



THE CATTLE CALL

Newsletter for Alumni of the
TCU Ranch Management Program

Summer/Fall 2014

From the President, Chad McCormick

Welcome, Class of 2015! On behalf of the alumni let me say, "Good luck and stay focused! You have accepted a great challenge to not only learn and apply as much as you can, but also to mentor those that come after you. It's great that you will have the knowledge but it is amazing when you can pass it on."

I hope each of you has enjoyed this mild summer as much as I have. We have had a few hot days down here but not nearly as bad as it has been in the past. Timely rains have most everyone sitting pretty good for the fall, but I pray that the rain predicted this season reaches those pockets of drought-stricken country.

I would like to thank the Panhandle Alumni group for a great time in Amarillo, Jeff and the crew did a bang up job! We all look forward to the next Summer Alumni and Family Gathering.

I debated on what to write because there are so many good topics out there - high cattle prices, imports and exports, water issues, cross breeding, rotations, etc. I admit that in the past I learned more from y'all than y'all will ever learn from me so I hesitate to offer any advice to the well-seasoned operators out there. Hopefully my chosen topic for this edition of The Cattle Call will start some conversations... "People."

People are the single greatest resource we have in any operation. Agriculture is a people business. Without well motivated people, there will be no future for this industry. We grow our own replacements in this business. This is not an industry where people are quitting good careers to take advantage of the great wages like they have in the oil business. People work in agriculture because they love it, they have a passion and pride for what they do. It takes decades to get the kind of experience you need to be a good manager of resources; it's dang near impossible to see two or three years the same in a ten year period, while the weather may be the same, the market will most likely be different. Because of this unpredictability, sometimes we feel like there is no way a young person is ready for entering this field. However, with your mentorship and experience, along with their attitude and motivation, the sky is the limit on where this industry will be in the future.

One thing I think we do not do well in agriculture is counsel our employees. I, personally, have good intentions to advise my employees, but usually I let my plan slip through the cracks. In the corporate world and in the military, guidance is a way of life; in our industry, if we happen to be in the same truck, we might say something basic about what we like or don't like about what the other is doing. Don't be "basic." Take the time to sit down with your employees one-on-one and reinforce to them what they are doing well and offer constructive suggestions on areas that need improvement. With this counseling what might happen is you keep a leader in this business who knows how to manage resources and motivate people effectively and successfully.

Thanks and God Bless,
Chad

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OPTIMISM

When cattle markets are at all-time highs and feed prices are relatively low, it is easy to be optimistic. Add in the fact, compared to 2011, most areas of the country have received rain and there is more reason to be optimistic about the future of cattle country. It appears the only hold back may be the question of equity requirements to obtain operating capital when opportunities do arise. Folks are going to be more creative in finding ways to restock grass in the near future and with feed prices relatively low there is going to be a tighter margin on grass values compared to feed yard cost of gains.

As we begin a new school year, optimism for this year's class is also riding high. The students are off to a great start; their Corral Plans have been completed and they have started to work on their Range Plans. A few students are feeling a little overwhelmed, while others are shifting gears and taking off. Hopefully, they will all begin to take hold of the information and experiences that are coming their way. Some of what the students are learning is exactly what many producers are presently trying to figure out; such as, what is wheat cost of gain on cattle to the cattleman versus what is it going to be worth per pound of gain to the farmer? It appears to me with corn prices coming down, wheat cost of gain will need to come down in comparison with the last few years. This is a great opportunity for the cattleman but may not be as good for the farmer unless he has enough equity to stock his own country.

The Ranch Management Program had a great summer. The Panhandle Alumni group put on an outstanding Summer Alumni and Family Gathering. It was a tremendous weekend of events and everyone who attended had a wonderful time. Even the weather cooperated. A BIG THANK YOU goes out to Jeff and Jessica Mitchell along with Jessen Tucker for heading up a great group of alumni who put on one heck of a great weekend. Our next alumni event is an alumni tailgate party on the lawn of the Ranch Management building before the TCU vs. OSU football game at Amon G Carter Stadium in Fort Worth on October 18th, Homecoming Weekend. The alumni tailgate is being sponsored for the second year by one of our own, Patrick Murray with Heritage Land Bank. This would be a great time to bring a potential student to see TCU and find out more about the Program. Game time has not been published but mark October 18 on your calendar and plan to join us for a food and fellowship. More details will be sent out by email as they are available.

2014 has been a wonderful year and we look forward to an even better 2015.

