



THE CATTLE CALL

Newsletter for Alumni of the
TCU Ranch Management Program

FROM THE PRESIDENT MISSY BONDS 2001

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Mr. Farley	2
Mr. Faubion	3
Mr. Johnson	4
New Cowgirl	4
Announcements	5
Roundup	6
This Year's Class	7
RM Dances	8

The weather has finally cooled down a little and it seems like fall is here. Now if we can just get some rain! I know most of us are wondering what the next and best step is in handling what Mother Nature has thrown at us this year. Between the heat, lack of rain, fires and high winds, it has definitely been a challenge to be involved in agriculture.

With the new cool weather brings a new class to TCU Ranch Management. I look forward to meeting each one of them this week when they come to the ranch for their first field trip. This trip will be where they process cows, look at body condition of cattle and get their first experience trying to market lot loads of cattle. It is also their first introduction to Mama's buttermilk pie. This class has a long road ahead until May and I look forward to learning from them as they will learn from the alumni and teachers.

I want to remind everyone of the TCU Ranch Management Alumni Roundup. It will be held in the Fort Worth Stockyards on January 21, 2012. I look forward to seeing everyone there. We will have our Alumni reception at TSCRA and sponsor the Cattle Fax Outlook Meeting. Also, the best advertising the program has is its alumni. Let people know about the program and if there are people in your area that are potential students, tell them about the program and bring them to the Alumni functions. I appreciate our alumni very much and look forward to your input.

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Missy Bonds
msag98@aol.com
 817-232-3555 office
 817-917-2958 cell



Kerry L. Cornelius
k.cornelius@tcu.edu
 Director
 Burnett Ranches Professor
 Ranch Management Program

TOUGH TIMES

I just got back from a trip down near Junction, Texas this last weekend. It was amazing to see so many Juniper or Cedar trees that looked like they were dead. I called and talked to Dr. Charles Taylor at the Texas A& M experiment station in Sonora, Texas in an effort to find out whether or not those trees are dead; or, if they stand a chance at sprouting back from the bud if or when it rains. In visiting with Dr. Taylor, he quoted some of the documentation that Dr. Merrill had written down in his observations during the drought of the 1950's. Dr. Merrill stated that several of the Live Oaks and Big Juniper trees did die during drought. A few of the red berry Juniper trees did sprout back from the base or crown of the plant. If it is an Ash Juniper and it turns red, it is more than likely dead. Dr. Taylor also mentioned that several of the climatologists are predicting that drought conditions will continue to linger through the winter, spring and summer next year. (Continued on pg. 2)

(Tough Times, cont. from pg. 1) Most of the livestock in West Texas have been destocked completely or reduced tremendously. A big concern for some ranchers is the wildlife populations and how they are making it during these extreme conditions. From several folks' observations, including Dr. Taylor, the bucks seem to be in fairly decent body condition. Horns are obviously a little smaller than an average year. The does that are raising twins are in poor condition. This winter, if the weather predictions are correct, several of the fawns, does and bucks (especially after the rut) will more than likely not fair very well during the late part of winter. Wildlife numbers need to be reduced during drought conditions. The hard part is figuring out how many need to be culled and how many will be culled through natural selection.

For your reference, we have added a link on our web site that has three different articles on Post-Wildfire Range Observations by Steve Nelle, NRCS out of San Angelo, Texas. Here is the link to our website <http://www.ranch.tcu.edu>. It is the ninth button on the right hand side of the home page. The articles contain good information to help us all to become better prepared in understanding the impacts of wildfire and management of the rangeland following wildfire.



RANCH BRIGADE: OFF AND RUNNING

Educating the next generation of natural resource managers starting at the high school level is "Off and Running." The Ranch Brigade committee has been formally elected and started writing the camp curriculum. As a quick review, the Ranch Brigade is a committee of industry volunteers who have joined together to teach high school students land stewardship and livestock management in a week long summer camp setting. The Ranch Brigade curriculum will be from conception to consumers with leadership development being the focus. The Ranch Brigade will be a part of the Texas Brigades which teaches wildlife conservation and leadership development. The Ranch Brigade camp date has been set for July 30-August 3, 2012.

