



RANCH MANAGEMENT

CATTLE CALL
Newsletter for Alumni of
TCU Ranch Management
Summer/Fall 2025

From the President, Trevor Caviness '98

806-679-2998 trevor@cavinessbeef.com

Hello all,

I hope everyone had a terrific summer and the transition to fall is going smoothly. Several met the new class and many parents at the Welcome Dinner on August 14. What a great group of fine young folks we have. Very excited for the 9 months ahead!

Your RMAA Board has been busy helping organize Alumni Tailgate (TCU/Colorado-Oct 4), field trip dinners, and event planning for Winter Round Up the weekend of January 30, 2026. This year we are changing the Saturday night schedule up a bit. Since our event coincides at the same time each year as the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, several alumni have expressed interest in TCU Ranch Management having a larger presence and involvement at FWSSR.

Our board is always open to new ideas and felt that doing this was a great opportunity for social networking and raising the TCU RM profile in the community! We have reserved a "block of 350 tickets" for the Saturday night rodeo on January 31. They will be first come, first serve. We can't guarantee over 350 seats. Please We will have a Ranch Management social hour and dinner at the newly renovated and updated *Backstage Club* prior and then make our way on over to the rodeo. The tickets you buy for the rodeo will be good for all day grounds access if you choose to make full use of that, as well. mark your calendar, registration details are coming soon!

The alumni Saturday morning event also promises to be inspiring as we are working on putting together another great educational program. Come one, come all! It should be an enjoyable weekend once again to learn and fellowship!

As stated before, a top priority of the current board is to help facilitate communication and transparency to the alumni base. Please reach out to me or any other board member you know for questions or ideas you may have.

Best Regards,
Trevor Caviness



Dr. Matthew Garcia

Director

Southwestern E & L S Professorship

m.garcia768@tcu.edu

Full Speed Ahead

Well, it looks like we're full speed ahead with the new class and the fall semester. I wanted to personally thank all the alumni who were in attendance to welcome the new class at the beginning of August. I am always amazed by the amount of support this program receives from the alumni, and I know it makes a significant impact on the new classes when they see the investment in time and effort from the alumni. As I said, we are full speed ahead this semester, and the class has already been out on 4 day trips, and have had two alumni guest speakers imparting their wisdom in the classroom. As of now, we have an additional 9 day trips scheduled, and I am hoping to have at least three more alumni guest speakers come in and lecture for the students. We will also be implementing two certification programs to enhance the student training experience. This will include taking the students to Abilene to get them pesticide applicator certified and having Moore Safety come to campus to get the students their 10-hour OSHA card. I believe that these day trips and additional certifications enhance the students' immersive experience and makes them more competitive for employment post graduation.

As many of you probably have already been informed, we have also finalized the North Texas/Panhandle week-long trip. Mr. Knox and I will be the faculty on the trip, and we are excited to get the students out on their first week-long trip. The trip is scheduled for September 22-26, and we would love to see any alumni along the way. The alumni dinner is scheduled for that Wednesday night, and we would encourage anyone to reach out to the alumni association so we can have as many people as possible there to interact with the students. Thank you to all the alumni who donate their time, effort, and operations to educate our future leaders in the Ranching/Agricultural industry. I know that we could not do this without any of you and that this program would not be as special and respected without everyone's efforts. I look forward to seeing some of you on the field trip and hope to see more of you in the classroom and at our various social events throughout the year.



Welcome, Class of 2026



FIELD TRIP DINNERS

TCU RMAA coordinates a dinner for students to meet local alumni as they travel during the five week-long field trips.

