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# OVER

October 2019 |

Volume 4 Issue 10

*Leading  
the Way*



Trevor Lucas, Oklahoma FFA  
State Executive Secretary

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## Never forget...

This letter is the last thing I write each month for Oklahoma Farm & Ranch. I wait, sometimes until the eleventh hour, for inspiration to hit. Sometimes finding the words are a struggle, and sometimes they flow. This October issue letter was one that wasn't coming easy. I wrote. I backspaced. I wrote again.

Now, here I am, on Sept. 11, finishing this issue. I realize the time to write about 9/11 might have been better in last month's magazine, but really, is it a date we can ever forget?

If you were alive then, do you remember where you were? I was getting ready to walk out the door to go to school. At first, as the news came across the television set, it didn't even occur to me that I should care. I mean, New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania weren't anywhere close to my home, my life, or my loved ones.

But then, on that day, they were.

It hurt, this attack on our country - the country where we live an honest life, have learned about integrity, and love one another.

My home suddenly encompassed much more than my little neck of the woods. As stories of honor, valor, courage, and selflessness rolled out, I had a better understanding of what made a hero. I grasped the importance of being part of something much bigger, much more significant, than yourself. As people came together that day, regardless of their background, beliefs, race, financial status, or age, I knew what it meant to be an American.

It's been 18 years, and I'll admit, sometimes I do forget what happened that day. So maybe it's ok to be writing about 9/11 a month later. Maybe it's a good reminder that, regardless of the minutia of everyday life, on that day, nothing else mattered except being there for one another.

I love being an American, an Oklahoman, and I love the life I've been able to live in the rural part of our state. One of the best decisions I ever made was to get involved in FFA as an eighth grader. Wearing that blue jacket also made me part of something bigger - a dynamic group of young people who could, quite possibly, change the world.

My enthusiasm for FFA led me to meet Trevor Lucas, the Oklahoma FFA State Executive Secretary. Last June, Lucas took over the position previously held for 33 years by Mr. Kent Boggs. His excitement for the organization is palpable, and I'm sure he'll do great things for Oklahoma FFA. Read more about Trevor Lucas in "Leading the Way" on page 28.

Our contributors penned some great content for this issue, and I can't wait for you to read it.

If you have story ideas or suggestions, reach out to me at editor@OKFROnline.com. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. You can also subscribe to the digital edition at OKFROnline.com.

Wishing you, our readers, the best this October.

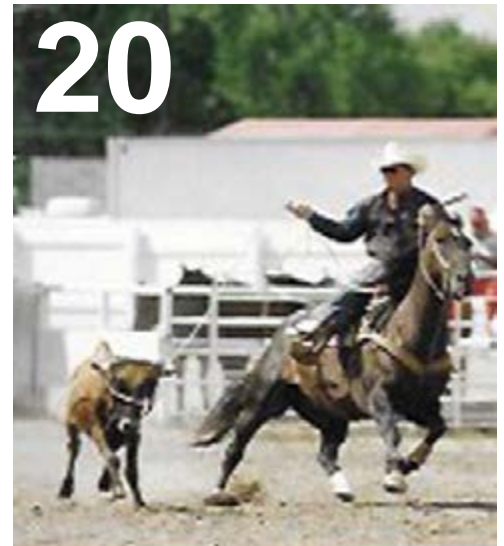
*Savannah Magoteaux, Editor*



## ON THE COVER

Trevor Lucas grew up in the small town of Central High, where he says he made the best decision of his life - joining the FFA. Lucas went on to serve as State FFA Reporter, then upon graduation worked as an agriculture education instructor. Last year, he took a new career path, accepting the Oklahoma FFA State Executive Secretary position. (Photo by Savannah Magoteaux)

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Trevor Lucas serves as the Executive Secretary of Oklahoma FFA, an organization that has played a major role in his life. He's been a student, a leader, and an educator, and now helps grow the 27,000+ member organization.

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It was more than two decades ago that Wes Sander, of Woodward, Okla., was serving on the Woodward Elks PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association) Rodeo Committee. He and fellow committee members were brainstorming ways for their rodeo to stand out from the others.

Sander grew up in Canton, Okla., on the family's historic Chain Ranch. "We always had a few longhorns stuck around, and my cousin Andrea and I had actually gone with Uncle Ralph (Chain) to Dodge City to buy our f...

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**Shawna Senkel** Great article & family  
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**OKFR Magazine** @OKFRMagazine · Aug 28  
In October 2017, Ddee Haynes wrote about a young man she dubbed "The Iron Cowboy."

She caught back up with Hagen Nielsen for the August issue. Learn more about this inspiring young man here ==>>> [ow.ly/zAeC50vMHUz](http://ow.ly/zAeC50vMHUz)

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# Contagious Ecthyma

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

**C**ontagious Ecthyma (CE) is a highly contagious viral disease found throughout the world wherever sheep are kept. The virus primarily affects young lambs and kids within a few weeks after birth. It is also seen among weaned lambs and kids that are comingled such as in feedlot situations. Older adults not previously exposed or with a compromised immune system may be affected as well as some other domestic and wild animals. Although no studies have been done, the disease most likely causes significant economic losses. Economic losses are attributed to weight loss and death loss. The disease is zoonotic, which means the virus can infect humans. The human disease is referred to as ORF. Some other common names for the disease are sore mouth, ORF, scabby mouth and contagious pustular dermatitis. In addition to sheep and goats, the disease has been found in Alaskan mountain goats, Dall's sheep, muskoxen, caribou, Sitka black-tailed deer, alpacas, deer, pronghorn and elk. The disease was reported to be in some dogs that were fed sheep, but the virus was not confirmed. The virus was found in three cats with skin lesions. Some believe these cats may have been immunocompromised. Rabbits, mice and Macaque monkeys have been infected experimentally.

The cause of CE is an ORF virus, which is in the genus Parapoxvirus. In small ruminants, the virus is located in skin lesions and scabs. The virus may be transmitted by direct contact with the lesions or by fomites. The virus can be found in the healed skin lesions for a short period of time. In laboratory conditions, the virus is viable in the scabs for several years. The



Most cases of CE improve without treatment in three to four weeks. However, some intervention may be necessary. Animals that refuse to eat may require tube feeding or softened food. If secondary bacterial infections become a problem, antibiotics may be required. (Courtesy photo)

virus is thought to enter the animal through cuts or abrasions in the mouth. Also, erupting teeth may be an entry point for the virus.

Once an animal has been exposed to the virus, clinical signs appear in a few days. The clinical signs of the disease vary in severity. Initial clinical signs are a wet mouth with red areas around the commissure of the mouth. This is followed by raised circular areas that may become vesicles and pustules. The pustules will rupture and ooze fluid on to the wool or hair. The lesions mature into scabs. The lesions are usually found on the lips, mouth and nose. Other areas where lesions may be found are the ears, eyelids, feet, genitalia and mammary glands. The lesions are painful, which leads some young animals to refuse to nurse or eat. If the feet are affected, animals may become lame. Lambs may trans-

mit the virus to the dams while nursing. This may lead to mastitis. Ulcers may be found in the mouth on occasions. Rarely, the lesions progress into the esophagus, digestive tract, and lungs. This may result in digestive problems and pneumonia.

There have been reports with this disease of severe non-healing proliferative lesions in sheep and goats (Smith et al.) (Concha-Bermejillo et al.). The lesions are similar to the ones described above but much worse and do not heal. In these cases, additional lesions seen are swollen lymph nodes, arthritis and chronic fibrinous pneumonia.

The animals did not respond to treatment for secondary bacterial infections. Antiviral treatment has not been reported in these cases.

Most veterinarians diagnose CE on clinical signs. The virus

can be identified by Electron microscopy (EM). However, EM cannot separate one parapoxvirus from another. In order to confirm the ORF virus, other laboratory tests are required.

Most cases of CE improve without treatment in three to four weeks. However, some intervention may be necessary. Animals that refuse to eat may require tube feeding or softened food. If secondary bacterial infections become a problem, antibiotics may be required.

Applying salves to soften the scabs may help alleviate the pain. Treatment with cidofovir has been shown to rapidly resolve the lesions (Sonvico et al.). In herd situations, the treatment is impractical and expensive.

The best way to prevent CE is to maintain a closed, disease-free herd. If that is not possible, the

producer should follow a strict biosecurity protocol for the introduction of new animals. If the disease is present on the ranch or farm, a vaccine is available to reduce the incidence and severity of the disease. The vaccine should not be used in disease-free flocks and herds. The vaccine is a live virus, so producers need to be cautious when administering the vaccine.

Contagious Ecthyma is a public health concern. People involved with sheep and goats should be cautious when handling sick animals. Immunocompromised individuals should avoid contact with CE infected animals.

CE is and will be a problem in sheep and goat operations. If a producer would like more information about CE, he/she should contact his/her veterinarian or Oklahoma State University Extension Educator. Also, information is available at <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/DiseaseInfo/factsheets.php>.


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# Trey Lam receives distinguished service award

By Bryan Painter, Communications Director for Okla. Conservation Commission and Okla. Natural Resources Conservation Service

“I need to be there.” Trey Lam, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission doesn’t say that, he does it.

“There” may be a retirement party for a conservation pioneer. Or “there” may be standing in what was once a promising corn field, but after historic floods resembles the surface of the moon. He’s elbow to elbow with the producer working on the next step.

Recently, the South Central Region Conservation District Employees Association presented their 2019 Distinguished Service Award to Trey Lam, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. The award was presented during the 2019 South Central Region of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Meeting in Thackerville, Okla.

Lam uses every minute on a clock, but he’s not a clock watcher. Instead, his focus is on bringing the successes and the needs of conservation to whoever will listen, wherever he or she may be.

One need to look no further than the recently released 2017 U.S. Census of Ag to see what the commitment of Oklahomans has yielded in terms of conservation – and Lam is a tireless leader in those efforts.

That report showed that Oklahoma is seventh in the nation for the largest decrease in cropland acreage using conventional tillage practices.

The report noted that in Oklahoma, compared to 2012, there was a 24 percent increase in the number of farms using cover crops, a 51 percent increase in acres using cover crops, and a 29 percent decrease in intensive tillage practices.

“The hundreds of field days, demonstration farms and educational events created even more change in no-till and cover crop adoption rates than we expected. Oklahoma farmers and ranchers ‘get it.’ By adopting a system that protects and restores the productivity of our soil, they can improve their bottom line and leave their land in better shape for generations to come,” Lam said.



The South Central Region Conservation District Employees Association on July 22 presented their 2019 Distinguished Service Award to Trey Lam, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. The award was presented during the 2019 South Central Region of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Meeting in Thackerville.

Lam, a long-time Garvin Conservation District board member and a former President of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, has served as executive director of the OCC since Nov. 17, 2014. He also has 30-plus years’ experience in operating his own farm near Pauls Valley, Okla.

Following in the footsteps of his father, who served on the Garvin District board for more than 20 years, Lam, a graduate of Yale University, is a lifelong conservationist who has taken his knowledge of Oklahoma’s land and agriculture to the national stage as Oklahoma’s representative on the National Association of Conservation Districts’ board.

Lam uses the conservation practices of no-till and cover crops to make the most of his land at Lam Farms where the family raises alfalfa, corn, soybeans, wheat, and cattle. He also works closely with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and

Oklahoma State University (OSU) to develop farm plans for crop rotation and equipment usage.

Lam’s leadership positions through the years include Oklahoma Soybean Association President, Oklahoma Soybean Checkoff board member, Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association President, Oklahoma Alfalfa Hay and Seed Association Vice President and OSU Dean of Agriculture Advisory Council member.

When speaking publicly, his sentences often include the words, “We are a top 10 state in...” Oklahoma is No. 1 in fewer polluted streams, phosphorous load reductions, small watershed flood control dams and volunteer citizen scientists to name a few categories.

No one reaches No. 1 without commitment and Trey Lam’s commitment to conservation certainly qualifies him for this prestigious “Distinguished Service Award.”

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- 25 - Angus 5 year old Spring calving bred to McCabe Angus Bulls. *Ranch Dispersal*
- 70 - Angus and Black Baldie Spring bred cows 3 to 5 year safe to RA Brown Bulls.
- 253 - Angus 3 to 5 year old spring calving cows safe to Holloway Angus bulls to start 2.20.20  
*Uniformity in numbers*
- 130 - Ultrablack and Brangus Super Baldy 3 to 5 year old spring calvers. Safe to Angus bulls.
- 60 - Red Angus and Red Angus influence 3 to 5 year old spring calving cows safe to Angus bulls.

## BRED HEIFERS

- 67 - Angus bred heifers spring bred one raising to start 2.8.20 for 30 days safe to low birth weight EPD Hinkson Angus Bulls.
- 25 - Angus bred heifers spring bred one raising to start 3.8.20 for 30 days safe to low birth weight EPD Hinkson Angus Bulls.
- 11 - Black Baldy bred heifers spring bred one raising to start 2.8.20 for 60 days safe to low birth weight EPD Hinkson Angus Bulls.
- 165 - Ball Ranch Angus and Ultrablack bred heifers to start calving 1.15.20 for 45 days to low birth weight EPD Angus bulls. *Uniformity in Numbers*

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# Stocking Rate – Volume 2

## *Should I be that concerned?*

By Tony Dean

The decision a rancher makes on stocking rate has both short and long term effects on land, livestock, and economics of a business, making it essential a rancher have knowledge regarding correct stocking rates. Fortunately, Tony Dean is sharing his knowledge regarding stocking rates in a four-part series. Read on for the second segment in “Stocking Rate - Should I be that concerned?”

