 centimeters. Scrotal size gives  
**See EXAMS page 17**



**BY BARRY  
WHITWORTH**

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## PHOTO DETAILS

A breeding soundness exam has three components—a physical exam, a reproductive exam and an evaluation of the semen. (Photo by Laci Jones)



# Exams

an estimate of the daily sperm production. During the collection process, the penis will be examined for any growths, hair rings, warts or damage that may affect the bull's ability to breed.

The final part of the BSE is the evaluation of the semen. Once a sample is obtained, the veterinarian will place a drop of semen on a slide and examine it under the microscope for motility. A motility score will be assigned based on the intensity of the wave motion. Some veterinarians may add saline to the drop of semen and evaluate the diluted semen for individual progressive motility.

In either procedure the minimal acceptable score is fair for gross motility and/or 30 percent for individual motility. The veterinarian will next examine the morphology of semen for abnormal sperm. A minimal score requires that

70 percent of the sperm must be normal.

Producers should refrain from assuming that if a bull has a high motility and morphology score that this makes the bull a superior breeder. The breeding ability of the bull is not improved based on a higher score.

Once the exam is completed, the bull will be classified as a satisfactory potential breeder, unsatisfactory potential breeder or deferred. The satisfactory potential breeder has met the minimal levels for scrotal circumference, sperm motility and sperm morphology. Also, the bull's physical and reproductive exams were acceptable.

An unsatisfactory potential breeder has not met the minimal standards and/or has a physical or reproductive problem that is highly unlikely to improve over



time.

A deferred classification means that the bull did not meet the minimal standards and/or has a physical or reproductive problem that with time may improve. Deferred bulls should be retested at a later date. The "deferred" classification is not uncommon for immature bulls.

A BSE does not detect infectious diseases that might be pres-

ent in the bull. These diseases may cause infertility or other reproductive problems. Testing for diseases such as trichomoniasis or persistently infected bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVD) might prevent unwanted infections in the cow herd. This is a convenient time to obtain the samples necessary to complete these tests.

When comparing bulls that have been turned in with the herd untested to bulls that have passed a BSE, studies show that those that passed a BSE get more cows settled and gets them settled earlier in the breeding season.

Earlier pregnancy equals calves being born early in the calving season. Producers should consider the cost of a BSE as an insurance.

For more information about BSE, please contact the local veterinarian or the local OSU county extension educator. \*

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# Glitz, Glamour & RODEOS

**C**rowned Miss Rodeo Oklahoma 2016, Sydney Spencer will travel across Oklahoma and the United States attending rodeos and events, but that is nothing out of the ordinary for this rodeo queen.

"As far back as I can remember, I've always been in a truck headed to the rodeo," she explained. "Weekends and summer breaks were spent traveling to Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and International Professional Rodeo Association rodeos while my dad competed."

The Collinsville, Okla., native said she had never been on a family vacation without a horse trailer and horses until she was in college.

"I loved spending the summers traveling all over," she added. "I've been lucky enough to travel to 32 states and three Canadian provinces doing that."

Spencer also competed in junior rodeos. She ran barrels, tied goats and ran poles at the Northeastern Junior Rodeo Association and the Oklahoma Junior Rodeo Association. Spencer began competing in rodeo queen pageants in high school.

In her junior and senior year, Spencer was crowned Miss Rodeo Oklahoma Teen. She spent the last year of high school traveling across Oklahoma.

The life of a rodeo queen is not always glamorous, and Spencer said preparing for this year's pageant was a little difficult.

"I was in the middle of my program to be a surgical tech and taking tests over all the systems of the human body at the same time as going over current events and learning about what was happening in the PRCA this year," she explained.

Spencer said her parents want-



ed her to accomplish this dream on her own. Spencer financially supported herself through this year's pageant, which was expensive.

"To say I was able to do it on my own was great," she added.

At the Miss Rodeo Oklahoma 2016 pageant held last July, Spencer competed in several category divisions including horsemanship, personality, speech and appearance. She said there is also a big interview award for all of the contestants, not just those competing for Miss Rodeo Oklahoma, but teen and princess as well.

The announcer called the winner of each category before announcing the pageant winner. Spencer won the interview award and every other category besides speech, where she placed second.

"That feeling to me was awesome first of all," Spencer ex-

plained. "I thought, 'Wow, I'm really glad to take that away from here.'"

Spencer thought she had won Miss Rodeo Oklahoma when she was standing on stage. However, placing in each category did not guarantee she won the pageant, she added.

"There's always the possibility of it not going your way," she explained. "When they called my name, it was a very incredible feeling to know that I was crowned, I had done something so big and accomplished it on my own, and that I was going to be able to call myself Miss Rodeo Oklahoma."

Being Miss Rodeo Oklahoma 2016, Spencer has the ultimate responsibility of representing professional rodeo and getting fans to attend rodeos as well as gain new fans of the sport.

**See SPENCER page 19**



**BY LACI JONES**

editor@okfronline.com

## PHOTO DETAILS

Spencer fulfilled her dream of running the flags during the opening ceremonies at the National Western Livestock Show and Rodeo in Denver this year. (Photo courtesy of Sydney Spencer)



# Spencer

"Rodeo is a sport," she explained. "I want them to become fans of the sport I love first and foremost."

Spencer's second responsibility is representing Oklahoma when traveling to other states.

"I want to represent Oklahoma to the best of my ability so that people understand that those girls from Oklahoma can ride, they can speak well and they're great people to have around."

Spencer said she hopes these people will want Miss Rodeo Oklahoma back at these events in future years. She is also representing her organization as well as herself.

"I want to be the best Miss Rodeo Oklahoma that I can be," she explained. "I want to leave a legacy for the next girl behind me."

Leaving a legacy can be quite challenging as Spencer faces the struggles of gaining sponsors due to the recent drop in the Oklahoma oil industry.

"It's very hard whenever people want to believe in you," she explained. "They want to help you get down the road and go as many places as you can, but they're just not able to."

Spencer held a fundraiser in January and is thankful for those who came to support her.

"I wouldn't be where I am without people being able to give me what they were able to because this isn't a paid job," she added. "It is a job, but it isn't a paid job. I'm just lucky enough to be able to go to as many places that I've been able to."

Spencer attended the International Finals Rodeo rodeo in Oklahoma City. She also fulfilled her dream of running the flags during the opening ceremonies at the National Western Livestock Show and Rodeo in Denver.

"Being in Denver and getting to be in the opening ceremonies was absolutely the most incredible feeling and something that I'll always cherish," she added.

She was also able to go to the Children's Hospital because of her background of working in hospitals.

"That was a really amazing thing to do—to go to the oncology ward and see everyone who needed a smile on their face and brighten their day," she said.

Growing up around rodeo, Spencer has been to many professional rodeos, but her goal is to

go to those that she was unable to attend when she was younger. She also attended the first PRCA rodeo held at the Southeast Expo Center in McAlester, Okla., in February.

"That's exciting to get to go to new rodeos and bring attention to them and also do whatever I can to help the production go on," she added. "That's what it's all about. You're there to be a part of the production of the rodeo."

Spencer said being able to impact other people's lives has made a difference in hers. She is an advocate for the Special Olympics of Oklahoma and will be in attendance at the State Special Olympics in Stillwater in May.

Spencer said she loves going back to Stillwater and the Oklahoma State University campus to see and interact with everyone.

"It's been so incredible to cheer on those who are the people who are supporting me and cheering me on," she added.

The rodeo family is a big one, and it has been special to have people around her who want to see her do great things.

The Miss Rodeo Oklahoma 2017 pageant will take place on July 22-25, 2016. After Spencer crowns Miss Rodeo Oklahoma 2017, she will compete in the coveted Miss Rodeo America pageant in December 2016.

"Of course, if I'm not able to become Miss Rodeo America and another wonderful girl takes that title, then I will finish school," she ex-

plained.

She is in the midst of a surgical technologist program and plans to finish school by May 2017. Her goal is to work in an outpatient surgery center or become a traveling surgical technician.

Spencer said she will continue to be involved with rodeos and the western way of life.

To book Miss Rodeo Oklahoma for an event, contact Kallie Baker at 405-642-2160 or kalliesuebaker@gmail.com. ★



Miss Rodeo Oklahoma 2016, Sydney Spencer will crown Miss Rodeo Oklahoma 2017 in July. (Photo courtesy of Sydney Spencer)



# Gastrointestinal parasites management guidelines



**P**arasitism is one of the most common diseases encountered in horses.

Adult gastrointestinal parasites live and reproduce inside a horse's intestines. The gastrointestinal parasite will produce eggs that are passed in the horse's feces and end up in the environment.

Once the eggs are passed in the feces, they will hatch and develop into larva (immature parasites) which will be ingested by horses grazing nearby.

Under proper conditions (warm and moist) gastrointestinal parasite larva can survive for days to months in the environment (stall, pasture or paddock).