North TX field trip student/alumni dinner: Wed, Sept 24 (6:00pm); Hereford, TX

- Host: Animal Health International will host a dinner for the Class of 2026 and alumni.
- Location: Animal Health International Warehouse, 3383 US HWY 60, Hereford, TX 79045
- RSVP: <https://forms.gle/LMQY7CGtWE8dWge77>



South TX field trip student/alumni dinner: Mon, Oct 20 (6:00pm); Uvalde, TX

- Hosts: The Eason Family, The Hesse Family and Carlos Ochoa/Two Rivers Ranch will host a dinner for the Class of 2026 and alumni. We are also grateful to Texas Farm Credit for kindly providing the meal as well.
- Location: Hesse Farm, 8086 Pearsall Road, Uvalde, TX 78801
- RSVP: <https://forms.gle/gRodVdvbFTXizA469>

ALUMNI WELCOME DINNER

The mission of the annual welcome dinner is and always will be to provide a network of support and resource sharing for the incoming class on day one and showcase the genuine pride every alumni has for the program that has changed many of our lives. For 9 years alumni have prepared over 600 steaks for new students and their families. If you have not experienced this special event, please know you are invited, come lend a hand, come share your expertise, and come get to know the future of our alumni base! Do not hesitate to reach out to myself or Patrick to know more. The success of this dinner would not be possible without the donations of time, talent, and dollars of various alumni, and friends, so THANK YOU, you know who you are, from water bottles, tea, ice chests, desserts, and much more, there are way too many to list you all as there were over 30 alumni who were directly involved to pull this off. The sponsors for this event were Joe Brhlik at [Standard Meat](#), they have donated the delicious steaks each and every year, we owe them a huge thank you. Students, utilize your resources, work hard, and represent TCU Ranch Management to the best of your abilities, you will be alumni before you know it! Once again, thank you to everyone who made this dinner possible. WELCOME to Fort Worth, students!

Sincerely,
Dustin Valusek
Patrick Murray



Announcements



WITH SYMPATHY:

Savell Shannon '84
passed away April 27.

Gary Wilson passed away June 17.
Mr. Wilson was a TCU RM
Professor and Assistant Director from
1986 - 2002.

For address, marriage, and
birth updates in this issue,
contact the Ranch
Management office.
(817)257-7145
ranching @tcu.edu

***SAVE
THE DATE!
TCU RMAA
ROUNDUP
2026
Saturday,
January 31
*more
info
to come****



Lee A. Knox

Associate Professor

Houston L S & R Professorship

lee.knox@tcu.edu

Five Characteristics of a Rangeland Steward

I was recently asked to write a short article for *West Texas Rangelands*. I felt the TCU Ranch Management Alumni might appreciate my perspective on “Five Characteristics of a Rangeland Steward.” My range career started in the seventh grade when I participated in my first 4-H Rangeland Evaluation Contest in Junction, Texas. However, I didn’t learn about rangeland stewardship until I was a junior in high school while attending the Texas Section Youth Range Workshop (YRW). Since the inception of YRW, the rangeland stewardship component has been a fundamental element. So important, that we start and finish each day with STEWARDSHIP. The following five characteristics of a rangeland steward are in no particular order for I feel that the whole is greater than the parts.

- Rangeland stewards feel that they are “Part of something bigger than themselves.” They are the +H (Human) part of SWAPA (Soil, Water, Air, Plants, and Animals). The steward feels that he/she is part of the system, not master of the system.
- Believing that “The Creation is Good,” as we are told numerous times in Genesis, is another important characteristic of a rangeland steward. It’s inspiring, liberating, and sometimes frustrating to admit that every part of creation has a good component. The rangeland steward seeks ways to exploit the good attributes of often misunderstood plants for the benefit of the whole.
- Rangeland stewards “Know and Appreciate Plants.” Once you know the name of a plant, you can learn about that plant. Then, you will appreciate the role that plant serves in the ecosystem. This characteristic holds true to learning a person’s name. Once you learn their name (plant or person), you can build a relationship them. (Fun fact: I correctly identified only two plants at that first contest about 40 years ago).
- Knowing that “Rangelands are Sustainable” inspires rangeland stewards. I enjoy listening to Dr. Tip Hudson’s podcast, *The Art of Range*. Dr. Hudson often talks about how rangelands, when managed correctly, can provide multiple services to multiple communities without the degradation of the rangeland resource. Rangeland livestock enterprises have been sustainably managed over 300 years in parts of the United States. When grazed correctly, rangelands can produce food (beef, lamb, venison), clean water, fiber (wool and mohair), and wildlife habitat for previous generations and numerous generations to come.
- Rangeland stewards are “Lifelong Learners.” There is always something to be learned. Whether you learn from reading quality research papers, observing the plant community’s response to disturbances, how animals perform under different management, or listening to another person’s perspective on management, you should always be learning. (Fun fact continued: I don’t know how many plants I know now, but it’s not enough).

