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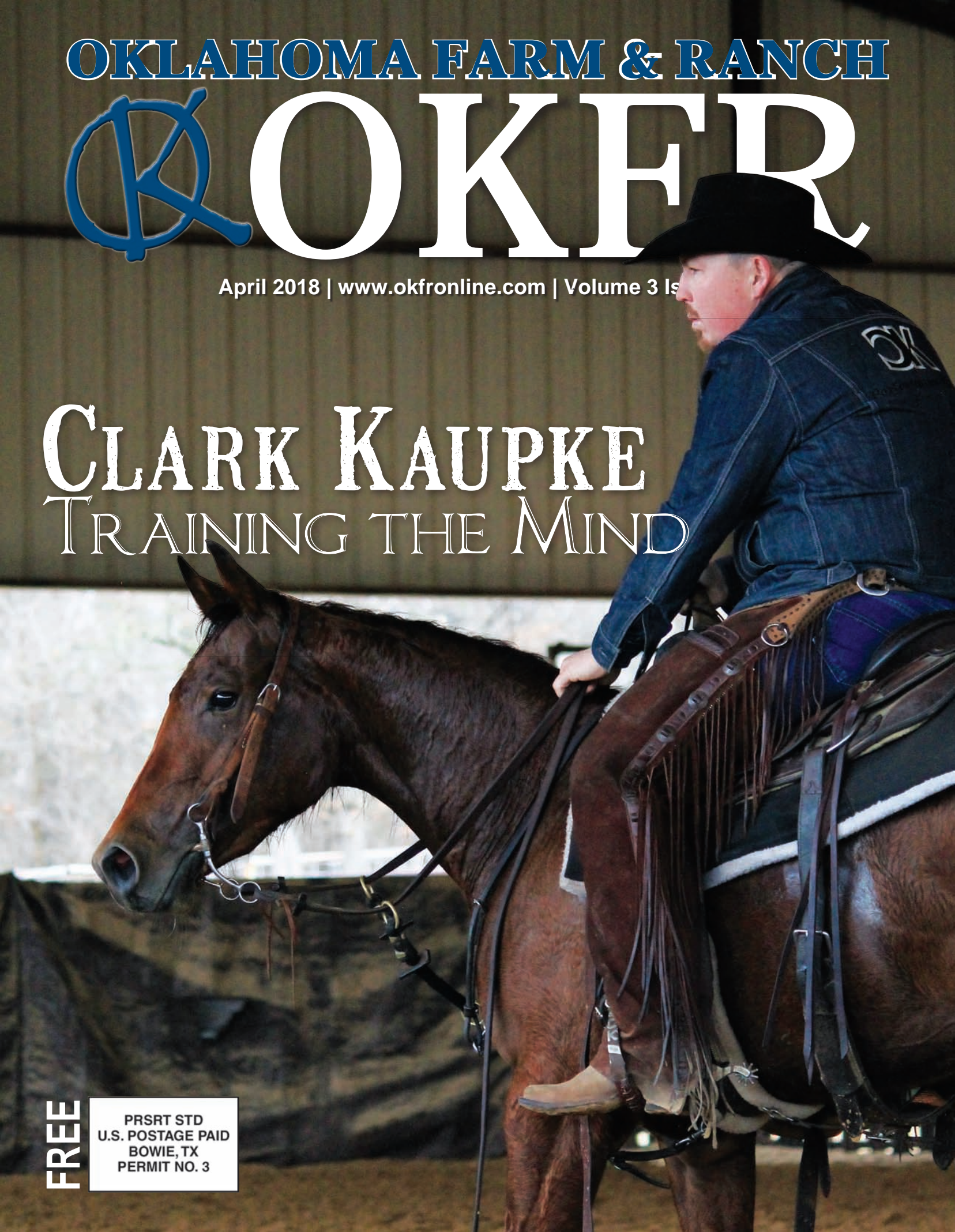
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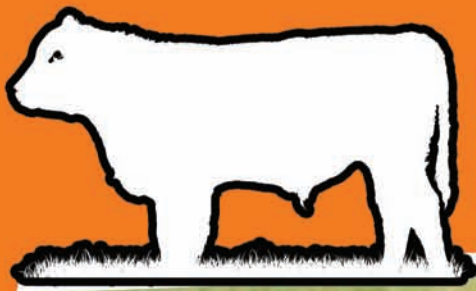
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## Confetti from the Sky

Hello OKFR readers, and welcome to the April issue of the Oklahoma Farm & Ranch magazine. As I sit here typing this letter, we just had a few inches of rain. Despite cows calving in the middle of the rainstorms and feed trucks getting stuck in pastures, I was reminded to be grateful as we never know when we will see rain again. So today, I will bask in the post-rain sunshine and be forever thankful for covered barns and tractors.

Spring is upon us, and with that comes tax season. First, read “7 Commonly Missed Tax Deductions” in the Farm & Ranch section to get the most out of your return.

According to a recent study, more than a staggering 75 percent of goat producers in the United States are not familiar with the zoonotic disease, Coxiellosis. Also referred to as Q Fever, more than 4,000 people were diagnosed with this disease in 2007 through 2010. Q Fever can be prevented by using proper hygiene. Learn more in the Farm & Ranch section.

Next, read about a 12-year-old destined for greatness in the arena. Wacey Schalla was introduced to the arena through “mutton busting” in the junior rodeo circuit. Since then, he has transitioned into riding junior bulls and is also learning how to ride saddle bronc and bareback horses. Read more about this young cowboy in “Destined for Greatness” in the Equine section.

On a rainy day in late February, I had the pleasure of meeting owners of CK Cutting Horses, Clark Kaupke and his fiancée Emily Finch. Kaupke got his start in the Western Pleasure discipline through his family. The Oklahoma native also had a passion for playing the guitar and went on tour full-time. He later returned to his equine roots and started his own business in 2014. Read more about the horse trainer in “Training the Mind.”

Finally, read about a man who was instrumental in the development of Texas Country and the Red Dirt music scenes. Born in Okmulgee, Okla., Gary P. Nunn is a name known by many Oklahomans. Read about his upbringing, music career and memoir in “From Oklahoma to the Armadillo” in the Attractions section.

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, Twitter and Instagram pages. Subscribe to the digital version of OKFR on our website: www.OKFRonline.com.

Until next month,

Laci J. Jones



## ON THE COVER

As the owner of CK Cutting Horses based out of Overbrook, Okla., Clark Kaupke believes a horse is a partner and focuses on training its mind. Born and raised in Stillwater, Okla., Kaupke got his start in the equine industry through the Western Pleasure discipline. Today, his career in the cutting horse industry with fiancée Emily Finch continues to grow. Pictured on the cover is Kaupke atop “Maddie.” (Photo by Laci Jones)

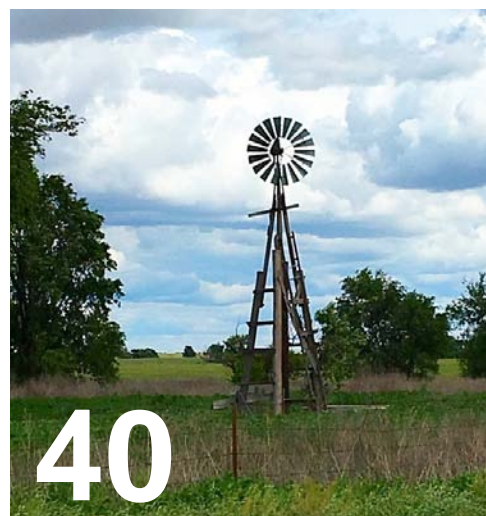
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- 10:00 am - 5:00 pm ~ Artist exhibit open to the public and **free of charge**
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# COXIELLOSIS (Q)

By Barry Whitworth, DVM

Since the Center for Disease Control (CDC) classified *Coxiella burnetii* as a potential bioterrorism agent and made it a reportable disease, it has been discovered that Q fever in humans is more common than previously thought. According to the CDC's latest statistics, the number of human cases in the United States reported in 2014 was 160.

The largest outbreak ever recorded in the world occurred in the Netherlands during the years 2007 through 2010. In this outbreak, over 4,000 people were diagnosed with Q fever. This outbreak was linked to the dairy goat farms in the area.

Interestingly, according to the Nation Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) 2009 Goat Study, more than 75 percent of goat producers in the United States are not familiar with Coxiellosis. If a producer raises goats or sheep, this disease should be considered if abortion, stillbirths and/or weak born kids or lambs become a problem.

*C. burnetii* is a small intracellular bacterium that infects many species of animals and humans. The bacterium is very resistant to environmental extremes and survives for long periods of time in the right conditions.

The organism is zoonotic, which means it passes from animals to humans. When humans are infected with the bacterium, half will not have any clinical signs. The other half will develop flu-like symptoms. A very few may develop pneumonia, hepatitis and/or endocarditis. The disease in humans is considered an oc-

cupational hazard. Veterinarians, livestock producers and slaughter house workers are more likely to be infected than the general populations. Goats, sheep and cattle are considered the main source of most human infection.

Animals infected with the bacterium do not usually show any clinical signs of the disease. The major exception to this is occasional abortion outbreaks, especially in goats and to a lesser degree in sheep. Abortions and stillbirths occur in the late stages of pregnancy. Also, producers may see weak born kids and lambs with this disease. After the abortion episodes, the animals become immune to the organism.

The organism may be transmitted by direct contact, inhalation, ingestion or vectors. Birth products such as fetuses, placentas and birth fluids have extremely large numbers of *C. burnetii*. Producers who have to assist in the birthing process may be exposed to the pathogen if not wearing protective clothes and gloves. The bacterium may also be found in feces, urine and milk. Inhalation is the most common way that humans are infected with the bacterium. The organism could be breathed in during the birthing process.

Also, the bacterium is found on dust particles that are contaminated with birth products, feces, urine and milk. Producers may inhale the dust particles contaminated with the organism during routine cleaning of barns or kidding pens. These dust particles may travel a long distance and infect people who are not near the original source. This is what happened in the Netherlands outbreak. The

bacterium is also found in unpasteurized milk products, so people may be infected by consuming these products. However, research has been mixed on this mode of transmission. Lastly, ticks harbor the organism. This is believed to be how the bacterium is maintained in wild animals. Transmission by ticks does not seem to be a significant problem in domestic animals and humans.

Coxiellosis should be considered when goats or sheep have abortions, stillbirths or weak born kids or lambs. Samples that should be submitted for testing are fetus, placenta and blood samples from the doe or ewe. Special emphasis is placed on submitting the placenta. Without the placenta, diagnosis of this disease is extremely difficult. One problem with diagnosis of this disease is that most labs will not culture this organism. This agent is considered a danger to laboratory workers. It can be cultured but only in a bio-secure lab since *C. burnetii* is considered a bioterrorism agent.

Treating this disease is difficult. Once a doe, ewe or cow is infected, she may shed the organism for her entire life. During abortion episodes, one treatment option is to give long-acting tetracycline injections every three days to control the disease. However, some studies do not indicate any difference in the shedding of the organism between treated and untreated animals. Producers should contact their veterinarian for more information about treatment.

Preventing Q fever begins with hygiene. Producers should burn or bury placentas and aborted fetuses as soon as possible. Kid-

ding and lambing pens need to be kept clean. Manure needs to be removed from barns and pens in a timely fashion. Administration of tetracycline during the last trimester of pregnancy has been advocated but not proven to be effective in preventing the disease. Vaccination has been used in other countries with some success, but no vaccine is available in the United States.


Producers should be aware that they may come in contact with *C. burnetii* during everyday activities on their farm or ranch. They should wear protective clothing and a dust mask when dealing with aborted fetuses, placentas, or when in dusty environments. Anyone with breathing restrictions should consult their physician before wearing a dust mask.

For more information about Q fever, search the CDC website or contact your local veterinarian or county extension educator.

## References

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# FEVER)



Q Fever may cause abortions, stillbirths and/or weak born kids or lambs. (Photo by Laci Jones)

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# Insecticide Resistance

By Everett Brazil, III

The cotton bollworm and corn earworm have been a problem for producers in years past, but modern transgenic cotton and corn varieties contain specialized traits designed to eliminate the pests from the field. Growers have recently seen a resistance in the insect; however, leading industry leaders and researchers to recommend scouting and spraying to contain the insect.

A trait, known as Bt, was discovered in a soil-borne bacteria, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), which is hostile to the insect through a protein that damages the digestive system.

“The protein binds to the lining of the gut and essentially makes an ulcer, so gut contents will leach into the body of the insect, and it becomes septic,” said David Kern, Texas A&M University professor and Texas Integrated Pest Management (IPM) coordinator.

The transgenic trait was originally released under the Monsanto BollGard system in 1996, but is no longer available due to a compromise of the trait, as the insect is completely resistant to it. BollGard II is found within Monsanto Roundup Ready Flex cotton and corn varieties.

Other companies have also created similar traits, such as TwinLink, through Bayer Crop Science, and Widestrike, through Dow AgroSciences. Widestrike is featured in the Enlist cotton system.

BollGard II features two traits – Cry1AC and Cry2AB. TwinLink features Cry1AB and Cry2AE. Widestrike III includes Cry 1AC and Cry1F

Researchers have noticed insect resistance the past three

years, especially 2017, Kern said. TAMU researchers began a study to quantify incidences of the insect starting in 2015, and continuing into 2016 to 2017, where they saw larger populations.