Fortunately, we currently have effective dewormers and management recommendations to help keep the parasite burden in your horse's gastrointestinal tract under control.

The goal of any parasite management protocol is to keep the

worm burden to a tolerable level, but never to completely eliminate all gastrointestinal parasites from a horse's system.

Parasite resistance to dewormers is the end product of deworming protocols that try to eliminate all parasites from a horse's system.

Traditionally owners have dewormed their horses every three to four months whether they needed it or not. Deworming this frequently creates problem such as resistance of the parasite to the dewormer and excessive cost for the owner.

The "one size fits all" deworming program for horses is incorrect. There are many risk factors to consider when determining a horse's risk of parasitism.

These factors need to be considered when developing a deworming program for a horse.

One of the biggest factors in determining the potential risk of

parasite infection in a horse is the season of year.

Parasites tend to produce more eggs, which results in a higher parasite exposure per horse, during the spring and early summer months in Oklahoma. During these months the environmental conditions are more conducive for parasite survival in the environment.

During the late summer months and winter months, parasites tend to produce fewer eggs, which results in less parasite exposure to horses in the pasture.

When factoring this information into a deworming protocol, owners need to deworm more frequently during the spring and early summer months and less often, if not at all, in the late summer and winter months.

Another factor to consider when developing a deworming program is the age of the horse. **See PARASITE page 21**



**BY LAUREN LAMB,  
DVM, MS**

## PHOTO DETAILS

The goal of any parasite management protocol is to keep the worm burden to a tolerable level, but never to completely eliminate all gastrointestinal parasites from a horse's system. (Photo by Laci Jones)



# Parasite

Younger horses (<2 years of age) are more susceptible to gastrointestinal parasites and are more likely to shed parasite eggs, compared to adult horses. Young horses should be housed in separate pastures away from adult horses to help decrease the exposure of adult horses to parasites.

Horses traveling and showing frequently will have a higher chance of parasite infection than horses that are housed in the same pasture all the time.

Population density in a pasture also affects the risk of parasite infection in a horse's gastrointestinal tract. If a horse is stabled on a small piece of land with several other horses (most stable's environments), owners need to deworm them more frequently than a horse living on 40 acres with only a couple of other horses.

## Formulating a deworming program:

A deworming program includes deworming schedules for adult and young horses as well as management strategies on an owner's property to decrease the number of parasites living in a horse's environment.

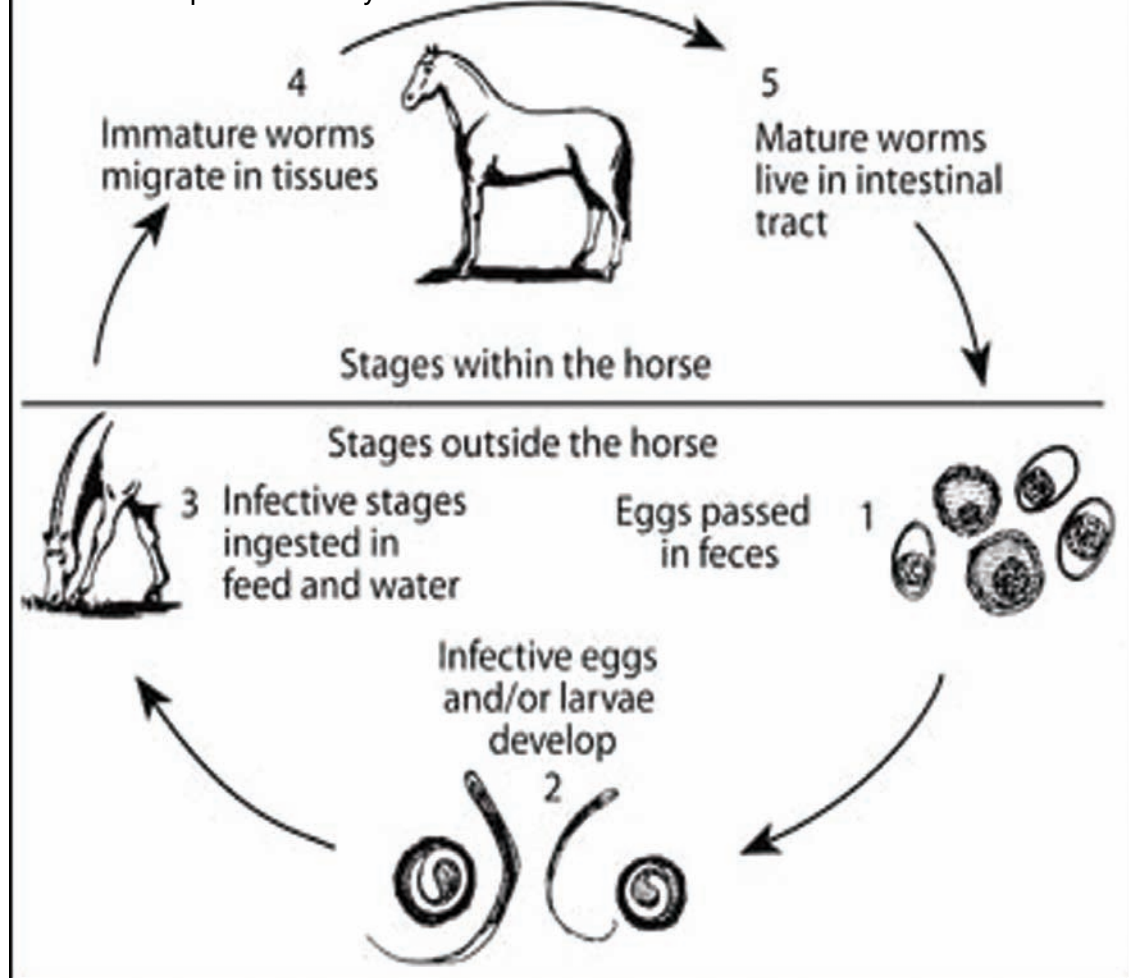
Adult horses living on a stable or farm need to be dewormed two to three times a year.

Early spring, mid-summer and early fall are usually recommended times for these deworming treatments, as this is the time of peak transmission of parasite eggs in the feces. Using a different dewormer each time a horse is treated is recommended.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) recommends using an ivermectin/praziquantel product in the spring, a moxidectin product in mid-summer and fenbendazole Power Pack in the fall.

Foals should be dewormed every three to four months until they are one-year-old. The first treatment should be at two to three

## Generalized parasite life cycle



months of age.

A benzimidazole dewormer should be used at this time to prevent an Ascid (type of parasite) impaction in the small intestine.

Like adult horses, a different dewormer should be used each time a foal is dewormed (i.e. use an ivermectin product on one treatment and then use a moxidectin product on the next one). Foals should also receive a fenbendazole Power Pack in the fall.

Always remember clinical signs when developing deworming protocols. If a horse looks like he/she has "worms" (long hair coat, bloated belly, not gaining weight despite a good appetite, loose feces), they should be dewormed even if they are not the scheduled to be dewormed.

## Options for Environmental Control of Parasites:

**1. Composting manure** will generate enough heat to kill any parasite larva. An owner should never spread manure on their property unless it has been composted for at least two weeks.

**2. Leaving pastures unoccupied** for weeks to months may decrease the risk of parasite infection. If the ambient temperature is high (mid-summer months) parasites will only survive for a few days to a week. In cooler temperatures, parasites can survive for months in the pasture.

**3. Parasites are host specific**, so grazing a pasture with cattle, sheep or goats for several months will also decrease the risk of parasite infection to the horse.

**4. Using a rack or harrow** to spread out the piles of manure in a pasture will increase the exposure of the parasites to the environmental elements and decrease the risk of parasite infection.

## Summary

The information provided above are general guidelines regarding deworming protocols in horses. Horse owners need to consult with a local veterinarian to make sure to develop the best protocol for their horses.

The veterinarian may suggest conducting a fecal egg count reduction test on some or all of the horses. With this test, the veterinarian will be able to assess efficacy of the owner's deworming protocol and environmental control strategies. ★



# TRAILER SAFETY

## CHECKLIST

**A**s the season arrives to gear up for participation in your equine event of choice, one thing remains a constant for all horse owners.

That constant is our responsibility to insure the safety of our horses by being diligent to maintain the integrity of the trailers in which we haul them.

There are a number of things that can be dangerous both inside and outside of your trailer.

Whether you traveled all winter long or whether your trailer sat unused or was used very little through the cold weather months, at least once a year your trailer is due a thorough going over. So here we go with a checklist that will help you insure a happy and safe trip for you and your equine partner.

**1** A sound floor is absolutely imperative. Whether your floor is aluminum, steel or wood, it should be cleaned regularly after use to preserve it. Urine and manure will erode and weaken all types of floors. Even rubber mats will not prevent erosion of your floor. (Maintenance tip: remove mats and wash aluminum floors often to prevent erosion.)