**How do I know if my stocking rate is correct?** It’s easy to fall into the trap of thinking, “We’ve always run 125 cows on this place, so that’s just what we do.” Many ranches are stocked based on this reasoning.

The number of head we have on the ranch should be a decision we make based on knowledge of pasture health and productivity and on the management goals of each rancher. Productivity is influenced by many variables, an important one being rainfall. There is a reason why most ranchers are very well in tune with how much it rains.

In addition to rainfall, other factors that influence stocking rate include soil type, grasses present in the pasture, health of those grasses, amount of brush infestation, size of livestock and others.

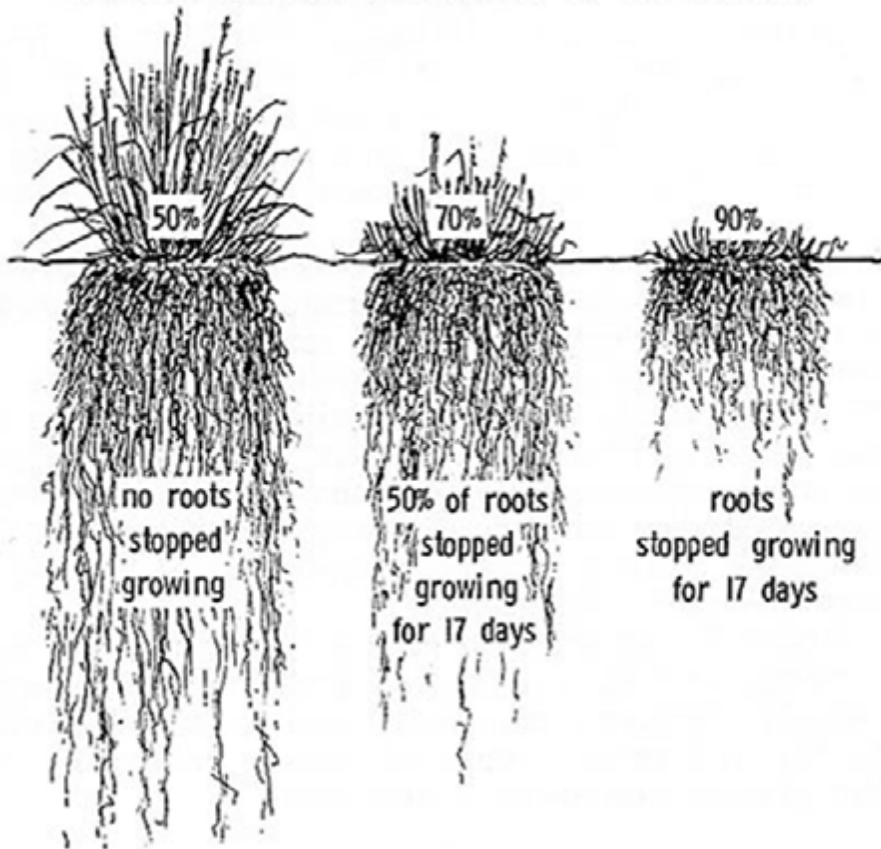
With everything to consider, it might seem too complex to add it all up and come up with a stocking rate. We don’t have to make it such a difficult task. Instead, we can learn to observe some important indicators, or keys, that tell us if we are carrying too many or too few head. In this issue of Grazing North Texas, we will highlight some grazing keys we can easily observe.

**Key Number 1 – Do we allow livestock to graze too much of the annual production of the better grasses?**

In last month’s issue of Grazing North Texas, we learned that a portion of the grass leaves must be left on the plant each year because the leaves act as miniature solar panels, producing the energy necessary for plant survival.

A good rule of thumb for proper grazing on native rangeland is to “take half and leave half” of the annual production of our better quality grazing plants. If at least half of the annual leaf

ROOT DEVELOPMENT IN RELATION TO TOP REMOVAL



Horace Leithead published this drawing 50 years ago, and it is still important information on how plants respond to grazing. (Courtesy photo)

production on grass plants is left in the pasture, then the plants can maintain themselves. In reality, since part of the grass production is subject to trampling, insects, etc., we should plan on using only about 25 percent of grass growth for livestock grazing.

Horace Leithead developed information in 1968 showing that the roots stopped growing for 17 days on grass plants that had 90 percent of the foliage grazed, but when grazed to the 50 percent level, almost none of the roots stopped growing.

**Key Number 2 - A stocking rate on native rangeland that requires feeding of large amounts of hay and/or supplemental feed year after year to keep stock in adequate body condition can be a key that stocking rate is too heavy.**

A sustainable stocking rate on native

rangeland allows the grass to “outgrow” the livestock during summer months in order to stockpile the forage in the pasture and have extra grass to graze during winter months. This can be thought of as a standing hay crop.

Just before new growth starts in early spring, rangeland should still look ragged with some of the prior year’s plants still standing, not grazed to the point that the entire pasture is short and slick.

If the native grasses are all used up well before green-up the next spring, and hay must be fed to maintain livestock, the better grasses are usually overgrazed in the process. Although hay may be provided in the pasture and be consumed by livestock, the livestock will also likely continue to graze, and eventually damage the grasses.

Hay is a very expensive supplemental feed

source. If reducing cattle numbers can lead to reduced hay cost, then the money saved by not feeding hay can partially offset running fewer head.

**Key Number 3 - Active erosion and increasing bare ground are significant warning signs that the grasses are being damaged and adjustments in grazing management are needed.**

A healthy grass cover protects the soil surface from falling rain or from overland flow of water and helps soil absorb rainfall. Erosion may take place where the protective grass cover has been grazed out by overgrazing.

Dr. Allan McGinty, in the Texas Natural Resources Server, indicated that ranchers can watch for more subtle indicators of unhealthy rangelands. These indicators include pedicelled plants, which are grass plants that are sitting on small pedicels of soil indicating that erosion has taken place around them.

**Key Number 4 - A starting stocking rate can be determined by knowing the actual pounds of grass produced. This is a good method to help set a stocking rate, but usually requires clipping and weighing some sample plots in the pasture to determine your actual amount of grass production.**

If a rangeland pasture is found to produce 3,000 pounds of useable forage per acre, and we are trying to stay within the 25 percent use rule, we can estimate a starting stocking rate of a cow to about 18 acres. Clipping and weighing the grass can be done for a pasture or for a whole ranch.

One of the issues with clipping and weighing sample plots is the labor and expertise required.

Another issue is that the clipping can represent only one year's production. The next year might be more or less productive. Finally, in clipping plots, we harvest and weigh plants that the livestock may not normally eat. However, clipping plots is still an interesting and beneficial exercise and we can learn from it.

**Key Number 5 - A rancher-friendly technique that is easy to do and is a good visual tool is to construct grazing enclosures. Grazing enclosures are made by forming a circle using one or two flexible cattle panels held in place by steel posts.**

These cages can be as small as five to 10 feet across, just so the cattle can't reach inside them. During the year you can compare the forage inside the cage to the forage use outside the cage where your cattle are grazing. Degree of use can then be visually estimated.



This grazing enclosure is made from two cattle panels. Ranchers can compare the forage produced inside the cage to the grazed pasture outside. (Photo courtesy of Tony Dean)

**Key Number 6 - Photographs taken at the same point in a pasture each year are a valuable record to document pasture conditions.**

Changes in the rangeland can occur slowly, sometimes over a period of years, and we need some way to recall just what our pastures looked like as time goes by.

To document with photographs, place some steel posts at key locations in the pastures. Two or three times per year, place a camera on each post (pointed in the same direction each time) and take a landscape picture, then point the camera down toward the ground and take a close up picture. The pictures should be taken at about the same time each year.

After two or three years, you will see a trend in the condition of the plants. In addition to taking pictures, a system of monitoring the amount of bare ground is simple to design and gives you a trend in how much ground cover you have.

**Key Number 7 - Being able to identify our major grasses can help in determining stocking rate.**

Jeff Goodwin is Conservation Stewardship Leader and Pasture and Range Consultant with the Noble Research Institute. In his article, "Top Ten Misconceptions in Grazing Management," he said, "Not all grasses are created equal. Native or introduced, annual or perennial—no two species of grass are the same. Grasses differ in the way they grow just as much as the amount they can grow."

A handful of grasses are considered "ice

cream" plants, in that they are highly desired by grazing livestock. When overgrazing is taking place, these plants are the first to be grazed and are usually grazed to the ground.

After a few years of heavy use, the better grasses die out and are replaced by lower quality plants. If we can identify these desired plants, we can keep track of how they are doing under our grazing management.

Little bluestem is a summer perennial grass that is adapted to loamy and sandy soils in North Texas. It grows throughout a large area of the U.S. and is one of the important native grasses of the plains. However, little blue is misunderstood by many ranchers.

The leaf production on little blue is only around the base of the plant. The taller portion of little blue consists of the stems that support the seed heads in the fall.

Leaves at the base of the plant are highly relished by grazing animals, especially during summer months, but the stems are seldom palatable.

However, many producers look across a bluestem pasture and see the seed stalks sticking up, and believe that cattle are not eating the grass. Cattle will, from time to time, eat a few of the seed stalks, but if cattle remain on a bluestem pasture until they have completely eaten the seed stalks, the whole pasture is usually overgrazed.

If your soil will support little bluestem or other desired grasses or forbs, and they have been grazed out or severely reduced by live-  
**See STOCKING RATE page 17**

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# Stocking Rate

Continued from page 15

stock, the stocking rate is probably too heavy. Or, the cattle were forced to remain in the pasture too long.

You can plainly see the new leaves growing from the base of this Little bluestem plant. If you look closely, you can also see some of last year's leaves that were left on the plant. Livestock seldom eat the dry seed stems above the leaves.

Frank Price and his son, Sims, ranch northwest of San Angelo, Texas, and were the 2013 winners of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Environmental Stewardship Award. Price had these thoughts concerning stocking rate, "When implementing an effective grazing program stocking rate is one of the key factors

to be considered, as a consistently profitable operation cannot be achieved without its careful consideration.

A ranching program structured around a well-planned and implemented grazing program including consideration of rest-graze-stocking rate processes can produce amazing results. Not only to improvement of the rangeland resource, but the consistent profitability of the operation."

The Price ranch is involved in a well-designed rotation grazing management plan, and we will hear more from Frank Price concerning stocking rate, profitability, and other management goals in the next issue of *Grazing North Texas*. We will also discuss additional "keys" to help determine a stocking rate on your operation. ☞



You can plainly see the new leaves growing from the base of this Little bluestem plant. If you look closely, you can also see some of last year's leaves that were left on the plant. Livestock seldom eat the dry seed stems above the leaves. (Photo courtesy of Tony Dean)

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# Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome (EGUS)

By Garrett Metcalf, DVM

Many horse owners will experience a horse that has gastric ulcers because it is that common of a problem across many disciplines and performance levels. Gastric ulcers don't just occur in adult horses but can affect just about every age group of horse from foals to adults. Several years ago a horse that was dropping weight, not performing normally, acted "cinchy" and was not eating well was blamed for poor doers or behavioral issues, but today it might be much more than that.

## Equine Stomach

To have a better understanding of EGUS in horses a deeper understanding of the horses' stomach is needed. The equine stomach has two very distinct layers of gastric lining. The layer that gets the most attention is the most upper portion of the stomach that is lined with squamous mucosa or the non-glandular mucosa. This layer has poorer defense mechanisms to protect itself from the harsh gastric acid and low pH levels compared to the lower aspect of the stomach.

The lower level of the stomach is lined with glandular gastric mucosal cells with strong defenses against low pH and is also responsible for gastric acid production. Between these two layers is a sharp division called the margo plicatus where often gastric ulcers form. Research has shown that there is a gradient of pH levels in the equine stomach with the lowest pH levels (more acidic) near the very bottom of the stomach where the stomach empties and higher levels of pH near the top. This will be important information later discussed about ways to prevent gastric ulcer formation.

## Clinical Signs of EGUS

Horses with EGUS can have a



Healthy Stomach



Stomach Ulcers

Common signs of EGUS are weight loss, mild to moderate recurrent colic, eating preferences of hay before grain or refusing grain, and attitude changes. Another common symptom is loss of performance in performance horses across various disciplines. (Courtesy photo)

variety of clinical signs and symptoms. Common signs of EGUS are weight loss, mild to moderate recurrent colic, eating preferences of hay before grain or refusing grain, and attitude changes. Another common symptom is loss of performance in performance horses across various disciplines. These symptoms can vary in severity, be intermittent and overlap with various other diseases making it difficult to diagnose based on symptoms alone.