WELCOME, CLASS OF 2015





The Panhandle Alumni Committee was proud to host the **28th Annual Ranch Management Summer Alumni and Family Gathering** in the historic cattle town of Amarillo, TX June 20th and June 21st, 2014. The Summer Gathering kicked off Friday night at the Bar Z Winery with approximately 150 attending. Afterwards the group boarded the bus to Palo Duro Canyon for the *TEXAS* outdoor musical. Alumni and their families were out the door Saturday for roping and rodeo events at Amarillo National Center, sporting clay shooting at Rivers Break Ranch, and golfing at Comanche Trails. Over 250 people gathered Saturday night at the Scharbauer Hangar for food, drinks, awards, and music.

THANK YOU to the committee for a memorable weekend!

Calf Roping

- 1st—Jeff Davis
- 2nd—Waylon Davis
- 3rd—Stephen Kirkland

Calf Roping/Fastest

- Round 1, 2, & 3—Jeff Davis

Team Roping

- 1st—Skylar Flake/Richard Myers
- 2nd—Jeff Davis/Bill Angel
- 3rd—Skylar Flake/Bill Angel

Team Roping/Fastest

- Round 1—Jeff Davis/ Bill Angel
- Round 2—Stephen Kirkland/Clint Jackson
- Round 3—Skylar Flake/ Bill Angel

Golf

- 1st— Jason Harlow
- 2nd—Charlie Cockrell
- 3rd—Becky Cockrell

Sporting Clay

- 1st—Rue Ferguson
- 2nd—Larry Horwood
- 3rd—Kevin Johnson

Top Hand

- Clint Jackson

Calf Branding

- 1st—Waylon Davis, Eric Smith, Ron Redford, JB Miller
- 2nd—Clint Jackson, Matt McLennan, Colton Jackson, Chase Seany
- 3rd—Payton Chambless, Richard Myers, Bill Angel, Chase Seany

Trailer Loading

- 1st—Chad Miller, Jack Caroway, Bob Payne, Chad McCormick
- 2nd—Chance Bowers, Collin Bowers, Teke Eldridge, BA Corn
- 3rd—Clint Jackson, Matt McLennan, Colton Jackson, Chase Seany

Cattle Doctoring

- 1st—Chad McCormick, Skylar Flake, Ryan Locke, Ryan Ediger
- 2nd—Jeff Davis, Matt McLelland, Brazos Peacock, Shaun Strickland
- 3rd—Craig Cowden, Wes Miller, Taylor Marley, Cade Woodward

Overall Standings

- 1st—Clint Jackson, Matt McLennan, Colton Jackson, Chase Seany
- 2nd—Payton Chambless, Richard Myers, Bill Angel, Chase Seany
- 3rd—Chad McCormick, Skylar Flake, Ryan Locke, Ryan Ediger

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

Agrilabs, Amarillo National Bank, Capital Farm Credit,
Caviness Beef Packers, Clift Land Brokers & Auction,
Great Plains Ag Credit, Texas Cattle Feeders Association,
and YellowHouse Machinery

“Like” **TCU Ranch Management Summer Alumni and Family Gathering** on Facebook for pictures from this summers' events and to keep up-to-date for the 2015 Gathering!



Chris Farley
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Assistant Director
Southwestern E&LS Professor
Ranch Management Program

RANCH BRIGADE

2014

Ranch Brigade was held July 15th-19th at the Warren Ranch in Coleman, TX. This year's battalion included 16 young men and 8 young ladies from all over TX, and one from GA, ranging in age from 14 to 17. "Cadets" were selected based on their application, accomplishments, and an essay which asked the student to respond to what they think will be the limiting natural resource for their generation.

The Warren Ranch is the perfect home for teaching the cadets land stewardship, livestock production, native and introduced forages, and brush clearing techniques. The facilities at this ranch are simply outstanding for classroom lectures, housing cadets, and feeding them beef-based meals. Warren Ranch is owned and operated by the Warren family and TCU RM alumnus, Mr. Stirling Warren, who works behind the scenes to provide this amazing place.

The grass lease at Warren Ranch is held by TCU RM alumnus, Mr. Zac Allen of Coleman, TX, who provided calves for the cattle working portion of the camp. Zac and his crew also put on a low-stress cattle handling demonstration. Zac is a great personal example to the cadets of what TCU Ranch Management represents.

Cadets earned points during the week from activities such as plant ID, trivia, PowerPoint presentations, and ranch rodeo competitions. The cadets that earned the most points made up the "Top Herd" and received an award trip. The 2014 Top Herd award trip was hosted by TCU RM alumnus and manager of Pitchfork Ranch, Brooks Hodges. The Top Herd spent a weekend touring Pitchfork Ranch and had a great afternoon of dove hunting.

