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Hungry Eyes and Grateful Hearts...

Hello OKFR readers, and welcome to the November issue of the Oklahoma Farm & Ranch magazine. This season, we are thankful for all of our readers. On behalf of the OKFR team, we want to wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Trichomoniasis, commonly referred to as Trich, causes infertility and abortions in cattle. This sexually transmitted disease is occurring at a slightly higher rate this year than 2015. While there are no treatment options available, learn about prevention methods in "Trichomoniasis" in the Farm & Ranch section.

Read about one of the last great buffalo hunts in northwestern Oklahoma. Chain Ranch was contacted by Smith and Wesson Firearms from Massachusetts. Smith and Wesson developed a new .50 caliber pistol and wanted to send eight expert marksmen to test the new S&W500 pistol on large game. Learn more about this buffalo hunt in "The Great Buffalo Hunt" in the Farm & Ranch Section.

Lavonna "Shorty" Koger, owner of Shorty's Caboy Hattery, is the November profile. Born in Oklahoma City, Koger was given the nickname Shorty because she was the "runt" of the family. When her brother sent their father's hats to a hat manufacturer in Texas to be cleaned, Koger got the idea to start her own business. Read how the style of cowboy hats has changed and how she uses her "knack" for designing hats in "Queen of Hats."

This month, Joanne Jones visited Bosco Joe's BBQ & More in Seminole, Okla. Bosco Joe's opened in May 2010, and they recently moved to their present location. The prime rib is one of their most-ordered dishes. Read what Jones ordered and her experience in "Bosco Joe's" in the Attractions section.

While you may be making all kinds of pies for your Thanksgiving feast, check out the three cheese rigatoni pie recipe in Lacey's Pantry in the Country Lifestyle section. Made with rigatoni pasta, a jar of your favorite pasta sauce, ground beef and cheese, this scrumptious pie is perfect for a weeknight meal.

If you have an event, photo or topic idea that you would like to see in Oklahoma Farm & Ranch, email 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.

Until next month,



ON THE COVER

Lavonna "Shorty" Koger always had a love for cowboy hats. Koger's brother sent their father's hats to a hat manufacturer in Texas to be cleaned. When they returned, they were ruined. With the help of her three siblings, Koger decided to start her own business cleaning hats and eventually designing cowboy hats. Today, Koger owns Shorty's Caboy Hattery in Stockyard City and has 27 years of experience designing and shaping cowboy hats. (Photo by Laci Jones)

TABLE OF CONTENTS



PROFILE Page 28

Shorty Koger

Shorty Koger is an accomplished custom hat designer.

FARM & RANCH Page 10

Trichomoniasis

Trichomoniasis causes infertility and abortions in cattle.

- 09 Socializing
- 10 Trichomoniasis
- 15 The Great Buffalo Hunt
- 16 Ranch Rigs & Farm Fixtures
- 18 Miniature Mediterranean Donkeys
- 20 Colic in the Horse: Part 2
- 23 Oklahoma Rodeos
- 26 The Speed Breed
- 28 Queen of Hats
- 35 First Impressions

ATTRACTIONS Page 44

Bosco Joe's

Bosco Joe's in Seminole, Okla., is promised to be "Lip Lickin' Good."

OUTDOOR Page 48

Great Plains State Park

Great Plains State Park was open to the public in August 1975.

- 36 Lacey's Pantry
- 38 The Next Generation
- 41 Life of a Ranch Wife
- 43 Red Dirt Stages
- 44 Bosco Joe's
- 46 Calendar of Events
- 48 Great Plains State Park
- 50 Grazing Oklahoma
- 53 Classifieds
- 54 Parting Shot





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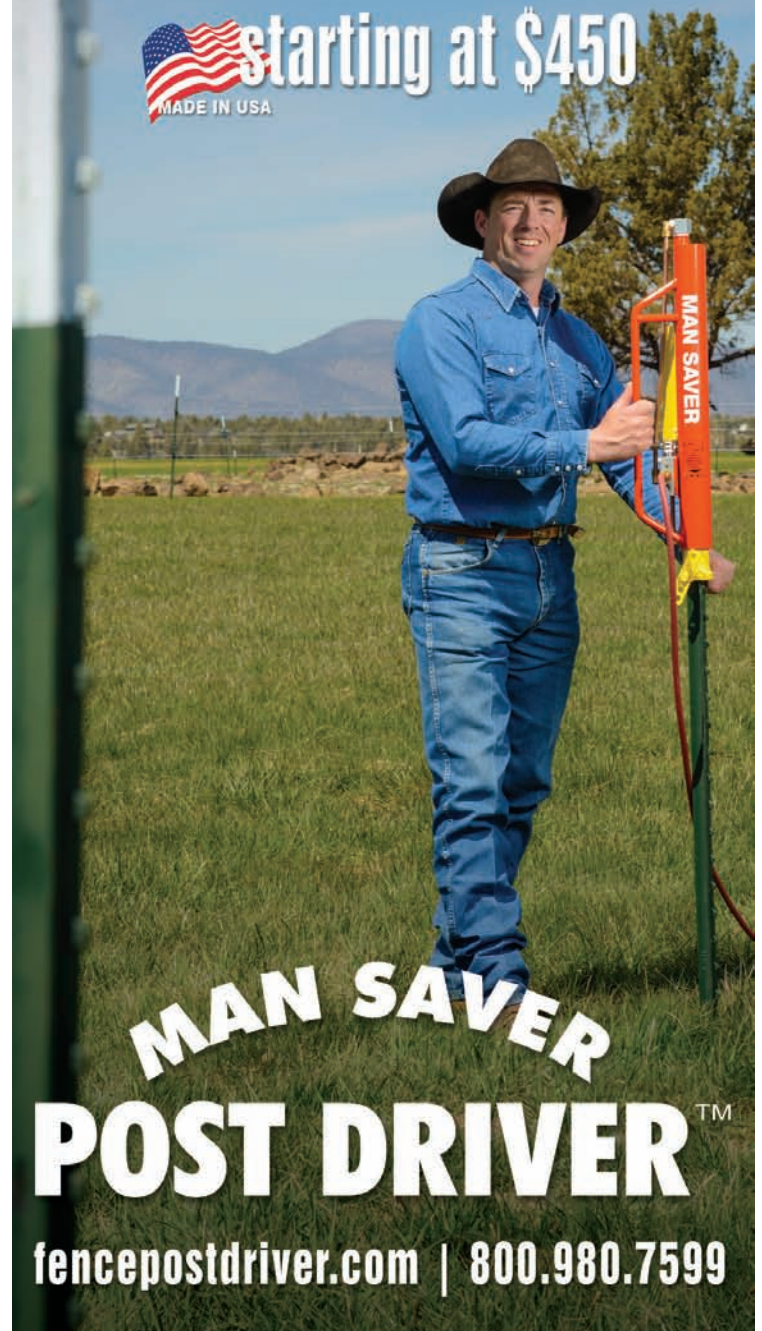
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SOCIALIZING

FACEBOOK WALL

 Oklahoma Farm & Ranch added a new photo to the album: OKFR 2016 Profiles.

September 28 at 9:50am · 🌐

The #October profile is Rhett Beutler of Beutler & Son Rodeo Co. from Elk City, Okla. Read how Beutler was inspired by his family legacy in "Stock of Champions."

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CORRECTIONS

In the October 2016 OKFR issue article titled, "The Quarter Horse – An All Around Athlete," the caption on pages 20 and 21 were reversed. The first photo was Dash For Cash and the second photo was Doc Bar.

In the Banana Cake recipe from Lacey's Pantry, the required ingredient is 1 1/2 teaspoons of baking soda.

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TRICHOMONIASIS

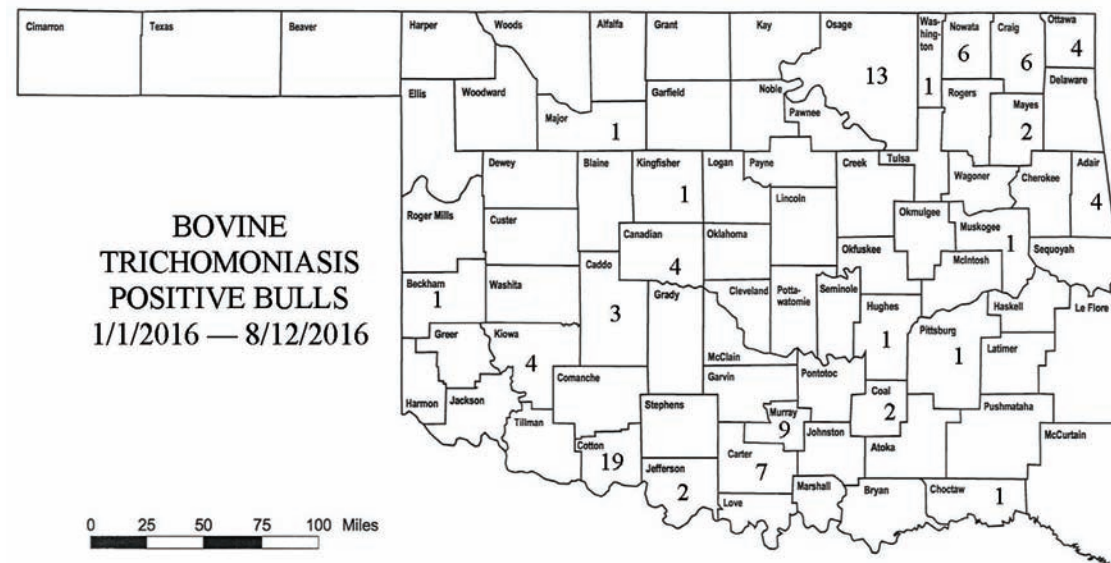
By Barry Whitworth, DVM

The sexually transmitted cattle disease Trichomoniasis or Trich continues to be a problem in Oklahoma. The disease, which is known to cause infertility and abortions in cattle, is occurring at a slightly higher rate in 2016 when compared to 2015, according to Rod Hall, Oklahoma State veterinarian. The disease has appeared in several counties state wide.

Trich is caused by a protozoan called *Trichomonas foetus*. This organism lives in the reproductive organs of cows and bulls. In bulls, the organism survives and multiplies in the folds or crypts of the penis and prepuce. As bulls age, these crypts increase in depth, which is why older bulls are more at risk of having the disease. In cows, the organism resides in the vagina and uterus.

The infection in cows results in abortions which normally occur in the first four months of pregnancy. Infertility in cows is another common problem with Trich infections. Once a cow is infected, she will have an immune response and eliminate the organism. This process takes about four to five months. The immunity cows get from exposure to the protozoa is short lived and most are susceptible to re-infection the next breeding season. On rare occasions, the organism may remain in a cow, which then may be a source of infection for non-infected bulls.

Cows and bulls that are infected with *T. foetus* very seldom have clinical signs. On rare occasions a cow may have a vaginal discharge. An owner or veterinarian may become suspicious when



7164 bulls tested / 93 positives = 1.29 % positive

pregnancy rates are low, or when cows take over a year to calve. By the time the disease is discovered, the dollar amount lost can be substantial.