Most of the research was performed in East Texas and South Texas. Very little data was gained from West Texas or the Panhandle. Central Texas and the Gulf Coast had some of the largest populations.

The insect seems to be a larger problem in cotton than corn, as the insect tends to have limited damage in the corn crop.

“There is not much of an issue in corn because even before there were transgenic traits in corn, they’ll only get it in the top of the ear,” said Tom Royer, Oklahoma State University IPM coordinator.

Those low-quality kernels will be blown out the back of the combines, saving the quality of the crop, Kerns said.

The insect is more detrimental to cotton, as it feeds on the bolls and squares, which create the bolls, leading to yield loss. Without the transgenic traits, cotton producers could see a larger loss due to the insect.

“It depends on the year and the infestation, but you can get any amount of injury. You can get a complete crop loss with enough pests,” Kerns said. “On average, it wouldn’t be uncommon to get a 25 percent reduction in yield.”

However, it seems that the rate of resistance comes out of corn, due to earlier maturity rates.

“The same toxins, modes-of-actions, are the same in corn and cotton. They’re getting exposed to these toxins in corn. We think, probably corn is driving the re-



Cotton bollworms have been a major problem for Oklahoma producers. (Photo by David Kern)

sistance,” Kerns said. “Typically, corn develops before cotton, at a state where it’s attractive to the worm, so the generation starts on the corn, and it’s selective for it, so the pupae move to cotton, and it’s already selected for it.”

Many current traits are already compromised, meaning the insect is resistant to it. That includes BollGard and Widestrike traits.

The good news is that a new trait is emerging on the market, VIP3A, and will be released in BollGard III, Widestrike III and TwinLink Plus.

However, most current varieties do not contain the trait,

and most that do, are in limited varieties.

While the insect is mostly found as far as Central Texas, it is believed to be making inroads in Oklahoma cotton and corn fields. If producers start seeing populations in their fields, the best weapon is scouting, and insecticide applications if large enough populations are discovered.

“They’ll need to scout, particularly if they don’t have the VIP3A trait,” Kerns said. “Our recommendation, right now, if they are detecting 6 percent injury with worms present, that justifies the insecticide applications.”



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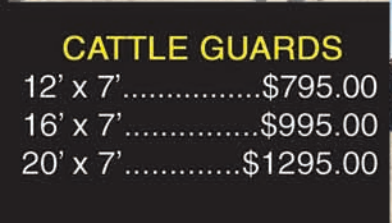


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# The Endurance of Conservation Districts

By Sarah Blaney

“In this democracy, national action to conserve soil must be generated by these millions of land users. If they are active and willing participants in such a movement, it will endure; otherwise it will fail,” said Hugh Hammond Bennett, founder of the Soil Conservation Service now the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For 80 years, Oklahoma landowners have been active and willing participants in a grassroots movement to preserve our soil and water.

This movement of locally led, voluntary, incentive based conservation has endured only because of the commitment and vision of farmers and ranchers who were willing to work with nature. This is the history of that movement.

Prior to the formation of Oklahoma’s statehood in 1907, the western part of our state was a sea of native grassland. The soils underneath the grasses were fertile. Settlers came from the eastern United States to Oklahoma to farm these fertile soils. These farmers were encouraged to plow up the native grasses and plant wheat, cotton, corn and even potatoes. They did not realize that though the soil was fertile, it was sandy and highly susceptible to erosion. Oklahoma was and continues to be a land of fierce wind with long periods of dry spells. The natural state of the soils coupled with bad farm policy led to the “the worst man-made ecological disaster in American history;” the Dust Bowl.

The Dust Bowl has become the term to describe a period in American history where a combination of drought, exposed soil, and high winds caused the worst erosion that the United States has ever seen. To make matters worse, there were also periods of extreme flooding. For example in 1934, 17 people died after heavy rainfall caused the Washita River in Roger Mills County to flood. During this time period, many farmers could not raise enough food to feed even their own families. It is estimated that more than 70,000 people left Oklahoma during the 1930s. The ones who remained used their experience during the Dust Bowl to form a better, more sustainable relationship with the land.

Throughout this time period, there was important work being done to mitigate water and



This photograph was taken in 1936 during the Dust Bowl in Cimarron County, Okla. (Photo by Arthur Rothstein)

soil erosion. In 1929, the first erosion control experiment station in the United States was established near Guthrie, Okla. This demonstration site measured soil loss on different management practices and helped show farmers the results of those practices. This demonstration work was expanded and farmers volunteered to participate and try different practices such as terracing and contour farming.

While the demonstration work was impactful and important, it was led by the federal government. It became apparent that in order for there to be lasting change, the support of local farmers was critical. In 1937, President Franklin Roosevelt encouraged all states to adopt a model of legislation that would allow farmers and ranchers to form their own local units of government known as “soil conservation districts.”

Local farmers and ranchers would serve as the governing body for these districts and would determine their own water and soil conservation needs and priorities. To form a soil conservation district, citizens were required to gather a minimum of 25 signatures from their peers. That was not a problem for Oklahomans. On March 22, 1938, the McIntosh County Soil Conservation District was the first district formed in Oklahoma. By November 1938, Oklahoma had 24 soil conservation districts.

These early districts focused on educating farmers about different farming methods such as contour farming and terraces instead of straight row farming. They used demonstrations to show how different management practices affected soil and water erosion. Districts encouraged the building of ponds so producers would have surface water during times of drought. Districts were also active in flood control work on watersheds. This work included establishing small dams with conservation practices like grass plantings above the dams to reduce run-off. No federal funding was available for the dams during the early years. However, when federal funding became available in 1948, Oklahoma was the first state to receive funding for the Cloud Creek Watershed Dam in Washita County, Okla.

Today, every inch of Oklahoma is covered by a conservation district. Oklahoma has 84 state-appropriated conservation districts and one tribal conservation district. The districts are still governed by local farmers and ranchers who set the natural resource concerns and priorities for their own community. These conservation districts work every day to provide education, encourage the adoption of conservation practices through cost share programs, and showcase demonstrations of new conservation practices to their community.



Jimmy Emmons, Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts state president, U.S. Congressman Frank Lucas, state conservationist Gary O'Neill, and Trey Lam, executive director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission cutting a watershed cake to celebrate 80 years of conservation districts in Oklahoma. (Photo courtesy of Sarah Blaney)

Today, conservation districts continue to keep property and lives safe by operating and maintaining 2,107 upstream flood control structures.

movement has endured and will continue to endure because of the continued commitment of local farmers and ranchers to continually learn and adapt to their natural surroundings. ☞

The conservation district

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# 7 COMMONLY MISSED TAX DEDUCTIONS

By Lisa Bryant

Spring brings budding trees, green grass and new baby animals for many Oklahoma farms and ranches. For some, it may be time when all the receipts get calculated and you make the annual tax season visit to your accountant.

Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers often overlook deducting several items on their taxes. Read on for seven of the most commonly missed deductions.

## Mileage and automobile expenses

You jump in the car to run to town to buy feed. It's only 15 miles so you don't record the trip on your mileage log. No big deal, right? Small trips may seem minor, but they add up over the year so make sure you keep a record. Also, do not forget parking and toll charges.

Mileage and automobile expenses can be calculated through either a standard or actual deduction. Check with your accountant to help determine the best method for you.

## Home office deductions

Only a fraction of those who could claim

a home office deduction actually claim the expense. If you use a room of your home as your farm's office, you can deduct expenses. For example, if your office is 20 percent of the home's entire square footage, you may claim 20 percent of mortgage interest or rent payments, insurance premiums and property taxes as tax-deductible expenses. You also can deduct the same percentage of your utility payments such as telephone services, electricity, gas and cleaning services.

## Office furniture

Did you buy a new chair or desk for your office? Be sure to claim the deduction on your taxes.

## Communications

Although you cannot claim your primary phone line, you can claim a separate business line. If you use your cell phone or internet for business use, you may deduct a percentage of the fees.

## Office supplies

Did you make a trip to Staples to buy paper,

but paid for it with your own cash? This is a deductible expense, so take care to pay out of your business account. It's a good idea to have a separate business checking account and credit card for your farm.

## Professional development

Did you attend an industry conference, or do you pay for an industry trade journal? You can deduct the cost paid as a business expense.

## Health insurance

If you are not eligible for group coverage through a full-time job or your spouse's employer, it is possible to deduct health insurance under certain conditions. Several stipulations apply, so it's best to talk to your accountant beforehand.

Need help with your agribusiness venture? The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and Oklahoma Small Business Development Center offers free one-on-one, confidential business advising.

For additional information, visit [www.oksbdc.org](http://www.oksbdc.org).

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# THE MARIJUANA PATCH

By Ralph Chain

**W**e own a ranch in Barber County, Kansas. The house at the headquarters lies about one and a half miles off of the main traveled road. My cousin Junior and his wife Ella Mae Chain lived at the headquarters and managed the ranch for more than 30 years.

Ella Mae was a great cook, and she made wild plum jelly and elderberry jelly. She loved gardens and different shrubs.

They became good friends with the Barber County sheriff and invited him and his wife to the ranch for Sunday dinner. The sheriff drove up in the yard and was surprised by what he saw. He and his wife went in the house, and he asked Ella Mae what she was doing with all those plants.

"I just love them; they are so pretty," she said.

"Ella Mae do you know what they are," he replied.

She nearly collapsed after learning she was growing marijuana.

"That's against the law and you shouldn't be growing marijuana on the ranch," he said.

On Monday morning, the sheriff sent a big crew out and took care of Ella Mae's plants. They pulled up the marijuana, what they could, and sprayed the rest.

Several families have lived there since then. A young man named Jason lives there now. I just trust he's not growing marijuana. I haven't been to check on him for a while.

So, ignorance is bliss. 



Ella Mae Chain lived at the Barber County ranch headquarters in Kansas for more than 30 years. (Photo courtesy of Chain Ranch)

# Breathe **SILVER** Win **GOLD**

## OKLAHOMA WOMAN DEVELOPS AND PATENTS NEBULIZER

By Laci Jones

Oklahoma native Tonda Collins used her background in the healthcare industry and her knowledge of horses to develop a potentially lifesaving product for horses as well as many other species.

Working as a medical salesman for one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of healthcare products for 15 years, Collins understood how many products are used by both humans and animals. She was the vice president of the animal health division during her last three years at Medline, where she worked with the top veterinarians and universities across the United States.

“My job was to go out, find out what they needed that we could provide, and do it at a much more inexpensive cost than what they were paying,” she explained.

Collins analyzed everything from surgical gowns to respiratory products. She found the products used to treat respiratory illnesses were difficult to use and saw a need for a better product in the equine industry.

A representative in Louisville, Ky., informed Collins of a product called EquiSilver, which uses silver.

“Silver has amazing healing powers and has been used for hundreds of years,” she added.

A veterinarian who created the silver solution was administering the product to treat respiratory illnesses, which has never been done before. Wanting to see the process for herself, Collins flew to the blue-grass state. It was race day, and

the owner used a large nebulizer to distribute the solution.

“It was 50 pounds, cost \$8,500 and the mask looked like a black flower pot,” she explained. “He was having to put towels around it to make it work.”

Collins talked with veterinarians and researched different nebulizers on the market. While nebulization is common for humans, it is used primarily by veterinarians in the animal health industry.

Collins said many veterinarians whom she spoke with knew

the value of nebulization, but they disliked the nebulization products on the market because they were too expensive, difficult to use and difficult to maintain.

“They would rather give a shot or give a supplement and move on,” she explained. “I realized there wasn’t a good product out there that anybody could use that would be affordable for the mass market.”

Collins began developing a product to withstand barn conditions while fitting horses of all sizes for the everyday horse owner

in 2013. She designed the unit in three parts: mask, compressor and nebulizer product.

Basing her design from an anesthesia mask, Collins knew she wanted the mask to be soft and clear while conforming to any nose size. In her design, the mask has a quick release and is easy to take apart for cleaning.

In the second part of the unit, Collins was challenged to find a compressor large enough to distribute a respiratory solution deep into a horse’s lungs.

“Horses can breathe in up to



56 liters of air at a time,” Collins explained. “Their lungs are one-third of their body cavity.”

She tested 20 compressors to find one that could withstand different conditions including heat and elevation. Collins finally found a small company based in the United States that made a compressor that fit her needs, and they allowed her to design her own unit.

“We put two fans in it to keep it cool and the pressure gauge is enclosed,” she added. “The pressure gauge is important for elevation and temperature. When someone nebulizes in a home, it is an ambient temperature, but when you’re in a barn or traveling, the temperature and pressure can change.”

In the third component of the unit—the nebulizer product—Collins chose to use silver as it is a natural, antimicrobial, bacterial, viral and fungal. The nebulizer product EquiSilver uses a chelated silver solution manufactured in an FDA-approved laboratory.

“The difference between the colloidal silver and the chelated silver is colloidal silver is 10 to 14 parts per million and is considered a dietary supplement,” Collins explained. “Chelated silver was designed for nebulization, which has 100 to 110 parts per million.”

Unless an ultrasonic nebulizer is used, which is expensive and difficult to find, colloidal silver will not nebulize because the particle size is too large.

A 2004 study published in the “Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy” conducted by Kareen Batarseh found chelated silver has 32 times the efficacy of colloidal silver.

Batarseh’s findings in the study titled “Anomaly and correlation of killing in the therapeutic properties of silver (I) chelation with glutamic and tartaric acids” also showed the small size of the chelated silver can be nebulized, unlike colloidal silver.