The Ranch Brigade is in need of few major components. As alumni, you can be of great assistance in helping find these major components. First, the committee needs to find a facility that can host the camp. The facility can be any property that can sleep a minimum of 65 cadets and volunteers nightly. Therefore, the facility must have cooking ability to feed 65 people. Additionally, the facility will need to have an air conditioned meeting room for approximately 40 people, a place nearby where the cadets could work a set of calves through some pens, and then a cooler to view a beef carcass being processed. Please contact me or any of the committee members if you know of a facility that comes close to fitting these elements.

Second, we need a cooking crew chief and crew. I have some cooking help volunteers but no one that has taken the lead on putting a cooking crew together. The cooking will be centered on beef and the nutritional value of beef. I believe this crew can really have a lot of fun feeding this group. The crew could be a part of the Beef Council, Texas Cattle Woman or group that likes to cook. The cadets will do a lot of the cleanup portion of the meals. Anyone that would like to volunteer for this crew or know someone I need to contact, please let me know.

Third, we need a facilitator to present verbal communication and media skills to the cadets. The single most important facet of this camp will be to ensure that the cadets take what they have learned at camp and present the Ranch Brigade story to their peers and communities. Each student will be required to prepare a trifold and a PowerPoint about their Ranch Brigade experience while at camp. The cadets will also practice in mock media type interviews.

Lastly, we still need more committee volunteers to be a part of the cadet support group for the 4 ½ day camp. For example, we would like the following: a DJ to play music between activities, a drill sergeant to teach the cadets to march, and a general team building/leadership coordinator. We have the leadership activities prepared; we just need someone to implement the activities with the cadets.

Educating and empowering the next generation of resource managers with the skills and (Continued on pg. 3)

(Ranch Brigade, cont. from pg. 2) knowledge necessary to successfully manage and promote sustainable beef production will change your life.

Please contact me through e-mail or phone if you have any interest in filling these openings.



NUTRITION CHECKLIST

I recently heard that 34% of the US cattle inventory is standing in a drought stricken area. I fear that many of our readers are probably standing in close proximity to those cattle. I realize that many of these ranchers have already been wrestling with critical management decisions that come along with this drought situation. The balance of our readers has likely been faced with these same decisions in the recent past, or will be facing them in the near future.

While I don't wish to muddy the waters any further for those still facing tough management decisions on how to deal with the drought, I want to offer a few simple points to remember as we try to devise a nutrition plan. Cattle nutrition has been further complicated this year, much past the obvious shortage of forage, to include a drastic shortage of protein sources, high grain prices, and an unsure outlook on cool season small grain grazing conditions. We have had many questions from some very innovative managers as to how they might deal with this drought. I hope the following checklist will offer a few reminders for you as you work on the nutrition plan for the 2011-2012 winter feeding period. Also, I would welcome questions or comments. We are always happy to visit with alumni and help wherever we can.

- **Protein supplements will encourage more dry matter intake, whereas energy supplements will decrease dry matter intake.** This is important to remember as you decide on supplemental feed, while considering the quantity of forage that is available. By adding more energy to the ration, forage may be stretched.
- **Budget for forage waste.** We have heard of some very interesting sources of forages throughout the past couple of months. Ruminants are a blessing in that their digestive system was created to make great use of some pretty low quality fiber. The thing to remember is that some of these forages will be wasted at higher rates than our normal forages.
- **Vitamin A is critical.** I know you all know this, but I wanted to throw out a reminder. Vitamin A can only be stored for about six months in the liver. Many have not seen much green forage in over a year. Therefore, the potential is there for a vitamin A deficiency.
- **Watch for nitrates.** Many are using corn and milo hay this year. Be sure to have a reliable test. Don't rely on someone else to test it. This can be a costly way to save a few dollars on the test.
- **Always look at your opportunity cost.** Hay and standing forage are both valuable commodities this year.
- **Monitor nutrition plan.** Be sure to watch body condition, production, and fecal material to evaluate the effectiveness of your nutrition plan.
- **Watch out for "FOO FOO" dust.** Make sure that you can get sound research or at least a viable reference for new products that make promises that are sometimes tempting.
- **Educate your team.** Take a few minutes to explain to all employees the ramifications of the drought. For example, helping them understand that the cubes that they normally throw out on the ground are worth almost twice what they were a year or two ago.
- **Plan ahead.** Many feed companies are struggling to procure the raw material commodities that they need to make our cubes and other feeds. In that, they require quite a large lead time on orders, particularly large bulk orders. Plan ahead and submit your order as early as possible, so that you don't run out of feed. The more flexible that you can be, the easier it will be to work with these suppliers.