Since no treatments are available, prevention is the key. Prevention centers on keeping the organism from ever entering the herd. Proper fencing to keep unwanted contact with neighboring cattle is the first line of defense. In addition, bulls should be tested before being turned out with cows.

By Oklahoma law any two-year-old and older bull that changes ownership must test negative for Trichomoniasis within 60 days of a move. Exceptions to this law include virgin bulls less than two years of age, bulls going to slaughter, and “cutter bulls” that will be fed for slaughter only. Any bulls entering the state of Oklahoma must test negative for Trichomoniasis within 60 days of entry and be officially identified.

Exceptions to this law are virgin bulls less than 18 months of age, bulls going directly to slaughter, and rodeo and bucking bulls that travel to an event and then leave the state.

Vaccinating cows does not prevent infection. However, it can reduce abortions and decrease the length of time cows are infected. It is also a good practice to have a defined breeding season and to pregnancy test cows. This way producers will quickly become alerted to any reproductive problems that may exist.

Effective as of Sept. 11, 2016, selling female cattle that have been exposed to a known Trichomoniasis positive bull is illegal. All female cattle exposed to a positive bull shall be officially identified and change ownership only:

1. If the female bovine is diagnosed at least four months pregnant by an accredited veterinarian

2. The female bovine is sold for slaughter only

3. The female bovine is consigned to an approved feedlot to be fed for slaughter only

4. The female bovine has a calf less than thirty (30) days old and has not been exposed to a bull since calving, or

5. Six months has passed since the female bovine’s exposure to a bull.

No producer wants to deal with Trichomoniasis, so a good biosecurity plan to prevent the introduction of *T. foetus* into the herd is essential.

For more information producers should consult with their veterinarian, the Animal Industry Division of Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry or view Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet VTMD-9134 at <http://osufacts.okstate.edu> for any questions that they might have about this disease.

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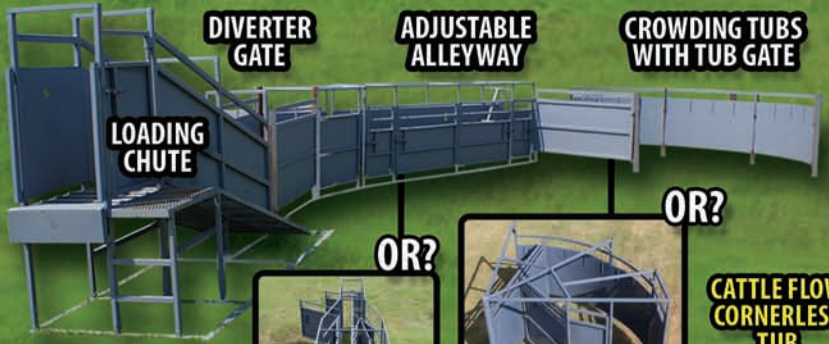


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The Great Buffalo Hunt

By Ralph Chain

While there is a distinct difference between a bison and a buffalo, bison is commonly referred to as the American buffalo or buffalo in the United States.

We have an outfitting service here at Chain Ranch which is run by my grandson, Newley Hutchison. We entertain clients who come from all over the United States.

Newley was contacted by Smith and Wesson Firearms out of Massachusetts. They had developed a new .50 caliber pistol and were wanting to try their hand with the new S&W500 pistol on harvesting large game. They wanted to send eight expert marksmen on a buffalo hunt in northwestern Oklahoma to try out the new gun. Two of the men were retired CIA agents, one of whom was involved in special operations in Cuba, the other was from Washington D.C., where he served on the police force for 30 years.

Not being able to say no to such an impressive client and knowing we did not have all the buffalo we needed for the hunt, we contacted a large buffalo ranch that neighbors us in Kansas to increase our buffalo herd. The ranch manager informed Newley that they were getting ready to ship 19 large bulls to slaughter at a processing plant in Colorado, and he was welcomed to come up and pick the four big bulls he needed. Upon returning home, rather than the four that were needed, he bought all 19 of the big bulls, which sounded good at the time.

Newley was under the impression that the bulls were accustomed to barbed wire fences, so he casually mixed them with our original buffalo herd, which is on 4,000 rough, mountainous



The American bison is commonly referred to as the American buffalo or buffalo. (Courtesy photo)

acres, thinking that they would settle with the original herd. They settled all right; they settled in a 30-mile radius with each bull having a small harem of cows.

Upon checking the herd the next morning, we could only find three buffalo left on the 4,000 acres they were supposed to be on. One of the first things Newley learned is that you cannot drive a buffalo. The only way you can drive him is in the direction he wants to go.

With hunters arriving for the great hunt, Newley also had calls from the Highway Department saying there were buffalo on the highway, calls from the neighbors complaining that buffalo bulls were with their Hereford cows, calls from the Major County Sheriff's Department saying there were buffalo on several different roads about to be hit by cars and calls from the Fairview city workers saying there were buffalo drinking out of the sewer lagoons.

As the hunters arrived, not only

were Newley and family members guiding, but all the local law officials, neighbors and passers-by were helping with the hunt.


Locating the bulls was not the only obstacle they had to overcome. When they did find some of the bulls and were able to harvest them, the next obstacle was loading a 2,000-pound bull out of a 30-foot canyon and into town to be processed. It is amazing how little attention one draws driving through the streets of Seiling and Fairview pulling a flatbed trailer with two to three big buffalo carcasses headed for the processing plant. (The story only made four newspapers)

We had already scheduled the buffalo to be processed at the Seiling packing house, but after they received a half-dozen buffalo to be processed in a 24-hour time period, they decided they didn't need any more buffalo. So Fairview, being the next closest processing plant, was our next choice on patronizing. After about a dozen,

they decided they wanted out of the buffalo processing business as well. With our next closest commercial processing plant being 60 miles away, our only option was to turn our deer processing facility into a buffalo packing house.

After a three-day adventurous hunt, all hunters went home happy with big stories to tell, but we still had 70 percent of our buffalo herd scattered across Major County.

A month later, with freezers full and a small buffalo herd intact, we had the situation under control. Needless to say, the Cub Scouts, FFA groups, 4-H groups, senior citizens, and anyone else who wanted buffalo meat had their fill of buffalo, and we are getting a little tired of eating buffalo burgers, roasts, and chili.

It was one of the last great buffalo hunts in northwestern Oklahoma. We certainly don't keep such a large herd anymore. If you have any questions about hunting buffalo, visit www.chain-ranch.com. 

The Edgy 2016 Toyota Tundra

Ranch Rigs & Farm Fixtures by Bill and Barbara Schaffer

Toyota has been in the truck business for more than 50 years, but it's only been the last 20 years that they have started to compete head-to-head with the full-size American pickups. First there was the T100 in 1993, which was renamed the Tundra for the second generation in 1999. In its first year on the market, the Tundra was named Motor Trend magazine's "Truck of the Year" and it accumulated a shelffull of other important awards that first year.

In 2014, the Toyota Tacoma received another major redesign, and it actually started to feel and look like one of the full-size pickup trucks. However, it wasn't quite the same. If you think of the full-size truck market as a group of big burly TV sports commentators wearing custom-tailored suits and colorful traditional ties, the Toyota Tundra guy is the one wearing the tailor-made suit with bow tie.

The 2016 Toyota Tundra is very much like the other big burly American trucks, right down to being built in the United States (San Antonio, Texas) whereas some of the American trucks are built in Mexico.

Part of the appeal of full size trucks had been the wide variety of trim levels and options, and the new Tundra is growing with a total of 50 possible configurations available. Choices include six trim levels, three cab sizes, three bed sizes, two engines and a multitude of option packages and accessories. Of course, not all variations are available with each trim level. Even with all the choices, the American brand trucks still have a larger number of variations.

Each of the six trims has a bold grille distinctive to that model. The fenders flare over front and rear



wheels and a deep low character line give the Tundra a rugged look. In the rear the locking tailgate has clean simple lines with the Tundra name tastefully embossed in the lower right corner. Thoughtful design features include an easy-to-lower-and-lift tailgate, three-piece front and rear bumpers designed to reduce repair costs should a section become damaged and an available spray-in bed liner.

Tundra engine choices include a 310-hp 4.6-liter V-8 and a 381-hp 5.7-liter V-8. Both engines have an aluminum block, DOHC aluminum alloy cylinder head with Toyota's Dual VVT-i variable valve timing system. Both engines come with a standard six-speed automatic transmission and rear-wheel drive or the optional four-wheel drive.

The 2016 Toyota Tundra models include the SR, SR5, Limited, Platinum, 1794 Edition and the TRD Pro, which we drove. Even the basic models have an extensive

equipment list, and when you get up to the Platinum and 1794 editions, there are no significant options; these trucks have it all.

Incidentally, the property on which the Tundra plant is built outside San Antonio was originally the JLC ranch, the oldest working cattle ranch in Texas. It was founded in 1794 and in tribute, Toyota named the top model Tundra after it.

We were impressed by the quick acceleration of our 2016 Toyota Tundra TRD Pro test vehicle with the 5.7-liter engine. Buff magazine testing indicates a 0 to 60 mph acceleration time of 6.4 seconds. The EPA fuel economy estimate for this Double Cab model with four-wheel drive is 13 mpg city, 17 mpg highway and 15 mpg combined. We averaged 14.0 during the week we drove it.

Toyota offers an Off-Road Package on the SR5, Limited and 1794 models, but it's the TRD Pro that is the purpose built off-

road model. The TRD Pro name is embossed in the upper section of the rear fender on these models indicating that they are ready to head off road.

Standard features include an aluminum skid plate, aggressive 18-inch TRD black alloy wheels, special Michelin Off-Road tires and a special off-road suspension. It has Bilstein High-Performance shocks designed with special hydraulic bump stops, plus the shocks have piggyback external reservoirs for enhanced cooling and increased rod travel. We had a sample of what this truck could do about a year ago at a Toyota program in Oregon's Tillamook (Oregon) State Forest and it was impressive crawling over rocks and easily pulling up steep sandy hills.

The TRD Pro also has a special low restriction dual exhaust system that sounds great, especially during hard acceleration, however, it tends to be louder than we'd like during highway driving. Based on the model and configuration the Tundra towing capacity ranges from 9,800- to 10,500-pounds.

With its black leather trimmed seats with red stitching, Entune Audio with integrated navigation, backup camera and other TRD Pro features it's a very well-equipped off-road truck, but it lacks some of the creature comforts of the posh models like the Platinum and 1794 models. It's more of a "real" truck than one of the super comfortable highway cruisers.

The Toyota Tundra prices range from \$31,145, including the destination charge, for a two-wheel drive, regular cab up to \$50,775 for the CrewMax Platinum and the 1794 Edition.

For more on the 2016 Toyota Tundra go on line to <http://www.toyota.com/tundra/>. ☞



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Miniature Mediterranean Donkeys

By Laci Jones

Originating from the islands of Sardinia and Sicily, Miniature Mediterranean Donkeys were once used in grain mills and for carrying water in the 18th century.

The first Miniature Mediterranean Donkeys arrived in the United States in the early 1900's, according to The National Miniature Donkey Association (NMDA).