“You will get a mist and think you’re getting something, but you’re basically using saline,” she added.

Once the unit was designed, it was then tested by Hagyard Equine Medical Institute in Lexington, Ky. Nathan Slovis, DVM, DACVIM, CHT, conducted the nuclear scintigraphy study, which proved the solution is distributed in the horse’s lower respiratory system.

The unit was patented in 2014. Equi-Resp offers three systems—Flexineb, Contender and Elite—used on a range of respiratory issues. Collins said the unit has helped horses with various respiratory issues such as allergies, asthma, pulmonary hemorrhages, COPD and more.

“It was such a joy to realize that not only do we have a product that is easy to use but is really making a major impact in the horse industry,” Collins added.

While the unit was originally

designed to be used in the equine industry, the product is also used on dogs, cats, goats, cattle and camels, among many other species.

“Cattle that are getting ready for the livestock market often come down with respiratory illnesses, and owners can’t take them,” she explained. “Typically, we would give them antibiotics, and then they wouldn’t be able to take them for 30 days, which costs the owner. By being able to do the respiratory treatments with silver has gotten those calves healed and clean within about three or four days with no antibiotics in their system.”

Collins said she is amazed at how much the company has grown in three years. Selling an average of 1,000 unites each year, the unit is used by Olympians, race trainers, barrel racers and others. Equi-Resp can be found in 48 states and 10 countries.

“My husband laughed and said,


‘You’re the only person I know who is running an international company out of a garden room,’” she chuckled.

Based in Blanchard, Okla., Collins has many other ideas that she plans to implement.

“This is a business, but it’s also very personal for us,” she added. “It’s very rewarding, and it’s something that we are passionate about that we’re doing the right thing for the animals out there.”

Collins also plans to focus on education in 2018.

“This is a new technology, and there is a lot of misinformation out there,” she explained. “I want to develop a certification program. We have people out there doing treatments that don’t really know what they are doing, and we want to be able to give them accurate information to be able to do this right.”

For additional information, visit [www.equiresp.com](http://www.equiresp.com) or find them on Facebook. 



A nebulizer is being used to treat a foal with an abscess in the lungs. (Photo courtesy of Tonda Collins)

# UMBILICAL INFECTIONS

## in foals

By Lauren Lamb, D.V.M.

The umbilical stump (navel) is the remnant of the umbilical cord. The umbilical cord contains large vessels (umbilical artery and vein), which transport blood between the fetus and the placenta within the uterus. The umbilical cord also contains the urachus, which is a tube that is responsible for carrying urine from the foal's bladder to a portion of the placenta. The umbilical cord will rupture one to two inches from the foal's body wall when the mare stands after giving birth. Just prior to the umbilical cord rupturing, the blood flow within the umbilical artery and vein will stop. The umbilical remnant will contain the umbilical artery, vein and urachus.

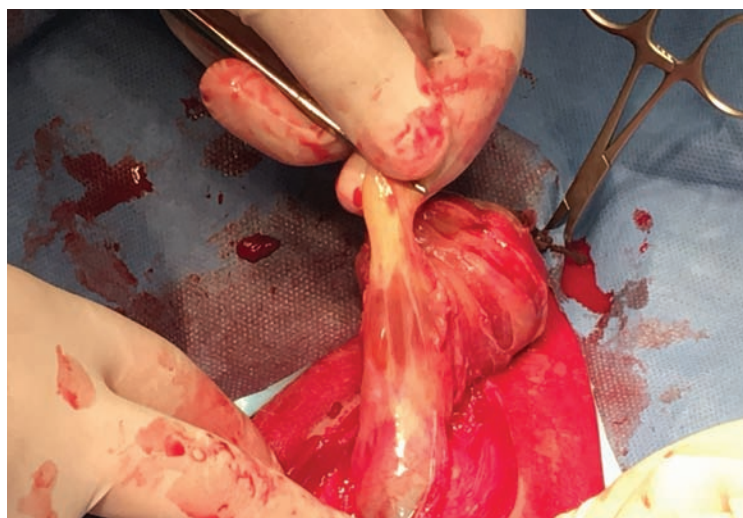
The umbilical remnant, in a newborn foal (first few hours), will look like a moist string or worm hanging down from the foal's belly button. Within 24 to 48 hours, the umbilical remnant should shrivel up and look like a dry twig or scab. The umbilical remnant should be dipped in dilute 1 percent iodine betadine three to four times within the first 24 hours of life. The iodine will help dry the umbilical remnant and prevent bacteria from traveling up the remnant and entering the foal's body. The dried portion of the umbilical remnant should remain dry and eventually fall off as the foal ages. To help decrease the chances of an umbilical infection, always use exam gloves when palpating the umbilical remnant.

Clinical signs that a foal has an umbilical infection can vary depending on the location of the

umbilical infection. Foals with a local umbilical infection will have swelling around the umbilical remnant, purulent drainage (pus) from the remnant and pain and/or heat on palpation of the umbilical remnant. Signs of systemic infection include fever greater than 102 degrees Fahrenheit, diarrhea, increased respiratory effort and rate, depression, recumbency, decreased appetite/loss of suckle, colic, swollen and painful joints, along with general signs of a local infection mentioned above. Some foals with a local or systemic infection will start to dribble urine from the umbilicus. This urine is coming from the urachus, which is connected to the bladder, and has become patent following an infection of the umbilical remnant. Urine dribbling from the umbilical remnant can be seen when the foal urinates.

Systemic infection will occur when bacteria migrates up the umbilical remnant and enters the foal's blood stream. When bacteria enter the blood stream, a foal's joints and growth plates are at increased risk of becoming infected. This increased risk of infection is due to a unique blood flow at the foal's growth plates and around the joints. Two factors that can increase the chance of a systemic infection include low IGG levels, also known as failure of passive transfer (lack of colostrum), and not dipping the umbilical remnant in 1 percent iodine.

Foals with an umbilical infection will also have an increase or decrease in the number of white blood cells, depending on



An infected umbilical remnant is being surgically removed. (Photo by Lauren Lamb, DVM)

how long the infection has been present. The Serum Amyloid A (SAA), which is a protein in the blood that is produced in response to infection or inflammation, will be increased. An ultrasound exam of the umbilical remnant can be used to definitely diagnosis an infection of the umbilical remnant and patent urachus. Pus can be seen within the umbilical artery and/or vein with an ultrasound exam.

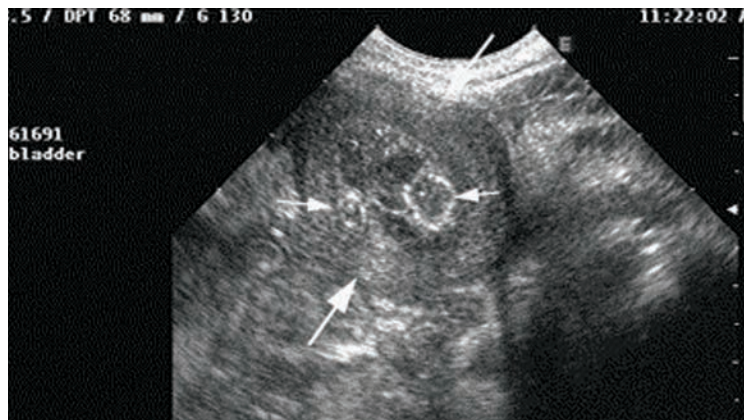
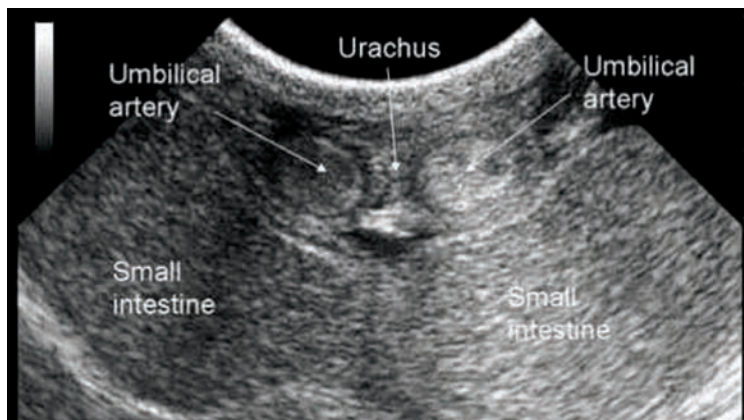
Treatment options for an umbilical remnant infection consist of medical and/or surgical therapy. Depending on the overall health status of the foal and the type of infection (local vs systemic), your veterinarian will be able to recommend which option is best for your foal.

A foal is a good candidate for medical therapy if it has a small localized umbilical infection or the foal is not a good anesthetic candidate for surgical therapy.

Medical treatment consists of broad spectrum antibiotics for two to three weeks and anti-inflammatory medication for five to 10 days. Foals treated with medical therapy are frequently re-evaluated to assess vital signs (daily), bloodwork, SAA levels and ultrasound exams of the umbilical remnant (weekly). If minimal improvement in the umbilical remnant infection is seen after five to seven days of therapy, a change in antibiotics may be needed or the foal may need to have surgical therapy to remove the infected remnant.

Surgical therapy to remove the infected umbilical remnant is the most definitive therapy. A foal that is systemically ill will need to be stabilized prior to surgery. It may take one to four days to stabilize a systemically ill foal for surgery.

Once stabilized, the foal is placed under general anesthesia and the entire infected umbilical remnant (umbilical arteries, vein



(Left to right) This ultrasound image shows a normal umbilical artery and urachus. (Image courtesy of www.apphorse.com) This ultrasound image shows an abscess within the umbilical remnant. (Image courtesy of www.sciencedirect.com)

and urachus) is removed. After the remnant is removed, there is no longer any future seeding of bacteria to the joints or growth plates. Following surgery, the foal will receive broad spectrum systemic antibiotics for seven days and anti-inflammatory medication for three to five days.

The mare and foal will need to

be kept in stall rest with minimal hand walking for four weeks following surgery to allow the surgery site to heal.

In summary, owners should always have their foal examined by a veterinarian at 24 hours of age. During this exam the veterinarian will run an IGG test on the blood to make sure that the foal received

enough colostrum. Also during this exam, the veterinarian will examine the umbilical remnant to make sure it is healing properly.

If an owner notices their foal is urinating out of the umbilicus or the bottom of the foal's abdomen is always moist, they should contact their veterinarian as these could be signs of an umbilical in-

fection. Also they should contact their veterinarian if they notice any other clinical signs mentioned previously. Foals with an umbilical infection have a good prognosis for survival if treated properly and in a timely manner before significant complications develop such as infected joints and/or growth plates. ☒

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# DESTINED FOR GREATNESS

## >>> *Wacey Schalla*

By Ddee Haynes

**I** truly believe that we are all destined for greatness, but only the individual willing to put forth the effort and take chances will achieve that greatness. You can tell a lot by a person's personality by the way they carry themselves. The rate of their gait, how they hold themselves, do they make direct eye contact and more.

A perfect example of a person destined for greatness is my 12-year-old friend Wacey Schalla. Watching Wacey walk into the coffee shop with his mom Nikki, he walked toward me with purpose and sense of direction way beyond his young years.

His shiny green eyes and shy smile did not mask the determination that lies within his cowboy soul.

I first met Wacey when he was around three years old. He was just starting his "mutton busting" career of riding sheep on the junior rodeo circuit. Even at the age of three, he was fearless! I never saw any hesitation or fear as his dad Luke would help him onto the sheep. Eleven years later, Wacey is now riding junior bulls with the style and efforts of champion bull riders whom you see in the professional arena.

Since beginning his rodeo career eight years ago, a few of his major accomplishments include:

Year-End Champion Cowboy in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 for the Midsouth Rodeo Cowboys Association

2016 MRCA All-Around-Champion

2017 Youth Bull Riding Reserve World Champion

2017 National Junior Steer Riding Reserve Champion

Wacey has also won seven saddles, numerous buckles and many other rodeo awards.

Wacey is also beginning to learn how to ride saddle bronc and bareback horses. The 12-year-old's parents know success in the arena means he must work hard, practice on stock that will teach him to ride and to ride only "age-appropriate" animals. Oftentimes, young, inexperienced riders climbing onto

Starting with mutton busting, 12-year-old Wacey Schalla now rides junior bulls. (Photo courtesy of the Schalla family)



animals that are too rank for their level of experience. A beginner, regardless of age, is anyone with little to no experience. Whether it be roping, barrel racing or riding rough stock, a beginner should start on an animal that fits their experience.

Homeschooling Wacey allowed more time for practice and travel to and from rodeos and bull riding events. A normal day for the young cowboy begins with two to three hours of school work. After that, he helps his dad with chores and rides horses that he and his dad train.

Wacey and his dad have a total of 15 young

bulls. Several of the bulls are Wacey's, which he purchased with his own money. The remaining bulls have been "loaned" to the Schallas by Bill Hext, a long-time stock contractor and owner of Hext Rodeo Company, and former champion bull rider Cody Custer.

The handshake deal is simple: Wacey and his family care for the bulls in exchange for Wacey being able to use the bulls in the practice pen. On average, Wacey spends two to three days in the practice pen riding up to four bulls per practice.

Wacey's 15-year-old sister Madison is an up-and-coming trick rider. This fall Madison



Wacey Schalla (left) pictured with Larry Jackson, director of the Youth Bull Riding Finals. (Photo courtesy of the Schalla family)



Wacey Schalla (left) with Ty Parnel and Clay Guiton at the National Jr. Bull Riders Association. (Photo courtesy of the Schalla family)

was asked to trick ride during the State Fair of Texas. Madison and another trick rider were scheduled for 92 performances. After only 19 performances completed, the other trick rider broke her leg.