**2** Especially check wooden floors for rotten boards. Immediately replace questionable flooring before hauling.

(Maintenance tip: For wood, remove mats and wash out manure and debris. Coat wooden floor in a cheap motor oil. Allow to sit in hot summer weather until the oil soaks in.

Be careful—floor will be slippery until oil cures into the

wood.

This treatment yearly will preserve a wooden floor for much longer than normal as it repels urine and protects the wood).

**3** Keep the interior and exterior washed to enable you to check for rusted out places, leaks, etc.

**4** Have a professional check your brakes at least once yearly to be sure they are operating properly.

**5** Be sure tires are inflated to the proper air pressure, and check the inside of each tire for hidden unusual wear that could cause a blowout. Replace worn tires before leaving home.

**6** Wheel bearings must be checked and packed at least once a year. This should be **See SAFETY page 23**



**BY JANIS  
BLACKWELL**

### PHOTO DETAILS

Insure the safety of our horses by being diligent to maintain the integrity of the trailers in which we haul them. (Photo by Jessica Crabtree)



# SAFETY

done even if the trailer has been rarely used since the last time the wheel bearings were packed. In fact, trailer maintenance professionals say that sitting stationary and unused is even worse for the bearings.

Improper care and maintenance of wheel bearings can cause a wheel to seize up and actually twist off while in use. Use a horse trailer professional for this maintenance task.

**7** Axles should be checked for bowing. A bent or bowed axle can cause excessive tire wear and damage wheel bearings.

**8** There should be no more than two inches in height difference from the front of the trailer to the back.

More difference than that causes the bulk of weight of the trailer and its contents to ride mostly on the rear axle causing it to bow and wear on both tires and

wheel bearings.

**9** Another critical part of the trailer to keep an eye on are the butt chain or bar and the back door.

The butt chain or bar should be firmly attached to the wall and its keeper and should always be latched. The door should have a strong secure latch with a pin to insure it stays latched while in motion.

**10** Finally, but certainly not of least importance is a thorough check of the trailer hitch including ball and coupling.

Keep the ball well greased. Periodically, check to see that the ball is still securely tightened and the latch on the coupling is working properly.

These few critical safety check points can save you money, stress and the wellbeing of your horse. Until next time, happy trails and safe traveling. ★



Check on the trailer hitch including ball and coupling. Keep the ball well greased. Periodically, check to see that the ball is still securely tightened and the latch on the coupling is working properly. (Photo by Jessica Crabtree)



George Williams,  
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# LACEY'S PANTRY

By Lacey Newlin



## BACON WRAPPED Pork Tenderloin

Serves 6 • Cook time: 40 minutes

### Ingredients

- 5 slices smoked uncured bacon
- 1 pork tenderloin (1 pound)
- 1/4 teaspoon cracked black pepper
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons apple juice
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- Dash ground nutmeg

### Directions

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Wrap bacon around meat. Place in foil-lined pan sprayed with cooking spray; sprinkle with pepper.
- Bake 20 minutes or until the internal temperature reaches 135 degrees Fahrenheit. Meanwhile, bring remaining ingredients to boil in saucepan on medium heat, stirring occasionally.
- Brush meat with glaze using pastry brush. Bake 10 minutes or until done (at least 145 degrees Fahrenheit).
- To achieve a crispier bacon top, broil meat for 1 to 2 minutes or until desired crispiness. Cover loosely with foil. Let stand 5 minutes before slicing. To cook a larger tenderloin, double the ingredients and cook time, but watch the meat closely so it does not overcook and become dry.\*





# First Impressions by *Sara Honegger* *Rompers: 2 Ways*



## ***Romper 1***

Lace romper; ShopHearts.com.  
Boots; Macie Bean  
Turquoise necklace; Francesca's

## ***Romper 2***

Floral romper; shophearts.com  
Wedge; Steve Madden  
Bracelet; J Crew Factory

Spring is finally here which means fun, flowy and bright outfits. One of my favorite pieces to wear isn't something new, but rather an old trend that is making its way back. Rompers originally came about in the early 1900's and continue to come back in waves throughout the history of fashion. A romper can be an outfit that you can dress up or down, and can easily be altered to fit in any occasion. A floral print with strappy sandals could be an option for a picnic; where as, if you add statement accessories and wedges, the outfit would transform into a suitable option for a fancy event.

In comparison, a lacy romper and boots could be great for a casual event or, with chunky jewelry, would be great for a concert or outdoor venue. There are very few pieces that you can buy which can work for events as diverse as a wedding to a day out with your family or friends. This is why rompers hold such a staple in my personal wardrobe. ★



# Look Out here comes the next generation **PART 1**



**H**e has won six saddles, 30 buckles, spurs, headstalls, boots, saddle pads, a trophy chest, lots of money, and he is only 14 years old. Plus, he did not start rodeoing seriously until he was 10. Before that he only entered dummy ropings.

Sam Van Buskirk is an eighth grader at Ringling Junior High where he is plays baseball, basketball, and his favorite, football, and makes straight A's. The tall, personable young man has an easy smile and a polite demeanor.

His love of rodeo is not surprising since he is the third generation to be involved.

His grandfather, Lyndal Van Buskirk, and father, Frank Van Buskirk, are well-known in the world of team roping. His mother, Susan was also a barrel racer. His mom and dad met while rodeoing in college.

"I grew up around it. I've done it ever since I was little," Sam explained.

A member of Mid-South Rodeo Cowboy Association (MRCA), Oklahoma Junior High School Rodeo Association (OKJHSRA), Little Britches, United States Team Roping Championships (USTRC) and Ultimate Calf Roping, this year he mainly heads and heels, and ropes tie-down calves, but has also been successful in ribbon roping, breakaway, goat tying and chute dogging.

When he was in sixth grade, Sam qualified for the OKJHSRA National Finals in Iowa because he was the state reserve champion in breakaway roping. "It was a great experience," Sam said.

He recently won the Montana Keenan Benefit, bringing home a saddle and buckle as high money winner. He also pocketed over \$5,000 at a USTRC roping recently.

At the 2015 MRCA finals, Sam qualified in the top 15 in seven events, won five championships, two reserve championships, and

was all-around cowboy, winning lots of prizes and enough money during the year to pay his own way.

Currently, he is in the top four in three events in OKJHSRA—team roping, tie-down and ribbon roping—and in third place for all-around. He is hoping to again qualify for nationals in Tennessee in June.

Sam's two main mounts are Maverick and Hooey. Maverick is a five-year-old palomino gelding he uses mainly for a heel horse.

"He is young and will do anything I ask him to," Sam explained.

Maverick is also pretty, his mom added. Hooey, a calf horse, is a nine-year-old brown gelding.

"Both are honest and make the same trip every time," Sam explained. "They work well for me every time."

Chili Dog, an 11-year-old bay and OU, a 12-year-old grey are his  
**See GENERATION page 27**



**BY JUDY WADE**

#### PHOTO DETAILS

Van Buskirk ropes a difficult calf. (Courtesy photo)



# Generation

back up and practice horses.

Obviously talented, Sam attributes much of his success to the strong support he receives from his family. His dad is self-employed in the family fertilizer business and is a farmer and rancher. Mom is executive vice-president and Chief Operating Officer at First Bank & Trust Co., in Duncan, Okla., but both are always there to help.

"Dad pushes me to get better every day," Sam explained. "Mom is always filming so we can analyze my runs and cheering me on."

Little sisters, Madison and Aubrey are big fans. Both sets of grandparents give tons of support, helping Sam achieve his goals. Sam gives lots of credit to his granddad Lyndal.

"He supports me in everything; he's always there, turning out cattle at the practice pen, giving advice, hauling me to rodeos and ropings when Mom and Dad have other commitments," Sam said with a smile. "Poppy's always there; he's a big Sam-fan."

The whole family is involved in the Ringling Community Benefit Team Roping held in June each year at the outdoor arena in the Mountain Home area north of Ringling.

Winners receive two horse trailers given in honor of or in memory of two area residents, chosen by a committee of area business people and ranchers who also decide what organizations will benefit from the more than \$20,000 raised each year.

Recipients have included five area volunteer fire departments, the senior citizens' center, Ringling FFA, and others in the community in need.

Approximately 75 coats are given to area youngsters at Christmas time.

Susan and Grandmother Janet



Three generations—Lyndal (left), Sam and Frank Van Buskirk. (Courtesy photo)



Van Burskirk shows perfect form in heeling a steer. (Courtesy photo)

Van Buskirk take care of the entries and bookwork, while volunteers flag, load cattle and man the concession stand. The benefit has been ongoing for the last 10 years.

Frank, Susan and family are in the process of building a new

home near the old arena, where a new indoor pen is under construction to make for more pleasant roping whatever the weather.