After their five days at camp, each cadet is encouraged to share their Ranch Brigade PowerPoint presentation with their community. The top two returning cadets from RB 2013 who made the most presentations received a \$4,000 agricultural scholarship and a \$2,000 agricultural scholarship from Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show, respectively; Ranch Brigade also provided \$1,000 agricultural scholarships to the third and fourth place cadets.

Numerous TCU Ranch Management alumni have led to the success of this camp; I cannot name them all but a few have truly become shining stars. All of the cadets at Ranch Brigade get to personally view the passion for ranching that TCU Ranch Management alumni have.

From the beginning, TCU RM alumnus, Mr. Jay Purvis, has been Ranch Brigade's major financial supporter and has helped develop this program into what it is today. His passion for helping young people learn about land conservation and sustainable beef production from conception to consumer is reflected in his giving to this camp. Ranch Brigade would not be possible without his financial support. Other individuals and businesses donate to Ranch Brigade and we are very grateful for their funding, as well.

Thanks to the patronage and financial support from TCU RM alumni, Ranch Brigade can continue to lay a strong foundation for livestock production and land stewardship and serve as a great recruiting ground for future Ranch Management students.

The mission statement of Ranch Brigade is, **"Educating and empowering the next generation of natural resources managers with the skills and knowledge necessary to successfully manage and promote sustainable beef production."** If you know a future natural resources manager from 13-17 years of age that could benefit from participating in Ranch Brigade, please encourage them to go online to TexasBrigades.org and complete an application. For more information about Ranch Brigade, or to help financially support this camp with your tax-deductible contribution, please do not hesitate to contact me at 817.257.7145 or by email at j.farley@tcu.edu.

APPLICATIONS FOR RANCH BRIGADE 2015 AVAILABLE NOVEMBER, 2014

**TCU RANCH
MANAGEMENT ALUMNI
INVITE YOU TO AN
ALUMNI REUNION AND
RECRUITMENT
TAILGATE PARTY**

We will be tailgating on the lawn at the Ranch Management building before the game between TCU and OSU on Saturday, October 18.

The exact time of the game has not been set, but we **will** be there.

Food will start being served **2 hours before game time.**

Pack your cooler, get in touch with your classmates, and make this a reunion party.

If you know of potential students for the Program, this would be a great way for them to see the building, meet some alumni, and get information about the Program.

See you there on October 18!

Sponsored by



Tickets to the TCU vs OSU football game can be purchased by calling the TCU Ticket Office (817)257-7967 or online at www.gofrogs.com.

Dick Winters is organizing a **Class of 1985** gathering during Roundup, please contact him at rwDickwinters@yahoo.com if you'd like more details.



HELP FOR A COSTLY VIRAL DISEASE

Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) cost the United States beef industry two billion dollars a year making it the most costly viral disease for beef cattle producers. BVDV is a very complex disease for the cow-calf, stocker, and feedlot sectors of the beef industry. Producers must be concerned with transmission from active infections, persistently infected animals, and possible contamination from wildlife. Cow-calf operators must deal with health problems, reproductive issues, and production losses. Stocker and feedlot operations contend with fever, immune suppression, appetite loss, mucosal disease, and often tremendous production losses.

A survey conducted by the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) indicated that up to ten percent of ranches may be infected with BVDV. The same survey indicated that one third of all ranches introduced new cattle to their herds within the last year and that two thirds of all ranches introduced new cattle into their herds at least once in the last two years. Interestingly, NAHMS reported that most ranches do not quarantine new arrivals. These practices, with this level of exposure, make biosecurity and bio containment extremely important to all producers. It is just a matter of time until your operation may be exposed.

Many producers across the country are talking about heifer retention. Most of the calves that become persistently infected with BVDV come from unvaccinated heifers. An aggressive vaccination program in these replacements could potentially head off a lot of problems for years to come. Right now would be a great time to review your vaccination program and biosecurity program for a cow-calf, stocker, or feedlot operation. Cow-calf operations need to remember replacements and bulls as part of their program.

Recently I attended a BVDV conference with many of the top BVDV researchers and veterinarians. There is a great new online tool developed by Dr. Brad White and Dr. Bob Larsen of Kansas State University to help cow-calf producers with questions and strategies concerning BVDV. To access the information, google *BVD Consult* and take a look at the information and the interactive consulting tool. The information contained at this site will help all beef cattle producers.

Management and education are the key to controlling BVDV.



“CAN I GET A LITTLE HELP?”

One of the things that I’ve learned in my time at Ranch Management, is that one of the quickest ways for a student to get into academic trouble in the Program is to fail to use all of the resources available, one of which is the teachers. Asking help of the instructors and others around them can be a big help to them as they work their way through the rigors of the Program.