Unbeknown to his sister, Wacey, who often exercises Madison's horses, was secretly practicing and had mastered the trick riding stunt known as vaulting. When the show contractor asked if Wacey could do any tricks, the secret was revealed, and the show went on!

Madison and Wacey performed

the remaining 73 performances.

Wacey is ambitious and said one of his future goals is to win the All-Around at the National Finals Rodeo. To win the all-around, the contestant must compete in two or more events.

Wacey's three events will be bull riding, saddle bronc and bareback riding. With Wacey's work ethic, his natural riding ability and most of all the support of his parents Luke and Nikki, I have no doubt Wacey will accomplish this goal plus many more. ☞

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# RFDTV

# THE AMERICAN

By Phillip Kitts

Well, the 2018 rodeo season has reached the next phase, and with this next phase there will not be much influence on the world standings, but there are big changes in competitors' pocket-books.

As we have talked about previously, the winter months bring a slower time for rodeo. In years past January, February and March are months where a lot of competitors focus on healing up from injuries, enjoying down time with family, and planning out their assault on the highways of America.

Over the last few decades the rodeo industry has capitalized on large indoor venues that have the capabilities of hosting large scale rodeos while keeping fans and competitors away from the bitter temperatures and unforgiving weather. This move has birthed some of the biggest rodeos in the business. Places like Fort Worth and San Antonio, Texas, have developed multiple round rodeos that pay out enough money that a winning cowboy can set the conditions for his season and a bid to the Wrangler National Finals at the end of the year.

With great things there are always challenges. Over the last several years some rather large organizations have recognized the value in hosting large indoor rodeos during these winter months. Some of these rodeos such as Rodeo Houston and RFDTV The American have adopted new formats that many say is more exciting for fans.

Because these new formats fall outside of many sanctioning



Junior Nogueira finishes his team roping run which his signature lay back dally that carried him through to the shoot out round and a \$100,000 paycheck. (Photo by Phillip Kitts, Avid Visual Imagery Rodeo Photography)

bodies' rules, these rodeos are essentially non-sanctioned and fall into the category of an open rodeo. In some cases, individual events such as barrel racing may have a sanctioning body, but this only applies to that individual event.

On the last weekend on February a prime example of this took place in Arlington, Texas. The rural television stations RFDTV has spared no expense when it comes to putting together the world's richest one-day rodeo. The format for RFDTV The American is an in-depth process that has become an exciting fan experience and an equally challenging process for competitors.

Each year RFDTV and rodeo officials use a specific format to choose 10 invitees who automatically make it to the one-day performance.

Throughout the year several venues hold qualifying events for The American. All these events are based around the timed event end of the arena and assist with keeping the qualifying process at manageable numbers of competitors. Then one week prior to the official Sunday performance of The American, Cowtown Coliseum becomes a Mecca for rodeo fans and competitors.

Competitors pull together large amounts of money as entry fees to go to Fort Worth and take their shot at winning a spot in the Sunday performance.

During this qualifying process, competitors endure runs through a slack (Slack is a run that is not during a performance, but the time or score counts the same as if run during the performance). Slack is used to host the over-

flow competitors when there are not enough places to have them compete during the performance. Once the results from slack have been assessed, then if the competitor is fast enough or scores high enough then they will move on to the next phase and compete in the qualifier performance. Through the performances, the numbers of competitors is worked down to the five lucky who will get the opportunity to compete on the big stage.

Where this gets interesting is this massive one-day performance is held in AT&T stadium, the huge facility that hosts the famous Dallas Cowboys football team and is transformed into a two arena layout. Second competitors who come up through the qualifying process and are not an invitee have  
**See THE AMERICAN page 27**

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# THE AMERICAN

Continued from page 25

the chance to win \$1 million. Yes, you read that right, \$1 million for a competitor who works his or her way through the qualifying system and wins their event. The answer to the question what about the invitees, well if they win the event they still pocket \$100,000, which a pretty nice pocket of change.

The small down fall to The American is because it is considered an invitational or open rodeo, the total amount of winnings does not go toward any year-end winnings and will not help competitors toward a position in the Wrangler National Finals.

Most competitors who manage to win money at this event dedicate the funds to getting up and down the road the rest of the year.

The 2018 American proved to be a huge event with an enormous high energy crowd. Each discipline brought anywhere from 15 to 20 competitors into the long round in which the top four in each event were brought back for the shoot-out round and a chance at all the money.

In a shootout round all previous scores or times are wiped away. Each competitor gets one chance to put up the best score or time possible. In the end, the winner comes from this one-shot opportunity.


Once the dust settled, three competitors managed to work their way through the qualifying rounds and capitalized on the \$1 million. Kaycee Feild of Utah dominated the bareback riding and closed out his night by covering the bareback

horse of the year, Virgil, to claim his share of the million dollars. In the other bucking horse discipline, Cort Scheer of Nebraska brought his A-game to the short round, which helped him claim his share of the big pot of cash. Lastly, Matt Reeves of Pampa, Texas, put up a smoking run in steer wrestling to close out the three-way tie for the big checks.

Even though the other events did not result in such high payouts, the energy and excitement was just as high. In barrel racing, Taci Bettis of Round Rock, Texas, topped the group and walked away with a handy \$100,000 check. Tie down roper Marty Yates of Stephenville, Texas, brought in the big haul by closing out his short round run in under seven seconds. Kaleb

Driggers and Junior Noguiera claimed the prize in team roping with a very impressive 4.57 second shoot-out run, and finally the very familiar bull riding name of Jess Lockwood claimed the prize in bull riding with a 90.5 to close out the night.

Between big crowds and big rodeo names, the 2018 American Rodeo once again showed why it is the world's richest one-day rodeo.

Win or lose, competitors brought every ounce of effort they had with the hopes of claiming their stake at the big payout. Fans were treated to the thrill of fast times, big scores and high energy. All this happened in the one of the biggest and most historic venues in rodeo. 

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# TRAINING THE MIND

# CLARK KAUPKE

BY LACI JONES



Emily Finch (left) and Clark Kaupke holding Tuffy and Wolf, respectively. (Photo by Laci Jones)



**H**orse trainer, Clark Kaupke recently received some valuable advice from fellow peer Jody Galyean: “You’ve got to ride every step.”

“That doesn’t mean I got to do everything for that horse,” Kaupke explained. “If we are training their body, they are going to wait for me to tell them what to do. If we train their mind, they are going to do it on their own, but I’m going to be able to help them when they get in a new situation that they need help.”

Born in Stillwater, Okla., in 1980, Kaupke’s passion for horses came naturally as both his parents rode horses. His father owned a tack business for 35 years and was also an auctioneer. His mother competed in Western Pleasure, and she took him to many shows where he sat atop his first horse named Blackie.

“We didn’t live the glamorous life, but we had a nice life,” Kaupke said. “We were grounded in our routine. I always rode handmade saddles and wore handmade spurs because that’s how our family made a living. I wouldn’t trade those kinds of traditions I had with my family for anything.”

His uncle Irvin raised multiple world champions in the Western Pleasure discipline in Great Bend, Kan. Kaupke spent much of his school breaks in Kansas learning from his uncle. At 12 years old, he started helping his uncle Irvin by starting his two-year-old colts.

“I didn’t have a clue what I was doing,” he added.

The tradition of competing in Western Pleasure was passed down to Kaupke. He had a natural ability to learn by observing professionals. He looked up to Jody Galyean, Gil Galyean, Troy Compton and Guy Stoops.

“I also rode with Jess Herd for a long time,” Kaupke explained. “They were the guys who were big names in the ‘90s in the Western Pleasure industry.”

Kaupke’s family mostly trained their own horses for the arena, always striving to reach the standards of “big name” horse trainers.

“It was a lot of trial and error, but that’s what made me the horseman I am today,” the

trainer explained.

When asked if he always wanted to become a performance horse trainer, Kaupke said he was never exposed to cutting horses, but he assumed he would train pleasure horses. However, his talents exceeded the arena.

His father, Charles Kaupke, purchased a Martin acoustic guitar and played country and traditional bluegrass music. After Kaupke showed interest in the instrument, his father bought him a guitar when he was 11 years old. His skills evolved, and he attended South Plains College in Levelland, Texas, to pursue a degree in commercial music.

“I didn’t have any interest in going to college for an ag degree,” he explained. “I thought this would be a chance for me to pursue the other thing I love besides horses. It was good for that time in my life because I didn’t know how to speak for myself, so I could do it with

**“If you teach a horse that it’s their job and their responsibility, they’re going to be willing to do whatever you ask because we’re going to ask them to give everything, every ounce of their heart and soul.”**

**-CLARK KAUPKE**

the guitar.”

When he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 2002, Kaupke followed in his father’s footsteps in the tack industry by moving to Weatherford, Texas, working for Cowboy Tack. He was also playing guitar for Aaron Watson, but they parted ways in 2003.

“He’s a great guy, but it just didn’t fit into my life at that time,” Kaupke explained.

Kaupke continued to work with horses in his spare time. In August 2003, he attended the National Cutting Horse Association Summer Cutting Spectacular in Fort Worth.

“They have the Sponsor’s Cutting for the corporate sponsors of the NCHA,” he explained. “Each corporate sponsor nominates two people who get to come ride a cutting horse and show in the big coliseum.”

Kaupke was chosen to ride for Cowboy Tack, where he cut on a horse trained by Teddy

Johnson. He never rode a cutting horse before, but he felt at home as soon as his hands touched that cutting horse.

He left Cowboy Tack in early 2004, taking a job with Teskey’s in Weatherford, Texas. Throughout his career changes, Kaupke never lost his desire to cut.

“I always seek God’s will for my life, but I’ve not always followed his path,” he added. “It’s not easy as I get a little bit off-center. But at the end of the day, that’s where I am headed, that’s what I strive to do. Even when I was 20 and didn’t have a clue what I was doing with my life, that’s what I was seeking deep down even if I didn’t know how to put it in the same context I do at 38.”

He later went to work for J.B. McLamb for almost two years, where he said he learned how to be a “true horseman” and have good work ethics. Then, Kaupke’s life changed when he had health issues with his diabetes in the late 2000s.

“Diabetes burnouts are a real thing,” he explained. “I wasn’t taking care of myself, and I gained a lot of weight. I became very unhealthy and was in a bad place in my marriage.”

After his divorce in 2009, Kaupke went back to music. He hit the road full-time, touring with a few different bands. Four years later, he was looking for another gig, but

he did not find the right fit. He prayed to God to point him down the path he was supposed to be on.

“When the day came that I was supposed to quit, I knew,” he recalled. “I picked up the phone and called my dad and said, ‘I’m done.’ When he knew that I was done, he asked, ‘What are you going to do?’ I said, ‘I’m moving back to ride horses.’”

Kaupke started riding horses for Bruce Morine, but getting back into the cutting horse industry proved to be difficult for the Oklahoma native.

“It was hard getting back into it—the physical aspects and the mental aspects of it,” he recalled. “Bruce is a great Christian man, and I respect him. He was very hard on me, but I’m thankful now looking back, and I still look to him for guidance.”

**Continued on page 32**

**Continued from page 31**

After a year, Kaupke transitioned into freelance work. He took a few jobs here and there before realizing he could start his own business. With the support of his friends and family, he took a gamble and leased a facility for pennies on the dollar in 2014.

“I know I wasn’t ready to go out and be a cutting horse trainer just from the standpoint of I didn’t have the show pen experience,” he added. “There’s so much to learn.”

In the cutting horse arena, he looks up to Jody Galyean, Bill Riddle, Roy Carter, Michael Cooper, Boyd Rice and Ed Duffrena.

It was during this time when he met South Carolina native, Emily Finch. Finch was loping for Phil and Mary Ann Rapp. When he mistakenly thought she quit, he contacted her to offer a job, but they stayed in contact for the next several weeks.

After their first date, Finch was injured in a horse accident. Because of her traumatic brain injury and torn muscles in her back, she was placed in the ICU in a Dallas hospital.

When she woke up three days later, Finch was told it would be at least six months before she could even consider riding a horse again.

“By no fault of Phil and Mary Ann’s, I couldn’t ride,” she added. “I had to find somewhere to go, and I called him [Kaupke].”

Kaupke picked up her horse, and they have been together since and are engaged. Kaupke said she has been an integral part to the growth of CK Cutting Horses. They push each other to be the best in their industry.

“I’m blessed to get to do what I love to do with the person I love to do it with,” he added.

In September 2017, CK Cutting Horses moved to Overbrook, Okla. These days, they train anywhere between 15 and 25 horses.

Kaupke’s business is focused on training the mind over the body.

“If you train that horse’s mind to do what is naturally inside them, they’re going to be more willing than if you just teach them how to do the fundamentals,” he explained.

“I need that horse to be smarter than I am. If it stops in the right spot, it’s because that horse is thinking. It’s because I’ve taught that horse to use its mind to stop in the correct place to keep itself in working advantage on that calf.”

“If you teach a horse that it’s their job and their responsibility, they’re going to be willing to do whatever you ask because we’re going to ask them to give everything, every ounce of their heart and soul.”

Kaupke and Finch compete at various shows across the United States three weekends a month. About 90 percent of these shows are NCHA-affiliated, but they are also involved with the World Cutting Horse Association. Among his favorite shows are in Fort Worth, Hamilton, Texas, and Jackson, Miss.