## Foals and Weanlings

Gastric ulceration in young horses can be related to many factors and other concurrent diseases that young horses experience the first few months of life. Gastric ulceration in youngsters can be related to concurrent illness, stress of weaning, delayed gastric emptying and prolonged periods of time between feedings. Foals in particular can get a much more severe form of ulceration that extends beyond the stomach into the first few inches or feet of small intestine, called the duodenum, leading to gastroduodenal ulceration. Common illnesses that cause foals to have decrease nursing vigor,

stress and delayed gastric emptying, such as enterocolitis, can set foals up to experience serious gastric and duodenum ulceration. The worst outcome of these severe ulcerations in foals is stricturing of the bowel, causing an outflow blockage of the ingesta from the stomach leading to chronic colic symptoms that ultimately necessitates euthanasia unless surgical correction is performed.

## Adult EGUS, Diagnosis and Prevention

Luckily adult horses do not get as severe complications from gastric ulceration as foals do, but it can have serious effects on performance and gastrointestinal health. EGUS can be a very proliferation problem in high performance horses affecting up to 97% of racehorses and performance horses. Even as many as 37% of recreational horses were found to have EGUS in one study group.

The gold standard diagnostic method is to perform gastroscopic exam of the stomach using a long video endoscope to visualize the lining of the stomach. Gastric ulcers are commonly found in specific regions and these areas are

carefully examined for evidence of ulceration. A grading scale from 0-4 is used to classify the severity of the ulceration and to tailor the treatment plan to the severity of the disease. The only FDA approved and most proven method to treat EGUS is Gastrogard (omeprazole). The treatment course of the disease varies due to the severity but on average will require treatment for two to six weeks.

Methods of preventing or reducing the risk of gastric ulceration have been proposed and have some levels of success. Many of these methods are management and husbandry changes related to feeding.

Horses were never meant to be fed meals or high concentrate diets with longer periods of times between receiving forage. The design of the gastrointestinal tract and continuous production of gastric acid makes it necessary for a horse to forage nearly 60-70% of the time out of each day. Concentrated meal feeding methods have been shown to exacerbate EGUS in various age groups of horses.

Matter of fact, the experimen-

tal method of inducing EGUS in horses is to fast a horse from all feed material for prolonged periods of time. The recommendations for horses that are undergoing stress of hauling, changes in environment or are performing at higher levels is to use slow feeding methods to deliver small amounts of hay over a much longer period of time, mimicking the natural behavior of foraging a horse would normally be doing. Ways to achieve this are by feeding hay in hay bags with small openings to make it last longer or using specially designed feedings that have screens placed over the hay to limit the amount of hay taken in with each bite. It is further recommended to feed horses all the way up to an event or before being worked. Alfalfa particularly has been shown to have a buffering ability with higher levels of calcium to increase the pH levels making it more basic



If you suspect your horse has symptoms of EGUS, talk to your veterinarian to see if those symptoms are potentially signs that your horse has gastric ulcers. (Courtesy photo)

and preventing gastric juices from splashing up on the more sensitive non-glandular parts of the stomach lining.

If you suspect your horse has symptoms of EGUS, talk to your veterinarian to see if those symptoms are potentially signs that

your horse has gastric ulcers. They can further discuss performing a gastroscopic exam and treatment plan for your horse. ☞

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# Moore and Clark to be honored with Rodeo Historical Society Awards

By Linda Clark

## Hall of Fame Inductee Lydia Moore

The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Okla., will hold its annual Rodeo Historical Society Hall of Fame inductions gala Nov. 8 - 9. Past rodeo participants who have devoted their lives to the western lifestyle and sport are nominated for the honors. Current members of the RHS then vote on the slate of nominees to arrive at the six living and two deceased that will be chosen.

Lydia Moore of Wayne, Okla., will be the only woman in the slate of inductees for this year's inductions. Her years of involvement in the barrel racing and all women's segments of rodeo, as well as her years rodeo secretarying for many different stock contractors throughout the country, made her an excellent choice. The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and Women's Professional Rodeo Association gold card member joins cowboys representing both ends of the arena – Wacey Cathey, Buddy Cockrell, Frank Shepperson, Rob Smets, Jack Ward, Buck LeGrand, and T.J. Walters.

Moore was raised in a rodeo family in Missouri. Her parents, Hazel and Percy Moore worked for many rodeo and wild west show companies traveling the country with her older sister, Maudie, and younger sister, Percyna in tow. In fact, Percyna was actually born in a tent while on the road for the Colonel Jim Eskew Wild West Show. Lydia stayed home most of the time as a tot with her grandfather, John Hickey, due to poor health until she was around 10 years old. As she grew stronger, she learned the art of trick riding



Rodeo Historical Society Hall of Fame Inductee Lydia Moore. (Photo courtesy of Lydia Moore)

and roping. “My dad taught me trick roping and my mom taught me trick riding,” she said.

Her parents, Hazel Hickey Moore, a noted circus and wild west show performer, and her husband, saddle bronc rider and steer wrestler, Percy Moore, both instilled in Lydia a love of horses and all things western. As a youngster, Lydia performed with her family in dressage and trick roping acts and won many talent contests as a teen with her skills.

The introduction to barrel racing came purely by accident. The annual St. Louis Fireman's Rodeo produced by Tommy Steiner was in town around the early 1960s. Wanda Bush, Fanny Mae Cox, and Boots Tucker, all barrel racers from Texas, were in town for the rodeo. They didn't have enough barrel racing contestants, which was a new event for the rodeo. Wanda reached out to a local horse facility, Valley Mount Ranch,

since Wanda knew they were starting to have barrel races at that arena. Lydia was one of the ladies invited to enter.

As Lydia's interest grew for the sport of barrel racing, she gravitated more towards the administrative side and was instrumental in the 1960s of helping form the first barrel racing state chapter (Missouri) of the Girls Rodeo Association. While living in St. Louis she met one of her mentors – famed rodeo secretary June Ivory.

When Lydia moved to Oklahoma City in 1967, Ivory introduced Lydia to Stanley Draper and Bobbie Steenbergen from the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce who worked with Clem McSpadden, Buster and June Ivory as the group managing the National Finals Rodeo. “It's hard to imagine, but during the early years of the NFR in Oklahoma City, there was little interest in the Finals. When it first moved there,

tickets didn't sell well – we had dinners and parades in downtown Oklahoma City to sell the event,” Moore recalled.

With the NFR's move to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma barrel racer Florence Youree worked with Stanley and Bobbie to bring in the barrel race as one of its standard events. Florence's pitch worked and the event was sold as – “pretty girls on fast horses,” Moore said. Needing a liaison for the barrel racers, as a go between to handle any issues barrel racers had, she was hired. She worked in that capacity until 1985 when the NFR moved to Las Vegas.

Moore also received the task in those early years of the NFR as the GRA Awards Chairwoman for the barrel racers garnering thousands of dollars of awards for the ladies each year. “I wrote letters to various companies and everybody I saw that had a business, I asked for awards. I was even able to get a car and a horse trailer donated. Continuing her interest on the business side of women in rodeo, she served five years on the GRA board of directors as Bull Riding and Southeastern Region Director before being hired as the executive secretary in 1973, a job she loved for nearly 25 years. “At that time, the GRA had all of the rodeo events – we had a lot of all-girl rodeos – we used to have approximately one a month back in the day – we had a lot of great girls.”

A prized honor she received in 1991, known as the WPRA Coca-Cola Woman of the Year, was awarded for her years of service, passion, and devotion to women in rodeo, and rodeo in general. Moore feels fortunate to have seen firsthand the phenomenal growth



In addition to trick riding, Moore was also a barrel racer and a roper. (Photo courtesy of Lydia Moore)

in the sport of barrel racing that it enjoys today—barrel racing as a standard rodeo event, equal money at rodeos, and equal money at the NFR.

Being inducted into the RHS Hall of Fame will be even more special. “I feel absolutely the same about this honor – I’ll be

emotional to be recognized in this chapter of my life. I’m blessed with good health and it’s great. I’ve been very blessed. I have a beautiful daughter and granddaughter whom I love. They and their families help take good care of me and my sister, Percyna.”

**See AWARDS page 23**



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# Awards

## Doug Clark to Receive Ben Johnson Award

In addition to the Rodeo Historical Society Hall of Fame inductions, the Ben Johnson Award is awarded annually during the ceremonies.

Ben Johnson, Jr. of Pawhuska, Okla., was a 'cowboy's cowboy'. Ben Johnson, Sr., made sure that young Ben was proficient in ranching, roping, and riding skills for use in everyday ranch life. Ben, Jr., however, was a natural with a rope and went on to join the Rodeo Cowboys Association winning the world champion team roping title in 1953.

That same year he would also act in his first movie. An opportunity presented itself for Ben, Jr. to provide horses for a Hollywood movie company filming a western, which was the preferred movie genre of the era. He had a mild demeanor, an easy going way of speaking and excellent horsemanship skills and was hired on for the movie as - you guessed it - a cowboy. He would go on to star in a multitude of movies and even win an Academy Award.

Ben's outstanding character in and out of the rodeo arena did not go unnoticed. The establishment of an award titled after the cowboy, was created. The first recipient, Clem McSpadden, earned the Ben Johnson Award in 1998.

According to the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum which presents and displays those earning the tribute, it reads, "presented to a living person who has contributed to the development of rodeo sport, been involved in community and youth activities, and whose life reflects the integrity and character of Ben Johnson."

The RHS is a division of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. A special committee convenes annually to



Doug Clark will receive the Ben Johnson Award in November. Clark has competed at the highest levels and has trained rope horses for top contestants across the country. (Photos courtesy of Linda Clark)

select an outstanding individual to receive the Ben Johnson Award. This year's recipient is Doug Clark, of Wayne, Okla.

Doug and his family had the pleasure of knowing Ben Johnson personally and felt the same way about the man as the award's criteria reflects. The recognition for Clark is the best tribute the quiet cowboy could have ever received. He commented about being chosen for the Ben Johnson Award, "I've always enjoyed roping, rodeoing, and the western life, never thinking I would be recognized for what I've accomplished in rodeo myself or for what I've done in helping others achieve their goals."

Clark is no newcomer to rodeo. He grew up honing his roping and

horsemanship skills in the family's rodeo arena with the help of three generations of cowboys before him. He also spent many hours at his family's saddle shops, the Veach Saddlery's in Trenton, Miss., and Tulsa, Okla.

Clark earned his PRCA gold card status and has spent his career competing in all timed events - tiedown, steer, and team roping. He has earned many top 20 year-end standings qualifications in tiedown roping rodeoing on a part-time basis.

One of his more memorable wins was the 2005 Pendleton Roundup Steer Roping Championship. That win boosted his year-end winnings qualifying him for the National Finals Steer Rop-

ing the same year where he won reserve in the average as well as top horse of the Finals.

As one of the top horse trainers in the country Clark has earned accolades in the rodeo and horse show arena. Several of his horses have been voted on by the top cowboys annually as American Quarter Horse Association/PRCA Horses of the Year in tie-down and steer roping. He was part of the team winning the 1999 AQHA Super Horse Championship, riding the stallion, Look Whos Larkin.

Horses that Clark has either trained, sold, or ridden for cowboys have appeared at every PRCA NFR or National Finals Steer Roping for more than 30 years in events from tie-down roping to steer wrestling.

Earning championships in PRCA's Prairie Circuit, Clark is in the record books for tie-down roping year-end champion, all around champion, and steer roping champion. He is a past All Around Champion at the Cheyenne Frontier Days, 'the Daddy of 'em All', earning the win from money earned in two or more events, as well as setting an arena record there in 1987 in the tie-down roping. His time was a blistering 11.0 seconds across a 30 foot score, roping approximately 300 pound calves.

Many of the top contestants from the junior rodeo level to the professional ranks have spent time at Clark's horse training facility. Trevor Brazile, Tom Ferguson, Joe Beaver, and Roy Cooper are but a few of the top names in rodeo that have spent time roping with Clark or who have hired him to ride their horses to keep them 'tuned' for peak performance.

For more information about this year's ceremonies or to join the Rodeo Historical Society, go to [www.nationalcowboymuseum.org](http://www.nationalcowboymuseum.org).

# A Horse Named Stormy

By Ddee Haynes

**W**e all need a mission in life, a mission and/or job that makes us feel needed, worthy and leaves us with a sense of pride. I truly feel in my heart that horses need that same thing.

In the winter of 2001, we purchased a yearling colt from my husband's uncle. The little bay horse had big bright eyes, long thin legs and looked a little scruffy with his winter coat and wild mane and tail. He was a little on the shy side but with enough personality it did not take him long to become accumulated to his new home. I am not sure who came up with the name Stormy, but it suited him well.

The next few years the once shy little horse grew into a big stout and often stubborn horse. Stormy did not take well to "new things." New things scared him. New things like loading into a horse trailer or even a piece of plastic rattling would send him into fight or flight mode. Stormy was certainly not the bravest horse in the pasture.

One day our then 14-year-old daughter Melissa came into the house with a triumphant look on her face. Melissa proceeded to tell us how she and Stormy had just spent the last hour learning to load and unload into the horse trailer. After that day of learning to load, we never again had a problem with him loading.