Sam's idol is Trevor Brazil. "He's the greatest cowboy ever; he's the greatest roper in the world," he said.

As for the future, Sam plans on going to college, maybe OSU, to get a good education, but he plans to continue roping.

"I hope to make it to the NFR (National Finals Rodeo) and make a living with my ropes and horses," Sam concluded. ★









ph Chain  
Have Changed





# Ralph Chain

## *Times Have Changed*

**I**t all started with \$50, a shotgun and 160 acres of sandy land. Oscar Chain was determined to settle on Oklahoma land in 1883.

The 18-year-old used the gun and money to purchase land in Cheyenne-Arapaho territory from a homesick Ohio homesteader who could not make a living on the land. Oscar made the Cherokee Strip Land Run prior, but he was unable to file for land because he was not old enough.

Almost 123 years later, Chain Ranch survived the worst years in agriculture—the '30s, '50s and '80s. Oscar's grandson, Ralph Chain said he even remembered Black Sunday. He and his sister were outside. When they looked across the road, all they saw was black. Ralph said he thought it was the apocalypse.

"I have been here almost as long as the ranch," Ralph said. "I'm almost 90 years old... How things have changed in my lifetime."

Oscar was born in 1875 in Ohio, but traveled with his parents on an emigrant train to Hutchison Kan., when he was 3 years old. Oscar had a fourth grade education, but that did not deter him from success in his agricultural practices.

"He could look at a group of cattle and figure out how much those steers weighed," Ralph explained. "He could figure that in his head like a calculator. I don't know where he got it from."

Oscar also had the ability to tell how much wheat was going to make to the acre by thrashing it in his hand.

In 1898, he married Laura Hickok who happened to be related to famous gunman, Wild Bill Hickok. Together, they had two children—a boy and a girl. Lenard was born in 1904, but the girl died when she was young.

"My granddad and my dad were real close," he said. "They never fought, and my granddad loved livestock, especially cattle and mules."

Oscar purchased mules from different settlers. He would break them and sell them to cotton, tobacco and sugar cane farms in the southeastern United States.

"My dad just hated these mules," Ralph said. "By the time my granddad got them broke, he sold them and started working on another set of mules."

On the other hand, Lenard enjoyed machinery, especially tractors, combines and thrash machines.

"The dirtier the machine, the better it was," Ralph explained.

Lenard was 18 when he married 16-year-old Grace. Ralph said the couple wanted to stay close by and purchased a quarter section and expanded the ranch.

Ralph was born in 1927, and he was introduced to ranch life at a young age. His mom placed him in a washtub outside on the ranch before he was able to walk.

"When I got big enough to get out of that washtub, they gave me a milk bucket," Ralph explained. "I started milking, and I've still got that milk bucket."

At three years old, Ralph rode around with his dad on a Rumely tractor when it was 100 degrees Fahrenheit outside. His dad placed Ralph in a box on the fender of the tractor, and it was a bumpy ride.

"That's what is wrong with me today," Ralph joked. "It got so bad, he finally put a shade on the fender, but I still rode on the tractor—around and around."

When he got a little older, Ralph started harnessing the mules his granddad loved so much. His family later put him on a combine.

"That's when we had one guy drive the tractor and another one on the combine," he explained. "It was all right as long as you were going with the wind, but when you turn around, all that chaff would come off the combine and go down your neck."

Those were the days before air conditioned combines, Ralph added. Ralph was 30 when his dad purchased their first air conditioned tractor.

"My dad wanted to drive the first tractor," Ralph explained. "I said, 'Remember, you're not pulling an eight-foot disk.'"

The comment made him mad, and Lenard

replied he knew how to run a tractor and had run them long before Ralph was born.

Lenard hopped in the tractor and made a circle and hooked on the back of Ralph's brand new Ford truck. He pulled the truck backwards down the field and was taking out the fence on one side, Ralph added.

"I was behind him waving my arms trying to get him to stop," Ralph said. "He just kept on a going."

When Ralph finally caught up to him, Lenard had no idea what he was doing before he turned around and looked.

"He got out of the tractor, got in his pickup and drove off," Ralph chuckled. "He never said a word."

Lenard loved the air conditioned tractors, Ralph added.

"After he rode in those tractors, my dad said, 'From now on, we buy the air conditioners. If we have any money left, we will buy the tractor,'" Ralph said with a laugh.

He spent the majority of his childhood with his granddad because he lived right down the road. Oscar and Lenard never smoked or drank alcohol, Ralph explained.

"Oscar had it figured out that if you smoked, how much money you were going to spend buying tobacco in a lifetime," Ralph added.

When Ralph was about 12 years old, he and a friend went behind a red barn to smoke grape vines or coffee grounds.

"I don't know what it was, but it wasn't tobacco," Ralph chuckled. "That's for sure."

Oscar come around the barn and asked the boys what they were doing. He never said anything to the boys, but he gave Ralph a proposition the following morning.

"He said, 'If you won't smoke till you're 21 years old, I will buy you the best team of mules,'" Ralph said. "It made me feel small."

Ralph agreed to the terms, but Oscar could not wait till Ralph was 21. He showed up with a sorrel and a gray mule when he was 16.

He was spoiled by his granddad, but he

**Continued on page 32**





# **PHOTO DETAILS**

(Clockwise) In 1953, Ralph (middle) and Darla were married. Nearly 63 years later, they still live on the family ranch 10 miles west of Canton, Okla. Ralph (left) in a family photograph with sisters, Wymola and Darrell; mother, Grace; and father, Lenard. Ralph (right) pictured with one of his sisters and Hereford show calf. Ralph (top left) with wife, Darla; sister, Wymola; granddad, Oscar; and nephew, Gary. (Photos courtesy of the Chain family) Ralph received a set of Herefords when he was 12 years old. Today, he still keeps a pasture full of Herefords from the original bloodlines for sentimental reasons. (Photo by Laci Jones)



# Ralph Chain

## *Times Have Changed*

**Continued from page 30**

was also taught responsibility, he added. Ralph had a cousin who managed a Hereford ranch in Shannon, Kan., and they purchased 29 registered Herefords for Ralph.

"I was about 12 years old when they gave me those," Ralph explained. "I still got one pasture that come from the original bloodlines. I keep them for sentimental reasons."

When he was in eighth grade, Ralph drew three links on a piece of paper. Those three links were connected and formed the Chain Ranch brand still used today, he added. Ralph graduated from Seiligh High School in 1945.

"I would always say when I went to school, they had to burn the schoolhouse down to get me out," Ralph joked.

Ralph dreamed of learning how to fly an airplane, and he also wanted to become a missionary. President of Harding College in Searcy, Ark., George S. Benson insisted Ralph needed to attend Harding College.

Ralph said his dad and granddad knew he would not come back to the ranch if he left, and his family did not want him to leave.

"The reason George got me down there is I wanted to fly," Ralph explained. "I wanted to be a pilot, and George had his own private plane and pilot."

Benson said he would have his pilot teach Ralph how to fly. Ralph stayed with Benson for two years while attending college. Ralph did not go down to Arkansas to learn anything and only took home economics courses. He did learn

how to fly, but he never became a missionary.

"I came back from Harding and nobody was [at the ranch] to run things," he said. "My dad was getting old and my granddad passed away."

Ralph met his sweetheart of nearly 63 years.

"I don't know how many girls I went with," Ralph chuckled. "I didn't think I would ever get married."

Ralph saw a "good looking girl" walk out of church one day. That girl happened to be 18-year-old, Darla England. It was love at first sight, he added.

"For some reason I asked her for a date," Ralph explained. "She was still in high school, and I was out of college."

The couple were married in 1953 and had two children—Andrea and Monte. The ranch is still a family affair. Andrea and Monte are involved in the ranching business as well as some of the grandchildren. Andrea's son, Newley is in charge of the cattle operation while Monte's son, Kelly is a farmer.

"Newley likes cattle like granddad liked mules, and Kelly likes farming like my dad," Ralph explained. Ralph said Kelly implemented practices into the ranch including crop rotation and planting radishes.

Chain Ranch still finishes cattle for packers, a practice implemented in the '20s by Lenard. Even though he is retired, Ralph still keeps himself busy on the ranch.

"I don't fish, I don't play golf but I run a bulldozer," Ralph said. "That's my hobby."

Ralph has built more than 50 ponds and cleared countless red-cedar trees to preserve the land his dad and granddad left to him.

"My theory is if it will grow trees that big, it will grow grass," he said. "You got to see the grass that I've cleared off. How big the grass gets in this old, sorry country if you take care of it."

He also considers his longhorn herd, one of the oldest, privately owned herds in the state, a hobby as well. The ranch is also a pioneer in Oklahoma agri-tourism through leased hunting, fishing and guided tours. Ralph earned the Oklahoma Environmental Stewardship Award in 2004 for his conservation efforts.

"I promise you everything belongs to the Lord," Ralph explained. "We are taking care of it for him."