Today, these donkeys are nearly extinct in the Mediterranean as the small donkeys are mixed with larger breeds. However, they have recently become popular in the United States.

Kim Winton and Jim Speck, owners of AssN9 Ranch, started raising Miniature Mediterranean Donkeys on their 45-acre farm in Shawnee, Okla. When they moved to the farm, they initially purchased a standard-sized donkey to protect their livestock from the neighbor's dogs. They also wanted to own a miniature donkey to keep the standard-sized donkey company.

"[The miniature donkey] was pregnant when we got it," Winton remembered. "I was just totally smitten with that baby."

Initially, they did not know anything about miniature donkeys, but they learned and began competitively showing donkeys in 2012.

"The training, the handling, just showing itself is almost an art," she added. "There's a lot of subtle little things that the judges are looking for."

What the judges look for depends on the class. In a halter class, judges look for a balanced and proportional animal with straight legs and proper tracking—front legs follow back legs in

a straight line. They also look for good body condition and a "pretty" head, according to the breed standard.

In pleasure driving, where the donkeys pull a cart, the judges look for the correct harness assembly and fit, if the donkey properly executes the different speeds and a nice turnout (attire and overall "look" of the donkey, harness, driver and cart).

In showmanship, the judges look for appropriate attire, if the showman can make their animal behave and if the showman keeps the appropriate space relative to the judge.

The National Miniature Donkey Association holds sanctioned shows across the country. Winton and Speck attend eight to 12 shows in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Tennessee each year. They will also be attending a show in Arkansas this year.

Winton and Speck own approximately 30 head of donkeys. They ideally try to sell livestock, but they also try to improve their breeding program based on their goals.

When they need to add more conformation into their breeding program, Winton and Speck will purchase a "pretty" jennet.

"Our motto at the farm is pretty, performance and perfection," she explained. "Some people breed specifically for the halter animals and some breed specifically for performance."

Winton said their breeding program looks for the best halter animals and performance animals. Winton showed a jack that won Grand Champion jack in halter at the Kansas State Fair, but also won the high point award.

"High Point Champion is kind



Winton and Speck own approximately 30 head of donkeys in Shawnee, Okla. (Courtesy of Kim Winton)

of like winning a decathlon," Winton said. "There are many classes in hand, carting, racing, obstacles, jumping and halter that each have points associated with your placing in the class and the number of animals in the class. The overall high point champion collected the most point in the classes cumulatively."

Winton and Speck have retained their specific bloodline as their foundation stock, she added.

A trained miniature Mediterranean donkey with winning titles could cost upwards of \$5,000. However, this depends on the market and other factors. These donkeys can live 30 to 35 years. Winton said even 20-year-old jennets can still be in a breeding program if they are physically and mentally fit.

"I have heard of one or two that lived to be 40 or 50 years old," she added. "That would certainly be unusual."

With an average heights ranging from 30 to 34 inches, smaller

donkeys are generally considered more valuable to the "mico-mini" breeders and the larger end of the height range are more valuable to those interested in "performance competition" animals. These donkeys come in a variety of colors including sorrel, spotted, black, white, dark brown and gray-dun. Donkeys are tame, affectionate and very smart, she added.

"Donkeys get a bad rap for being stubborn," Winton said, "but they really have much more of a sense of preservation than a horse does."

While horses are considered a flight animal when confronted by a predator, Winton said donkeys might run a few feet before finding out what scared them. If a trainer handles the donkeys enough, they will trust him/her.

"It depends on what you're asking them to do and the amount of training," she added. "Obviously pulling a cart requires more training than standing still and looking pretty for a conformation halter class."

While donkeys are also not as fragile as a horse, they are susceptible to the same equine diseases. Winton said the immunizations and other required medicine are the same, but the miniature donkeys do not need as much protein in their diet.

"If you're working an average horse, you're probably going to give it 20 to 22 percent protein," she explained. "At eight to 12 percent protein, donkeys can get really fat."

When fed too much, horses and donkeys are prone to laminitis and hyperlipidemia, a lipid metabolism disorder, Winton added. Hyperlipidemia may lead to fatty infiltration of the liver, clinical signs of liver disease, loss of appetite and death, according to the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP).

To prevent these diseases, Winton said her show animals are kept in a dry lot to control how

much hay and pelleted feed they eat. The other donkeys are turned out to the pasture. Winton said she hopes to get her donkeys into the hands of 4-H kids in the future. The miniature donkeys are patient with kids, she added.

"They are just such wonderful special creatures," Winton said. "A lot of people use them for therapy animals, and they are really good for that."

While the Miniature Mediterranean Donkey business is competitive, Winton compared it to being a part of a family. In fact, they see many of the same people at shows across the United States.

"I've even shown another person's animal," she added. "[The woman] couldn't do a lot of the required running. I've shown her animal for her when I'm in the same class with my animal."

To get started in raising a Miniature Mediterranean Donkey, Winton recommended finding rep-




Winton and her Miniature Mediterranean Donkey named Diva compete in pleasure driving. (Courtesy of Kim Winton)

utable breeders. An owner needs to know how to check their teeth and feet because they are different from a horse. The breeder should guarantee the donkeys have been vaccinated and are healthy.

"Each farm we went to taught us something a little different about the way they move, about

the way their body should be built, about their legs and their heads and proportions," she explained. "I found them to be forthcoming with information."

For more information on Miniature Mediterranean Donkeys, visit www.assn9ranch.com and www.nmdaasset.com. 



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Colic in the horse: Part 2

By Lauren Lamb, DVM

Last month we talked about the clinical signs of colic and what to do when you notice signs of colic. This month we will discuss how to prevent colic. Some common causes of colic include inappropriate feed or hay, meal feeding, insufficient exercise and turnout, and poor gastrointestinal parasite management.

The most common cause of colic in horses is the domesticated meal feeding husbandry that has been adopted for them. Human gastrointestinal tracts are similar to a carnivore's and are designed to eat two to three meals a day. A horse, on the other hand, has a gastrointestinal system that is nothing like a human's and is designed to eat and digest small mouth fulls of poor quality grass and roughage for 12 to 16 hours a day.

They are also designed to be walking and moving while they are eating. Either due to convenience or lack of understanding of the horse's digestive physiology, we have developed a meal feeding management program for horses in a small confined area.

A horse's stomach is only five gallons in capacity. Feeding a horse more than five gallons of feed (especially grain or concentrate) at one time will result in feed being inadequately digested, which leads to large colon gas distention and displacement.

The best type of food that can be fed to a horse to prevent colic is a high fiber, high fat, low carbohydrate and an eight to 10 percent protein. Feeding a large amount of grass hay is also a great way to prevent colic.

The grass has the fiber, carbohydrate and protein content outlined above. It also provides a large amount of bulk food in the



Round worm impaction in a yearling. This impaction is in the jejunum, which is a portion of the small intestine. (Photo by Lauren Lamb)

colon to help maintain continuous digestive activity and help prevent the colon from becoming gas distended and displaced.

Horses chew the hay for a longer period of time compared to grain. This chewing will result in more saliva being placed in the stomach. The saliva is a key buffer to the acidic environment of the stomach and is important to preventing gastric ulcers.

If your horse is a performance horse and requires more calories than what can be supplied by just feeding hay or grass, you can supplement their energy requirement with concentrate feeds. As mentioned above, try to use feeds that are high in fat, fiber, 10 to 14

percent protein and low in carbohydrates. Examples of feeds with this type of formulation are Equine Senior, Ultium, Strategy, etc.

Traditionally sweet feed and oats have been the primary concentrates fed to horses. These types of feeds should be avoided when feeding horses, because they are high in carbohydrates, which end up being fermented in the large colon. This fermentation process will cause the colon to become gas distended. The gas distention in the colon will lead to a large colon displacement and colic.

A general rule to feeding horses concentrate feeds is to not exceed half the total weight of food fed

to a horse per day. For example, a 1,000-pound horse may need a total of 30 pounds of food (roughage and concentrate) per day to maintain their body condition. This 1,000-pound horse should not be fed more than 15 pounds of concentrate.

Abruptly changing the horse's diet can potentially lead to colic. This is common knowledge for most horse owners. For some horses a simple change in routine (feeding schedule, type of feed or exercise schedule) can completely turn their world upside down, while other horses tolerate these minor changes to their daily routine with minimal side effects. There are times when a change is

needed (out of normal food, need to change for nutritional reasons, changing stables, etc.). The following are some general guideline to follow when a change to the horse's diet is needed:

1. If you run out of the horse's normal concentrate or hay, try to feed a replacement that has a lower carbohydrate level and feed one-third less total volume of the normal ration.

2. Always make changes in feed over a seven to 10-day period.

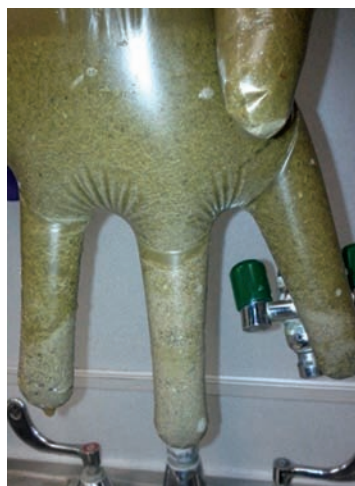
3. When increasing the nutrient value (hotter feed) of a concentrate feed for a horse, start by feeding a quarter of the volume of new feed with three-quarter volume of the old feed. Feed this one-quarter to three-quarter ration for three days, then increase ration to one-half new concentrate and one-half old concentrate for an additional three days. This process continues until the horse is on 100 percent new

concentrate. The same general rules apply to horses being fed grass hay and being switched to alfalfa.

The simple act of walking and moving has been shown to help maintain strong peristalsis. Peristalsis is the term used to describe the movement in the intestine walls that carries food to the next portion of the intestine.

A disruption in normal peristalsis is frequently a contributing factor to colic. Horses that are turned out most of the day are less likely to colic compared to horses that are housed in stalls all day. If your horse needs to be kept in a stall for reasons other than medical issues (lameness), they should be allowed some turnout each day. This turnout can be in a small paddock, or on a lunge line.

Horses housed on sandy ground should have their hay and concentrate fed off the ground and the pastures should not be grazed too



A test used by veterinarians to diagnose a potential sand impaction in a horse using a rectal palpation sleeve with horse feces and water. (Photo by Lauren Lamb)

sand will settle out in the colon and result in a sand impaction or obstruction that may require surgery to be resolved.

Having a strong deworming program can also help decrease the risk of colic which is especially important if you have a dense population of weanling and yearling horses at your stable. Weanlings and yearlings have an increased risk of round worm impaction compared to adult horses. Surgery is usually required to resolve a round worm impaction, and the horse has a poor prognosis following surgery.

In conclusion, we need to remember that horses have evolved over thousands of years to graze on small mouth fulls of grass for many hours in a day.

When we place a horse in a stall and feed high amounts of carbohydrates, we are significantly increasing the risk of a horse developing colic. ☞

short.