THE BUSINESS OF MOTHER NATURE

Record setting heat has taken its toll on livestock, pastures and humans this year; but, the heat and sunshine can also affect our livestock pharmaceuticals. Proper storage of antibiotics is often overlooked. Most antibiotics should be stored at 77 degrees F, or lower. Some antibiotics can be stored at higher temperatures, but it is important in any case to **read the label**. All antibiotics should be stored out of direct sunlight, and protected from freezing temperatures. When we do not get the expected results from the antimicrobial, our vet has suggested that improper storage may be the reason. Always read your pharmaceutical labels and follow the manufacturer's directions.

Vaccine storage is critical if we are to get the desired results from our vaccination programs. Most vaccines are to be refrigerated at 35-45 degrees F, but ranchers also need to make sure that vaccines don't freeze in the refrigerator or during transport in winter months. An inexpensive refrigerator thermometer is a great investment. Over-heated or frozen vaccine is ruined vaccine.

The Food and Drug Administration regulates the temperature levels of pharmaceuticals during storage. Manufacturers and distributors of livestock pharmaceuticals are required to keep a daily temperature log of all vaccines and antibiotics that they have in storage. Be sure to always purchase your pharmaceutical products from a reputable source that takes care of the products. Everyone works hard at good animal husbandry; it is a shame to lose effectiveness of a product because of improper storage.

Keep in mind, that a metal building or pickup tool box can easily reach 135 degrees F in the summer, and they can both freeze in the winter. Regularly check the temperature in your refrigerator and medicine room to insure proper storage of antibiotics and vaccines. As I said early, it is important to read the label and store all products properly for the best possible results for your livestock operation.

Also, don't forget about Vitamin A&D, and micronutrient (Selenium, Copper, Zinc, etc.) deficiencies in the poor quality forage we are currently experiencing. Vitamin A&D injections can provide 1-3 months of reserve depending on the stage of production the bovine is in and the concentration of the product used. Vitamin A&D as well as micronutrients can be found in mineral and supplemental feed. Remember to check those labels for accurate content.

NEW COWGIRL ON THE RANCH



You will hear a new voice when you call the Ranch Management Program these days. Hi everyone, my name is Kandi Pound, and I am the new Administrative Assistant here in Ranch Management.

I am a lifelong Horned Frog and beyond thrilled to be on campus, and in this department specifically. I have to say, I knew absolutely nothing about the program until I had my first interview. Let me tell you, I fell in love! Amazing folks to work with, a gorgeous building, and the opportunity to learn something completely new. What more could a girl ask for?

I look forward to becoming acquainted with all of you through phone calls, e-mails, and events.

GO FROGS!



ROUNDUP JANUARY 21, 2012

Make Plans now to attend Roundup in the historic Fort Worth Stockyards and please consider a donation to the auction.

2012 Roundup Hotel Information

A block of room has been reserved at the Hyatt Place in the Fort Worth Historic Stockyards under the group name: TCU Ranch Management. The block of rooms will be returned to the general inventory on December 30, 2011, so make your reservations early.

Hyatt Place Fort Worth Historic Stockyards
(Adjacent to Stockyards Station)
132 E. Exchange Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76106

Phone: 817-626-6000
Rate: \$159.00 + Tax per Night
Group Name: TCU Ranch Management
Reservation Cut-off Date: December 30

Additional Registration information for Roundup will be available on the website soon.