Today, Chain Ranch has grown from 160 acres to more than 60,000 acres at seven different locations across Oklahoma and Kansas. Ralph credited the success of the ranch to having a prayer and a bible reading first thing every morning in the office. He said he would not be where he is today if he had not taken his granddad's advice of not smoking or drinking.

"Your life is a sermon every day," Ralph said. "People will watch you."

A lady at a flower shop walked up to Ralph and said she remembered what Ralph told her 20 years ago.

"Life is but a vapor compared to eternity," Ralph said. "I don't know where my time has gone in nearly 90 years."

Ralph advises people to enjoy

the life they are given. Life is but a vapor. It appears for a short amount of time, and then it vanishes away, he added.

Ralph was inducted into the Oklahoma Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2004. He was on the board of directors of the Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, and he also received an honorary doctorate from Oklahoma Christian University.

"I got all of these trophies and awards," Ralph explained. "but I can't eat them, I can't wear them, but I am honored to be inducted into all of these things."

Ralph believes anyone can be as happy as they make up their mind to be. In a 1995 letter nominating her father for OCA Cattlemen of the Year, Andrea Hutchison wrote, "My dad takes great pride in his family and church and instilled in us a love of God. With all his activities he is still able to keep things in proper perspective... God first."

"I feel it is this order in his life that keeps things on an even keel today. He has a kind and understanding spirit that is not seen only by family and friends but his hired help as well."

Ralph believes he was never a great farmer, but he loved it. Every morning, Ralph said he was always anxious to get to work. However, he does wonder what the future holds for Chain Ranch.

"I've been everywhere there is to go," Ralph explained. "The best place I have found is 10 miles west of Canton, Okla. The best place I have found is right here, and I wouldn't trade this place for anything." ★



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# Celebrating the Bud Break



Throughout history, many cultures have celebrated the arrival of spring in their own ways. At Canadian River Vineyards and Winery, “bud break” is celebrated with a festival.

Taking place at the winery’s home in Lexington, Okla., the Bud Break Festival follows a century-old tradition of blessing the vine.

“We ask for a great season, no late freezes and lots of sunshine,” said Blaze Baxter, who works at Canadian River Vineyards and Winery. “For us, it’s all about hoping for a great harvest and a great season.”

“Bud break is a beautiful, amazing shade of green. It is constantly changing from day to day, so it’s a special time to see the beauty in nature.”

The non-denominational blessing, which is performed by a priest, is only a small part of the

festival, Baxter said. This year, it will be more about celebrating the bud break with food trucks, music, artwork, vendors, wine-tastings, raffles and more.

Now in its second year, the Bud Break Festival was started due to the success of Canadian River’s Grape Stomp Festival which takes place in the fall.

“Grape Stomp is our celebration of the end of harvest season, so it made sense to do an opening season kick-off, as well,” Baxter said. “People who come out [to Grape Stomp] return year after year, so we wanted to have more than one event each year for them to attend. After Christmas and winter, which is kind of our vacation, Bud Break opens the busy season.”

Technically, the festival is a soft opening for the vineyard’s monthly Farmer’s Market. Baxter said they encourage the farmer’s

market vendors to come to Bud Break and introduce themselves to the guests, letting them know what they will offer in the upcoming season. The Farmer’s Market officially starts on the third Sunday in May and will continue to run on the third Sunday of each month until the Grape Stomp Festival.

Baxter said she is planning a different theme for each month’s Farmer’s Market with corresponding classes, learning experiences and more.

“I’m very adamant about getting the Farmer’s Market going,” Baxter said. “Instead of having the coolest [wine bottle] label or the best wedding event venue, supporting the Oklahoma agriculture industry is our main goal. We grow our own grapes, which is very rare in Oklahoma, so we like to help other state vendors as much we can.”

See **SPRING** page 35



**BY AMANDA MARTIN**

## PHOTO DETAILS

The Canadian River Vineyards and Winery grows 100 percent of their own grapes. (Photo courtesy of Blaze Baxter of Canadian River Vineyards & Winery)



# Spring

The 100 percent Oklahoma-grown wine is doing quite well for itself, she added. The winery's number one seller, a Moscato, just won an award at Teksom International Wine Awards, one of the top wine competitions in the United States.

The second best seller is a Chocolate Drop Wine, which has earned multiple awards, as well. The winery sells 17 different types of wine and offers tours twice a day at 12:30 and 2 p.m. with free tastings. In addition, wine and food paired dinners are offered monthly. All events are listed on Canadian River's Facebook page and website.

According to Baxter, the vineyard has been in business for 17 years. It has three owners, two of whom are original.

Two best friends, Gene Clifton, the master wine-maker, and Bill Lehman started it together. They were working in the vineyard one day when a lady named Jill Stickler drove by, saw them planting, and asked what they were doing. When they told her, she decided to join in! Now she is part owner, as well.

In 2015, around 700 people attended the Bud Break Festival. This year, Canadian River is hoping to welcome 1,000 guests. The festival is free of charge and will take place on April 23, 2016, from noon to 5 p.m. with the blessing of the vine ceremony starting at 1 p.m.

"It's more than just showing up to grab alcohol and veggies," Baxter said. "We have an open patio and are kid and pet friendly; we even set up lawn games on warmer days. Bring a picnic and make it a family day!"

Whether you attend the Bud Break Festival or plan to visit the Farmer's Market, a trip to Canadian River Vineyards and Winery will be a trip worth making. ★



Bud Break Festival guests look on as the blessing of the vine ceremony takes place. (Photo courtesy of Blaze Baxter of Canadian River Vineyards & Winery)



Canadian River Vineyards and Winery's owners: Gene Clifton (left), Jill Stichler and Bill Lehman. (Photo courtesy of Blaze Baxter of Canadian River Vineyards & Winery)



Vineyards ask to be blessed with good weather and a bountiful harvest. (Photo courtesy of Blaze Baxter of Canadian River Vineyards & Winery)





As Oklahoma's only indoor water park, the Water Zoo Indoor Water Park in Clinton, Okla., attracts visitors of all ages from across western Oklahoma as well as parts of Texas and travelers on Interstate 40. The 28,000 square foot facility opened in 2012 and serves up to 1,700 people on a busy weekend.

"Having an indoor swimming pool for Clinton was a longtime dream," said Walter Schumacher, Chief Executive Officer of The Schumacher Companies and owner of the Water Zoo.

In the glass aquatics enclosure, the atmosphere feels pleasantly tropical where the temperature remains in the mid-80s. Toddlers splash around in Cub's Cove, a shallow water pool six inches deep. On the mezzanine, older children prefer to climb on the Biggest Splash, a jungle gym-like structure with animal-shaped slides and water cannons. Adults, meanwhile, prefer to float leisurely down the Lazy and

Crazy River as it winds through the facility and across the Wave Pool. In the shallow Activity Pool, kids play games on a three-sided basketball goal.

The Inside Out Water Slides, three enclosed slides that zigzag in and out of the facility before depositing the rider in a landing pool, rise high up in the facility. Friends can share a tube down the Tornado Bowl, where they slide down into a basin and swirl around until the bottom suddenly drops out. Then, they plunge into darkness and down a winding slide before shooting out the other end into a landing pool.

Projected to be finished by Memorial Day weekend, a new 50 feet tall slide is being added to the set of Inside Out Water Slides. Schumacher described the slide as an opportunity for guests to engage in friendly competition. The experience will be similar to riding in a race car, and riders will be scored based upon skill level.

When gathering ideas to build

the Water Zoo, Schumacher visited 20 water parks across the country. He and his architect combined ideas from each water park, along with their own vision, to create the Water Zoo Indoor Water Park. The facility is similar in design to a parking garage, with concrete columns supporting the middle of the structure. This unique design provides support for the indoor structure while allowing the use of open space for aquatics, including a retractable roof.

Located adjacent to the water park, guests find the restaurant, birthday party rooms and gift shop. At the restaurant, guests build their own burgers with fresh ground beef or build their own chipotle chicken sandwiches. Snack options include Dippin Dots, soft pretzels and fudge made locally by The Schumacher Companies. Families can rent one of three rooms, including the Thunder Room decorated with sports decals, for birthday parties.

See **WATER PARK** page 37



**BY STACI  
MAUNEY**

prestigepraise@gmail.com

**PHOTO DETAILS**

Adults prefer to float down the Lazy and Crazy River as it winds through the facility across the Wave Pool. (Photo by The Schumacher Companies)



# Water Park

Continued from page 36

According to Schumacher, the key to the success of the water park is the service from him and his staff. His hands-on approach supports his philosophy that an excellent guest experience stems from excellent customer service.

“Our philosophy is to take care of people first,” Schumacher said.