Feeding on the ground or over-grazing pastures with high sand content in the soil will lead to increase consumption of sand. This

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OKLAHOMA RODEOS

By Ddee Haynes

It rained at the fairgrounds in Shawnee, Okla., on Sept. 11-12. All three rodeo arenas were standing in mud. Not just a little mud, but a lot of mud. However, the mud did not keep the 250 plus dedicated cowgirls and cowboys at their trailers. Nope, these rodeo kids ranging from sixth grade to twelfth grade, hailing from all parts of the state of Oklahoma, some from Texas and even Kansas, came to rodeo. And rodeo is what they did regardless of arena and/or weather conditions.

That weekend kicked off the 2016-2017 season for the Oklahoma Junior High School Rodeo Association and the second rodeo of the season for the Oklahoma High School Rodeo Association. Both the OKHSRA and OKJHSRA are influenced by strong family involvement, dedicated to the development of sportsmanship, horsemanship and the building of character and development of leaders through the sport of rodeo. Both Oklahoma associations are charter members of the National High School Rodeo Association, Senior and Junior Divisions.

Approximately 100 to 150 student athletes per high school and junior division (the numbers tend to decrease by the end of the season) started this season with one ultimate goal. That goal is to qualify for the National Junior High or High School Finals at the end of the season.

For the junior high division events are barrel racing, tie down roping, ribbon roping, bareback riding, saddle bronc, pole bending, girls' and boys' breakaway roping, team roping, chute dogging, girls' and boys' goat tying and bull riding. The high school



Pole bender, Kendalyn Stueve, from Perry, Okla., competes at a Oklahoma Junior High School Rodeo Association sanctioned rodeo. (Photo by Sik Shot Photos)

division events are tie down roping, breakaway, bareback, saddle bronc, barrels, steer wrestling, girls' goat tying, team roping, poles and bull riding.

You may be wondering at this point exactly "What is nationals," and why is it so important to these rodeo kids? To answer your question, nationals is where the "best of the best" from each state/province will compete. The National Junior High or High School Finals Rodeo is the second largest rodeo in the world. Approximately 900 plus cowboys and cowgirls will go head-to-head to compete for thousands of dollars in scholarships and prizes over a seven day period.

To qualify for nationals, the Oklahoma members must first compete in 16 qualifying rodeos

on eight weekends with a rodeo on Saturday and Sunday, plus the state finals. The contestants and their families will travel to Oklahoma towns such as Shawnee, Woodward, Elk City, Thomas, McAlester, Ardmore, Guthrie and Pawhuska.

While the High School Division has been around for years, the Junior High Division has only been active for 12 years. It was established in 2004 by the NHSRA for sixth, seventh and eighth grade student athletes. Currently, 42 states, five Canadian provinces and Australia (comprising over 2,500 members) hold sanctioned Junior High Division Rodeos.

To become a member of these elite associations, proof must first be provided before the first fall rodeo that the student is enrolled

either in a public, private or home school. When the spring season kicks off the members must again provide proof that they are still enrolled in a school and have also met the grade and credit requirements for their first and second semesters.

Prior to the finals the contestants will once again be required to provide proof of enrollment and proof of passing grades in four or more subjects. This proof must be in a form of a letter on official letterhead and signed by an authority from the school. If this proof is not provided he/she will not be allowed to participate in the year-end finals.

The finals, which are held at the end of the 16 rodeos, consist of three days. The first two days See **RODEO** page 24



High school saddle bronc rider, Ean Price from Leedy, Okla., competes at a Oklahoma High School Rodeo Association sanctioned rodeo. (Photo by Sik Shot Photos)

are run as a normal rodeo. The third round known as the short-go is the final phase of the finals. In this round or go, only the top 15 with the most points per event will be allowed to move on and compete.

Points are accumulated at each rodeo as follows: First - 10, Second - nine, Third - eight and so on all the way down to tenth place which gets one point. Only the top ten in each event receive points. No participation points are awarded.

For the finals, in the first two rounds known as the long go's, each member will receive at least two runs or rides and the points are awarded the same as any other normal rodeo. The points

from these two rounds will then be added to the total points accumulated throughout the year. The points are then audited and the top 15 qualifiers for each event will be determined. Those top 15 high scoring cowboys and cowgirls will then compete in the final round known as the short-go.

The short-go points are awarded as any other rodeo. However, in addition to the normal points awarded per placing (first - 10 points and tenth - one point) average points are added in. Average points are awarded to the top 15 based on the first two rounds.

In the speed and timed events, the lowest times are of course the best, but in the rough stock the highest scores win. Average

points are calculated as follows: 15 for first and 1.5 points for tenth place. (1.5 points is dropped per placing).

When the dust settles and the scores are tabulated, only the top four high scoring individuals from each event will be qualified to compete at the National Junior High or High School Finals. This is a dream come true for the ones who do qualify and a heart breaking day for those who do not. More often than not the point spread between first place and fifth place is only a few points. Tears of joy and tears of disappointment will be shed that day, not only by the kids but also by the parents.

What happens to those who do not qualify? They move on. These

tough competitors may take a few days off, but within a week or less, I can almost guarantee they will be back in the practice pen hitting it hard. These kids are all winners because they are not quitters. Rodeo is a sport that is tough not only physically but mentally. You either crave it or hate it. Those who crave it will come back the next year, stronger, wiser and more determined than ever.

The rodeo road is not for everyone. But for those who dare to travel this road the rewards are not just the gold buckles, saddles, money, etc. The real awards are the lessons learned, the memories made and the lifelong friendships that are developed.

Safe travels! ☞

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The *SPEED* Breed

By Krista Lucas

What breed of horse runs at incredible speeds over long distances, jumps high fences and possesses large, strong bodies? That horse would be the Thoroughbred, a breed that has been developed over time to outrun any other horse breed.

Being the fastest and most valuable horse in the world, the Thoroughbred emerged around the late 1700s by crossing Arab stallions with English racing mares. Interestingly enough, those early Arab stallions were never raced themselves, yet produced some of the most famous early racing horses such as Eclipse and Flying Childers, who was unbeaten.

Horse racing would eventually become a very popular industry, and breeders would begin to only use horses with proven pedigrees. These horses come in mostly solid colors and average about 16 hands. Their heads are refined with a longer neck. Slop-

ing shoulders and a deep body and chest allow for strong, powerful strides. The breed also exhibits a short back, long legs and muscular hindquarters. Their attitude can be high-strung, which can be needed in the competitive sports of racing and jumping.

Thoroughbreds were originally raced over long distances between four and 12 miles. Eventually, races were cut shorter in order for horses to be raced at a younger age. These horses can begin their careers as early as two years old. The breed has changed very little over the last 150 years and is now bred and exported all over the world. Unlike the Quarter Horses, the Thoroughbred breed does not allow artificial insemination.

In racing, there are three categories: the sprinters, middle-distance and the stayers. The sprinters race between five and seven furlongs, or 1,000 to 1,500 yards, and are young horses with plenty of speed but little stamina.

Middle distances are races such as the Kentucky Derby that are 1-1 ¾ miles long. Stayers are even longer distances for mature horses.

This breed is not only good for racing but for other sporting events as well, such as jumping. Jumping horses are divided between steeplechasers and hurdlers. These horses must be tough and have plenty of stamina.

Over the years, several movies have been made about famous Thoroughbred racing horses. Secretariat and Seabiscuit were both champion racehorses that later had popular movies made about them. Perhaps the most famous racehorse of current times is American Pharoah. The stallion won the Triple Crown in 2015, being the first horse to do so in over 30 years. He also won the Breeders' Cup Classic that year, becoming the first ever to win the "Grand Slam" of horse racing. He earned over \$8 million on the track and has a stud fee of an incredible

\$200,000 for every healthy foal born.

There are many racetracks fans can visit for a fun day of horse racing. The closest to the north Texas area would be Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie. Thoroughbred racing runs from April 7 through July 17, 50 live action racing days. The 2016 Fall Meeting of Champions for American Quarter Horses will run from September 16 through November 12 on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Lone Star Park's grandstand offers several viewing levels, concession stands, bars, gift shops, as well as a live concert series during the summer.

The Thoroughbred, with its fine conformation, athleticism and smooth gaits make it an excellent riding horse as well. Crossing these athletes with calmer horses can produce many types of sport horses and has even created Anglo-Arab, Hanoverian, Trakehner, and the Westphalian breeds. ☒

Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie. (Courtesy photo)



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Queen



For cowboys and cowgirls, Queen City, has 27 years of tradition. “Where I was raised, everyone was dressed up with their ‘britches,’” says Koger, who was born in Queen City with the nickname “Shorty.”

Until her ninth grade year, Koger worked for the Queen City Company, and the family rode with the company. “It was like moving to New Mexico,” she says. The Koger family lived in Queen City until Koger trained the colt and rode with the company. Out of her three siblings, she was the one who rode the back end of the truck with the company.

“When I look back on it, I realize I was a businesswoman. After attending a business school in Queen City in 1968, Koger partnered on a business with her husband. “I didn’t have a clue how to make shaped hats, so I could learn from the best,” she says.

er of Hats

Shorty Koger



Shorty's Cowboy Hattery

cowgirls, no outfit is complete without a cowboy hat. Lavonna "Shorty" Koger, owner of Shorty's Cowboy Hattery in the historic Stockyard
ers of experience in setting western cowboy hats trends. Even at a young age, Koger knew she was destined to be a cowgirl.
s raised, it just so happened that Randolph Scott and Ben Johnson lived in that area," she explained. "I would see them on the streets all
britches' stuffed into their boots, wearing pretty shirts and hats. I just always wanted to grow up and be like them."
rn in Oklahoma City, got her nickname from being the youngest of four children. She said she was the "runt" of the family, giving her the

le year, she went to school with 25 other students in the community of Gray Horse near Fairfax, Okla. Her father worked for Continental Oil
ily moved to Moore, Okla., in 1955.

y to New York City," she said with a laugh.

ived out on a farm where they raised cattle and grew wheat, but she wanted a horse. Her dad gave her a calf and traded him for a small colt.
and started competing in all-girl rodeos in the late '50s.

lings, Koger was the only sibling to compete in rodeos. The Koger family traveled to local rodeos in a truck, and the horse jumped in the
with the cattle racks. Not only did Koger run barrels at these rodeos, but she also rode bulls for a couple of years.

on it, I think that I must have been crazy," Koger added. "It was fun at the time. When you're young, you have no fear."

usiness college in Oklahoma City, Koger went to work at a paper manufacturing company in the '60s, located in present day Bricktown. In
on a small western store in Moore, Okla. They had a good business, but the most challenging part was shaping the hats.

he how to shape hats, but I always had a love for hats and western wear," she said. "When I had my western store, I decided I would order
uld learn how to shape them."

Koger taught herself how to shape hats, even using a hot teakettle to shape hats at rodeos. Koger compared shaping hats to molding clay and other materials, and she had that natural ability. When her father died, Koger sold her part of the business.

She met a few people and helped them start a business and designed security systems and she also had a janitorial service. She sold these security systems during the day, and was a janitor by night. Later, Koger interviewed to sell women's western wear on the road for Dickson-Jenkins.

"The owner says, 'I've never heard of a woman driving the road. I don't think you can do this,'" Koger recalled. "I said, 'Oh yes, I can do this. Give me a chance.'"