“Ultimately at the end of the day, helping people is why we do this,” Kaupke explained. “I love the horses, I love to win, I love the success, I love to hear our name called out, but at the end of the day, I just want to help people and teach them what I know and learn from anyone I can.”

Kaupke has two daughters, Kinsey and Kaedyn. Kinsey is a freshman at the University of North Texas and Kaedyn is a 13-year-old who enjoys the arena just as much as her father.

As for the future, Kaupke and Finch plan to continue to grow their business. In the next three years, they will work with more home-raised horses.

“Next year we will have seven or eight babies born,” he added. “Three or four of them will actually be born at our house that belong to our clients.”



(Top to bottom) Finch is an integral part of CK Cutting Horses. (Photo courtesy of Emily Finch) Kaupke started his equine business in 2014. (Photo by Laci Jones)

Kaupke’s main priority is to be able to provide for his family, but he also hopes to someday win the NCHA Futurity and other large shows, be inducted into the NCHA Hall of Fame and have a horse he trained inducted in the NCHA

Horse Hall of Fame. However, the trainer said his future is contingent on God’s plan for his life.

“I can’t tell what I’m going to do because I’m going to go where God guides me,” Kaupke concluded. ☞





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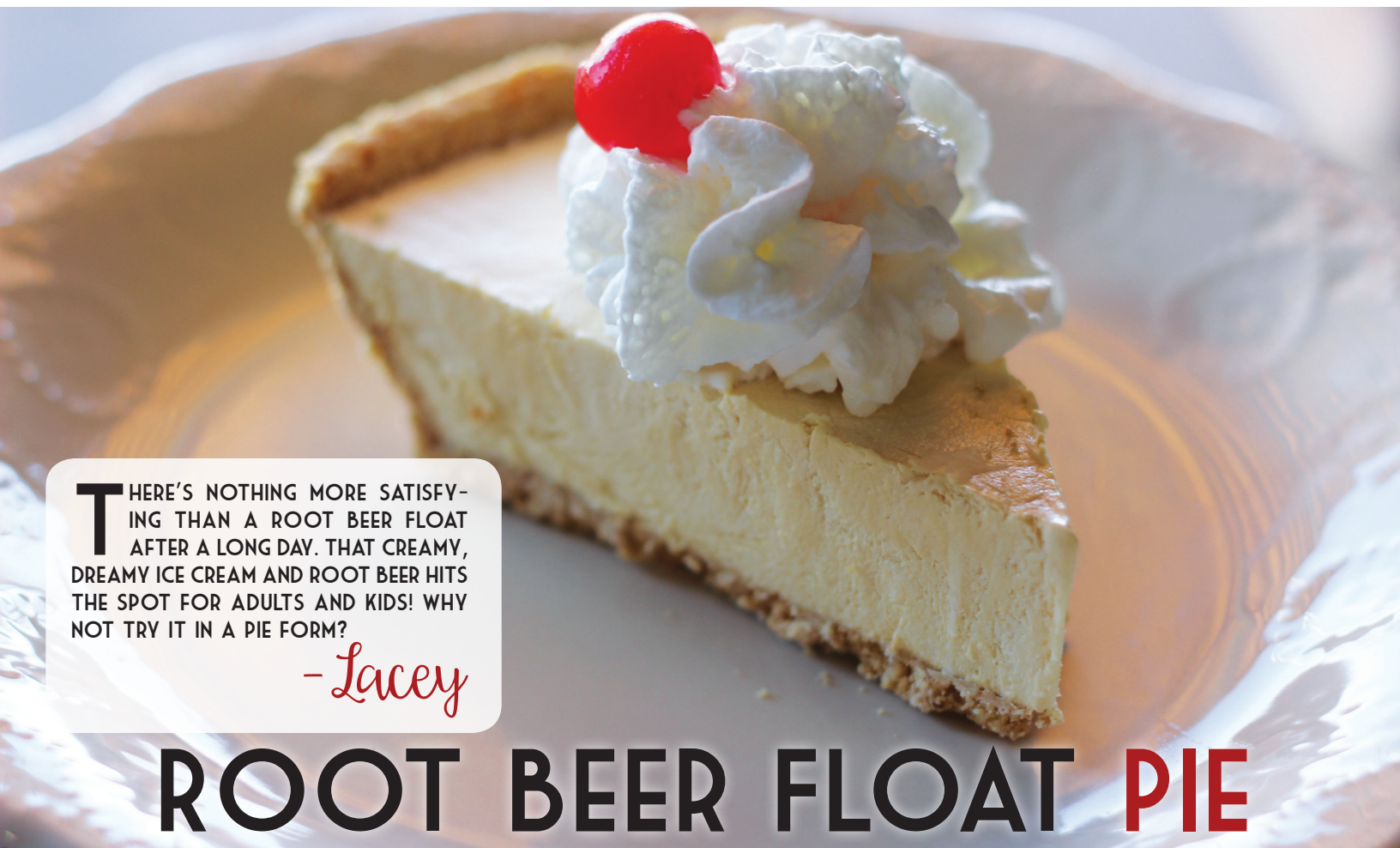






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Kaupke recently competed at the 2018 NCHA Futurity in Fort Worth. (Photo by Arlene Hart, courtesy of Clark Kaupke)



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## INGREDIENTS

- ¾ cup good quality root beer
- ½ cup milk (I used 1 percent, but skim may be used)
- 1 4-serving size box instant vanilla pudding mix (sugar free may be used)
- 1 to 2 Tbsp root beer extract (start with one Tablespoon and add more if you prefer a stronger root beer flavor. If you want a really light root beer flavor, only use a couple teaspoons and adjust from there)
- 1 8-ounce tub cool whip, thawed

- 1 prepared graham cracker crust
- Cherries and whipped cream, for garnish (optional)

## INSTRUCTIONS

In a large bowl, whisk together the root beer, milk, root beer concentrate and pudding mix for 2 minutes or until mixture thickens. Fold in the Cool Whip until mixture is uniform and combined.

Pour the mixture into the prepared graham cracker crust and freeze for about 8 hours or overnight. Once frozen, cut into slices and garnish with whipped cream and cherries, if desired. Store pie in freezer. ❄️

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# WHERE THE PAVED ROAD ENDS BY BETH WATKINS

## > BOOTS & PEARLS

When I met G.W., it was very evident that this country boy and this city girl lived in two very different worlds, just two hours apart.

Many country songs have been written about the attraction of these two worlds: Cowboys and Angels, Ol' Country, Ladies Love Country Boys. There is something very romantic about the idea of mixing boots and pearls.

The night that smooth talkin', ball-cap-wearing redneck wrapped me up in his arms and planted a long slow kiss on my lips, I knew my world would never be the same, but I don't think he realized to what extent his world was about to be rocked with all things girlie!

In the beginning, I was nervous about how to blend our worlds together. I was close to my family and grandbabies. But, he had a good job, so it only made sense for me to be the one to move.

So we got married and bought land. He promised to build me a house big enough for family to visit comfortably. I could see a challenge ahead of us. He likes everything to match, and his color pallet is earth tones. I love color, and I don't like matchy-matchy.

He's a rustic, log cabin kind of guy, and I'm a two-story pink Victorian kind of gal. We compromised and built a craftsman-style home.

When we met, his house was sparsely decorated; he had a few coffee cups all with advertisements written on them.

His plates and bowls didn't match. In the shower there was one bottle of three-in-one hair and body soap.

On his bed was a brown plaid



Beth Watkins compromised when decorating her bedroom by adding farmhouse-style decor. (Photo by Beth Watkins)

comforter, accented by a solid brown bed skirt. He explained, that in the closet he had pillow shams that matched; it was a set called "bed-in-a-bag." I got the impression he was living very comfortably in a knick-knack free world.

Right before we met, I completely redecorated my home in a "Shabby Chic" theme, complete with crystal and bling. My deco-

rating style is eclectic. It's a good thing G.W. got to know me before I invited him over because his impression of me and my house after visiting was, "This woman is going to be high maintenance."

After my house sold, we rented a U-Haul to move my things to storage until our new home was built.

When the truck was starting to get full and it was very clear

this move would take a little more than just one weekend, his attitude turned a little, um... let's just say his attitude turned a little snitty. We took a breather and stepped away from our family and friends to have a quiet moment to ourselves.

I reminded him that he loved me and that he wanted me and all my stuff in his life, but if he changed his mind, I'll throw what's left in a big pile, and we will just throw some gas on it and light a match.

Maybe that would make him happy because he didn't look very happy at the moment, and he didn't look very attractive to me at that moment either! I don't know if it was the tears, or the sarcastic tone in my voice that caused his attitude to change, but he hugged me and said, "I can't wait to spend the rest of my life with you and your stuff"

So here we are almost four years later. Together, we've built a ranch and a home. We named it "Wild Rose Ranch." We love each other more today than we did yesterday.

Yesterday we argued over the color of our front door. Love takes two people being patient, overlooking each other's faults, little flaws and being forgiving. It's not his fault aubergine isn't on his color wheel. I've painted our front door three different shades of eggplant.

I'll admit the second color, which resembled Barney Purple, showed a little flaw in my character. He forgave me for it when I agreed to try another shade.

Life is better when you have a sense of humor. Like the day he came home to find our bedroom

was painted a light shade of pink and asked if he needed to turn in his “man card.”

Most of our home is decorated with a country feel, but he says our bedroom looks more like a boudoir.

When I came across the perfect country-looking picture, it was like putting a bow on a package! You can't get any more country than a cow with a rose in its mouth!

The cow picture needed a frame and because it's his bedroom too, I wanted to include him in the decision-making process. I narrowed the choices down to two: a very simple frame with clean lines or a thicker more elaborate style.

Of course, he wanted the small simple frame, but he left it up to me to make the final decision. After all, I am the resident decorator.

The more I studied on it, the clearer it became that since the cow picture was to be the crowning jewel of our bedroom, it deserved to be adorned with an abundance of detail, drama, grandeur and awe, an ornate style as if its home were on a wall in a museum.

After we hung the picture over the fireplace, we stepped back to admire our newest work of art. I was in love. I noticed the smirk on G.W.'s face.

I asked him if he was as excited about it as I was. He just shook his head and said, “It's like putting lipstick on a pig.” I smiled back at him, pondering this new expression; then it hit me.

He likes bacon and I like lipstick, so I think we just achieved another compromise.

This cowboy and his lady just took another step toward “happily ever after.”



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# Life of a Ranch Wife

By Lanna Mills

We take many things for granted today, especially things that are so easily accessed now that in the past took great difficulty. You're thirsty, so you walk a few feet into your kitchen, grab a cup, turn a handle on your sink, and fill your glass, or you go to the fridge and grab a bottle of cold water.

You have cows in the lot so you set a tank and fill it from a rural water hydrant. Instant gratification! This is something that is an everyday occurrence for us. We don't think twice about it.

However, it hasn't always been so simple. Ranchers had to get water from a spring, creek or pond at one point in time. For ranchers, this meant that if there wasn't a water source nearby, the land was useless for grazing because just like us, cattle can't go long without a drink of water. The windmill changed everything for farmers and ranchers.

The use of windmills meant that farmers and ranchers could pump underground water to the surface to use for drinking water, watering livestock and for use on crops and gardens.

Windmills played a large role in the expansion of railways because early steam engines required water to operate.

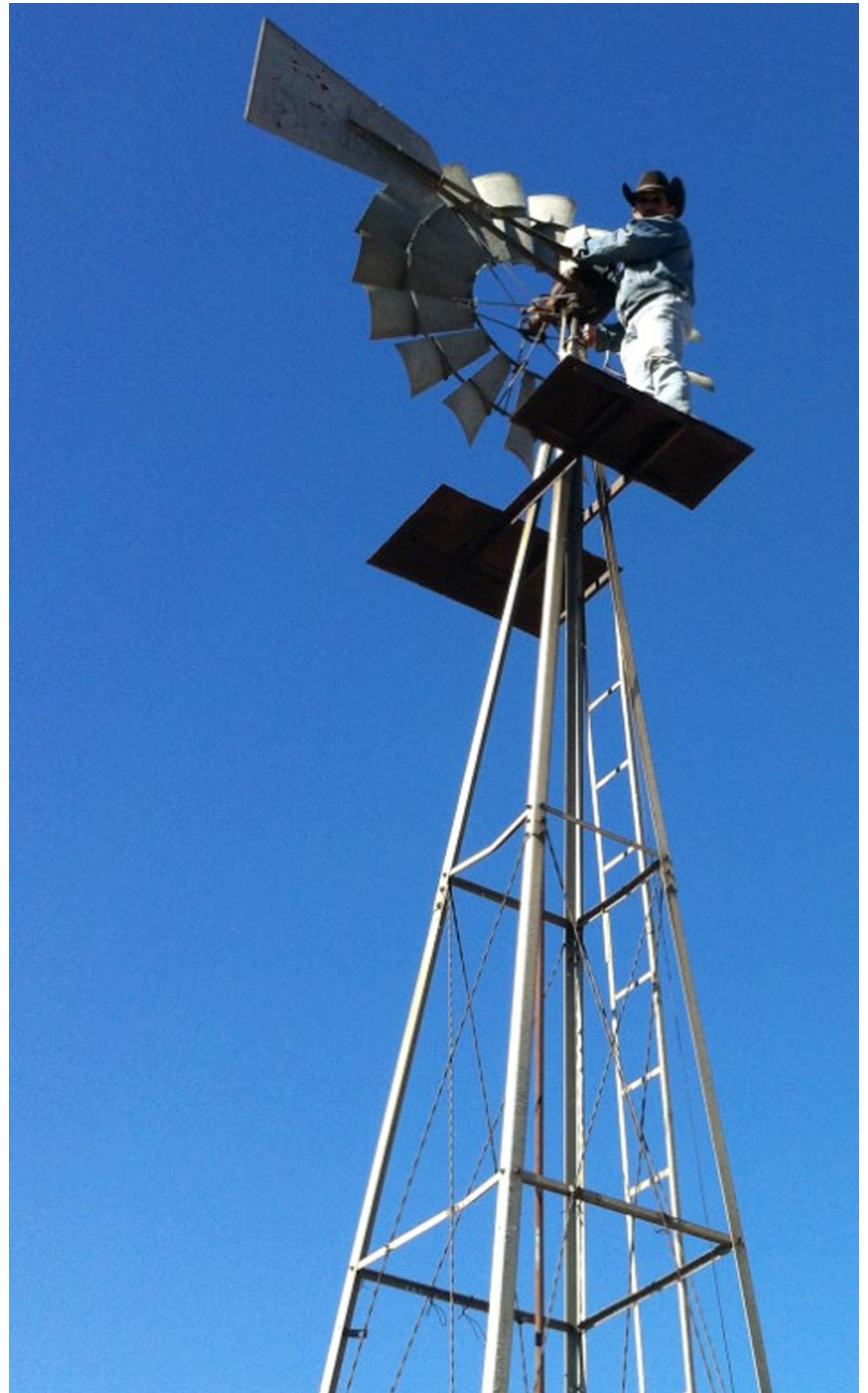
History states that the first windmill manufactured in the United States was patented in 1854 by Daniel Halladay who designed his self-governing windmill in his machine shop in Connecticut but later moved his operation to Illinois.