When guests stay at one of The Schumacher Companies’ properties, the Holiday Inn Express or Hampton Inn, they can purchase a package deal that includes water park admission. The Schumacher Companies also offers a campground for recreational vehicles adjacent to the water park for those who wish to travel with their own mobile homes. Hotel and campground guests who purchase a water park admission package can take advantage of extended hours to swim. Because the Holiday Inn Express is located approximately 15 feet from the entrance to the Water Zoo, guests can go back and forth from the water park to the hotel or campground all day. These guests also receive a wristband on which they put Splash Cash. These wristbands can be scanned at the restaurant, gift shop and to open their lockers.

The economic impact of the Water Zoo is felt by downtown merchants and other attractions in Clinton. When the Water Zoo has a busy weekend, other businesses also receive more business than usual. Employees at Montana Mike’s, a nearby restaurant owned by The Schumacher Companies, often check with the Water Zoo in order to prepare for a busy weekend.

For more information about the Water Zoo Indoor Water Park, including hours and pricing, visit [www.water-zoo.com](http://www.water-zoo.com) or follow them on Facebook or Twitter. ★



The Water Zoo, Oklahoma’s only indoor water park has an economic impact felt by downtown merchants and other attractions in Clinton, Okla. (Photo by The Schumacher Companies)



Kids enjoy playing games on a three-sided basketball goal in the shallow Activity Pool. (Photo by The Schumacher Companies)



# EVENT LINEUP

## APRIL 2016

APR  
01

**GREEN COUNTRY ARABIAN CLASSIC**, Tulsa State Fairgrounds. Tulsa, OK 74114. Make your way to the Green Country Arabian Spring Fling April 1-3. This show, recognized by the U.S. Equestrian Federation and the Arabian Horse Association, will put on display the most beautiful and skilled Arabian horses in the region. Classes in the Green Country Arabian Classic include reined cowhorse, working cowhorse, Arabian sport horse in hand, Arabian hunter hack and Arabian Western pleasure among many others. Visit [www.gcaha.org](http://www.gcaha.org) for more information.

APR  
01

**FARM EXPO**, Woodward County Fairgrounds. Woodward, OK 73801. The K-101 Farm Expo in Woodward is one of the largest Tri-state agriculture, farm and ranch trade shows, featuring over 180 commercial exhibitors as well as arts and crafts and food vendors. The Farm Expo includes farm, ranch and agriculture exhibits, as well as exhibits on hot tubs, construction, automobiles, motorcycles, ATVs, home improvements, electronics, jewelry and more. For more information, visit [www.k101online.com](http://www.k101online.com).

APR  
01

**AZALEA FESTIVAL**, Honor Heights Park. Muskogee, OK 74401. Muskogee's Honor Heights Park boasts 40 acres of manicured gardens with over 30,000 azaleas in 625 varieties. Visit this stunning park throughout the month of April for one of the top events in the South. The annual Azalea Festival celebrates the blooming of azaleas, tulips, dogwoods and wisteria as these buds begin to unfurl during the warmer temperatures of spring to the delight of visitors. Visit [www.visitmuskogee.com](http://www.visitmuskogee.com) for more information.

APR  
02

**DOGWOOD DAYS FESTIVAL**, Downtown Idabel. Idabel, OK 74745. Celebrate the beautiful blooms of thousands of dogwood trees in the Idabel area with a visit to the springtime Dogwood Days Festival. Held annually the first Saturday in April, festivities will include a myriad of craft vendors, children's games, live entertainment and more. Visit [www.idabelchamberofcommerce.com](http://www.idabelchamberofcommerce.com) for more information.

APR  
02

**SOUTHWEST FARM & HOME EXPO**, Convention Center. Elk City, OK 73644. Come out and enjoy the annual Southwest Farm & Home Expo in Elk City, an event that is gaining a reputation throughout the farm and ranch industry as the show to attend. This event features displays and exhibits of agricultural equipment, machinery and products for the farm, home, lawn, garden and pool. For more information, visit [www.visitelkc.com](http://www.visitelkc.com).

APR  
06

**USTPA SPRING ROUND-UP**, Stephens County Fairgrounds. Duncan, OK 73533. Watch as riders race against time while showcasing their herding skills at the USTPA Spring Round-Up. This event features open, amateur, incentive and youth penning and sorting classes.

APR  
07

**OKLAHOMA CENTENNIAL HORSE SHOW**, Oklahoma State Fair Park. Oklahoma City, OK 73107. The Oklahoma Centennial Horse Show began in 1989 to celebrate the Land Run Centennial and will take place from April 7-10. You'll see beautiful horses with amazing skills including Arabians, Morgans, American Saddlebreds, Hackney/Harness Ponies and Roadsters.

APR  
08

**NATIONAL BARREL HORSE ASSOCIATION OKLAHOMA STATE FINALS**, Heart of Oklahoma Expo Center. Shawnee, OK 73045. Watch riders of all skill levels compete for cash and prizes in an exciting barrel racing competition at the National Barrel Horse Association (NBHA) Oklahoma State Finals, held in Shawnee on April 8-10. This event will feature several action-packed barrel racing events. Visit [www.nbhaok05.com](http://www.nbhaok05.com) for more information.





APR  
09

**OHSRA RODEO**, Woodward, OK 73801. Come to the OHSRA Rodeo in Woodward, Oklahoma for exciting, edge-of-your seat rodeo action.

Events will include bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, barrel racing, roping, pole bending, goat tying, steer wrestling and much more.

APR  
13

**LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN FESTIVAL**, Woodward, OK 73801. See and hear the quickly vanishing lesser prairie chicken displaying on its booming and gobbling grounds at the

annual Lesser Prairie Chicken Festival in Woodward on April 13-19. A popular birding event in the state of Oklahoma, visitors to this festival are invited to come share and experience the natural heritage of the high plains of northwest Oklahoma with activities that include prairie dog, turkey and owl viewing, as well as geocaching, star gazing and nature workshops. Visit [www.lektreks.org](http://www.lektreks.org) for more information.

APR  
14

**OKLAHOMA CITY FARM SHOW**, Oklahoma State Fair Park, Oklahoma City, OK 73107. At the Oklahoma City Farm Show, you'll find everything having to do with

agriculture in one location on April 14-16. With over 300 exhibitors featuring 1,000 product lines, there's something for everyone. Visit [www.oklahomacityfarmshow.com](http://www.oklahomacityfarmshow.com) for more information.

APR  
16

**HACKBERRY FLAT DAY**, Hackberry Flat Center, Frederick, OK 73542. Celebrate the spring migration of birds through the Hackberry Flat

Wetlands, just southwest of Frederick at Hackberry Flat Day. Bird watching tours, crawdad fishing and wetland hayrides will be available, along with exhibits about wetlands and birds. Bird tours will be available at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. Butterfly tours will be available at 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

APR  
16

**CHILI COOKOFF**, Chisolm Trail Cowboy Church. For more information, call 580-467-2800.

## CIVIL WAR DAYS AT HAR-BER VILLAGE



APR  
19

**DAY OF REMEMBRANCE**, Oklahoma City National Memorial, Oklahoma City, OK 73102. Each year, visitors gather at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum

in downtown Oklahoma City to remember those who were killed, those who survived and those changed forever by the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. Join state and local dignitaries, family members, survivors and rescue workers for the Day of Remembrance at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. For more information, visit [www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org](http://www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org) or call 405-235-3313.

APR  
19

**89ERS DAYS CELEBRATION**, Downtown Guthrie, Guthrie, OK 73044. The annual 89er Days Celebration commemorates the Land Run of 1889 and the birth of Guthrie.

On April 22, 1889, tens of thousands of excited Victorian-era land seekers lined the borders of the Unassigned Lands of central Oklahoma in preparation for the first of five land runs in the state. Come celebrate this historical event on April 19-23 with fun activities that celebrate this bygone era. For more information on the 89ers Days Celebration, visit [www.89erdays.com](http://www.89erdays.com) or call 405-282-2589.

APR  
21

**CHOCTAW FRONTIER DAYS**, Choctaw, OK 73020. Choctaw's Frontier Day Festival on April 21-22 celebrates the early history of Choctaw's Settlement. Bring the kids to

Choctaw's Frontier Day Festival and enjoy American Indian fancy dancers, traditional cowboy camps and gun fights that depict the lifestyle of the late 1800s. For more information, visit [www.choctawcity.org](http://www.choctawcity.org).

APR  
23

**BUD BREAK FESTIVAL**, Canadian River Vineyards & Winery, Lexington, OK 73051. Visit Canadian River Vineyards & Winery for the Bud Break Festival. This one-day event includes

local artwork, wine tasting, delicious food and the season opening of the farm stand and community market. Visit [www.canadianriverwinery.net](http://www.canadianriverwinery.net) for more info.

APR  
29

**CIVIL WAR DAYS AT HAR-BER VILLAGE**, Har-Ber Village Museum, Grove, OK 74334. Come experience the sights and sounds of the American Civil War during Civil War

Days on April 29-30. This great event will feature historic stations both inside and outside the Village where re-enactors, living historians and craft demonstrators will showcase their skills to offer guests a glimpse of life during the Civil War.