The Italian owner gave her one year to prove she could sell women's clothing on the road. Koger became the top salesperson for that western women's clothing line in the United States. Koger recalled a big sales meeting at a fine restaurant in Dallas, and the owner wanted to Koger to wear a dress to this meeting.

"I said, 'A dress? I don't sell dresses. I sell women's western wear, and I'll wear a suit,'" she added.

After six years of traveling to Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Arkansas, Koger quit in 1980. Koger said she did what she needed to survive, but she still loved the hat business.

"I just had a love for hats all of those years," she explained. "I've done a lot of things occupational-wise, but my love has always been for hats."

Koger got the idea to start her own business when her brother sent their father's hats to a hat manufacturer in Texas to be cleaned.

When they got them back, the hats were ruined. Her brother said, "Shorty, as much as you love hats, you ought to clean hats for a living."



This custom cowboy hat, designed by Shorty's Caboy Hattery, will be worn by Michelle McLeod at this year's National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, Nev. (Photo by Laci Jones)

A bell went off in her head, and she started researching how to open a western store. She called several stores and talked to an individual in Kansas. She asked if he would teach her how to clean hats. He said no, but he gave her a number of someone who could help her. The other individual said he would train her for two days, but it would cost her \$1,500 that she did not have.

"They will not teach you how to clean hats because they didn't want you in the business," she explained. "You couldn't find anyone to help you with anything."

After researching for a year, she was introduced to Shorty Barnett. Barnett owned a small shop on Britton Road in Oklahoma City.

After a week of thinking, she revisited Barnett and asked if he

would sell the business. Unfortunately, he already had a buyer from Duncan, Okla.

"My heart just fell," she remembered. "I said, 'Well, when are they going to be here? Maybe there's a chance they will not show up. Would you sell it to me?'"

Barnett said he would sell it to Koger if the other buyer did not show up.

On the day of the sale, Koger arrived thirty minutes early, and the other buyer did not show. Koger bought the business that morning with the help of her three siblings.

Her business would not have been possible without the help of her two sisters and brother, she added.

"I got this business and it required a lot of sewing—ribbons, hat bands and sweat bands," she

explained. "I was never good at sewing. I flunked on that when I was in school because I'm left-handed and nobody could teach me how to sew."

Barnett trained her for two weeks on cleaning hats. Koger said his mother was left-handed, so his mother taught Koger what she needed to know about sewing.

When she took over the business, she rented a store on Britton Road near Barnett's shop. Koger said she wanted to stay on Britton Road and hone her skills before working with "real cowboys."

Cleaning hats has basically the same steps as making them, so Koger decided to start making hats. Koger could not afford new equipment, so she used Barnett's "rigged up" equipment including
Continued on page 32

THE FALL GATHERIN'

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- 20 - Angus & Black Baldy 3 & 4 year old fall born pairs with Angus sired calves.
- 40 - Brangus 3 to 5 years with Angus sired calves at side.
- 20 - Tigerstripe F1 Braford cows 3 to 5 years with Angus calves at side.
- 10 - Red Angus cows 3 to 5 years with Angus sired calves.

BRED COWS

- 85 - Angus & Black Baldy fall calving cows 3 & 4 years of age bred to Angus bulls. Several pairs by sale.
- 362 - Angus bred spring calving cows 3 & 4 years from DOK Ranch bred to Holloway Angus bulls for spring calving.
- 68 - Black Baldy bred spring calving 3 & 4 year old cows bred to Angus bulls for spring calving.
- 155 - Red Angus bred spring calving cows 3 & 4 years safe to Angus bulls for spring calving.
- 60 - Brangus bred fall calving cows safe to Angus bulls 3 to 5 years many with calves by sale.
- 40 - Tigerstripe true F1 Brafords heavy bred cows 3 to 6 years.
- 130 - Angus second calf bred spring calving cows bred to Express Ranch Angus bulls.
- 118 - Angus & Black Baldy bred spring calving cows 4 & 5 years safe to Hinkson Angus bulls.
- 147 - Angus spring calving cows 3 to 5 years bred to sons of Connealy Consensus from Hughes Ranch.
- 187 - Brangus & Angus plus bred spring calving cows 3 to 5 years bred to Angus & Charolais bulls.

BRED HEIFERS

- 96 - Angus bred heifers to calve 2-15-17 for 30 days safe to Bushwacker light birth Angus sires. One raising 1,000 lb. heifers.
- 40 - Black Baldy heifers to calve 2-15-17 for 30 days safe to Bushwacker light birth Angus sires.
- 52 - Brangus Super Baldy heifers sired by Gardiner Angus bulls bred to Bushwacker light birth Angus sons for 30 day calving to start 2-15-17.
- 65 - Ultrablack heifers sired by Gardiner Angus bulls bred to Bushwacker light birth Angus sons for 30 day calving to start 2-15-17.
- 60 - Angus bred heifers to calve 3-15-17 for 30 days safe to Bushwacker light birth Angus sired.
- 110 - Angus heifers bred to Connealy Consensus light birth Angus sons to calve 2-25-17 for 30 days.

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Continued from page 30

a “beer keg” boiler to create steam to start the process of shaping hats.

“The boiler looked like it was sitting on a saddle,” she explained. “It had a pipe going up. A lime green golf ball on top of the pipe held with baling wire was used as the pressure valve. If it was to ever blow, it would blow that golf ball off.”

After using the contraption for about a month, the fire department inspected Koger’s new shop. The fire marshal questioned what the boiler was and how it worked.

“Back then, I smoked,” she chuckled. “So there I am smoking with a gas-operated, rigged-up thing.”

After she explained how the equipment worked, the fire marshal left the room. When he came back, he put a big red sticker on the boiler and said, “You’re shut down.” A new boiler cost \$1,500, and Koger started saving.

“Back then, I renovated hats for \$45 apiece,” she explained. “That’s not very much money, so I went to the bank and borrowed the money to buy a boiler.”

Koger wished she kept the boiler for sentimental reasons. Koger worked by herself for a while until she got the help of Jean Sands who helped sew on weekends. She taught herself how to make hats, but she said it has taken a long time to become good at it.

The first custom hat Koger made was for herself, but she said her biggest critic was men. Koger promoted her business at small livestock shows. Her sister, helped Koger decorate her 10-by-10 booth with serape blankets and lights, and she hung her hats on clean tree limbs.

“When I finally started selling hats, I would come back at night and make them,” Koger remembered. “I just had one lady who

helped me, and then I had to hire more people.”

After three years at the shop on Britton Road, Koger moved the business to Stockyards City. Shorty’s Caboy Hattery outgrew the 1,900-square foot building and moved into its current location in the district two years ago. The building was gutted, and Koger did all of the remodeling with help from a couple of friends.

In her 27 years of experience, Koger said the style of cowboy hats has changed. When she first started, the crowns of cowboy hats were taller, and the brims were shorter. She said the style

“I just had a love for hats all of those years. I’ve done a lot of things occupational-wise, but my love has always been for hats.”

-Shorty

of the shorter crowns and wider brims used today look better on an individual.

“When I design a hat, I can look at the person and know what would look good on them according to the shape of their face, their height and weight,” she explained. “I just have that knack to be able to do that all of these years. It’s just something God gave me.”

More design elements are added into the binding on the hat and the ribbing around the edges of the hat. Koger said whip-lace brims is an old style, but it was only seen in movies.

“I’ve kind of brought that to the industry,” she added. “We do all kinds of designs. I laser under the hat which looks like it’s actually burnt into the bottom of the brim.”

Koger brought the buck stitch style back to the industry as well. They also make hand-beaded hat bands, which is time consuming and difficult.

Koger said they have set trends in the hat industry. She said her favorite trend is the buck stitch because it is “old-timey.”

“I could remember it back when I was a child—the buck stitch belts and the buck stitch saddles,” she added.

When asked what her inspiration for these trends come from, she said it is just something she has within her. She said all of her hats are her favorite.

survivor, and was inspired by her sister to use proceeds from her hats to help cancer patients who do not have insurance. Her sister, Shirley Bowman, was diagnosed with breast cancer, but she still worked for Koger even when she had chemotherapy. Bowman did not have insurance, and she died in 2004.

“I made her a pink hat before she died,” she remembered. “I gave it to her a week before she passed away, but she wore that hat everywhere.”

Koger was diagnosed with breast cancer that same year, but she did not tell her sister. Koger had a double mastectomy two days after her sister’s funeral. Koger is healthy today, but the loss of her sister still influences her to give back.

Koger met Tracie Anderson, the director of clinical operations at the OU Cancer Institute now known as the Stephenson Cancer Center, and started Rein In Cancer.

“We raise money through the horse industry,” she added. “There’s an endowment in my sister’s name called the Shirley Bowman Nutritional Clinic at the Charles and Peggy Stephenson Cancer Center in Oklahoma City.”

Koger said they have raised over \$1 million to support that clinic, which is free to cancer patients.

They also support people diagnosed with cancer within the horse industry. Koger has also donated many hats to be auctioned for other fundraisers.

Koger will donate a hat, and a silent auction will be held at Shorty’s Caboy Hattery booth at the AQHA World Championship Show in November, she added.

“I don’t know how much I donate,” she said. “It doesn’t matter. If it relates to cancer, I’m in.” ☒



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by *Sara Honegger*



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Holiday Preparations

November is here which means the holidays are right around the corner; are you ready? I try to give myself enough time to come up with custom gifts for the special people in my life, and to allow for shipping for those gifts that are cheaper online. I love finding deals with wholesale companies such as Qupid shoes. They have versions of all of the latest styles, for half the price of the name brands, which makes it an ideal gift for the trendy girls in your life. For the jewelry lovers, Kendra Scott allows you to customize jewelry online from the style, to the metals and the stones. Necklaces start at \$50 and my dream necklace ended up being \$65, so it would be a great option to show someone you know them well, and give a gift that will last a lifetime. My final go-to are custom leather pieces and accessories. They will remain timeless and functional for every occasion. The best gifts are ones that can be worn often, so they are always reminded of the special person who gave it to them. ☒

LACEY'S PANTRY

By Lacey Newlin



Three Cheese RIGATONI PIE

Serves: 10-12

Time: 90 minutes

INGREDIENTS

- 1-pound Rigatoni
- 1 jar of your favorite pasta sauce (approximately 2.5 cups, give or take.)
- ½ cup of water
- 2 Tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1-pound ground beef or ground pork
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese
- 1 container cottage cheese (or ricotta cheese)
- 1 large egg
- 1-1/2 to 2 cups mozzarella cheese

INSTRUCTIONS

Cook the Rigatoni in a large pot of salted, boiling water. Make sure you use enough water because the rigatoni sucks up a lot. Cook it about one minute less than the package directions so it is still hard enough to stand up. Drain the pasta and rinse under cold water.

Toss pasta with one tablespoon of oil to prevent it from sticking. Then add the Parmesan cheese and toss until the cheese is evenly distributed. Set aside. In a large frying pan, brown the ground beef in one tablespoon of oil. Drain away the fat once cooked. Add the jar of pasta sauce and water and bring to a boil.

Reduce heat. Cover and simmer for at least 20 minutes. The longer the sauce simmers, the better, but make sure you add more water if it all boils off. Remove from heat and let it cool for 10 minutes. Mix together the container of cottage cheese and the egg. Set aside. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit.