As the years went by Stormy learned the barrel pattern, the pole pattern, team roping and the art of goat tying. He would literally do anything he was asked. Except, he really didn't have the heart to do it with any kind of speed. The big guy would make a perfect barrel or pole pattern and would never hit a barrel or a pole. Not because



Every horse needs a purpose in life, and Stormy found his as a kids horse. Pictured are Stormy and Owen waiting their turn at the Lazy E. (Courtesy photo)

he was "that good," but simply because a hit barrel or pole falling over scared him to death.

When it came to team roping, Stormy, again, knew what to do and was actually pretty good if you pushed him. However, just like barrel racing and pole bending, Stormy really never saw the need for speed and was a better heeling horse since he didn't have to run as fast to catch the steer and turn it.

The big bay horse we called Stormy caused so much frustration in our rodeo family. While he did not fit our life style, he had come from a long line of great horses and was one of the last horses from the line, so selling the bay was never a thought. Stormy was a safe and loyal horse; he just did not have the heart nor desire to be a rodeo horse.

As the years went by Stormy became the horse visiting non-rodeo children or inexperienced riders would ride. When my youngest daughter started 4-H, we learned

of a young girl who wanted to participate in the horse club but did not have a horse, so we offered to let the girl use Stormy.

That year is when we started to see the big bay's true mission in life. Stormy was a perfect 4-H horse. He loved the attention of the young rider and would almost always place in the western pleasure. Even when given mixed signals from the inexperienced rider, he would do what he needed to do. The next two years Stormy continued his 4-H career, and the smiles and confidence he gave to his first young rider and several other who borrowed him after that was priceless.

When my youngest turned nine, we were hitting the rodeo trail pretty hard and we just did not have enough time in the week for 4-H and rodeo. Needless to say, our 4-H adventures went to the wayside and once again Stormy was without a job or a rider. One day I finally said yes to a friend


of a friend who had contacted me, asking if I would give her young daughter riding lessons.

The next week when the four-year-old smiling child stepped into my barn and the big bay reached down and nuzzled her hair, I realized for the first time the purpose of this huge wonderful horse with the soulful eyes. His purpose in life was to love and take care of the little riders in the world. For the next year Stormy and I had four students from the age of four to the age of 16. No matter how many times I would ask him to follow me, stop, turn, back up or even stop with just a hand motion, he would do it. Stormy loved his job and he loved the children.

When our grandson Owen turned four, we made the decision to give Stormy to him for his birthday. Stormy now has his "own" boy to love and if you can believe it, he is a junior rodeo horse. Stormy and Owen wrapped up their first year in the Heart of Oklahoma Junior Rodeo a few months back. It has been fun to watch Owen learn to ride and gain confidence. While the duo may not have set any arena records, their times have continued to get better and Stormy just may have discovered he really can run.

As humans we are all guilty of looking beyond the true soul of an individual, be that a human or an animal. We tend to only see what we want to see or what fits "our" agenda.

I believe with all my heart God placed Stormy in my family's life as a gift of love and to help us realize that to live fully we need to follow our own path, love what we do, take care of one another and last but not least, slow down and just enjoy the ride.

Until next time....

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# New Living Legends Of Rodeo Named

By Jude Wade

Chisholm Trail Prairie Circuit Finals Rodeo Committee strives to honor people who have made contributions to the world of rodeo. “We want to remember those who have meant so much to our sport and honor them while we can,” said committee member Mike Anderson. Recipients come from Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska, the states comprising the Prairie Circuit.

Kathie O’Brien, Ernie Taylor and Gail Petska this year will join the ranks of past legends such as Ote Berry, Florence and Dale Youree, Zane Tibbits, Junior Garrison, Carol Goosetree, John and Mildred Farris, six members of the famous Burk family and many more.

## Kathie O’Brien

“When I was three-years-old, I got my first pony. When I was 10, I got my first saddle. When I was 12, my parents, Joe and Frances O’Brien, took me to Nebraska’s Big Rodeo at Burwell, Neb. I saw barrel racing for the first time, saw Wanda Bush run barrels, told my parents, ‘This is what I want to do,’ and I did, not like Wanda. No one has ever done it like she did.

“The next time I went to Burwell, I won the Queen contest, became Miss Rodeo Nebraska, went to Las Vegas to the Miss Rodeo America contest, won the horsemanship and was runner up to MRA.

“By then, I was attending the University of Nebraska and was All-Around Cowgirl at the college rodeo. Then a horse named Warrior Leo (War Leo x Mission Hancock) that I called Jube came into my life. In 1964, Davie Martin told me about a gelding he was breaking that was fast and he thought would really be a good



Kathie O’Brien. (Courtesy photo)

barrel horse. He was for sale. I called the people who owned him, and they wanted \$750 for him. I went to a banker friend of mine who was a horseman, and he loaned me the money to buy him because of his breeding. I called them and bought him sight unseen over the phone.

“In 1968 Jube and I went to our first National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City, Okla. I finished 5th in the world standings and won the National Finals Rodeo. The next year, we finished 10th and runner-up in the average. My last year at the NFR, in 1972, I finished ninth in the world standings. That year I was awarded All-Around Champion Cowgirl.

“In other words, I’ve been blessed, have many friends to thank; you know who you are and I love all of you

“Thanks and much love go to Joe and Frances O’Brien for go-

ing to Omaha, Neb., to St. James Orphanage and adopting me when I was nine months old. Most of all, thanks to Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior for making all of this possible.”

## Ernie Taylor

A member of the Choctaw Nation, Ernie Taylor was a force to be reckoned with in the tie-down calf roping and steer wrestling in the late ‘60s and mid ‘70s.

He won both events at Lake Charles and Baton Rouge, La., Hugo, Okla., Paris, Texas, and Fort Smith, Ark.

Taylor captured first place in tie-down in Texas, Arizona, Missouri, Nebraska, Montana, Utah, Kansas and Colorado, taking the title twice in San Antonio and El Paso.

“I compete in my first rodeo at the Soper, Okla., FFA Rodeo when I was 14 years old. I did not win any money, but loved the

rodeo excitement so much that I entered every high school rodeo close to Hugo, Okla., until I graduated,” Ernie Taylor said.

“Roy Marshall, a local calf roper helped me get started. He and my dad were my greatest supporters. In 1961, my senior year in high school, I was lucky enough to win the calf roping, steer wrestling, bull riding and All-Around Championship at the State High School Finals,” Taylor continued.

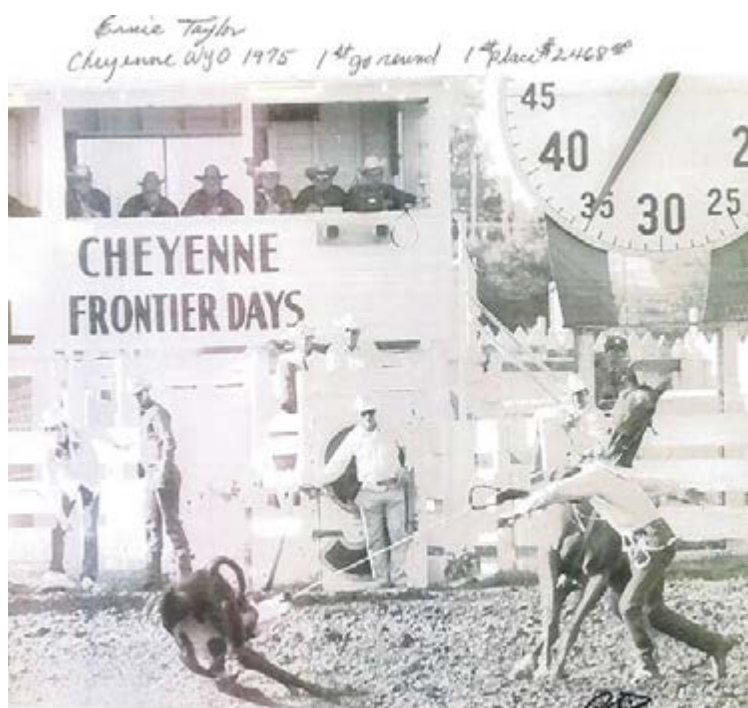
In 1963 he joined the American Junior Rodeo Association and was the Junior World Champion Team Roper, Steer Wrestler, Calf Roper and All-Around Champion.

“We lived next to Lige Hammock’s practice arena. Lige, Todd Whatley and Tom Nesmith taught me how to bull dog and haze steers. Tom helped me with my calf tying and horsemanship,” Taylor said.

“I joined the Rodeo Cowboy Association in 1964. The first really big rodeo I competed in was the Fort Worth, Texas, Stock Show and Rodeo at the Will Rogers Coliseum. I roped a big black heifer and tied her in 101 seconds. She tore off my shirt, and I lost a boot. When I rode out of the arena, Don McLaughlin said, ‘Welcome to the RCA, son,’” Taylor laughed.

Taylor qualified for the National Finals Rodeo eight times—1968, ‘69, ‘70, ‘71, ‘72, ‘73, ‘74, and ‘75. Crowned World Champion Calf Roper in 1973, he won more money that year than anyone had ever won in one event in the history of pro rodeo.

“In 1976 my traveling partner was a kid named Roy Cooper. What a wonderful year that was. All of us top ropers from that era thought we could really rope until



Ernie Taylor (Courtesy photo)

he came along. Roy was absolutely magic," he recalled.

In the late fall of 1976, Taylor got tangled in a rope and broke his neck. "I roped a little in the spring of 1977 but never was able to regain my past ability. I quit rodeoing but kept on roping some at jackpots. I put on lots of roping schools with the help of my good friends and great ropers Gary Ledford and Roy Cooper," Taylor explained.

He continued, "I am 75 years old now, but I still enjoy riding young horses and team roping. I heel, and I am not very consistent."

Taylor concluded, "God has really blessed me with two wonderful sons, Ernie II and Will, daughters-in-law, Krystle and Alex, and grandsons, Clancy and Jaxtyn and my darling Frances. What a wonderful life."

#### Gail Petska

Gail Petska began her barrel racing career as a young girl. She was raised in town but spent time on her grandparents' dairy farm. During her time in middle school, Gail knew she loved horses and looked forward to having one of her own. Her mom and dad, Har-

mon and Jean Barrett, purchased a horse and Gail went on to train her horse and join the Norman Round Up Club.

The horse that would change the course of Gail's life was Adobe Joe King aka Dobie. Harmon and Gail purchased Dobie in 1966 at the age of 18 months for \$250 from an ad in the paper. Gail broke and trained Dobie herself. "God's plan for my life was to have this horse," Petska said. "He was a once in a lifetime horse." Dobie not only helped make a path for Gail's life but was part of the inspiration for naming the World Champion of Carol Goostree's, Dobre.

Gail and Dobie made it to the first International Finals Rodeo in 1970 when Dobie was six. Things were just building at that point. In 1971, Gail made her first NFR appearance.

In 1972 and 1973 Gail was the GRA World Champion Barrel Racer. From those years, Gail still holds the record for most rounds won at an NFR by winning seven and also holds the record of most rounds won in consecutive NFRs in any event by winning 13 of 20 in a two-year span.



Gail Petska. (Courtesy photo)

1972 would be much bigger when she met her future husband Paul Petska at the San Antonio Rodeo and the two were married four months later.

In 1974, Gail won Denver, Odessa, San Angelo, Houston, San Antonio, and many other rodeos, but there would be no NFR appearance. Gail had her daughter Tye.

Now with a baby, Gail would still make the 1975, 76 and 77 NFR, making her total number of finals to six. 1979 brought about her son Cory, and Gail would go on to raise a family and continue to be a part of rodeo.

In the 80's, Gail began to team rope along with raising her family. She went to several all-girl rodeos and supported Paul as he made the National Finals three times as a team roping header.

The 1990's were packed with rodeo as well. Gail hauled with her family to IPRA rodeos where all of the family competed. It would also be the decade that daughter Tye Petska-Green would make her first appearance at the NFR.

The early 2000's would be just the beginning for her son Cory. Cory has gone to the NFR

15 times and was the 2017 World Champion Heeler.

Today, Gail and Paul live in Lexington, Okla., and run a highly successful bit making business. Anyone in the rodeo industry not only knows of Petska bits, but surely owns one. Gail and Paul still travel watching Tye and Cory at rodeos and jackpots.

After winning Cheyenne twice, Houston twice, Albuquerque twice, Calgary, Madison Square Garden, the Cow Palace and her other huge wins, Gail said her fondest memory was winning her 1972 World Championship and the NFR average.

It is a compilation of this and her other five NFR appearances that makes the Jim Norick Coliseum in OKC such a special place to Gail.

This is one of the few families where each member has made the NFR. However, none made it the same year. This is a testament to Gail and why she says her greatest accomplishment is her family. "Rodeo has done so much for the Petska family by selling bits, horses, raising a family, and making so many relationships that I am happy to be part of it." 🐾

# Leading the Way



## Trevor Lucas, Oklahoma FFA State Executive Secretary

**F**or more than three decades, the Oklahoma FFA organization was spearheaded by Executive Secretary Kent Boggs. When Mr. Boggs announced his retirement last spring, the search was on to find a replacement – someone who would carry on Boggs’ legacy while embracing change and leading Oklahoma FFA into the future.