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# On the Road with Dave Alexander

NTFR **attractions**



**W**elcome to my new column "On the Road with Dave Alexander." It's an honor to share my musical friends and experiences with North Texas Farm & Ranch.

So many people ask me, "When will you be playing somewhere around this area?" or "Where can we go to hear some really great Texas music and dance?"

Well, for all you Texas music fans, and I'm speaking primarily of Texas country and western swing, your wishes have been answered.

Each year Wichita Falls hosts the granddaddy of them all, The Legends of Western Swing Music Festival.

This year marks its 29<sup>th</sup> year, produced by the Grand Dam of Western Swing, Ms. Gloria Miers.

What makes this event so special? Well, over the past 29 years it has been hosted at several

different venues around the state. It first began in Canton then on to Texarkana, Snyder, and finally Wichita Falls.

It all began when Dewey Miers, Gloria's late husband, who loved Western Swing and Texas music so much, decided it was time to just throw his own party and invite all his Texas music-loving friends, and the rest is history.

The Legends of Western Swing Music Festival has hosted the finest Texas music performers ever and has been recognized by many as the greatest event of its kind in the country.

This event is known for its great talent lineup in an ideal setting. Smoke-free and alcohol free, this is your chance to enjoy the finest in western music in a safe and fun environment.

You can bring the entire family. Concert style seating is general admission, plus each group plays twice a day so it's easy to sit back

and enjoy the music all day long or dance your boots off.

Once again, Gloria has outdone herself for the 2016 lineup.

June 16 will feature Jody Nix, Jake Hooker and Shoot Low Sheriff.

June 17 includes the Texas Playboys with Leon Rausch and Tommy Allsup, I'll be joined with My Big Texas Swing Band featuring the great Bill Briggs and special guest Mikki Daniel. Then fellow musician and friend Texas fiddler Jason Roberts will perform.

We'll wrap things up on Saturday with the great Mel Tillis, Bobby Flores and one of my favorites Texas acts, Billy Matta and Texas Tradition.

Mark your calendars now for June 16-18 in Wichita Falls at the MPEC center.

Tickets are \$35 for Thursday and Friday, \$45 for Saturday and are available at the door.

Visit [www.thelegendsofwesternswing.com](http://www.thelegendsofwesternswing.com) for more information. •

## Upcoming shows

- April 9 Malakoff, TX
  - April 16, Whitesboro, TX
  - April 23 Big Spring, TX with the Big Spring Symphony
- Every Sunday Night**  
Stampede 66 Trio  
1717 McKinney, Dallas, TX

## BY DAVE ALEXANDER

[www.davealexander.com](http://www.davealexander.com)  
Catch Dave Alexander's Radio Show: True Texas Country And Western Swing Show





**I**t is that time of the year again—spring turkey season. Oklahoma turkey hunters are waiting anxiously for the day they can grab their gear and head out to the woods.

Ron Jordan was given his first turkey wing bone call about 15 years ago, but he did not know how to use one.

Jordan, owner of My Wing Bone Calls in Muskogee, Okla., said he went hunting one day and tried every tool in his box to get some turkeys to come in.

“They would gobble, but they wouldn’t come,” Jordan said. “On my way back to the truck I pulled out that wing bone call. I hit it a couple of times and within minutes, I had two toms right in front of me.”

He was amazed by how well the turkey call worked and thought he could make one himself.

“I started making some for friends and giving them away,” Jordan explained. “I just got interested and started making them.”

Jordan has been making turkey wing bone calls for 12 years. After he retired from the Corps of En-

gineers five years ago, he started making more turkey calls. He said one thing led to another, and he started selling the wing bone turkey calls.

Jordan said the wing bone turkey call is different from other calls. They were used hundreds of years ago by American Indians. It doesn’t get any more “old school” than that, Jordan explained.

“There are other calls on the market today that are easier to use—box calls, slate calls and push button calls,” he added. “A lot of different calls are being made and very few people use the wing bone call anymore.”

Jordan said the fact that few people use wing bone calls combined with the different sound the call makes means it will sometimes bring a turkey in when nothing else does.

The wing bone call is made from three bones from the turkey wing: the humerus, radius and ulna.

Once the bones are removed from the turkey, they are cleaned and boiled. The ends are cut off each bone with a hacksaw. They

are hollowed out to be able to fit together to form a tube where one opening is larger than the other, he explained. The connected sections are glued and sanded smooth.

“There is no reed in the call,” Jordan explained. “It’s more of an amplifier. The sound is made by sucking in to make kind of a kissing noise with your lips”

He devotes a little time each day to work on a wing bone turkey call. From start to finish, it takes Jordan a week or more to build a call, estimating time spent at six to eight hours or more depending on the complexity of the call.

“My calls are half turkey and half art,” Jordan explained.

Most people use thread to wrap the joints of the turkey call as decoration. The first call Jordan made that incorporated a turkey spur was too steep to wrap thread around one of the joints, so Jordan decided to try and use actual turkey feathers.

At first, he used only one turkey feather, but it turned out so well, now he uses multiple feathers. His calls are finished with several  
**See CALLS page 45**



**BY LACI JONES**

editor@okfronline.com

**PHOTO DETAILS**

The wing bone turkey call is like an amplifier, as the sound is made by sucking in to make a kissing noise with the user’s lips. (Photo courtesy of Ron Jordan)



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# Calls

Continued from page 42

coats of clear epoxy to preserve and bring out the beauty of the feathers.

"They have an iridescence to them," Jordan explained. "They change colors depending on how the light hits them, and the way I place the feathers on the call brings out the beauty in those individual feathers."

He also incorporates the turkey's spur into some of his turkey calls, and said he cannot paint anything as beautiful as what God makes.

"They are quite a stunning call and 100 percent functional," he added. "In fact, I use one a lot of times myself when turkey hunting."

While Jordan can closely duplicate any of the wing bone turkey calls shown on his website, each call is slightly different in structure, look and sound. Each is truly "one of a kind," he added.

He takes custom orders and has made many calls that are keepsakes. Jordan said his favorite wing bone turkey call is always the one he just finished.

"If I were to pick a call that was my favorite to build, it would be one from somebody's first turkey whether it be a young person or an adult," he explained.

Since it is illegal to sell any part of a wild turkey in the state of Oklahoma, all of the calls Jordan makes from wild turkey bones have to be furnished by the hunter having a custom call made.

However, he does sell wing bone calls at hunting shows made of bones and feathers from farm-raised birds. Turkey calls made from farm-raised birds are slightly different from those made from wild birds, he added, but still very effective turkey hunting tools.

Jordan sells his turkey calls at hunting shows across the state as well as the Wild Turkey Federation Annual Convention and Sports Show in Nashville.

"I don't make much money," Jordan said, "but I have a lot of fun."

While Jordan can make simple turkey calls and calls with spurs, he said the most popular turkey calls he makes are the feather wrapped calls. He said all of the calls are satisfaction guaranteed, but he has never had anyone disappointed.

Turn-around time for a custom made call is about four to six weeks, depending on workload, he said.

"It will be considerably longer during hunting seasons or if the fish happen to be biting, he said. "After all, I am retired!"

For more information on wing bone turkey calls, visit [www.mywingbone.com](http://www.mywingbone.com). Visit [www.wild-lifedepartment.com](http://www.wild-lifedepartment.com) for hunting season dates and information. ★



The turkey wing bone call is made from three bones from the turkey wing: the humerus, radius and ulna. (Photo courtesy of Ron Jordan)



From start to finish, it takes Jordan a week or more to build a call, estimating time spent at six to eight hours or more. (Photo courtesy of Ron Jordan)



The wing bone turkey calls are finished with several coats of clear epoxy to preserve and bring out the beauty of the feathers placed on the wing bone. (Photo courtesy of Ron Jordan)



Ron Jordan enjoys making turkey calls with sentimental value, like someone's first turkey. (Photo courtesy of Ron Jordan)



# OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS

## *Boiling Springs State Park*



In the western prairie of Oklahoma lies a small, wooded oasis. Boiling Springs State Park, located just north of Woodward, Okla., is one of the first seven state parks in Oklahoma.

"This area of the state is a high plains area known for its sparse vegetation," said John Gay, park ranger at Boiling Springs State Park. "The park is kind of an oasis with its trees and other plant life and diverse wildlife population."

Boiling Springs State Park has a lot of wooded park areas that are great for hiking, he said. The 820-acre park is home to different wildlife including white-tailed deer, turkey and bobcats, he explained.

Boiling Springs State Park was first inhabited by Native Americans and Spanish explorers. After the Land Run of 1893, settlers started making their homes in the area, Gay said.