The Saturday morning presentation will focus around the topic of financial management, the economy, and back to basics in analyzing your business's financial position.

This should prove to be a timely and important topic of discussion as the industry faces many challenges from weather to markets.

Please plan on attending this important session. More information on the presenters will follow.



CATTLE CALL: SAVING OUR PLANET ONE E-MAIL ADDRESS AT A TIME

Cattle Call will now be sent out by email for those of you who would like to cut down on the amount of mail that accumulates in your mailbox. For those of you who prefer the option of having the hardcopy, we will still do a regular mail out.

To receive your copy of *Cattle Call* by email, just send an email to ranching@tcu.edu with "Email Cattle Call" in the subject line. Please be sure to give us your name if it isn't clear from your email address. You can also update your information (address change, new job, marriage, birth of a child, etc.) by sending a message to ranching@tcu.edu.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you.



This year's class is comprised of 24 students who come from across the United States, including: Texas, Colorado, Montana, Kansas, Nebraska and South Carolina. We also have a student from as far away as Michoacan, Mexico.

Front Row, left to right: **Sam Walzel**, Corpus Christi, TX; **Cody "CJ" Hill**, Midlothian, TX; **Mario Gomez**, Mexico; **Macy Jennings**, Ringgold, TX; **Dakota Holmes**, Alpine, TX; **Brendan Garrison**, Lubbock, TX; **Clint Murchison**, Dallas, TX; **Warren Wallace**, Sonora, TX; **Austin Phillips**, Fort Worth, TX; **Charles "CJ" Busby**, Centennial, CO

Back Row, left to right: **Albert Moursund**, Round Mountain, TX; **Jarrod Price**, Mirando City, TX; **Gretchen Berns**, Peabody, KS; **Jace Beardsley**, Miles City, MT; **Eric Miller**, Davenport, NE; **Matt McLelland**, Tahoka, TX; **Shelby Clements**, Pampa, TX; **Waylon Davis**, Aspermont, TX; **Bowman Williams**, Fort Worth, TX; **Kenneth Kyle**, Inman, SC; **Kevin Roach**, Breckenridge, TX; **Kelley Sullivan**, Houston, TX; **Joey Ramage**, Mirando City, TX; **Nadine Williamson**, Arkansas City, KS

Please join us in welcoming this year's class into the Ranch Management Program.

Remember, you can follow this year's class on their journey through the program on our website:
<http://www.ranch.tcu.edu>.
 Field trip and event pictures will be posted often.



Also, do not forget that the Ranch Management Program has a Facebook page.



The Ranch Management Program is starting a Student Blog. More details coming to you in the next Cattle Call.

RANCH MANAGEMENT DANCES!

Mr. Cornelius, Mr. Farley, Mrs. Davila, and Mrs. Pound participated in the 7th Annual Frogs for the Cure event by dancing in a flash mob. This year's Frogs for the Cure game is Friday, October 28, 2011 at Cowboy Stadium pitting TCU against BYU. The "flash mob" video will be shown at halftime on the giant video board!



WHO DID WHAT:

Send NEWS to BOX 297420, Fort Worth, TX 76129 or call it in to 817-257-7145.

Grad Year _____
 Name _____
 Spouse _____
 Children _____

MOVING

New Address _____
 City _____ State/Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Company _____
 Address _____
 E-Mail _____
 City _____ State/Zip _____
 Phone _____ Mobile _____

JOB CHANGE

Company _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State/Zip _____
 Phone _____ Mobile _____
 Position _____ E-Mail _____

WEDDING

Date Married _____
 Where _____

BIRTH Boy, Girl, Twins

Date Born _____
 Weighed _____ lbs. _____ ozs.

Hats Off to You!!!

We are pleased that so many of you take advantage of this form to indicate change of address, marriage, or birth. You are helping us keep up with you and that's what we want to do. It helps your classmates and us. **Thanks!**