Trevor Lucas, an FFA advisor and agriculture education instructor, got the call. “This was not necessarily on my radar. Some people mentioned the job to me and said I should apply, so I did. It wasn’t super premeditated,” he recalled. “I just loved every second of being an ag teacher, and I enjoyed the people I worked with, but it was an opportunity I felt like I couldn’t pass up. Oklahoma FFA means a lot to me. To have the ability and opportunity to work on the state level organizing and planning events – like Alumni Camp and State Convention – is something I take very seriously and means a lot to me.”

Continued on page 30



# Leading the Way

Continued from page 28

Lucas grew up attending school in Central High, Okla. - a small, Class A school in the southwest quadrant of the state. His connection to FFA began long before the age when he could don the blue jacket. "I got involved in the ag world at nine years old when my dad bought a show pig for me, and I went to stock shows. I wanted to be one of the older students in the blue jacket," he recalled.

Once his eighth grade year rolled around, joining the FFA was inevitable. "I wasn't an athlete or some super-gifted academic student, but FFA kind of channeled some energy for me and helped me to find my place in high school," Lucas said. "The best decision I ever made in life was the day I decided to walk through the front door of my ag building in high school. One thing that is really cool about FFA is that it doesn't require a huge amount of ability to be successful. If you have a lot of desire, determination, and willingness to work hard, you can find success. That's what it's all about here."

Perhaps Lucas' biggest influence in high school was his agriculture education instructor Ron Curry, who helped foster his enthusiasm for Oklahoma FFA. "Throughout my FFA career I had a lot of fun and got to do a lot of different things. I had such a great experience that I decided later in my high school career that I wanted to be an ag teacher. What better way to continue to be involved in FFA?" he said.

Mr. Curry, who has taught agriculture education for more than 40 years, continues to teach at Central High. "I think very highly of him. Growing up, I just felt like he was a leader in the community. Since I was nine years old, I always looked up to him as well as some of the other ag teachers in the community. He was always willing to take me to a contest or just go above and beyond," he said. "I think he probably saw something in me and continued to work with me. I wasn't a super kid in any area, but he took time for me."

After serving as Central High FFA Chapter President for two years, Lucas was elected to serve as the Oklahoma FFA Reporter upon graduation. "At Oklahoma State University, I majored in Agriculture Education, which



Lucas credits his high school agriculture education teacher, Ron Curry (far right) for fostering his enthusiasm for Oklahoma FFA. (Photo courtesy of Trevor Lucas)



It was while student teaching at Cheyenne High School that Lucas knew he wanted to be an agriculture education instructor. He's pictured here with Cheyenne students and agriculture education instructor Nathan Torrance (far right). (Photo courtesy of Trevor Lucas)

led me to teach ag and then led me here," he said.

Although he'd always planned to be an agriculture education instructor, Lucas' desire to teach had begun to wane in the later years of college. "I had a lot of really great mentors in my life. When I was student teaching under Mr. Nathan Torrance at Cheyenne High School, I was teetering back and forth on whether I was going to be an ag teacher. Once I had the stu-

dent teaching experience, it changed that. Mr. Torrance was an awesome instructor, and he lit a spark in me to be a teacher," he said.

## In the Classroom

Following college graduation, Lucas' first teaching post was in Calumet, Okla. Not only was it his first teaching position, he was also tasked with starting an agriculture education and FFA program from the ground up. "I was a first year ag teacher at the time, and it was a

first year program, so we all grew together there. It was one of those things, for me, that I didn't know what I didn't know, so I think it made it easier," he said.

The Calumet community rallied around the fledgling program. "There were a few challenges in trying to get that culture established as well as funding so we had the ability to take trips and do the things you want with FFA, but mostly it was a lot of positivity. The community was excited to have an FFA program and the administration was really helpful, so it was just a really fun time," he said. "It was neat to see it build. The chapter is doing really well – they're now a three star national chapter. It is rewarding to have been there at the beginning of it all."

After teaching for two years in the relatively small town of Calumet, Lucas made a big move to the Edmond public school

system, which boasts the largest agriculture education program in the state and is a 6A school. "It was a very active chapter. We had a five acre lot that had livestock facilities, a greenhouse, a shop, a turf grass management area, and a school garden," he recalled. "We also had many students in public speaking, parli-pro, and other activities for FFA. The FFA Chapter was made up of students from all three Edmond schools, and the students who wanted to be there were very active."

While the two schools were widely different in size and scope, Lucas noted they had one very important thing in common. "Calumet and Edmond were great schools and were really good experiences. I think I grew a lot professionally and learned a lot. I have only positive things to say about that time," he said.

With all the positive experi-  
**Continued on page 32**



Top: Lucas was the first agriculture education instructor for Calumet. Bottom: Lucas' State Reporter FFA jacket. (Photos courtesy of Trevor Lucas)

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# Leading the Way

Continued from page 31

ences he’s had in the classroom, does Lucas miss teaching?

“I certainly do, but the cool thing about my job now is that I still get that student interaction by working with the state officers. Part of my job is coaching, and by being part of the officer team I have that outlet. That’s what makes the job for me and is a lot of fun. I’ll always miss teaching, though, because it was such a rewarding and awesome job,” he said.

## OK FFA State Executive Secretary

Lucas’ official title is State FFA Executive Secretary, but he is also on the agriculture education state staff, serves as Secretary of the FFA Foundation Executive Committee and is on the State FFA Alumni Board.

“My role as the State Executive Secretary is to plan and coordinate state conferences and events for the association. I’m also a meeting planner and make sure all our contracts are up-to-date on events.

Ultimately, all state events or competitions come across my desk at some point, so it’s a lot of administrative work.” He added, “The highlight for me is managing and coaching the state officer team to make sure they’re prepared to go serve 27,000 FFA members. It’s a big part of my job.”

Lucas officially began work as the Executive Secretary on June 15 of 2018 and worked with his predecessor during the transition. “There wasn’t a huge transition period. I think he and I were here together about two weeks, and then it was off to alumni camp for me. He pretty much just handed the reins over. I think he felt it was important for me to jump in and learn,” Lucas said. “I try my



Teaching at Calumet High School. The young program is still going strong, and was recently named as a National Three Star FFA Chapter. (Photo courtesy of Trevor Lucas)



Following his years at Calumet High School, Lucas was hired as an agriculture education instructor for the Edmond School District, which boasts the largest FFA program in the state. (Photo courtesy of Trevor Lucas)



Lucas pictured with his Edmond FFA State Speech Contest winners in 2018. (Photo courtesy of Trevor Lucas)

best not to bug him. He deserves retirement and time to take fishing trips, but if I call him to ask something, he always helps me. He's not necessarily here, but he's always available."

There's no doubt in Lucas' mind that Boggs left some big shoes to fill. The former Executive Secretary made a notable and lasting impact on Oklahoma FFA. "No one has more reverence or respect for Mr. Boggs than I do. He had a huge impact on my life during my year as a state officer. I learned so much from him about how to be a professional and to do whatever it takes to get the job done," he said.

"During my first year I thought it was best to just stick to the script and honor what Mr. Boggs has done. I've made changes but wanted to go through a year and see it from his perspective. Ultimately there will be changes in the future because we must embrace change to be relevant. I want to honor his work and what he has done, but slowly and surely make

it mine," he said. "I feel like it is my responsibility to honor what he has done over the past 33 years and continue to show up to work with a smile on my face just like he did every day."

The Oklahoma FFA program continues to grow. The state currently ranks fourth nationally in membership, behind only Texas, California, and Georgia, which offer middle-school membership. "We're striking some sort of chord with young students in our state. Considering we're such a small populous state, our high ranking is impressive. The other thing is, we're continuing to grow. We added three new chapters this year, and we have requests for new programs all the time," Lucas said. "I believe that's because FFA and agriculture education do a great job of building leaders and giving them skills they can use, whether they want to be involved in agriculture or not."

Lucas predicts that agriculture will only grow in relevance in coming years. "It's becoming less



Kent Boggs, pictured on right, and Lucas prior to the 2018 State FFA Convention. (Photo courtesy of Trevor Lucas)



Lucas and fellow State Agriculture Education staff. (Photo courtesy of Trevor Lucas)

of a family tradition, and more of a career choice. Regardless of your background, you can choose to pursue ag. FFA reflects that," he said.

At only 26 years of age when he took the post in June of 2018, he has embraced being young in that position.

"When Mr. Boggs took the position, he was only 29 years

old, and it just grew with him. For me in particular, being a young person, I try my best to learn and soak in all the wisdom that is in that office," Lucas said. "I like the fact that I feel young. I feel there is still a lot for me to learn. There is a lot for me to be better and improve upon. I want to be better and continue to do things with excellence." ☞

# WHERE THE PAVED ROAD ENDS

BY BETH WATKINS

## > LIFE IS NEVER BORING

**G**ubb leaves the blinds open next to his side of the bed, his reason being if the sun is up, he had better be up. I, on the other hand, being the princess that I am, sleep a little later and I like it dark. Instead of just closing the blinds when he gets up, my stud muffin stacks up pillows next to me to shield the sun from my eyes. Which is just a sweet reminder of how much he loves and cares for me, or maybe he stacks those pillows while he's still sleeping, to block my sweet-as-honeysuckle morning breath.

Life at the end of this dirt road is peaceful and easy. My mornings begin somewhere around 10:30 a.m. I can get all my chores done, dressed and makeup applied by noon. The rest of my day is open and my choices of activities are endless, reading a book, scrapbooking, napping, shopping and or lunch dates with my sweetheart. That routine might sound a bit boring to some, but I love waking up to my life, that is, until it happened. The day I woke up and decided that I needed to find a part-time job, so I did just that. Working was fun and I enjoyed having a purpose, but after a year of employment, I examined my future and realized I had already been promoted to the highest position available and my pay scale had stagnated. It was time for a change, so I gave notice of my soon-to-be final curtain. Over the past year, I began to discover that I am more than just a doting mommy, a barrel of fun grammy or a devoted wife and so-so ranch hand. I am a fully functioning member of society.

I began to contemplate on what to do next. What adventure is



The infamous Houdini, who regularly finds herself on the pages of this magazine. (Photo courtesy of Beth Watkins)

ahead of me? Clearly, there was no going home to my old habits. I've got skills, I need to use them, I searched my data bank for dreams and desires, and there it was, like the bat signal shining above Gotham City, the answer to my question, "A wedding venue/tea room!" With the dream now in my headlights the next step is to find an old historic Victorian home. It was a great idea and a beautiful vision. We soon discov-

ered most old Victorian Homes need a lot of work to be open to the public, and zoned commercial so on to Plan B. Long story short, Gubb and I are the proud owners of the oldest commercial building in McAlester. The first building built in Indian Territory, by J. J. McAlester in 1893. Located at the crossroads of the California Trail, the Old Texas Trail, and the Katy Railroad. Our building is rich with history, it first housed

the J.J. McAlester Mercantile. This company store also served as the basis for the store visited by U.S. Marshal, Rooster Cogburn, in the novel "True Grit" starring the actor, John Wayne. Today, our building houses a popular lunch spot in the heart of McAlester's Old Town antique district. When our realtor suggested that I take a look at this property, and the business, I said, "No thank you, I want something with character and charm," but I agreed to take a look. We opened the doors and it was like the clouds parted, the big cavernous building, sparked my imagination and the restaurant already had a great following, so that was a bonus. From that day forward, things started falling into place. We knew we were on the right track. We gave the restaurant a new name, "The Whistle Stop Depot," and we are currently working on opening a section for an antique mall. We've tweaked the menu a bit and our weekly specials come straight out of my collection of cookbooks.

We are starting our third month in the restaurant business, and our third month into our remodel. We are a bit behind schedule on the renovations, due to this year's lengthy hay season. When my handsome handyman isn't at his full-time job, he's baling hay. Although when it rains, great things happen; progress chugs forward at "The Depot." To move this project on to completion I softly suggested that we "hire" the work done. Since that was not in the budget, I felt like the solution was simple; sell some weaning calves, and that ever-roaming momma cow, adequately named Houdini.


That bright idea easily rolled

off my tongue, but by the time it traveled to his ears, it had lost its brilliance. I saw the reaction slowly move across his face. Over the years I've learned the meaning of the look. It's not an all-out disgusted look, as much as it is a slightly annoyed look. I've seen it during the explanation of why you don't plan a vacation during opening weekend of deer season. I saw it when he reached for his spit cup as we were rolling down the highway, after we had stopped for fuel and I had cleaned out his truck. I've seen it Sunday morning getting ready for church, when he looks for his favorite dress jeans that I forgot to pick up at the cleaners. I mentally filed away the current cause for the look - never suggest prematurely separating a man from his cows. Or maybe it was just the repeated phrase, "Get rid of that annoying cow!"


To this day, I am not sure why Houdini is still on the property.