Grease a 9-inch spring form pan. Take the cooked rigatoni and stand each piece up on its end in the pan. Continue until the whole pan is tightly packed. Pour the cottage cheese mixture over the rigatoni and spread evenly over all of the noodles.

Pour the meat mixture over top and spread evenly over the noodles. Use your finger to poke the meat and cheese mixture down into the noodles. The more patience you have with this step, the better it will be. Bake for 15 minutes at 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Remove from the oven and top with the mozzarella cheese. Bake for another 15 minutes at 400 degrees Fahrenheit.

Let stand for 10 minutes then run a knife around the edge of the pan to help remove the spring form pan. ☞





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Look Out here comes the next generation **PART 6**

By Judy Wade

All Garrett Elmore wanted for his third birthday was a hot shot. Being a good grandmother, Mema Elmore bought him one. The next morning, he walked into the arena with his hot shot where his mother was helping his sisters practice and said, “Mom, just call me ‘Hot Shot Boy.’” The nickname stuck, and he has been “Hot Shot” ever since.

The sixteen-year-old son of Kelly and Tammy Elmore of Springer, Okla., is a sophomore at Global Harvest Christian School in Ardmore, Okla.

“I like school,” he commented. “We’re small enough that I get lots of one-on-one and extra time with my teachers if I need it.”

Elmore began rodeoing when he was three or four, competing in barrels, poles, mutton bustin’ and the goat ribbon pull. Now a member of Oklahoma High School Rodeo Association, United States Team Roping Association and International Finals Rodeo Association, he concentrates on team roping, both heading and heeling, and tie-down calf roping.

Some of his most memorable wins include winning the number 12 USTRC Shootout in Guthrie, Okla., in 2015, winning the second round of the IFYA in Shawnee and the second round at the High School National Finals in Gillette, Wyo., in 2016. He was also the state champion in tie-down in the Oklahoma Junior High School Rodeo Association and the All Around Cowboy in both his sev-



Elmore catching a calf at the Ultimate Calf Roping in Glen Rose, Texas. (Courtesy of Tammy Elmore)

enth and eighth grade years.

He was the Rookie of the Year in 2016 for the Oklahoma High School Rodeo Association. This adds up to numerous saddles, a basket full of buckles, bits, spurs, breast collars and worlds of other prizes in addition to the money.

“I love winning money. That is always a plus,” Elmore laughed, “but mainly I just like to be competitive.”

His equine partners are a big part of his being able to be competitive.

“I ride Maverick, a 13-year-old flea-bit grey for heading,”

he explained. “He is fast across the line and allows me to win big events.”

For tie-down roping, Ruby, a 12-year-old bay mare is his main mount.

“Ruby scores well and has a big stop. I like what she does,” he continued.

Another big part of his success can be attributed to his family.

“My family has been in rodeo as long as I can remember,” Elmore related. “I never wanted to do anything else. My parents spend their time and money to make sure I stay competitive and positive. I

am thankful for the way they have brought me up and helped me live for God each day.”

His dad is a team roper, and both of his sisters, Rylee and Kelsey, tied goats, ran barrels and roped. Rylee was Oklahoma State Champion in goat tying twice.

His mother said, “My kids had the opportunity to do so much that Kelly and I would have loved to do, and it has been so much fun.”

Elmore gives credit for his success to others who have helped him, also.

“Clay Hurst has helped me with

my team roping, and Bryce Murray has taught me a lot about calf roping," he said.

Elmore said he has multiple idols. He respects different people for different things, but he said their actions and beliefs are important to him.

"I practice every day after school," Elmore remarked. "We have an open arena at home; Clay has an open arena down the road; I have access to a covered arena and my cousin Brady Norman has a covered calf run across the road, so I have places to practice."

The tall, long-legged teen said his goal this year is to qualify for the National High School Finals back in Gillette in both team roping and tie-down. As far as long-range plans, he would like to go to college and get certified in equine dentistry and equine chiropractics.

"That will allow me to keep rodeoing, but I will have my degree,



Elmore heads a steer at the National High School Rodeo in Gillette, Wyo. (Courtesy of Tammy Elmore)

my education, to fall back on. No one can take that away from me," he explained.

Elmore had the following advice for any young people considering rodeo: "Put in the time and you'll see results. It may not be

instant; it will take some time."

Instead of "Hot Shot Boy," Garrett could just as well be called "Miracle Boy." When he was almost a one year old, he fell in his aunt and uncle's swimming pool. When he was discovered, he was

not breathing. He was rushed to the hospital in Ardmore, Okla., then air lifted to Oklahoma City. He miraculously left the hospital with no ill effects. This polite, talented, articulate young man is truly a miracle. ☞



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Life of a Ranch Wife

By Lanna Mills



It is hard to believe that another month has come and gone. Like always we've been busy on the ranch. We had a wonderful Halloween with lots of candy and treats. Our little boy, Stockton was so cute in his costume along with all the other kiddos. The days are getting shorter which means less time to get everything done or working in the dark.

For those of you wondering how helping the neighboring ranchers and long-time family friend I spoke about previously went, it couldn't have been better. The weather was perfect. We got to meet new folks. The drive was pleasant. Operations went smoothly, and we got to visit and catch up with old friends.

We have got puppies on the

ranch. Seven little blue heelers, five males and two females. Though in a few short weeks they will be headed to new homes, it is fun to cuddle and play with them while they are here. Stockton is not quite sure what to think of them. He likes them if they keep their distance. Our first litter was an accident, but so many people wanted one than we decided to let her have more. Man, are they cute.

The cows have been calving like crazy lately which means a branding is in store. We are old fashioned—some may say behind the times. We still do everything horseback, no four wheelers or buggies, and we drag our calves to the fire. Why change what has worked so well for hundreds of

years? Brandings are one of my most favorite things. It is a social event with a lot of great friends coming together to help out. We enjoy watching the kids learning the ways of ranching and learning responsibility.

The colder weather means even more to be done. The cattle will require more feed. If there is snow on the ground, hay will need to be put out.

When the temperature falls below freezing the ice will need to be broken so that the cattle and horses can drink. Staying indoors where it is nice and warm is tempting, but part of ranching is putting your own desires on the back burner to care for the stock. The heaters in the trucks work great so it could be worse.

This time of year is all about family and giving thanks. Thanksgiving is right around the corner. I have a lot to be thankful for. I am thankful for my family who is always there for me, for the ranch that provides for us, for the cattle that feed us, for the Lord who makes it all possible and for many, many more things.

Family from near and far will gather for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner of turkey with all the trimmings. After finishing off all those left-overs we will put up the Christmas tree and begin gathering gifts.

Y'all have a wonderful Thanksgiving. Be sure to eat plenty of turkey and pumpkin pie. Check back next issue for more life of a ranch wife. ☞



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RED DIRT STAGES

By Dillon Steen

Oklahoma has a rich history in being the birthplace of Red Dirt music so it is just natural that many of the live music venues also have attention-grabbing history. Oklahoma offers many venues to hear your favorite Red Dirt artists, more than I can name in one article. I am not sure there is a complete definitive list. See this music flows so thickly through artists' veins that there is no way to contain it to just a few stages.

Good music venues bring in artists that patrons want to hear while also introducing them to new music. These venues treat the bands and patrons with respect while promoting the shows. They make sure all of the "trash" is taken out, making it a fun evening for the bands and patrons. For me, what makes a venue so great is friendliness, fair prices and good music.

The Arbuckle Ballroom in Davis, Okla., has a history that is rich with stories from the biggest names to the artist just starting out. The Arbuckle Ballroom was open for more than 40 years. Legendary artists including Johnny Cash and George Strait have performed at the ballroom.

It was rumored earlier this year that the Arbuckle might reopen, but so far that has not happened. If it ever does, it has richness inside its walls that no amount of money could pay for.

When I asked folks on social media to list some of their favorite venues, I got the usual names: Cain's Ballroom, Wormy Dog Saloon, Tumbleweed, all the Gilley's, and even the live music stages in the casinos got very favorable mentions. Some are even owned by artists themselves:



Tumbleweed, a favorite music venue among music enthusiasts, is located in Stillwater, Okla. (Photo by Ryan Regalado)

Grady's 66 Pub, owned by Grady Cross of Cross Canadian Ragweed fame, and Stoney Larue's Music House has just recently been opened, also.

Some of my social media friends even brought up some names of the past: Janie's on Shields in Oklahoma City, the original Cimarron Ballroom in Tulsa and Cimarron Country Ballroom in Stillwater, Okla. Most venues close because of the lack of support from the public. It takes money to keep the venue open, and many people do not want to pay a cover charge. The economy is hard on everyone, but you cannot expect to enjoy live music and not pay a little for it.

All of these are great venues, of course, but let's not forget some of the others, also. Guitar Bar, Cowboy's, Whiskey Chicks, JJ's Alley, just to name a few. Like

I said before, I could go on for quite a while with all the names of venues, but that's not why I write these articles.

I write them in hopes that it peaks your interest enough to get out and explore a little on your own. You would be surprised at the gems you will find when just rolling around the countryside.


I had the pleasure of finding out about a little place in Pittsburg, Okla., this past weekend. It is called Hick's Hideout, and they host acoustic shows there. Like the name suggests, Hick's Hideout is a small venue with a laid-back vibe. It reminded me of the old neighborhood honky tonk venues from back in the day. They are great folks who are very friendly and treat the artists and patrons just like family.

The Twisted Mule Saloon in Elk City, Okla., is a new venue

(owned by artists, too) that is solidly building a name for itself by bringing in great shows and treating everyone with the utmost respect.

I have not visited the Twisted Mule Saloon yet, but I have talked with artists who have played there. I have also worked with one of the owners in his band, and he is top notch.

To wrap up, my point in this article is that there are red dirt stages in every part of Oklahoma. You might find them in the city, or you might find them down the end of an old red dirt road, but if you look and listen you will find it.

No matter what, go explore, find some new venues and some new artists and enjoy. Continue going to all the favorites, of course, but never forget there is a world of stages waiting for you to join them. 

Bosco Joe's

By Joanne Jones



(Left to right) Jones ordered the chicken fried steak with mashed potatoes, gravy, pinto beans and corn bread at Bosco Joe's. Bosco Joe's signature signature barbecue sauces include mild, hot and fire as well as the garlic white sauce. (Photos by Joanne Jones)

Not too long ago I made a run over to Seminole, Okla., and chose to dine at Bosco Joe's steak house at 2218 N. Milt Phillips Ave. The sign out front gave no clue as to what waited inside for me other than it promised to be "Lip Lickin' Good." I entered into a cowboy-themed atmosphere.

The walls were filled with wainscoting made out of bead board and cowboy memorabilia. The numerous cowboy pictures were all by the same artist, Mary Foster. The owner liked Foster's work so much he bought her entire cowboy line.

A large painting of a chuck wagon and dogs hung prominently by the bar. I later found out the dogs in the painting were Daisy May and Bosco, the dogs of the owner and founder of Bosco Joe's. Bosco Joe's restaurant was named in honor of a good, well-loved dog.