Halladay's windmill turned to face changing wind directions automatically and regulated its own speed of operation, which prevented destruction during high winds. Shortly after, others began manufacturing similar windmills.

They began popping up everywhere, and between 1880 and 1935 more than six million were sold by roughly 20 manufacturers. The first windmills were made mostly of wood, but as time changed windmills became all metal, which allowed them to last longer and require less maintenance.

Windmills work by the fan or wheel, made up of blades (like your ceiling fan), which spin on a shaft. The shaft drives a geared mechanism that converts rotary motion to up and down motion. In turn, that motion drives a "sucker rod" or pump rod that is inside a pipe that goes down into the well.

A cylinder with a sealed plunger is attached to the end of the pipe. It forces the water up the pipe. The up-stroke pulls water into the cylinder where a check valve keeps the water held on the down-stroke so that it has nowhere to go but up with the next up-stroke. The design is simple but



The first windmill manufactured in the United States was patented in 1854. While the designs vary, they are still vital to ranching operations today. (Photo by Lanna Mills)



efficient.

Windmill designs may vary some from those first built in the 1800s, but they remain an important and very useful piece of equipment to ranchers today. Though it may seem hard for some to believe that with all the new technology and modernizations, there are still some places that do not have access to city or rural water.

Windmills can come in quite handy on these places if there are no natural water sources and ground water can be found. Windmills are also used on large pieces of land where cattle travel long distances grazing.

Especially during the hot summer months, cattle will not travel far from water, so ranchers can install windmills throughout the land so that the cattle can utilize more grass.

The iconic windmill is threatened by the solar pump. Some ranchers and farmers have started

using solar powered pumps, working off the sun's rays, in place of windmills.

The benefits of these solar powered pumps are said to be their reliability and durability.

Their manufacturers offer that they have fewer parts so, therefore, they require less upkeep and break down less often than windmills.

Simple is something that isn't found very often in today's world of technology. However, the windmill's simple yet effective design fulfills the needs of ranchers today just as it did a hundred years or more ago.

From those first windmills built back in the 1800s to those still in use today, they will forever be a symbol of the American West.

In my opinion, there is no prettier sight than a herd of cattle gathered around a tank at the bottom of a windmill, drinking as the sun is setting at the end of another day on the ranch. ☺

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# Pinkney Turner

## WRITES A PAGE IN HISTORY

By Judy Wade

When Pinkney Bedford Turner sold land to John Ringling in 1913, he wrote page one in the history of Ringling, Okla.

Mr. Ringling came to the area with the intention of finding a place for winter quarters for the Ringling Brothers Circus. His plan was to build a railroad spur from Ardmore, Okla., to the new site. When he discovered the area was too cold in the winter for his animals, he also discovered an oil boom was impending, and his railroad would be a good business prospect.

Selling Ringling approximately 8,000 acres, Turner retained 10 acres to raise his family, so he wouldn't be "cooped up in town." He continued to be a major player in the history of the area and developed a large ranch in Claypool along Highway 70 between Ringling and Waurika, known as the Ranching Corridor.

Turner was born in 1867 in Kaufman County Texas, moving to Montague County Texas when he was seven. In 1890 he married Effie Lee Johnson. Grandson Ted Tripp related,

"Grandad worked at a gristmill when he met grandmother," grandson Ted Tripp related. "Attracted to her, Grandad said he always weighed his portion a little light."

Gristmill owners were paid by keeping a portion of the grain they ground, so he was not charging her as much as he should.

The couple later moved to Indian Territory, near Cornish, where Turner began farming and ranching. He built his home, which still stands today, around



The Turner home in Ringling, Okla., still stands today. (Photo by Judy Wade)

the time of statehood. To this union were born six children, with a son dying in infancy. When all the children finished school, with the town of Ringling growing up around them, Turner built a home in the Claypool, Okla., area on land he owned there.

Area rancher Lute Jackson and Turner became partners in the cattle business in 1900 and put together around 20,000 acres in the Claypool area. Turner and Jackson leased some land from the Indian Agency.

Along the leased land was squatter land claimed by Bill Washington, who also has some Indian rights, but he wanted all the land. He threatened some neighbors until they left and is purported to have killed others.

Washington threatened Turner and Jackson.

"When granddad left every day, grandmother didn't know if he would come back, but he always did," Tripp said. "Everyone carried a gun."

In a face-to-face confrontation with Turner and Jackson one day, Washington backed down when he heard the click of a double-barreled shotgun. That area became known as "The Shotgun Pasture."

Washington then hired Jim Miller, notorious contract killer who was said to have killed more men than anyone else in the West, to assassinate Turner and Jackson. Before he could carry out the assignment, Miller and an accomplice along with other two outlaws were captured in Ada, Okla., and hanged in a stable. One of Turner's great-grandsons has a picture of the gruesome scene.

In 1903 Jackson and Turner decided Cornish needed a bank. They contacted the banking commission to find out what they needed to do. When everything was in order, they contacted the commission again and were told one of them could be the president of the bank and the other the vice president.

When the pair revealed that neither could read nor write, they were told they could not run a bank.

A bank employee from St. Louis was hired to run the bank for them and they eventually sold the bank to him.

In 1911, when Turner and Jackson decided to dissolve the partnership on the land so that each might expand and grow in his own business, they sat on horseback and split the property without even using a pencil or paper, trusting the honesty and integrity of the other.

Grandson Ted Tripp now lives in the house Turner built in Claypool.

"I lived with my grandparents in this house and worked for granddad after I graduated high school until I went in to the service," he recalled. "He had probably 10,000 acres. He farmed a couple hundred acres, raising feed for the stock and prairie hay, and we did all the cattle work. He was

a man of very few words, but he meant what he said.”

Turner’s son Claud told many stories about growing up with his dad, one when he was nine or ten years old. He went with his dad on horseback to Lawton to pay the lease on some Indian land they leased. Quanah Parker, chief of the Comanches was over the Indian Council land and invited them to eat and spend the night. After supper, Quanah asked them how they “likum” skunk. They later found out that skunk was a delicacy of the Comanche Indians.

Turner passed away in 1948 from a blood clot following eye surgery. While in the hospital in Oklahoma City following the surgery, his youngest daughter asked if he were comfortable. He replied, “Yes, this bed is all right, but the bed I enjoy most in my life and the best sleep I ever had was out in the open pasture with grass for a bed, my saddle for a pillow, my saddle blanket for cover and ‘Old Net,’ my saddle pony, standing over me keeping watch.”

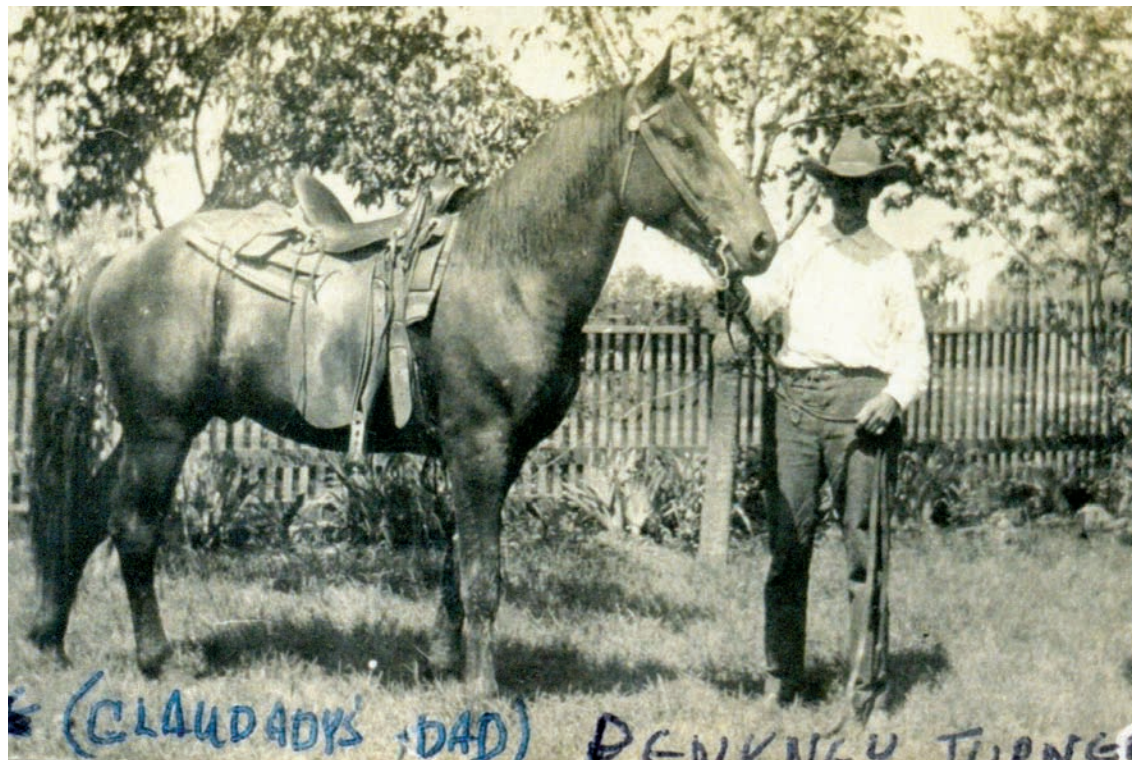
“He died in this house where my bedroom is now,” Tripp remarked.

With Turner’s passing, his holdings were divided among his five children. Daughter Ida married Herc Baucom and lived in Ringling, but did not continue ranching. Daughter Bennie married J. D. Hanna and continued ranching for a while, but their children do not ranch now.

Son Glenn and his wife built a beautiful two-storied home on land south of Claypool, Okla., and continued the ranching tradition until poor health forced them to retire.

Their three girls are not ranchers. Hortense, Tripp’s mother, passed her land to her son who still farms and ranches on part of the Claypool place. His two children do not ranch.

Claud married Ethel Hall, who was a teacher and principal at Cornish when they first mar-



Pinkney Turner pictured with “Old Net.” (Photo courtesy of Bob Earl Stewart)

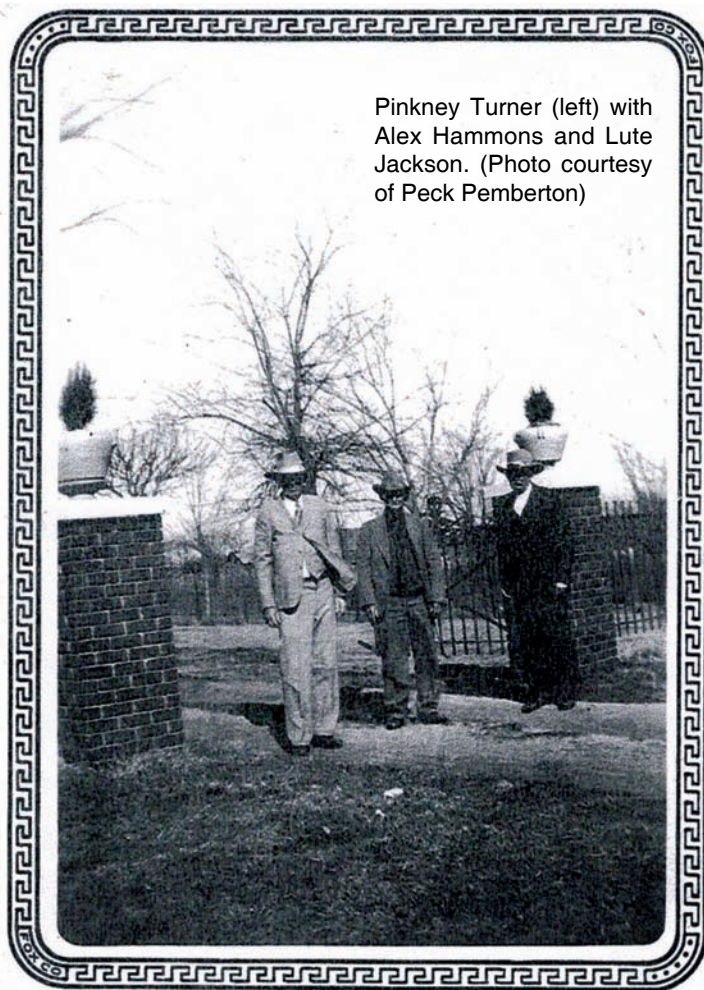
ried. They moved to Claypool and Claud spent his life ranching and raising good Hereford cattle. They had three children—Claud, Jr., Peggy and Mike. Claud, Jr., became an airplane pilot. Mike continued the ranching tradition, living with wife Betty and raising two children on the Claypool Ranch. The children did not continue with the ranch.