I can’t speak for ladies, but I know that men can have a lot of trouble in this area. Maybe it is our “macho” ego, but probably just plain pride, that gets in the way, keeping us from reaching out to ask for help. I have seen it in our students, where a student does not seek help until it is too late. In fact, I’ve had several alumni say that a major regret that they have from their time in Ranch Management, is that they didn’t seek more help from the teachers and others around them.

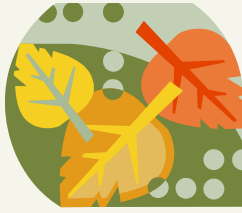
This can be a problem for all of us. Many times, pride gets in the way and we get ourselves into some sort of bind and end up in trouble. I know from personal experience over the years, I’ve done the same thing. Aside from asking the Good Lord above – and sometimes not even asking Him – I didn’t ask for help from those around me. Later finding out that I had access to all sorts of help, if I would have only asked! It is important to remember that we are all human and we need to reach out for help sometimes. **Most times, folks around us are happy to help if they know that you have a need.**

The second part of this brief article is that we should create a culture that shows those around us that it is alright to ask for help. Our spouses, children, co-workers, and employees should feel welcomed to ask a question of us. One of our mottos of this Program is, “There is no such thing as a stupid question.” The new group of students in this current class have been asking some great questions. I’m very proud of the way that many are coming to us asking for help, as well as, asking questions in class that allow for great discussion. This creates a culture in which we are all more comfortable and allows everyone to learn more from each other and continue in our efforts to promote life-long learning.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2014



First Row (L to R): Janelle Davila; Jason Faubion; Chris Farley; Kerry Cornelius; Dr. Nowell Donovan; Dr. Bonnie Melhart; Kevin Johnson; Jeff Geider
Second Row (L to R): Travis Kenley; Dillon Watkins; Clay Bebee; Sam Hughes; Jordan Brough; Mary Kathrine White; Avonlea Elkins; Noah Fox; Diego Bustillos; Alfonso Roca
Third Row (L to R): Coleman Replogle; Sam Halverson; Carter Smith; Ethan Oberst; Laurent Lollis; Jason Reitz; Leon Lewis; Kesler DeBruycker-Martin; William Passwaters



Thank You!!!

We are pleased that so many of you take advantage of this form to indicate change of address, marriage, birth, or job.

You are helping us keep up with you and that's what we want to do!

WHO DID WHAT:

- Send NEWS to TCU Box 297420, Fort Worth, TX 76129 OR
- call 817-257-7145 OR
- email ranching@tcu.edu

Grad Year _____

Name _____

Spouse _____

Children _____

NEW ADDRESS/PHONE/EMAIL . . .

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-Mail _____

CATTLE CALL BY E-MAIL

SEE ALL OF THE PICTURES IN COLOR!

Cattle Call can 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.

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.

New Ranch Hand on the Ranch

On June 1 we welcomed our new administrative assistant, **Michele Barrow**, to our team. Michele is a native of Fort Worth and a TCU graduate. She lives in Fort Worth with her family and is delighted to be back home on the TCU campus. You will have the opportunity to meet Michele when you call the Ranch Management Program and we look forward to introducing you to her in person at the upcoming Tailgate in October and Roundup in January.

JOB CHANGE . . .

Company _____

Position _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Work Phone _____

Work E-Mail _____

WEDDING . . .

Spouse's Name _____

Date Married _____

Where _____

BIRTH . . .

Baby's Name _____

Date Born _____

Weight _____ Length _____



SAVE THE DATE

10/18/14

**Third Annual TCU Ranch Management
Alumni Tailgate
Saturday, October 18, 2014**
(see details on page 5)

1/24/15

**TCU Ranch Management Roundup
Saturday, January 24, 2015**
**Hyatt Place Fort Worth/Historic Stockyards*
(discount reservations until Dec. 13; group code G-TCUU)
800-833-1516 or www.stockyards.place.hyatt.com
**Holiday Inn Express & Suites Fort Worth Downtown*
(discount reservations until Dec. 24; group code TCU)
817-698-6565 or www.hiexpress.com

(more details in the Winter 2014 Cattle Call newsletter)

6/19-21/15
tentatively

**29th Annual TCU Ranch Management
Summer Alumni and Family Gathering**
tentative dates and location
Friday, June 19 — Sunday, June 21, 2015
Circle T Arena: Hamilton, TX

(more details in the Spring 2015 Cattle Call newsletter)

TCU

Ranch Management

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