Last week I woke up to a tapping noise, I sat up and turned to the noise, she had her nose on the window. The window he leaves the blinds open to next to our bed. You would think that this would be the last straw, but it's not. Then I thought surely, the text he received from me later the same day, containing the video, where she thought about joining me in the pool, would be the last straw.

The video did get his attention. He promised, he would come home during lunch and put her back in the pasture with her calf. When he got home, he found her standing next to the fence, letting her calf nurse, through the fence. He was so proud of her.

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*Terms: Seller will accept the highest bid at the close of the auction and provide an abstract to date and a warranty deed at closing. Buyer must make a 10% deposit at the conclusion of the auction and pay the balance in cashier's funds at closing within 45 days of sale.*

*There are no contingencies for financing, so financial arrangements must be made prior to the auction. For viewing this property or for more details, contact Mike Bendele or Brian Bendele, United Country Real Estate 405-258-3876, OR John Ball or Justin Ball, Ball Auction Service 405-258-1511. Photos & details online at [www.BallAuction.bid](http://www.BallAuction.bid) or [www.UCMikeB.com](http://www.UCMikeB.com).*


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2013 GMC 2500, Crew Cab, 4x4, 6.0L V8, Automatic 6-Speed, power steering, power brakes, tilt/cruise, a/c. #210440.....\$25,995

## NEW FLATBED



2016 Ram Chassis 4500, 4x4, 168.5 inch WB, 6.7L I6 Turbo Diesel, auto, a/c, balance of factory warranty. #148584.....\$32,995

## NEW TIRES



2008 Dodge 3500, 4x4 SLT, 6.7 Turbo Diesel, Flatbed, Automatic, AC, Tilt, Cruise, A/C Power Seat, 125k miles #148770..21,995

## NEW SPEARBED



2015 Ford F-250, 4x4, 6.2 Gas, Auto, A/C, Tilt, Cruise, Power Windows & Locks, New Tires. #A27088.....\$28,995

## NEW SPEARBED



2016 Ford F-250, 4x4, Gas 6.2, Auto, A/C, Tilt, Cruise, Power Windows & Locks, New Tires. #C58008.....\$32,495

## NEW TIRES



2012 Dodge RAM 2500, 4x4, 6.7 diesel, Auto, A/C, LWB, new tires. #265083.....\$26,995

## NEW ARMBED



2013 GMC 3500, 4x4, 6.0 Gas, Auto, A/C, Tilt, Cruise, Power Windows & Locks, New Tires. #120507.....\$26,995

## NEW ARMBED



2016 Ford F-250, 4x4, 6.2 Gas, Auto, A/C, Tilt, Cruise, Power Windows & Locks, New Tires #C43865.....\$31,995

## NEW SPEARBED



2017 Ford F-250, 4x4, XLT, 6.2 V8 auto, A/C, cruise, tilt, backup camera #B65149.....\$37,995

## ARMBED



2014 GMC 2500, 4x4, 6.0 V8 Auto, A/C, Power Windows, Power Locks, Cruise, Tilt #186220.....\$25,995

## NEW SPEARBED



2014 Ram 2500, 4x4, 6.7 Diesel, A/C, Tilt, Cruise, Power Windows and Locks, Sirius XM Radio, New Tires #217140.....\$31,995

## NEW SPEARBED



2016 Chevy 2500, 6.0 V8 auto, a/c, Tilt, Cruise, Pwr Windows, Pwr Locks, Balance of Factory Warranty, 82119 miles. P#298592.....\$31,995

## NEW SPEARBED



2015 Chevrolet 2500 LT, 4x4 6.0 Gas, Tilt, Cruise, Power Windows and Locks, A/C, Navigation, New Tires #175382.....\$31,995

## SPEARBED



2000 Ford F-350, 7.3 diesel, 4x4, manual transmission, a/c, tilt wheel. #B33900.....\$12,995

## NEW SPEARBED



2012 Ford F-250, LARIAT 4x4 6.7 Diesel, Auto, A/C, Power Windows, Locks, Cruise, Tilt, New Tires. #A21653.....\$25,995

## NEW FLATBED



2015 Dodge RAM 3500, SLT, 4x4, 6.7 Diesel, Navigation, Power Windows/Locks, Cruise, Tilt, 69K miles, a/c, Balance of Factory Warranty. #604485.....\$38,995

## NEW ARMBED



2016 Ford F-350 Crew Cab, 6.7 diesel, AT, a/c, power windows, locks, tilt wheel, cruise, camper mirrors, Balance of Factory Warranty. #C71771.....\$42,995

## NEW SPEARBED



2014 Ford F-350, 6.7 diesel, 4x4, 88,441 miles, tilt wheel, cruise control, auto, a/c. #B50913.....\$34,995

## NEW FLATBED



2016 Ford F-350, Dually, 6.7 diesel, 4x4, power steering, power brakes, tilt/cruise, a/c, balance of factory warranty. #A81184.....\$34,995

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# WESTERN HOUSEWIVES

## BY SUMMER MCMILLEN

October is weaning time around here and every time we wean a different set of cows, I learn something, just like I learn something every time I talk to a different family member. All people and all sets of cattle are unique and can teach you something if you let them.

When we work the cows in the Gammell pasture I learn persistence. That pasture is the farthest from the pens and usually holds the toughest cows because they sure like their babies. When we go to gather them, they are hunkered down in the trees hiding from the heat, the dogs, and the gather. It takes a lot of yelling, a lot of discussion, and a lot of wild and loud hand motions before you get them going but, that's a different story for a different day. Once we get them started down the dirt road, they are a breeze but it's a long drive and you can't take your eyes off them for a minute for fear of them jumping a fence or a draw and being gone forever. If you do everything right and take the time to give them the care they need, driving the Gammell cows to the pens will be the easiest and most rewarding part of your day. Metaphorically, they always remind me of my sister. She's a quiet one that will often make you question your intelligence. If you take the time and effort to get her to talk to you or, even look your way you will always be blessed with the wisdom that comes from her mouth.

Time and time again, when we work the cows in the lake pasture I simultaneously thank God for this life and wonder what the heck I



The Lake Pasture cows that make you question your sanity. (Photo by Summer McMillen)

am doing. It's the most beautiful pasture to gather with huge pecan trees, wild river bottoms, and vast hay meadows. I always get lost wondering through the trees because there is much I haven't seen yet. About the time my mind starts to wonder I am snapped back to reality by the cows crashing through the trees going every which direction but the right one and the panic sets in. I am always reminded of Dear Ole' Dad. One constant in my life growing up was Dad sitting at his desk in the mornings, eating peanut butter crackers, and reading his bible. This brought me so much comfort growing up because I knew we were safe. I would get lost not worrying about anything in the world when I was usually snapped back to reality by an afternoon spent in the arena with him. The learning was fast, loud, and a little

confusing at times. "Big square circles" means very little to a pre-teen. I often wondered if we would make it out alive. Obviously, we did. We even made it out of a few show pens with a blue ribbon and a very clear understanding of what "Big square circles" meant. That merited a slap on the back and a supper at Allsup's. Make no mistake, those things were even better than the blue ribbon.

We have other pastures full of cows that are calm, cool, and collected. They are easier to gather and a joy to ride through. Their babies frolic in front of the heard leading the way and, we always end up at the pens rejuvenated and ready to work a set. These cows remind me of the pillars of strength in my life that keep me grounded and just make life a little easier. We all need a few pastures like that.

Then there are the Brangus cows. I wouldn't dare compare to anyone in my life to the Brangus cows except maybe myself. They are mean, a little crazy, love to graze, and have really cute babies. I identify with them on a very personal level but, that's just between you and me.

You might find it comical that I compare the special people in my life to cattle. You might find it strange. Besides people, I spend every day all day living among cattle. They are smart, predictable at times, and make you question your sanity often. Just like people. We can't live without them for various reasons and wouldn't want to for a thousand more. So, the next time you're around cattle, stop and think about the important people in your life. If nothing else, it will give you one heck of a laugh. ☺



# LACEY'S PANTRY

*By Lacey Newlin*

## Burst Cherry Tomato Sauce with Homemade Pasta

**Serves:** 4-5

**Time:** 40 minutes

### Fresh pasta

#### Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 1 tbsp. water
- 2 3/4 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp salt

#### Directions:


Place eggs, water, flour and salt in mixer bowl. Attach bowl and flat beater. Turn to speed 2 and knead two minutes. Remove dough from bowl and hand knead for one to two minutes. Let it rest for 20 minutes. Start boiling water in a pot with salt to cook the pasta. Divide dough into four pieces before processing with pasta sheet roller attachment. Transfer freshly rolled pasta into boiling water and cook until tender.

### Cherry tomato sauce

#### Ingredients:

- 20-30 ripe cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 clove garlic
- Salt
- Pepper
- Parmesan cheese

#### Directions:

Fill a medium sauté pan with olive oil, cherry tomatoes, garlic, salt and pepper. Cover pan and let cook on medium until cherries burst, about 10 minutes. Add parmesan cheese to taste and combine with cooked pasta, coating all the noodles. Enjoy. 



# JESSES JEWELZ



**H**appy fall!! I'm so excited for warm color tones and cooler weather! I really adore this fun flowy wrap skirt! There are so many options and ways to wear it like pairing it with this cute graphic tee and wild wrag! Throw on your favorite belt and boots and scoot on out the door in style!! Find this outfit and more at [www.jessesjewelz.com](http://www.jessesjewelz.com)

Photo credit: Susanna Claire photography Find this and more at [www.jessesjewelz.com](http://www.jessesjewelz.com).

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~JJ~  
XOXO,  
Jessica Kader

# QUEEN OF THE OKLAHOMA OUTLAWS

## *Belle Starr*

By Savannah Magoteaux

**M**uch has been written about the life and legends of Belle Starr. Fact and fiction have become so intertwined over the years that it's likely her reputation has been wildly exaggerated and romanticized.

Still, there's no doubt that the "Bandit Queen" consorted with thieves and outlaws and was known for her style and her skill with a gun. Throughout her short and tumultuous life, she married at least three criminals – Jim Reed, Sam Starr, and Jim July – and it is rumored that she was also briefly married to Cole Younger of the notorious James-Younger Gang.

Belle Starr was born Myra Maybelle Shirley on her family's farm near Carthage, Miss., in 1848. The family was well-to-do, and Belle received a classical education, learned piano, and graduated from Missouri's Carthage Female Academy, a private institution her father helped found. Starr's biggest influence early on was her big brother, Bud. Not content to remain within the stereotypical boundaries of feminine behavior that her private all-girls academy offered, Starr learned to ride and handle weapons from her sibling. Belle's strong sense of style and her ability with a pistol fed into her later legend. It's told she liked to ride sidesaddle, dressed in black velvet, and carry two pistols with cartridge belts across her hips.

It surely didn't hurt that her mother was a distant cousin to the rogue Hatfields of Hatfield and McCoy feud fame.

During the Civil War, a Union regiment attacked Carthage, prompting the Shirleys to move to Scyene, Texas, and it was there, rumor tells, that the family became



Belle Starr, Fort Smith, Arkansas, 1886; The man on the horse is Deputy U.S. Marshal Benjamin Tyner Hughes who, along with his posse man, Deputy U.S. Marshal Charles Barnhill, arrested her at Younger's Bend in May of 1886 and brought her to Ft. Smith for arraignment. (Wikipedia.org photo)

acquainted with several outlaws, including Jesse James and the Younger brothers.

At 18 years old, Belle Shirley married a childhood friend, Jim Reed. Two years later, she had a daughter named Pearl, while her husband was getting involved in criminal activity with a man named Sam Starr. Wanted for several crimes, including murder in Arkansas, Reed went on the run to California - and Belle went with him.

While fleeing from state to territory to state, Belle had a son named Eddie. Jim killed and robbed along the way, although it's unclear how much of a role Belle played in his enterprises. Supposedly, Reed and two other

outlaws rode to the North Canadian River country, where they tortured an old Creek Indian until he told them where he had hidden more than \$30,000 in gold. With their share of the loot, Jim and Belle returned to Texas.

While in the Lone Star State, Jim became involved with several criminal gangs – the James and Younger gangs as well as the Starr clan. The Starrs were a Cherokee family infamous for whiskey, cattle and horse thievery. In 1874, a warrant was issued for Belle's arrest for a stagecoach robbery by her husband and his partners, despite lack of evidence. In August of that year, the law finally caught up to Reed, when an undercover deputy killed him.



Studio photo of Belle Starr. (Wikipedia.org photo)



Belle Starr's grave near Porum, Okla. (Courtesy photo)

It didn't take long for Starr to remarry. It is alleged she married Cole Younger for three weeks in 1878, and that her daughter Pearl was actually a Younger from an earlier affair, but Cole dismissed the allegations in his autobiography.

In 1880, Belle married her first husband's former associate Sam Starr, and settled with the clan in Indian Territory. It was there she learned to organize, plan, and fence for the rustlers and bootleggers, as well as harbor them from the law. The bandit life was especially lucrative. Her illegal enterprises proved profitable enough for her to utilize bribery to free her cohorts from the law if they happened to get caught. Failing this, she would tempt the lawmen with her womanly charms, almost always achieving the release of her compatriots.