Peggy had three children, Kaye, Larry Don Stewart and Bob Earl Stewart. Like Tripp who still lives on his grandfather’s land, great-grandsons Larry Don and Bob Earl carry on the Turner legacy by ranching on land handed down to them in the Claypool area.

Pinkney Bedford Turner’s obituary read, “The Methodist Church in Ringling lacked space to take care of the large crowd who came to pay tribute to a man they had known and loved and for whom they had the highest respect.

“Seven grandsons bore his casket to its final resting place in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Ringling.”

Thus another page in the history of Ringling was closed. ❧



Pinkney Turner (left) with Alex Hammons and Lute Jackson. (Photo courtesy of Peck Pemberton)

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## GREEN COUNTRY SPRING FLING

MARCH 30-APRIL 1 • TULSA

*Tulsa State Fairgrounds. Tulsa, OK 74114.* Make your way to the Expo Square at the Tulsa State Fairgrounds for the Green Country Arabian Spring Fling. This show, recognized by the U.S. Equestrian Federation and the Arabian Horse Association, will put on display the most beautiful and skilled Arabian horses in the region. Admire well-groomed horses as they showcase their skills in a number of activities during this three-day event. Classes in the Green Country Arabian Classic include reined cowhorse, working cowhorse, Arabian sport horse in hand, Arabian hunter hack and Arabian Western pleasure among many others. Call **918-625-6718** for additional information.

## AZALEA FESTIVAL

APRIL 1-30 • MUSKOGEE

*Honor Heights Park. Muskogee, OK 74401.* Muskogee's Honor Heights Park boasts 40 acres of manicured gardens with over 30,000 azaleas in 625 varieties. Visit this stunning park throughout the month of April for one of the top events in the South. The annual Azalea Festival celebrates the blooming of azaleas, tulips, dogwoods and wisteria as these buds begin to unfurl. Call **918-682-2401** for additional information.

## SOLA Sale

APRIL 4 • ADA

*SOLA Livestock Market. Ada, OK 74821.* Come on out every Wednesday at 9 a.m., where we will be selling calves, yearlings, bulls, pairs and cows. For additional information, visit [www.solallc.com](http://www.solallc.com) or call **580-436-5033**.

## Enlow Ranch Auction

APRIL 1 • TULSA

*Enlow Ranch. Tulsa, OK 74131.* Come on out to our monthly auction. Enlow auction service has more than 50 years of experience. Call **918-224-7676** for more information.

## OKLAHOMA QUARTER HORSE SPRING SHOW

APRIL 4-8 • OKC

*Oklahoma State Fair Park. Oklahoma City 405-440-0694.* The Oklahoma Quarter Horse Spring Show at Oklahoma City's State Fair Park consists of five exciting days of equestrian skills on display. See cowboys and cowgirls of all ages show off their abilities in Western pleasure, Western riding, barrel racing, pole bending, tie down and roping, as well as other competitive categories like halter, reining and jumping. All performances are judged, so be sure to hang around afterward to see who will be named the champion of each specialty.

## WAYNOKA RATTLESNAKE ROUND-UP

APRIL 6-8 • WAYNOKA

*Downtown Waynoka. Waynoka, OK 73860.* The annual Waynoka Rattlesnake Round-Up began in the 1940s when area ranchers attempted to rid the surrounding ranch land of rattlesnakes, which were a threat to their cattle. The ranchers in the area banded together and began hunting Western Diamondback rattlesnakes during a yearly event. That event, which has become a local ritual, now draws thousands of participants and has expanded into a larger festival each year. For more information about the Waynoka Rattlesnake Round-Up, call **580-541-4169**.

## SOUTHWEST FARM & HOME EXPO

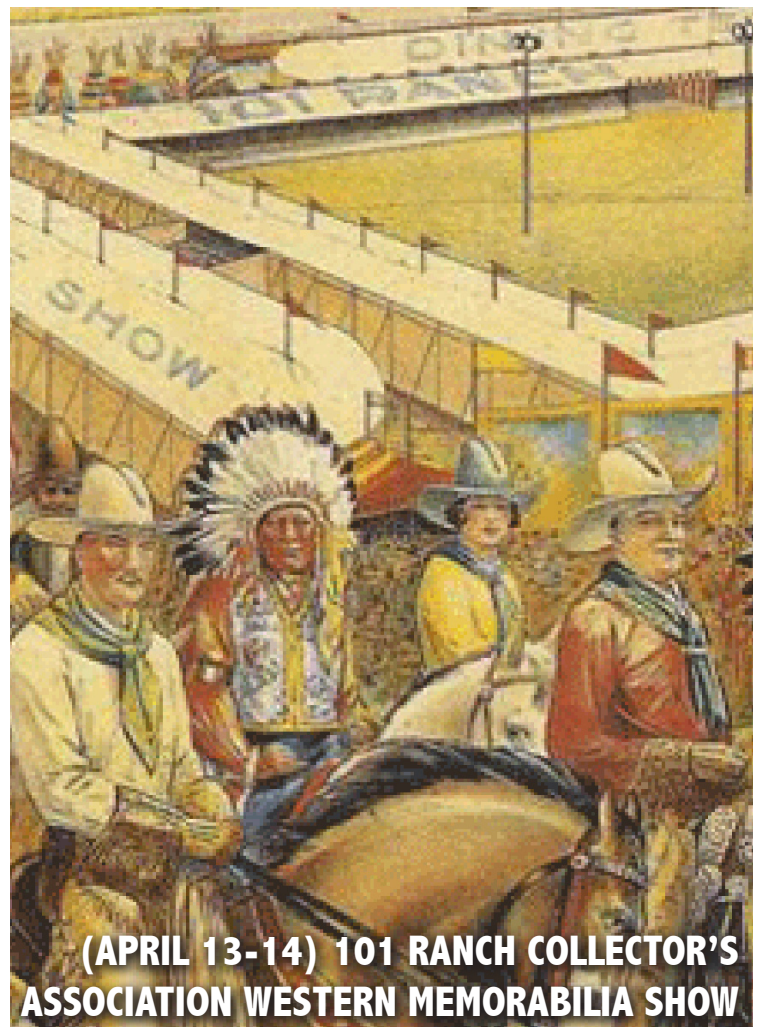
APRIL 7-8 • ELK CITY

*Elk City Convention Center. Elk City, OK 73644.* Come out and enjoy the annual Southwest Farm & Home Expo in Elk City, Okla., an event that is gaining a reputation throughout the farm and ranch industry as the show to attend. The Southwest Farm & Home Expo features displays and exhibits of agricultural equipment, machinery and products for the farm, home, lawn, garden and pool. Food vendors will also be on-site for visitors. This is an event you do not want to miss! Call **580-225-0207** for additional information about the Southwest Farm & Home Expo in Elk City, Okla.

## MADE IN OKLAHOMA FESTIVAL & CAR SHOW

APRIL 7 • SEMINOLE

*Seminole Municipal Park. Seminole, OK 74868.* The Made in Oklahoma Festival in Seminole is a great opportunity to browse food, wine, crafts and a number of other products that are Oklahoma grown and Oklahoma made. Local crafters will display and sell their homemade wares, and a wide assortment of food vendors will offer delicious eats on Main Street. Festivities will also include the popular wine-tasting tent for sampling locally-produced wines, a golf tournament, a spaghetti dinner and a car show. Visit [www.seminoleokchamber.org](http://www.seminoleokchamber.org) for more information.



**(APRIL 13-14) 101 RANCH COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION WESTERN MEMORABILIA SHOW**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SWOSU RODEO

APRIL 12-14 • WEATHERFORD

*Don Mitchell Rodeo Arena. Weatherford, OK 73096.* Watch top collegiate cowboys and cowgirls from across the region compete in traditional rodeo events at this year's SWOSU Rodeo in Weatherford. Contestants from Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri will compete for top prizes in this action-packed rodeo. Make your way to the SWOSU Rodeo for exciting arena competition that will include bareback riding, calf roping, breakaway roping, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, team roping, barrel racing and bull riding. The top 10 in each event will return for the championship round Saturday night. For more information, call **580-774-3068**.



(APRIL 1-30) AZALEA FESTIVAL  
(PHOTO BY CAROLYN FLETCHER)

## FARM EXPO

APRIL 13-15 • WOODWARD

*Don Mitchell Rodeo Arena. Weatherford, OK 73096.* Woodward County Event Center & Fairgrounds. Woodward, OK 73801. The 34th annual K-101 Expo/Farm Expo in Woodward is one of the largest tri-state agriculture, farm and ranch trade shows, featuring more than 200 commercial exhibitors as well as arts and crafts and food vendor from across the United States. Call **580-254-2034** for more information.

## 101 RANCH COLLECTOR'S ASSOCIATION WESTERN MEMORABILIA SHOW

APRIL 13-14 • PONCA CITY

*445 Fairview Ave. Ponca City, OK 74601.* Round up your posse and head to Ponca City for a full weekend of all things western during the 101 Ranch Collector's Association Western Memorabilia Show. This annual swap meet,

offers novice and collector alike the chance to buy, sell and trade all things related to Western, cowboy and American Indian heritage. Many of the goods sold at this show will include 101 Ranch items, cinema collectibles, saddles, boots, guns, knives, chaps, pocket watches, spurs, coins, early military memorabilia and more. For information, call **918-693-0998**.

## 89ERS DAYS CELEBRATION

APRIL 17-21 • GUTHRIE

*Downtown Guthrie. Guthrie, OK 73044.* The annual 89er Days Celebration commemorates the Land Run of 1889 and the birth of Guthrie. On April 22, 1889, tens of thousands of land seekers lined the borders of the Unassigned Lands of central Oklahoma in preparation for the first of five land runs in the state. By nightfall, Guthrie had grown to a bustling tent city. Come celebrate this historical event with fun activities that celebrate this bygone era.

## TULSA RENDEZVOUS HORSE SHOW

APRIL 18-22 • TULSA

*Tulsa Expo Square. Tulsa, OK 74114.* Trained equestrian riders of all ages and skill levels will take to the arena floor during the two-week Tulsa Rendezvous Horse Shows. Take to the stands to see fierce competition as riders aim to earn top prizes in the Rendezvous Grand Prix, USHJA International Hunter Derby, USHJA National Hunter Derby an Texas Super Series Green Hunter Stakes with top cash prizes available. Attendees can also mingle with exhibitors and vendors.

## DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

APRIL 19 • OKC

*Oklahoma City National Memorial. Oklahoma City, OK 73102.* Each year, visitors gather in downtown Oklahoma City to remember those who were killed and those changed forever by the April 19, 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

## USTPA SPRING ROUND-UP

APRIL 20-22 • GUTHRIE

*Lazy E Arena. Guthrie, OK 73044.* Watch as riders race against time while showcasing their herding skills at the USTPA Spring Round-Up. Held in Guthrie, this event features open, amateur, incentive and youth penning and sorting classes. Bring the whole family out to the USTPA Spring Round-Up to see this exciting competition. For information about the USTPA Spring Round-Up, call **580-255-3231**.

## GOAT & HAIR SHEEP FIELD DAY

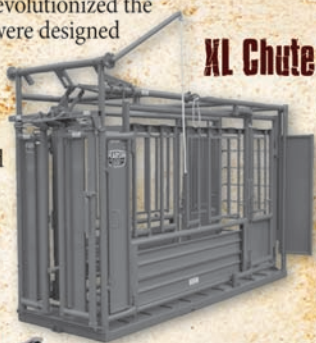
APRIL 28 • LANGSTON

*Langston University. Langston, OK 73050.* This year's focus will be on Preventing Production Losses. Featured speakers will be specialists with considerable goat and sheep experience. For additional information, call **405-466-6126**.

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▼ **39<sup>TH</sup> TRIANGLE FALL SALE** ▼

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# FROM OKLAHOMA TO THE ARMADILLO

## GARY P. NUNN

By Jan Sikes

**G**ary P. Nunn was born in Okmulgee, Okla., in 1945. No one can dispute the fact that Nunn has been instrumental in the evolving of Texas and Red Dirt music scenes as we know them today.

But, how did he get from the tiny town in Oklahoma to writing the theme song for Austin City Limits, “London Homesick Blues?”

The answers are in his hot-off-the-press memoir, “Home with the Armadillo.”

Where does the book begin?

“It starts the day I was born,” Nunn said. “My father was the superintendent of a small country school in Eram, Okla. Our old car was broke down, and the only vehicle he had at his disposal was a school bus. So, he drove my mom to the hospital in a school bus.”