Bosco Joe was the dog on the right in the picture and Daisy May was his mother. Sadly, Daisy May and Bosco Joe both passed away this last year a few months apart.

My friend and I had difficulty deciding what we wanted from the many smoked meats on the menu. I finally decided to try the chicken fried steak with mashed potatoes, gravy, pinto beans and corn bread.

My friend ordered the St. Louis ribs with fries, Texas toast and fried okra. We both had sweet tea with our meals. We found out they serve fried green tomatoes, so we decided to have them as an appetizer.

The fried green tomatoes arrived with a bowl of ranch dressing for dipping. I had to try one without any dressing first. Of course, it was too hot to taste. I had to wait a few minutes and try again.

When I took my first bite of

my second piece, I slowly savored the flavor profile. I tasted the soft, sweet dill in the seasoning. The tomatoes were good, but they were not the best part of the meal in my opinion.

My chicken fried steak was piping hot and crispy and lightly seasoned. The mashed potatoes were thick, chunky and buttery—good country mashed potatoes. The cornbread made me think of my mother's cornbread when I was a child, a thick grainy yellow cornbread, ready to just fall apart in the beans. The waitress asked if I wanted onions for my beans. Yes, every bowl of beans deserves to be complimented with a good sweet onion.

The beans were by far the best bowl I have ever had. They were in a thick broth with only a minimal amount of ham for flavor. These beans had the perfect amount of seasoning. Usually salt is my friend at a restaurant,

but I had no need for it at Bosco Joe's except for my lemons. (I am a lemon fiend. I always order a bowl of lemons and sit and eat them before and after my food. My grandchildren cringe when they are with me.)

I would return to Bosco Joe's just for a pint of beans to take home with me. If you love a good bowl of beans, Bosco Joe's is the place to come.

The St. Louis ribs were served with the endless fries. French fries at Bosco Joe's are unlimited, and the plate full of fries made me wonder how anyone could possibly eat more than that one plate. Her okra was crisp and salted to perfection.

The ribs had a sweet sauce that was put on after smoking them. This a special sauce that is only used on the St. Louis ribs. They told us that the sauce was not one of their signature sauces that sit out on the table.

The ribs were quite tasty (I got a sample from my friend.) I liked the sweet barbecue sauce. I sampled the garlic white sauce and the mild barbecue sauce, but I did not try the hot or fire sauces. I liked the mild and would use the garlic too.

We had a chance to talk to one of the managers and it was easy to tell he was proud of the food they serve. He told us the prime rib is one of their most-ordered dishes and that their baked beans recipe was given to them by one of their regular customer's grandmother.

Bosco Joe's recently moved to the present location on May 1st. Prior to that, they were down the street at 129 N. Milt Phillips where they opened in May of 2010.

They were pleased to be able to move and reopen close to the anniversary of their grand opening. The owners are presently working towards opening a pizza place in their old building with plans




The St. Louis ribs were served with the endless fries. (Photos by Joanne Jones)

of calling it Boscoli's; however, it will not be ready until spring sometime.

So if you like to cowboy up

on your meal or just want a good country style meal, Bosco Joe's is the place to try. They will not let you go away hungry. Their food

lives up to their sign out front: it is "Lip Lickin' Good!" Go hungry, enjoy the food and leave full. Happy eating! 

An advertisement for McClain's Store. At the top left is a sign that reads "McCLAIN'S STORE Since 1950" and "There is no place...like this place". To the right is a yellow Shell gas pump. In the center is a grey tufted sofa with cow print and light blue pillows. In the foreground is a wooden coffee table with a crocodile figurine and a toy train. The background is a wall of log ends. Text on the right reads: "Unique & unusual emporium of antiques & fine new furnishings Matt McClain-918-687-6561 1305 S. 32nd St, Hwy 69 South & Border Muskogee, Oklahoma".

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 2

ENLOW RANCH AUCTION. *Enlow Ranch. Tulsa, OK 74131.* Come on out to our monthly auction. Enlow auction service has more than 50 years experience. Not only are we reliable, but we have the knowledge to sell items right. We know and understand that selling a farm or estate can be difficult. We are able to handle everything for you. Call **918-224-7676** for more information.

NOVEMBER 3

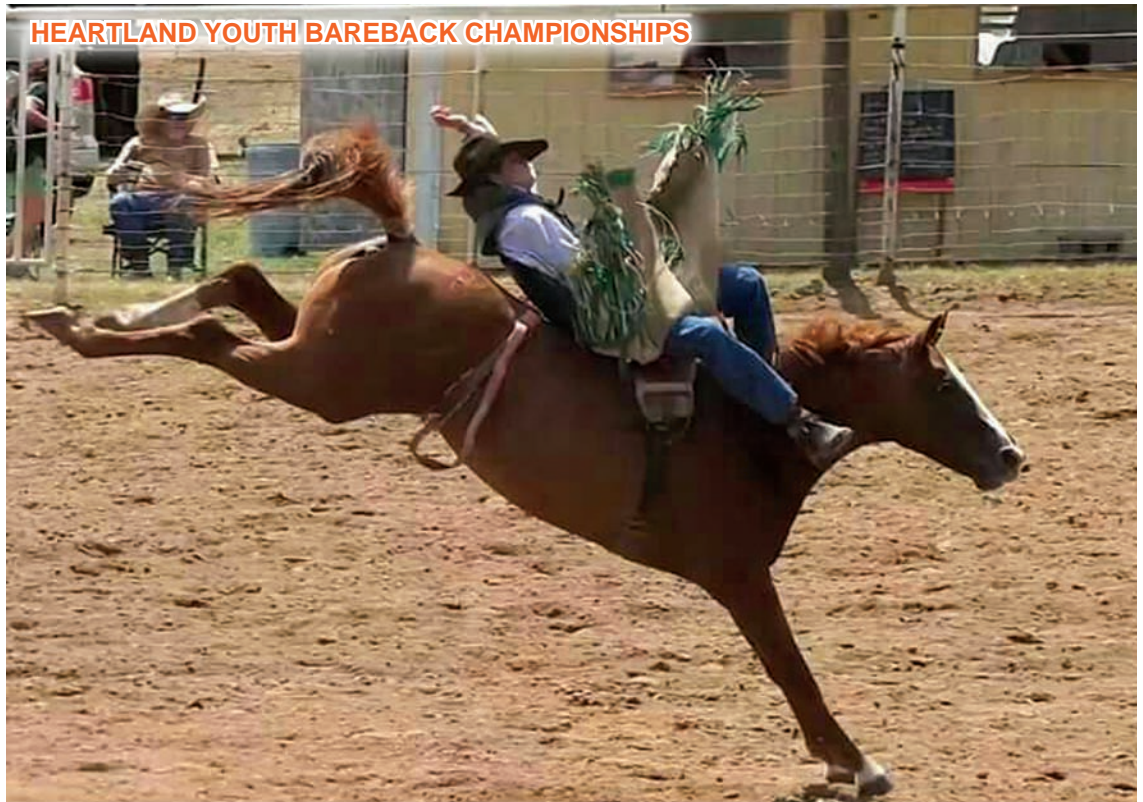
WILL ROGERS DAYS, *Will Rogers Memorial Museum, Claremore, OK 74017.* Will Rogers Days celebrates the Nov. 4, 1879 birth of Will Rogers, Oklahoma's favorite son, as well as the opening of the Will Rogers Memorial Museum on Nov. 4, 1938. An array of festivities will take place on Nov. 3-6 to commemorate this date, including Will Rogers' birthday celebration. For more information, visit www.visitclaremore.org.

NOVEMBER 3

DUNCAN ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW, *Stephens County Fair & Expo Center. Duncan, OK 73533.* Enjoy a whole weekend of handmade wares at the Duncan Arts and Crafts Show on Nov. 3-5. Centered at the Stephens County Fair and Expo Center, this one of a kind arts and crafts show spotlights local and regional crafts.

NOVEMBER 4

AMERICAN FINALS RODEO, *Tulsa Expo Square. Tulsa, OK 74114.* The American Cowboys Rodeo Association presents the American Finals Rodeo this November at the Built Ford Tough Arena at the Tulsa Fairgrounds on Nov. 4-6. This 40th anniversary event will feature action-packed rodeo performances each day. For more information, visit www.acrarodeo.com.



NOVEMBER 4

CHEROKEE HERITAGE DAYS AT HAR-BER VILLAGE, *Har-Ber Village Museum. Grove, OK 74344.* Har-Ber Village Museum will be filled with the treasured history of the Cherokee Nation. Many demonstrations will take place within the village during Cherokee Heritage Day. Guests can browse through vendor tables to purchase unique gifts on Nov. 4-5. Visit www.har-bervillage.com for more information.

NOVEMBER 5

COTTON FESTIVAL & CHILI COOK-OFF, *Tillman County Courthouse. Frederick, OK 73542.* Come to the Cotton Festival & Chili Cook-Off and celebrate the town's strong farming history. This annual event will feature cotton crafts, cotton spinning, weaving, cotton displays, local cotton gin tours, antique farm equipment and tractors. Visit www.frederickokchamber.org for more information.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 8

COLOR BREED CONGRESS, *Tulsa Expo Square. Tulsa, OK 74114.* The Pinto Horse Association of America presents the Color Breed Congress on Nov. 8-13, a show exhibiting four separate horse breeds simultaneously. Participating associations in the show include the Pinto Horse Association, Palomino Horse Breeders of America, Appaloosa Horse Club and the American Buckskin Registry Association. For more information, visit www.colorbreedcongress.com.

NOVEMBER 11

VETERANS DAY PARADE, *Downtown McAlester. McAlester, OK 74502.* Honor those who have served the United States military during the Veterans Day Parade in historic downtown McAlester. Visit www.cityofmcalester.com for more information.

NOVEMBER 12

WANENMACHER'S TULSA ARMS SHOW, *Tulsa Expo Square. Tulsa, OK 74153.* The Wanenmacher's Tulsa Arms Show is one of the largest firearms shows in the world. This show takes place on Nov. 12-13 and features more than 4,100 exhibits including fine antique and modern firearms, knives, swords and accessories on display and for sale. For more information, visit www.tulsaarmsshow.com.

NOVEMBER 18

DICKENS ON THE BOULEVARD, *Historic Downtown. Claremore, OK 74017.* Dickens on the Boulevard is a Victorian-themed holiday festival in historic downtown Claremore on Nov. 18-19. Browse through the festive shops and decorated boutiques of downtown Claremore or enjoy a Christmas-themed wagon ride through the town. For more information, visit www.visitclaremore.org.

NOVEMBER 18

CAMPFIRES, CATTLE & COWBOYS POETRY GATHERING, *Chisholm Trail Heritage Center. Duncan, OK 73533.* The Campfires, Cattle and Cowboys Poetry Gathering will feature western tunes and plenty of wild west-themed spoken and sung poetry for all to hear. Local talent will share their carefully crafted poems as part of the open mic portion of the night's festivities. Headliner R.J. Vandygriff will deliver his musical prowess to cap off the night brimming with creative cowboys. Visit www.onthechisholmtrail.com for more information.