In 1883, Belle and Sam were arrested and charged with horse theft, and were tried before Isaac Parker, "The Hanging Judge," in Fort Smith, Arkansas. They were found guilty, and Belle spent several months in the Detroit House of Corrections in Michigan. Supposedly, Belle was a model prisoner, although the same could not be said of Sam.

In 1886 she avoided another

theft conviction, but in December, Sam was involved in a gunfight with a lawman named Frank West. Both men landed fatal shots, and Belle became a widow once more.

Belle's life as the outlaw queen abruptly ended with her husband's death. She allegedly reformed, refusing to shelter criminals in her home. After her loss, rumors swirled that Belle took up with several different outlaws ranging from a fellow named Blue Duck to Jim July, a relative of Sam's who was 15 years her junior. She married Jim July in 1888, and the marriage was known to be tumultuous. When July was arrested for horse theft, she did not defend him.

Belle Starr was shot to death on Feb. 3, 1889, in Briartown, Okla., just shy of her 41st birthday. With many enemies having been created over the years – including her daughter Pearl, son Eddie, and husband Jim July – no one was ever arrested. A tenant named Edgar Watson was the prime suspect. Watson had rented land from Belle, and was a fugitive wanted for murder. When she discovered his history, she kicked him off the land. Although he was arrested, he was eventually released as there were no witnesses to the crime.

In addition to several works



Jim Reed and Belle Starr in 1866. (Wikipedia.org photo)



Gene Tierney as Belle Starr in Belle Starr The Bandit Queen. (Wikipedia.org photo)

inspired by her life, including a 1941 film Belle Starr, starring Gene Tierney, a noted biography of the Western icon was written by Glenn Shirley – Belle Starr and Her Times: The Literature, the Facts, and the Legends.

Her grave site is near Eufair Lake, southeast of Porum, Okla. A horse was engraved on her tomb-

stone, along with these words: *Shed not for her the bitter tear, Nor give the heart to vain regret Tis but the casket that lies here, The gem that filled it sparkles yet.* ❧

**SOURCES**

- Wikipedia.org
- Biography.com
- Historynet.com

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## McAlester Union Stockyards Sale

OCTOBER • MCALESTER

*McAlester Union Stockyards, 2515 Standard Rd., McAlester, OK 74501.* The Old Reliable. Regular sale every Tuesday. For more information call **918-423-2834** or visit [www.McAlester-Stockyards.com](http://www.McAlester-Stockyards.com).

## Tulsa Stockyards Sale

OCTOBER • TULSA

*Tulsa Stockyards, Tulsa, OK 74116.* Northeast Oklahoma's largest and finest livestock market. Sale every Monday at 9 a.m. View the sale online at [www.cattleusa.com](http://www.cattleusa.com). Visit [www.TulsaStockyards.com](http://www.TulsaStockyards.com) for more information.

## Oklahoma National Stockyards Sale

OCTOBER • OKC

*Oklahoma National Stockyards, Oklahoma City, OK 73018.* Stockers and feeders sell Monday. Single stockers and feeders sell Tuesday, followed by stock cows, packer cows, and packer bulls. Call **405-235-8675** or visit [www.ONSYS.com](http://www.ONSYS.com) for more information.

## OKC West Sale

OCTOBER • EL RENO

*OKC West Livestock Market, 7200 E Hwy 66, El Reno, OK 73036.* Cattlemen serving cattlemen. Cows and bulls sell Mondays, calves and stockers sell Tuesdays, and feeder cattle sell Wednesdays. Call **405-262-8800** or visit [www.OKCWest.com](http://www.OKCWest.com) for more information.

## Managing Weather-Related Risk for Specialty Crops

OCT. 1 • ARDMORE

*Noble Research Institute Kruse Auditorium, 2510 Sam Noble Pkwy., Ardmore, OK 73401.* Specialty crop producers must manage many risks, one of which is adverse weather. During this course, you will learn about the many technologies and practices you can employ on your large or small specialty crop operation to mitigate the effects of unpredictable and often extreme weather. For more information visit [www.Noble.org](http://www.Noble.org).

## BFA Select Barrel Horse Sale Catalog Deadline

OCT. 1 • GUTHRIE, OK

*Lazy E Arena, 9600 Lazy E Drive, Guthrie, OK 73044.* Consign now for the BFA World Select Barrel Horse Sale, catalog deadline Oct. 1. Demo at 7 p.m. on Nov. 29, sale at 6 p.m. on Nov. 21. Held during the Barrel Futurities of America World Championship. Call Gary Lohman at **405-226-0630**, email [Lohmanranch@aol.com](mailto:Lohmanranch@aol.com) or visit [westernheritagesales.com](http://westernheritagesales.com).

## Oklahoma Mule Sale

OCT. 4 - 5 • ADA

*Pontotoc County Agri-Plex, Ada, OK.* This is becoming one of the best saddle mule sales in the nation. Friday at 9 a.m. will be the tack sale, followed at 4 p.m. for the trail competition. The sale starts at 9 a.m. on Saturday with wagons, trailers, and antique farm equipment. One hour after completion of 9 a.m. sale, we will sell jacks, jennets, and loose stock, followed by the catalogued sale, then the regular consignment stock. For more information, call John at **580-465-8727** or Johnny at **270-293-0538**.

## Antique Agriculture Festival

OCT. 4 - 6 • PARK HILL

*Hunter's Home Historic Site, 19479 E Murrell Home Rd., Park Hill, OK 74451.* Visit the Hunter's Home near Park Hill for a true antebellum harvest festival. The historic, 40-acre Hunter's Home and Plantation, built in 1845, comes alive at the Antique Agriculture Festival. Over a three-day weekend, interact with dozens of living history presenters and crafts people showcasing their 19th-century harvest survival skills. In addition to soap makers, carpenters, smiths and spinners, musicians and magicians will stroll about providing pre-Civil War era entertainment to festival goers. Be sure to enjoy some great food during the sorghum and apple butter demonstrations, where you can even lend a hand in the harvesting process. On Saturday, strap on those fancy shoes for the evening harvest dance. Before heading back to the 21st century, visit one of the vendors specializing in handmade goods and take a piece of 1840s Cherokee Territory home. For more information, call **918-456-2751**.

## OK Mozart Festival Oktoberfest

OCT. 5 • BARTLESVILLE

*415 S Dewey Ave., Bartlesville, OK 74003.* Dress up in Bavarian folklore clothing and head to the OK Mozart Festival Oktoberfest to experience all the flair and flavors of this traditional German festival. Bartlesville guests get a taste of Germany through on-hand food trucks delivering authentic eats, as well as hot dogs, cupcakes and strudel. For more information, call **918-336-9900**.

## Eckard Partner Conference

OCT. 10 - 13 • OKC

*The Skirvin Hilton, 1 Park Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.* We invite you to attend the educational portion of our partner conference. Get ready for a full day of learning, including special guest speakers. Come learn about Eckard Enterprises, investing with your self-directed IRA, cryptocurrency, cyber security, and more. Limited seats available. RSVP by phone at **800-527-8895**, by email at [cross@eckardenterprises.com](mailto:cross@eckardenterprises.com), or on the web at [www.eckardenterprises.com](http://www.eckardenterprises.com)



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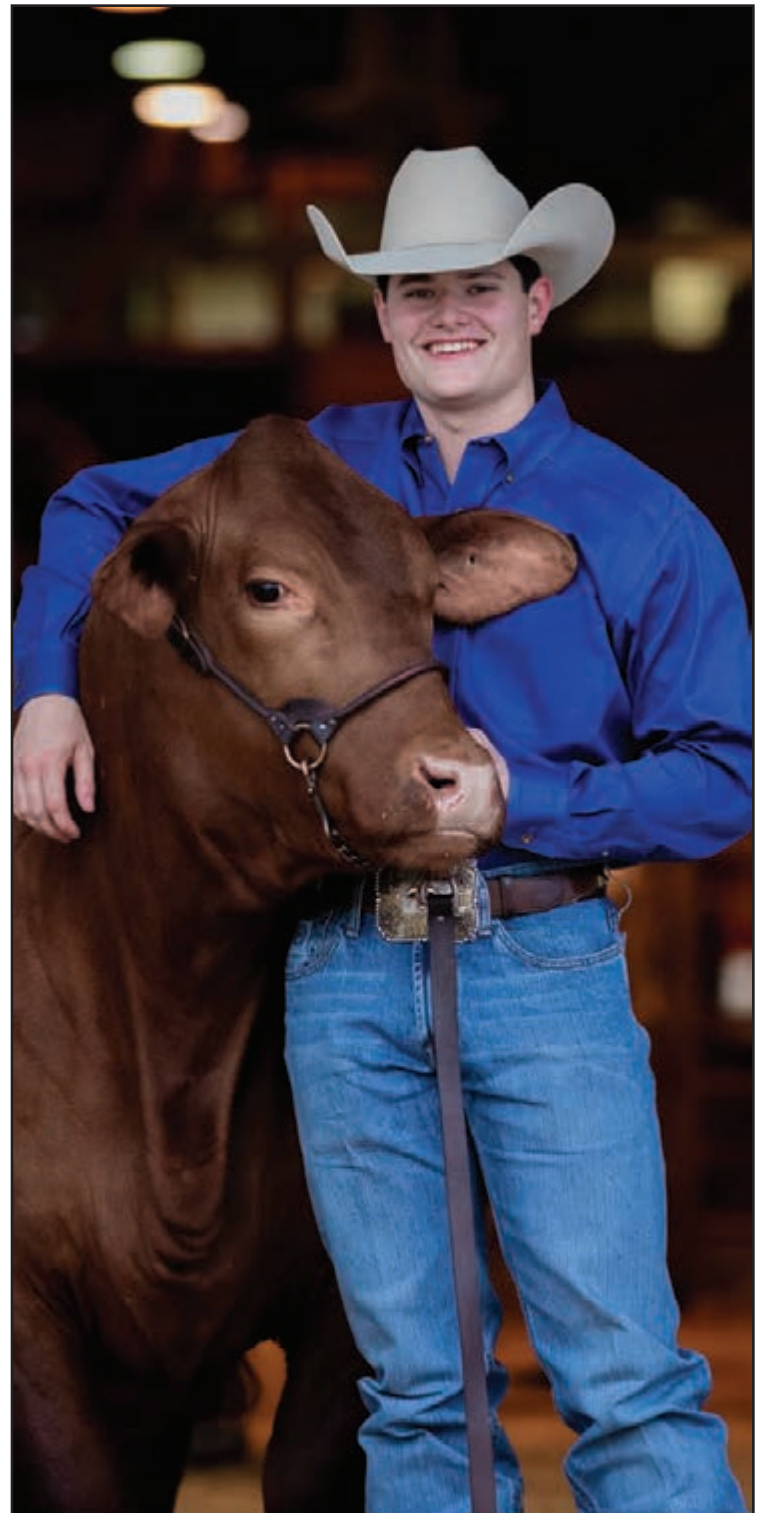


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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Watonga Cheese Festival

OCT. 11 - 12 • WATONGA

*Downtown Watonga.* Fun for the whole family. For more information visit [www.TheWatongaCheeseFestival.com](http://www.TheWatongaCheeseFestival.com) or call 580-623-5452.

## 160 Acre Cattle & Horse Ranch Auction

OCT. 12 • CUSHING

*Cushing, OK.* Nice 3 bed, 2.5 bath country style home on 160 acres with multiple patios, horse barn, roping arena, machinery shed, barn and cattle corrals. Fenced and multiple cross fences as well as multiple ponds make this ranch very appealing and turn key. Between Tulsa and OKC and 20 minutes to Stillwater. Real estate, ranch equipment, and cattle sell to the highest bidders without reserve. Photos and details online at [www.BallAuction.bid](http://www.BallAuction.bid) or [www.UCMikeB.com](http://www.UCMikeB.com)

## Introduction to Land Stewardship

OCT. 15 • MARIETTA

*Noble Research Institute Coffey Ranch. 16877 State Hwy. 32., Marietta, OK 73448.* This course will provide you with an understanding of the principles, processes and tools to effectively implement land-stewardship-focused management strategies on your operation. The focus will primarily be on applying Aldo Leopold's five tools to meet stewardship goals and objectives. No registration fee. Registration closes on Oct. 8. For more information, visit <https://www.noble.org/events/>

## Stockyards Stampede

OCT. 19 • OKC

*Historic Stockyards City. Oklahoma City, OK 73108.* On October 19th, if you feel the ground shake

and hear a rumbling sound, don't panic. It's not an earthquake. It is just a good old fashioned stampede through the streets of the oldest district in Oklahoma - Stockyards City! Everyone is invited to attend the annual Stockyards Stampede event. This year's event is shaping up to be one of the best events in its history. One of the highlights will be the procession of Chain Ranch longhorns that will kick off the event at 10 a.m. The entire event is family friendly. There will be a lot of great activities for kids! They can color their own bandana, enjoy a petting zoo, horse rides, mutton bustin', agricultural demonstrations, a straw maze, and so much more! In addition, there will be tours of the Oklahoma National Stockyards itself, where you can learn the history of the industry. For more information about the Stampede please e-mail Stockyards City Main Street at [office@stockyardscity.org](mailto:office@stockyardscity.org) or call 405-235-7267.