In his book, Nunn takes us through his childhood where a lifetime of values formed. Academics took center stage with sports coming second. Nunn excelled at both.

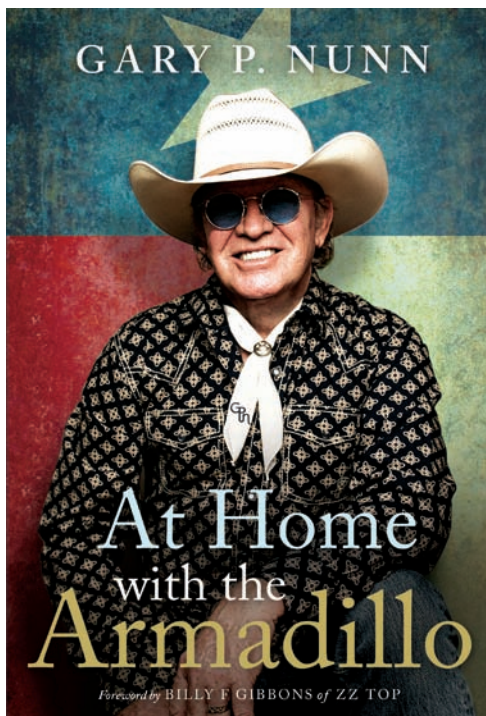
He understood the value of teamwork early on, and that served him well in later years. But, the one thing that stood out to me about his childhood was the work ethic that seemed ingrained in his DNA. At the early age of eight, he was working on his uncles’ farms during the summer months driving a tractor, baling hay and laboring from sunup to sundown. Family bonds were strong.

Young Nunn had a knack for most anything he tackled. Around this time, his parents insisted on piano lessons. His piano teacher entered her students in a contest at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Okla., and Nunn received top honors for his level.

The family moved from Oklahoma to Brownfield, Texas, in 1957 where he entered Junior High School.

In his book, he recalls the talk at school one day about a classmate who’d gotten a new guitar. Even though he didn’t know the kid, Nunn made a point to go to his house after football practice to see the new instrument.

“I knocked on Alton’s door and introduced



myself to his mom. I asked if I could see Alton. I walked into his bedroom, and he was playing this shiny new electric guitar. I was mesmerized and enchanted,” Nunn recalled.

As it turns out, the kid, Alton Nicholson, would be a part of the first band Nunn ever played in, “The Rebels,” and they won a talent show contest in eighth grade. Nunn played drums.

And, as they say, the rest is history.

I commend Nunn for the detailed way he followed a timeline through the book. He played in a band with Nicholson all the way through high school, then enrolled at Texas Tech University, where he became involved in another band that would lead him further down the path of a music career.

It’s been said before, that writing a song is an act of bravery as it reveals a deep part of the writer’s soul. I would like to add that so does writing a memoir like “Home with the Armadillo.” In this book, Nunn openly exposes

his weaknesses, frustrations and struggles as well as notes his innovative ideas and accomplishments.

After transferring from Texas Tech to the University of Texas, the music horizon expanded. Nunn recalled the many different bands he played in and how it was always an emotional and heartbreaking experience when one ended.

It was shortly after one of these heartbreaking events that he packed up his truck, determined to go back to Oklahoma, raise cattle and farm the land, clear his head and figure out exactly what he wanted to do.

But, Michael Martin Murphey was playing in Austin the night before his departure date, and he went to see The Cosmic Cowboy’s show. It was an event that would change the direction of Nunn’s life yet again. Murphey asked if Nunn would like to play bass in his band. Needless to say, the trip to Oklahoma got postponed.

“That was in 1972, and I had literally given up on the music business. But, it was a whole new ball game with Murphey,” Nunn said. “He had a record deal, promoters and was traveling the United States and even the world.”

The launch of Nunn’s solo career came about quite by accident years later (as did many things in Nunn’s life including his marriage).

In 1986, Nunn relocated his wife and son to the family ranch near Hanna, Okla., and from 1986 to 2003, he commuted between Oklahoma and Texas. During this time, his wife, Ruth, decided to create a music festival on the A-O ranch. They called it “Terlingua North Summer Social and Chili Cook-off.” Volunteers built a stage and the first year, between 500 and 600 were in attendance. Nunn notes that several up-and-coming artists got their jumpstart through this festival and many give him credit personally for helping to boost their music careers.

With such a long and fascinating journey through a monumental changing time in Indie



music, Nunn has a multitude of stories that he shares in his memoir. It seemed he was destined to learn every aspect of the music business and his personal life through trial and error.

He played an epic role in establishing the raw, honest Texas music that we love today. It's no wonder that he was named an Official Ambassador to the World by Texas Governor Mark White and years later Governor Rick Perry gave him the title of Ambassador of Texas Music.

Gary P. Nunn earned those titles as well as his place at the top of the pile of Texas music artists.

What's next besides promoting his new memoir, "Home with the Armadillo?"

"I'm going to be releasing a new CD in April that's different from anything I've ever done. I've asked some of my peers to join me on an album of duets," Nunn said.

This album features twelve Texas/Oklahoma music artists including Robert Earl Keen and Lyle Lovett, Kevin Fowler, Bruce Robison, Wade Bowen, Cory Morrow, Cody Canada, Roger Creager, Kimmie Rhodes, Dale Watson, Red Steagall, Cody Johnson and Sunny Sweeney.

Nunn will be a large part of a Country Music Hall of Fame Exhibit in Nashville, "Outlaws and Armadillos: Country's Roaring '70s," which opens to the public on May 25. For more, visit [www.countrymusichalloffame.org/exhibits/exhibitdetail/outlaws](http://www.countrymusichalloffame.org/exhibits/exhibitdetail/outlaws)

For more on the album, the memoir and tour dates, visit [www.garypunn.com](http://www.garypunn.com).

If Texas Music history fascinates you, pick up a copy of "Home with the Armadillo."

I promise you will find it entertaining. ☺



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# BACKROAD BITES

ATTRACTIONS 

BILL'S-WAURIKA, OKLA.

*By Kristi Hawks*



Bill's is located about a mile north of the Red River in Waurika, Okla. (Photo by Kristi Hawks)

**M**y backroad bites this month was west of home to Waurika, Okla. On this day, I enjoyed the break in winter while traveling across the countryside toward the Red River.

I saw pastures filled with horses, cattle and newborn calves running around, common things in southern Oklahoma.

The soil around the ponds and ditches turned to a redder tint as I went west. I even saw a road runner cross the road and wondered if Wile E. Coyote was near, but I know that's only in the cartoons.

When I got to town, I drove through the main street of Waurika and found a couple of local stores

to stop in and shop that had local artists' items to buy.

I asked the locals for suggestions of places to eat, and Bill's was mentioned. I traveled to the Red River to see the old bridge that is being replaced and found Bill's. It was a house-looking building on the north side of Highway 79.

As I entered the restaurant, it felt like I was entering a family home. I could tell they have busy times because the entrance had a large waiting area for their more crowded times.

Since it was mid-afternoon, I had no trouble getting in and finding a booth. The inside was just what you'd expect of a family din-

ing place: tables and booths with friendly servers ready to get you a drink and take your order. During my visit, several people came in and were greeted by name, and it was obvious Bill's gets a lot of repeat customers.

The menu was what you'd imagine from a fish house: fish, more fish in combinations and baskets, scallops, shrimp and a few items unique to me, but probably common to native Oklahomans, like steak fingers, chicken livers and gizzards, frog legs, oysters and calf fries.

The dinners were listed as individual items, or they offered "Bill's Baskets" that let you mix and match your seafood, chicken

and beef into a variety of combinations. Most meals came with fries, coleslaw and hushpuppies, but they offered other items you could order under the "Extras" section of the menu.

As the waitress brought my tea, I ordered a combination of fried catfish and calf fries. Growing up on a farm in Iowa that had grain crops, cattle and hogs, yes, I do know what calf fries are and ate them before, but it's been a long time.

I wanted to try them now to see how they were cooked, tasted and determine if my "phobia" of eating them has changed all these years later.

**Continued on page 52**



## FRIED CATFISH & CALF FRIES



## HUSH PUPPIES

### Continued from page 51

My server brought hush puppies (not the typical round ones I'm used to, but long fried ones), coleslaw and pickles. The hush puppies were very tasty and not greasy at all. The coleslaw was made just the way I like it, not too juicy but a good mix of the slaw and creamy dressing, and all it needed was some pepper for my liking.

After just a short wait, my food came. I got a basket full of fried catfish, calf fries and French fries.

Without hesitation I popped one of the calf fries in my mouth and have to say it was very tender and tasty. I'll admit after trying one, I'm still not a fan of calf fries, but these were better than most.

The catfish was flavorful with just the right amount of breading for my taste. The server brought tartar sauce, but it wasn't needed because the fish was moist and great as it came.

My entire meal was a hit and very filling. Even though I only ate

one of the calf fries, I got a to-go box and took the rest to my local coffee shop when I got back home and took the rest of the calf fries in and several people ate them with no hesitation. They thought they were some of the best they had from a restaurant, but it was pointed out that the home cooked ones were the best!

Bill's was established in 1962 and is located about a mile north of Red River Bridge on Highway 79. Their phone number is 580-228-2372.

Their hours vary between the winter and summer, so just call them or check their website at [www.billsfh.com](http://www.billsfh.com) for the current hours. They are generally open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday and do also offer catering.

It was an enjoyable day driving west to the Red River, seeing the countryside along the way. The meal was well worth the trip, and if you go to that area stop in and try Bill's. You'll get good food worth your money. Enjoy! ☞



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# Grazing Oklahoma

## Tharp's Spiderwort (*Tradescantia tharpii*)

By Mike Proctor, Noble Research Institute research associate / mdproctor@noble.org

**Characteristics:** Some say Spiderworts get their name from their sticky sap, which resembles a spider web after drying. Others say it is because their leaf arrangement resembles a squatting spider. I'm inclined to go with the first opinion, but if you'd really like to avoid conflict, you can just call it cow slobber and avoid the issue entirely.

The genus is named after John Tradescant, botanist and gardener for the king of England in the early 1600s. This particular species was named after Benjamin Tharp, a botanist at the University of Texas. Eight species of spiderworts occur in Oklahoma, all of them native. The common houseplant, Wandering Jew, is a tropical species of *Tradescantia*.

Few plants in the prairie show off quite like this one. It's hard to miss bright yellow stamens contrasting against a background

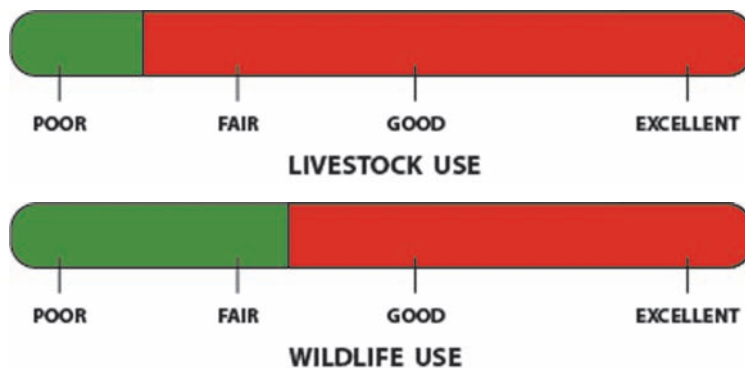
of purple petals in a sea of green grass. Tharp's spiderwort is a short herb, less than one foot tall, with long leaves about one-half inch wide. Even when abundant, it is rarely noticed unless flowers or fruit are present because the leaves, which resemble grass blades, blend in with the other vegetation.

The flowers range in size from one-half-inch to nearly three inches, and in color from light pink to a dark purple. The flower

size decreases later in the season as soil moisture decreases and daytime temperatures increase. Individual flowers open in early morning and usually only last until the afternoon.

**Area of importance:** In Oklahoma, Tharp's spiderwort occurs mostly in the eastern two-thirds of the state. Its habitat is grasslands, often on rocky soil, and usually with quite a bit of clay. It is rarely tall enough to be seen above the grass from the road; you have

to wade out into the chiggers to really see it. Since it likes clay, you're unlikely to see it in the company of trees, unless the ce-



**PLANT ID KEY**

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

dars and hackberries are invading. I see it most often growing with Texas Needlegrass and Sideoats Grama.

**Attributes:** Native pollinators use the flowers, and a variety of vertebrates, including livestock, utilize the leaves as forage, although I doubt it is ever abundant enough to be useful for livestock.

When cultivated, flowering continues later into the year in the shade and when watered regularly, as do many native species. Several related species and cultivars are available commercially. Most of the species can be started from seed.

Native Americans used a related species, *T. virginiana*, to treat insect bites, cancer and some stomach-related problems, as well as using the greens for food. A recurring theme in many of the sources I used to research this plant was the lack of insect pests.


This makes me wonder if it might have some insect repellent properties as well.

Studies done in Japan on a couple of different species of *Tradescantia* have shown that small amounts of radiation can cause mutations in the hairs around the stamens as they are growing, causing them to change color. Mutations occurred at radiation levels that had previously been considered safe. A system has even been developed to use this response to test for radiation and other mutagens. It's hard not to like a plant that brings its own Gieger counter.

So the next time someone asks me why I'm standing out in the pasture staring at the ground, rather than telling them that I'm sampling species composition, I can say checking for radiation.

I have a hunch they'll find someplace else they need to be pretty quick. ☺

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