NOVEMBER 19

A-OK ALPACA BLAST OFF, *Lazy E Arena. Guthrie, OK 73044.* Come on out to the Alpaca Blast Off Halter and Fleece Competition on Nov. 18-20. This event includes Made in Oklahoma and alpaca product vendors as well as educational exhibits, seminars and fun activities for the family. The competition is sponsored by Alpacas of Oklahoma, and affiliate of Alpaca Owners Association. Visit www.alpacablastoff.com for more information.

NOVEMBER 19

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY MARKET. *Donald W. Reynolds Center. Poteau, OK 74953.* The Poteau Christmas Holiday Market at the Donald W. Reynolds Community Center has a little bit of everything. Start your Christmas shopping and grab handmade jewelry, Christmas decorations, home decor, clothes, quilts, metal art, pottery, blankets and more.

NOVEMBER 19

4TH ANNUAL COX RANCH PRODUCTION SALE. *Cox Ranch. Weatherford, TX.* Auction will include 70 Angus bulls and 70 Angus females. Call 817-594-8317 for more information.



A-OK ALPACA BLAST OFF

NOVEMBER 19

HEARTLAND YOUTHBAREBACK CHAMPIONSHIPS. *Cross Bar Arena. Mounds, OK 74047.* Come enjoy the Heartland Youth Bareback Championships on Nov. 19-20. Must be a member to enter. For more information, call 580-258-8406.

NOVEMBER 23

FESTIVAL OF ANGELS. *City-wide Ponca City. Ponca City, OK 74604.* Enjoy lighted displays, colorful exhibits and animated displays throughout Ponca City at the city's annual Festival of Angels on Nov. 23-Dec. 30.

NOVEMBER 24

RISING STARS CALF ROPING, *Lazy E Arena. Guthrie, OK 73044.* Come to the Rising Stars Calf Roping competition on Nov. 24-27 to support the future stars of the rodeo industry. Ropers will show off their skills across this four-day Rising Stars Calf Roping competition. Visit www.risingstarscalfroping.com for more information.

NOVEMBER 24

NRHA FUTURITY & ADEQUAN CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW, *Oklahoma State Fair Park. Oklahoma City, OK 73107.* Each year the National Reining Horse Association (NRHA) host one of the fastest growing equine events and the largest reining event in November. The NRHA Futurity & Adequan Championship Show takes place on Nov. 24-Dec. 3 and is one of the most elite reining events in the world with more than \$2 million in purse and prizes with more than 20 countries represented. For more information, visit www.nrhafuturity.com.

DECEMBER 3

MINCO HONEY FESTIVAL, *Minco, OK 73059.* Come out to the 26th annual Minco Honey Festival on Dec. 3. This annual event has more than 90 craft vendors, a quilt show, honey plant tours, kid's tractor pull and Made in Oklahoma products. Visit www.minco-ok.com for more information.

OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS

Great Plains State Park

By Laci Jones

If you are looking for a state park that has it all—history, activities and scenery, look no further than Great Plains State Park. Near Mountain Park, Okla., Great Plains State Park is 487 acres with more than 400 acres of park land.

“The lease agreement was signed with the Bureau of Reclamation on Nov. 13, 1974,” said Scott Fraley, interim park manager of Great Plains State Park. “Great Plains State Park was open to the public in August 1975.”

Located in the same area as Great Plains State Park is the mining town of Wildman, built in 1900 with the help of the federal government. At one time, the town of Wildman had two grocery stores, a general store, a restaurant, a drug store, two hotels, assayer’s office and a hardware store, wrote Jamie Dodson in Wildman, An Oklahoma Ghost Town.

“The town got its name from the type of people who liked to come there,” Dodson continued. “The town was described as ‘a wild west, hard shooting, tough mining town made up of grizzled miners and unscrupulous gamblers with a liberal seasoning of bandits.’”

Several tunnels and mining shafts were dug in the area. In the northeast area of the state park lies a 100-year-old abandoned mine, 1904 Gold Bells Mill and Mine, Dodson said. The Gold Bells Mill and Mine, established by E.A. Williams, was a part of the Gold Bells Cyanide Mill.

“The Old Bells Gold Mine is the last remaining structure left of the once wild and wooly mining



Tom Steed Lake at Great Plains State Park gives visitors endless water sport opportunities. (Photo by Scott Fraley)

town of Wildman,” Fraley said. “There is speculation that this was Oklahoma’s first and only gold mine.”

According to Fraley, gold dust was shot into the walls of the mine with a muzzle loaded shotgun to make it look like “there was gold in the hills.” Stock was then sold in at the reported price of one dollar per share. It is said that 270,000 shares were sold making it one of the biggest scandals in that era. However, no gold was ever found in the mine, and the mine closed

its doors in 1907. The abandoned mine can still be viewed today, but Fraley said to use caution when exploring.

Dodson said different rich mines supposedly worked for years by the Spanish can be found in the state park. The Indians attacked the Spanish miners for working in the area, he added.

“The mines were supposed to have been marked by a series of oak trees that had the limbs cut off of one side,” Dodson said. “The side without the limbs is supposed

to be in the direction the mines are located.”

Many years later, the trees are likely long gone. However, legends say the “very rich mines” are supposed to be located less than a half of a mile south of the Wichita Mountains on the west side of Otter Creek. Dodson believed the Spanish likely used other types of markers made of stone in the area, which may still be there.

Not only can visitors find rich Oklahoma history at Great Plains State Park, they also have access

to Tom Steed Lake. Tom Steed Lake is a 6,400-acre lake with approximately 31 miles of shoreline, Fraley explained. Tom Steed Lake gives visitors endless water sport opportunities including swimming, boating, skiing and fishing, he added.


“Fishing is a popular sport at Tom Steed Lake,” Fraley said. “The lake is full of flathead catfish, blue catfish, gar, largemouth bass, strapped bass, walleye, sauger and crappie.” More than 100,000 visitors visit Great Plains State Park each year, he added.

“The breath taking view of the rough, rocky terrain of the Wichita Mountain foothills reflecting off the waters of Tom Steed Lake makes this park special,” he added.

Known for its terrain, Fraley said the wide open plains, rugged hills and clear sparkling lake are the varied types of scenery visitor’s encounter at the lake and state park are full of diverse wildlife. The rocky terrain of the state park offers miles of walking and mountain biking trails.

Located near the foothills of the Wichita Mountains, Great Plains State Park offers 30 tent sites, 58 RV hookups for visitors. Fraley said the park also offers 14 modern campsites with water, electrical and sewer hook-ups in the upper side of Mountain Shade campground and 44 semi-modern campsites with water and electric located in the upper/lower side of the Mountain Shade and Otter Creek campgrounds along with one sanitary dump station.

The park also offers two group picnic shelters that have electric and water located in Otter Creek and Lower Mountain Shade area, he added. For rates or information and reservation on the shelters, please call the park office.

For more information on Great Plains State Park, call 580-569-2032. Visit their website to reserve an RV campsite at TravelOk.com or Gocampok.com. 



Tom Steed Lake is full of flathead catfish, blue catfish, gar, largemouth bass, strapped bass, walleye, sauger and crappie. (Photo by Scott Fraley)

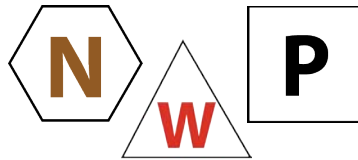


Great Plains State Park is located near the foothills of the Wichita Mountains. The rocky terrain of the state park offers miles of walking and mountain biking trails. (Photo by Scott Fraley)



By Josh Gaskamp

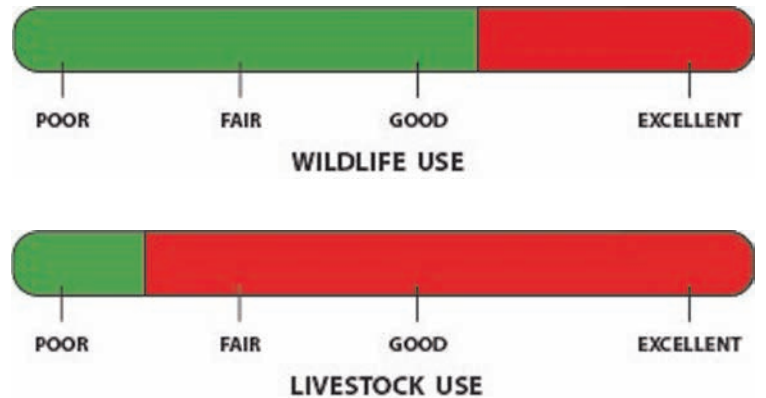
Characteristics: Antelope horn is a native, perennial milkweed. Like the name implies, mature seed pods evident in the latter half of summer curve upward, resembling antelope horns. The pods burst open and expose seeds covered in long silky hairs that allow them to float on wind and water. Mowed or opened seed pods expose huge



masses of silk that can be observed from great distances. Like other milkweeds, antelope horn has a thick white milky sap in the leaves and stems that is very sticky and resembles Elmer's glue. Antelope horn flowers are greenish-white with some maroon in the center. Leaves fold upward in the shape of a boat and often have wavy margins. The plant has a large central taproot from which one to 15 stems emerge.

Habitat: Antelope horn is common in pastures, prairies, and roadsides throughout Oklahoma and Texas. It prefers disturbed areas or those with little vegetative competition, so shallow, rocky soils often have abundant antelope horn.

Attributes: Antelope horn's dense taproot enables it to store



water and survive in very dry conditions. Where many plants may die or go dormant, antelope horn will appear healthy and survive. Many livestock producers try to kill antelope horn and other milkweeds in grazed pastures, but they can be difficult to control with herbicides. The leaves of milkweeds, including antelope horn, are the primary food source for monarch caterpillars. The large umbel of flowers attracts many different pollinator species.

The milky sap can be some-

what toxic to humans and animals. The monarch takes advantage of its toxicity, which is why monarch caterpillars and butterflies taste bad to predators. This bad taste also makes antelope horn resistant to grazing by deer and livestock.

References: Native Plant Database. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. www.wildflower.org

Plant Image Gallery. The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation. www.noble.org/apps/plantimage-gallery/

PLANT ID KEY

- = ANNUAL
- = PERENNIALS
- = WARM SEASON
- = COLD SEASON
- = NATIVE
- = INTRODUCED

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Tours hourly 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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10:30 AM First Baptist Church
FLC Contact Shelby Terry
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OKLAHOMA FARM & RANCH-Post Oak Media is looking for an energetic and professionally minded person for the position of Advertising Executive for Oklahoma Farm & Ranch magazine. The right candidate for this opportunity should have reliable transportation and be self-motivated. Previous sales experience required. Compensation based on experience. If this sounds like the job for you, submit your resume to OKFR, P.O. Box 831, Bowie, TX 76230.

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PARTING SHOT



Summer Rodeos...

Photographer, Rosemary Stephens snapped this photo on the first night of the annual Minco Rodeo in Minco, Okla. The exact moment the girl entered the arena carrying the American flag caught the photographer's eye. Stephens did not know the the girl, but she described the moment as "majestic." "To me, this photo says 'America' in the purest sense of the word," she added. "I love that message." (Photo by Rosemary Stephens)



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