## Bowling Ranch 2019 Production Sale

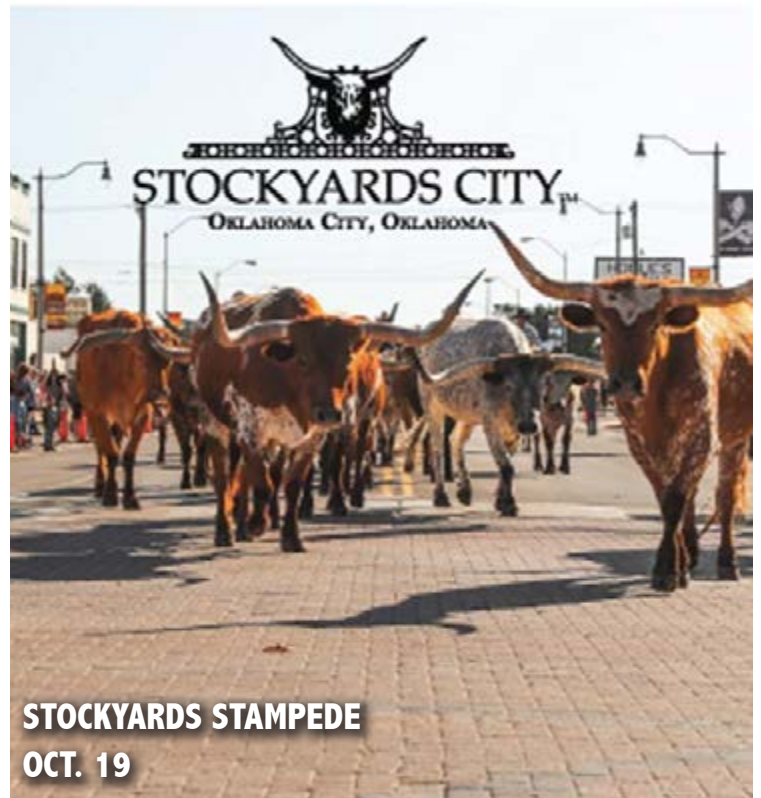
OCT. 29 • NEWKIRK

*Bowling Ranch. Newkirk, OK.* Join us for the Bowling Ranch 2019 Production Sale. The sale begins at noon Oct. 29, at the ranch near Newkirk. Selling 26 hereford bulls, 21 red angus bulls, 16 registered hereford heifers, 13 registered red angus heifers, 6 elite show heifer calves, and 145 commercial spring bred heifers. For more information, contact Justin Stout at 913-645-5136, Nancy Bowling at 580-362-5026, or Melvin Young at 580-761-9257. You can also email [bowlingranch@outlook.com](mailto:bowlingranch@outlook.com).

## Using Grazing to Manage Wildlife Habitat

OCT. 29 • BURNEYVILLE

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NOV. 21 • LAWTON

*McCasland Ballroom. Cameron University, Lawton, OK 73505.* Free and open to the public beginning at 6 p.m. Come join us for the 32nd Annual Beef Cattle Improvement Conference featuring Steven E. Myers, PH.D, technical sales specialist for Purina Animal Nutrition LLC. Focusing on cow nutrition and fetal programming. For more information, call 580-581-2373 or email [agriculture@cameron.edu](mailto:agriculture@cameron.edu).

*If you have an event you'd like to see featured in our Calendar of Events, e-mail [editor@okfrononline.com](mailto:editor@okfrononline.com).*



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# Tales from an Outdoorsman

By Michael Newell

## *Archery seasons for Oklahoma hunters*

October 1 is the opening day for several major archery hunting seasons in Oklahoma. Prospects are looking good for most of those seasons, experts with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation said.

"Oklahoma really is a land of opportunity for archery hunters," said Erik Bartholomew, big-game biologist with the Wildlife Department. "Not only do we have several archery seasons opening Oct. 1, but they each provide ample time and opportunity for diligent hunters to go afield and have an enjoyable time in the outdoors."

Seasons on public lands may vary from statewide season dates. Complete details and regulations for each season -- including hunter education and apprentice-designated license requirements -- can be found in the "Oklahoma Hunting" regulations guide, available free online at [wildlifedepartment.com](http://wildlifedepartment.com) or in print anywhere hunting licenses are sold.

**Deer Archery - Oct. 1 to Jan. 15 statewide** - The most popular of the archery hunting seasons is for deer, with close to 100,000 hunters going afield last year. Those hunters took home 29,094 deer in 2017, a new archery record for the state.

That also accounts for more than 27 percent of the overall deer harvest. Although the 2018 numbers have not been released yet, coffee shop talk seemed to reflect a good year for deer hunters, too.

There is no reason to expect this fall to be any different. Habitat conditions are ideal for deer production.

"The mild summer weather and some timely rains have provided some much-needed relief to many parts of the state," Bartholomew said. "We've had quite a few reports of does with twins and even some seen with triplets. If a doe is raising triplets, that means the habitat is in good shape."

Persimmons and other soft mast have been in good supply in most of the state this year. The acorn and pecan crops are looking good, as well. "Find a tree that is dropping acorns and



Bowhunters using traditional stick bows, compound bows, or crossbows like this archer can head to the field beginning October 1 for the start of the deer archery season. Photo courtesy of ODWC

set up your stand," Bartholomew said.

Scouting ahead of your hunt can help pattern deer movement. Since the food resources are plentiful this year, the deer might have changed their routines from years past.

Good habitat conditions also can make visibility an issue, as many hunters experienced last year. Most forested areas have thick undergrowth, and many prairies are covered in native grasses reaching five feet in height. Hunters are going to have a difficult time seeing the deer in such conditions. Bartholomew said it is more important than ever for hunters to positively identify their targets before deciding to take a shot.

Another indicator of a good deer season ahead - summer spotlight surveys have shown that deer numbers have increased from last year.

The bag limit is six deer, which may include no more than two antlered deer. For license requirements and information on field tagging and checking, consult the "Oklahoma Hunting" regulations guide or go online to [\[wildlifedepartment.com\]\(http://wildlifedepartment.com\).](http://wildlifede-</a></p>
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**Elk Archery - Oct. 1 to Jan. 15**, statewide on private lands only (except in Special Southwest Zone) – The elk herd on private lands in Oklahoma continues to grow.

"Many parts of the state have seen an increase in elk numbers, and hunters now have the opportunity to pursue them through all seasons until the zone quota is met," Bartholomew said.

The beginning of the elk archery season coincides with the end of the elk rut, he said. "Hunters should capitalize on this and call in their first Oklahoma elk."

For the statewide elk season, Oklahoma is divided into seven zones. Each zone has its own bag limit (one or two elk) and harvest quota. A Special Southwest Zone will be open for archery hunting on private lands (see below).

Hunters may harvest one or two elk, depending on the zone, combined for all elk seasons. All hunters must check online at **See ARCHERY page 48**

# Archery

Continued from page 47

wildlifedepartment.com before their hunt to find out if the season is closed for the zone they intend to hunt. Once the quota is met in each zone, the elk season will close in that zone.

Archers took 38 bulls and 37 cows in the 2017 season. Those numbers are expected to be up even more for 2018.

Bartholomew said some areas of the state are known to have good elk populations. In the Northeast Zone, he advises hunters to target Mayes, Delaware, Cherokee, Adair and Sequoyah Counties. In the Southeast Zone, pockets of elk can be found in Pushmataha, Coal, Johnston and Pontotoc Counties. Hunters in the western Panhandle should find some success.

**Elk Archery Special Southwest Zone – Oct. 5-9 and Dec. 7-11** –The Special Southwest zone includes private lands in Caddo, Kiowa and Comanche Counties.

By far, the largest concentrations of elk occur in the Special Southwest Zone. While the season dates are more restrictive in this zone, there is no zone harvest quota.

The zone bag limit is two elk, but at least one must be antlerless.

To find out about license requirements, field tagging and checking, landowner permission, zone bag limits and zone harvest quotas for private land elk hunts, consult the "Oklahoma Hunting" regulations guide or go online to [wildlifedepartment.com](http://wildlifedepartment.com).

**Bear Archery - Oct. 1-20 in Choctaw, Haskell, Latimer, Le Flore, McCurtain and Pushmataha counties only** - In 2017, hunters harvested 57 black bears in Oklahoma. Of those, the majority were taken by archery hunters. In fact, 53 of the total were harvested by bow.

Jeff Ford, southeast region



Black bear range is expanding in southeastern Oklahoma, bringing more hunting opportunities for Oklahoma hunters. Photo courtesy of ODWC

wildlife biologist for the Wildlife Department, said this year's bear season could turn out better than last year's. Hunters will have additional area in which to hunt, as the bear open zone was expanded to all or part of 12 counties in southeastern Oklahoma.

"With another cool and wet summer in Southeast Oklahoma, the bear numbers are in excellent condition," Ford said. "Mast production should be great."

"Hunters should key in on areas with white oaks. These trees start dropping acorns in late September and are a preferred food source for bears in the fall," Ford said.

For archery bear hunters, there is no season harvest quota. So, these hunters can be more selective in making a harvest decision since they may hunt the entire 20 days. Hunters may take only one bear for all seasons combined.

All hunters are required to have a hunting license or proof of exemption, and a bear license (no exemptions). Bear archery hunting licenses must be purchased before the season opens. No bear archery licenses will be sold after that date.

For more information about prohibited activities, field tagging and checking for bear, consult the "Oklahoma Hunting" regulations guide or go online to [wildlifedepartment.com](http://wildlifedepartment.com).

**Antelope Archery - Oct 1-14 in Cimarron County and Texas County** - After several years of severe drought, the pronghorn populations in the western Oklahoma panhandle are depressed. "Any hunters who are planning a public-land antelope hunt are likely to find minimal numbers of antelope," said Weston Storer, northwest region wildlife biologist for the Wildlife Department.

Hunters lucky enough to draw into the Wildlife Department's antelope gun hunts are the more successful of those seeking to harvest a pronghorn, but archery hunters did harvest 24 (22 bucks, and 2 does) animals last year. 128 total pronghorns were harvested in 2017, combining all the seasons.

Private lands will likely offer better chances for success, he said. "There will be some taken on private lands around watering holes," Storer speculated.

He said several years without

any appreciable rainfall along with livestock grazing have left many areas with no grass. That, in turn, creates problems for does raising fawns, as the poor habitat makes survival more difficult.

Hopefully with a wetter summer this year, and adding a couple of more to this one, we can see an increase in fawn production, and a population increase.

For those antelope hunters wanting to make a trip, he suggested that Texas County might have better numbers of animals than Cimarron County. He based the assessment on preseason fawn counts, which showed an average of one fawn for each 3.5 does in Texas County and one fawn for each 3.9 does in Cimarron County.

By and large, the majority of pronghorns harvested in Oklahoma are done through the Wildlife Department's controlled hunts and through landowner permits. Only about 10 percent of antelope are harvested by over-the-counter permits.

To find out about license requirements, season limit, field tagging and checking, and landowner permission, consult the "Oklahoma Hunting" regulations guide or go online to [wildlifedepartment.com](http://wildlifedepartment.com).

**Turkey Archery - Oct. 1 to Jan. 15, statewide** - All counties are open for the fall turkey archery season. Hunters may harvest one turkey of either sex during all fall seasons combined. Any turkey harvested statewide must be checked in using the E-Check system at [wildlifedepartment.com](http://wildlifedepartment.com) or the new wildlife app available on cellular devices.

It's common for deer hunters to head to the field along with the proper fall turkey license in case they get an opportunity to harvest a turkey while deer hunting. ☞

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**2** – There were 93.5 million cattle in the United States as of Jan. 1, 2017. About a third of them were beef cows. The rest include calves, beef bulls and dairy cattle.

**3** – The average number of

cows in a herd is 40.

**4** – To be considered lean, a three-ounce cooked serving of beef must have less than 10 grams of total fat, 4.5 grams of saturated fat, and 95 milligrams of cholesterol. This qualifies more than 60 percent of beef cuts (when cooked with visible fat trimmed) found in the supermarket.

**5** – An estimated 30 to 40 percent of all food in the U.S. is wasted each year. That's about \$2,500 down the drain for the average American family, but meat, including beef, is one of the least-wasted food categories, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**6** – Nearly 160 cattle producers in 33 different states have been recognized through the Environmental Stewardship Award Program since 1991.

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**7** – Texas, Nebraska, Kansas, California and Oklahoma raise the most cattle in the U.S.

**8** – Rangelands cover about 30 percent of the U.S. and are found in all 50 states. Rangelands across

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**9** – Beef provides 10 essential nutrients including protein, vitamins B6 and B12, selenium, zinc, niacin, phosphorus, choline, iron and riboflavin.

**10** – A cooked three-ounce lean beef burger patty averages around 154 calories while providing nearly half the recommended daily value of protein (about 25 grams). Expect to consume more calories for the same amount of protein with options like peanut butter (6 tablespoons for 564 calories) or quinoa (3 cups for 665 calories). ☞



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