In 1925, William Shaul had the idea of building a recreation area

and purchased land where the state park sits today, he explained. He built a small seven-acre, spring-fed lake called Shaul Lake in 1930. It was a popular area for the people from the community of Woodward to come out to the lake to fish, swim and picnic, he added.

"Construction of the park started in 1935," Gay said. "The city of Woodward purchased the land that the park sits on and then leased it to the state."

Construction took five years to complete by 200 members of the Civilian Conservation Core (CCC).

These members were housed in wooden frame barracks on a site north of the state park, according to a dedication plaque at the park. The unmarried men were between 18 and 25. The members received a monthly wage of \$30, and they were supervised by the U.S. Army.

All of the rock work was laid

by the CCC, he said. The rock is dolomite and was quarried southeast of Woodward. One of the main features the CCC built was one of the group camp community buildings.

"There's also one of our smaller picnic pavilions that we don't really use," he said. "It's just left as a monument for the CCC."

The CCC also built a wooden water tower, but it is no longer in use. However, the bridge built by the CCC is still usable today. Also, the bath house at the swimming pool was also constructed by the CCC.

The CCC also planted a variety of tree species including American elm, mulberry, various oaks and redbud. The state park also got its name from the many springs located in the park, Gay explained.

Approximately 50,000 years ago, rivers carried sediments made of sand, gravel and clay from the Rocky Mountains into Oklahoma. **See PARK page 49**



**BY LACI JONES**

editor@okfronline.com

### PHOTO DETAILS

The 820-acre park was constructed by 200 members of the Civilian Conservation Core (CCC) and took five years to complete. (Photo by Laci Jones)





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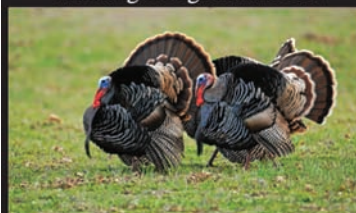
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Boiling Springs State Park has three main scenic trails for hiking and bicyclists that are about a mile and a half long. (Photo by Laci Jones)



The spring is an artesian water system that comes up through the sand. (Photo by Laci Jones)

## PARK

Continued from page 46

The sand was deposited along Oklahoma's rivers including the North Canadian River. The state park is located along a sandy terrace of the river, which covers layers of limestone. The limestone holds water, making it an aquifer. The spring is an artesian water system that comes up through the sand. Thirty gallons of water flow from the main boiling spring every minute, he said.

"As the water comes up, it churns the sand," Gay described. "It makes it look like it's boiling, but it's not a hot spring."

In fact, one of the springs was dug out by early settlers of the area. They would use the cool water of the spring to refrigerate meat and different products, he added.

The Oklahoma eastern red cedar work built around the main spring was constructed in 2010. A swimming pool was built in the late '60s, but it has been remodeled, refinished and refurbished since then at different times.

"I think some of our camp ground is looking at being renovated in the future," he explained.

"They've upgraded things here recently in some of the new bath houses and different things."

Many family reunions and weddings are held at the state park each year. The state park also hosts a half marathon in June sponsored by the local Lions Club.

Today, the park has three main scenic trails for hiking and bicyclists that are about a mile and a half long. The park also has 40 RV sites, 12 camping area sites and two duplex cabin buildings. Each duplex building is furnished and sleeps four adults.

"There are two picnic pavilions that will accommodate about 50 people," he explained. "The group camps that we have will sleep approximately 150 in each group camp."

They each have a community building, and the 10 bunkhouse areas will sleep about 10 to 12 each, he explained. An 18-hole golf course also sits adjacent to the park.

For more information on Boiling Springs State Park, call 580-256-7664 or email [Boiling-Springs@travelok.com](mailto:Boiling-Springs@travelok.com).



# Grazing Oklahoma

## Scribner's Panicum

### Scribner's Panicum

(*Dichanthelium oligosanthes*)

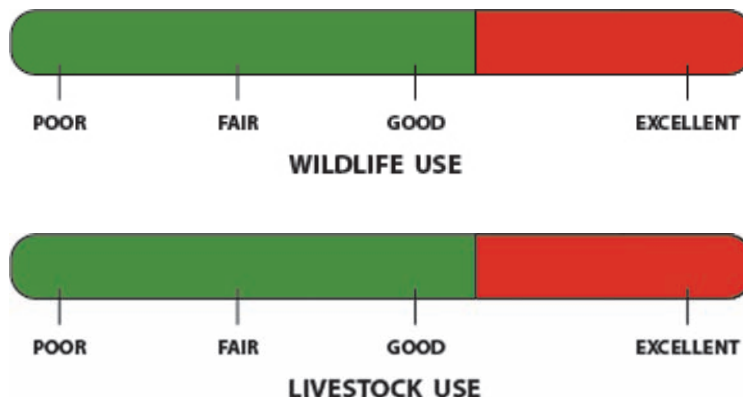
**Characteristics:** Scribner's panicum is a native, cool-season perennial grass. It grows about 6 to 18 inches tall. The leaves of Scribner's panicum are broad and flat with a pointed tip.

They are bunched in rosette fashion, 3/8 to 1/2-inch-wide and 2 to 5 inches long. There are sometimes stiff hairs on the leaf margins and fine, short hairs on the underside of the leaf.

The ligule is a dense tuft of hairs. It is commonly called Scribner's rosette grass or Scribner's dichanthelium.

**Area of Importance:** Scribner's panicum will grow on most soil types and can tolerate shade. It is commonly found throughout the eastern plains of Oklahoma between other bunch grasses.

**Attributes:** Scribner's panicum is commonly overlooked because it grows close to the ground. Its value to livestock and wildlife is often underestimated.



Scribner's panicum grows from fall through the spring and is green when most other forage species are dormant. It provides high quality forage although production is limited.

The forage value for livestock and white-tailed deer is good. It produces soft, tender leaves with little stem. The seeds are hard and slick and are produced during May through June. Seeds are utilized by quail, dove and other bird species, and they occur before warm-season plants produce seeds.

Seeds are sometimes produced in the fall but to a lesser extent than in the spring. Proper grazing management techniques will allow Scribner's Panicum to remain in rangeland and pasture areas and continue to produce high quality forage during cool-season periods.

#### References:

- Coffey, C.R., R.L. Stevens. Grasses of the Great Plains: A Pictorial Guide
- Linex, R.J., 2014. Range Plants of North Central Texas ★



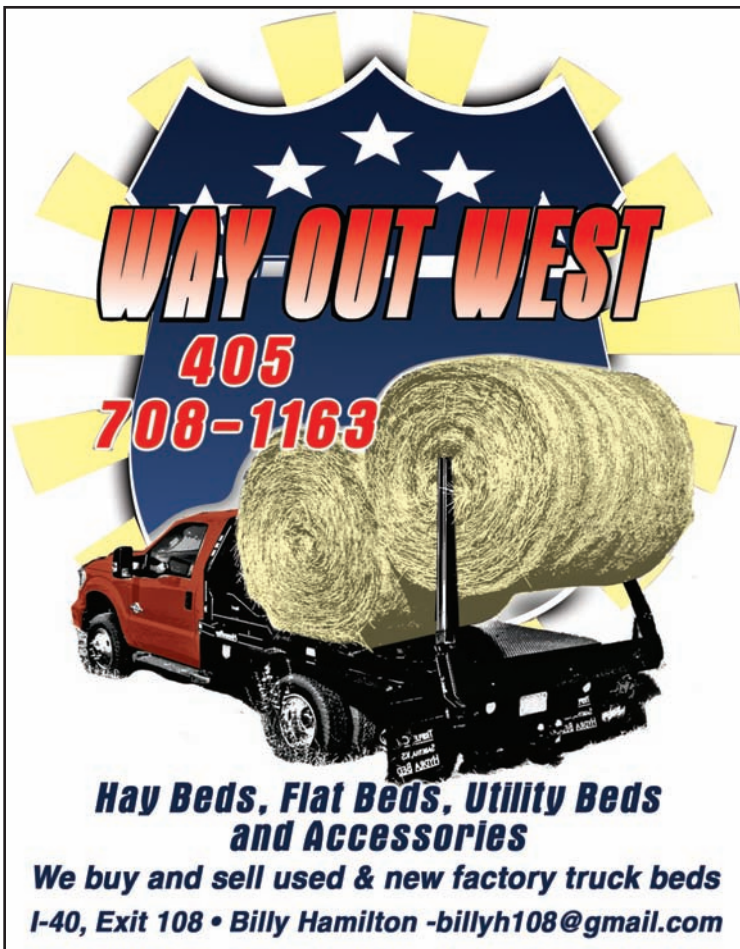
**BY ROB COOK**

rwcook@noble.org

#### PHOTO DETAILS

Scribner's Panicum is a native, cool-season perennial grass commonly underestimated for its value to livestock and wildlife. (Photos courtesy of The Noble Foundation)





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