I feel that ranching is the best use for rangelands. More importantly, I feel that ranchers have the responsibility to steward the rangelands they are given the opportunity to manage. Hopefully, the TCU Ranch Management students will learn the importance of stewarding the people, livestock, and land they manage.



Sears Ranch Managed by Lee A. Knox

CONSERVATION RANCHER
2025



MIDDLE CLEAR FORK
SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



PLANT COLLECTION

8.25.2025

FW NATURE CENTER & REFUGE



TCU RMAA 13th Annual Reunion and Recruitment Tailgate

Oct. 4, 2025 : time TBD
TCU RM: 2800 Stadium Dr, FW, TX 76109

*We will tailgate on the lawn at the Ranch Management building before the
TCU vs Colorado game .*

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

*If you know of potential Ranch Management students, this is a great way for them to get
information about the program, meet alumni, and tour the building.*

RSVP <https://forms.gle/iWjFBRzm6vV8q8oM9>

*Go to [Colorado \(Football\)](#) / [Texas Christian University](#) to purchase discounted tickets for the
game!*

parking and game day information: <https://admin.gofrogs.com/gameday>



Please consider a sponsorship of the TCU Ranch Management Alumni Association this year!

All funds received are used to organize alumni and recruitment events, assist alumni in disaster events, and are considered non-taxable to a 501(c)3 not for profit educational organization. In return, sponsors receive varying recognition as described in the levels on the following page.

Alumni may choose to be an individual sponsor/donor in any amount and can choose to be recognized, or not. Contact Allison Haubold '22 allisonhaubold@gmail.com (940)736-4132 for more information.

Please make checks payable to:
TCU Ranch Management Alumni Association, Inc.
PO Box 825
Fort Worth, TX 76101

TCU Ranch Management Alumni Association

Sponsorship Levels

<u>LEVELS</u>	<u>GIFT</u>	<u>BENEFITS</u>
Cattle Baron	\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Reserved Table with company signage at Events • Linked Logo on TCU Ranch Management Website • Logo and Named information on all Event Marketing • Social Media Recognition with Logo • Company Banner displayed at Events, when applicable * • Logo, Advertisement and “Sponsor Spotlight” in quarterly newsletter, The Cattle Call • Advertisement of Company informational events, webinars, etc. to alumni database via email ** • Spoken Recognition at events, when applicable
Ranch Boss	\$7,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six tickets with Company signage at Events • Logo on TCU Ranch Management Website • Logo and Named Recognition on all Event Marketing • Social Media Recognition with Logo • Logo and “Sponsor Spotlight” in quarterly newsletter, The Cattle Call • Advertisement of Company informational events, webinars, etc. to alumni database via email ** • Spoken Recognition at events, when applicable
Trail Boss	\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Tickets with Company Signage at Events • Recognition on all Event Marketing • Social Media Recognition with Logo • Name Recognition and “Sponsor Spotlight” in quarterly newsletter, The Cattle Call • Advertisement of Company informational events, webinars, etc. sent to alumni database via email • Spoken Recognition at events, when applicable
Wrangler	\$2,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Tickets to Events • Company Name Recognition on Ranch Management Website & social media • Advertisement of Company informational events, webinars, etc. to alumni database via email ** • Spoken Recognition at events, when applicable
Cowboy	\$1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisement of Company informational events, webinars, etc. to alumni database via email ** • Spoken Recognition at events, when applicable

*Company should provide banner of their choice for events

**Sponsors will not receive alumni contact information; specific product information and marketing will not be approved; advertisement of informational events, webinars, etc. should be sent to the Communications Director and TCU Ranch Management Program Specialist for approval and sending.

Alumni Spotlight

Name: Jeff Davis '13

Current Employer: Taylor Ranch Operations

Job Position/Title: General Manager

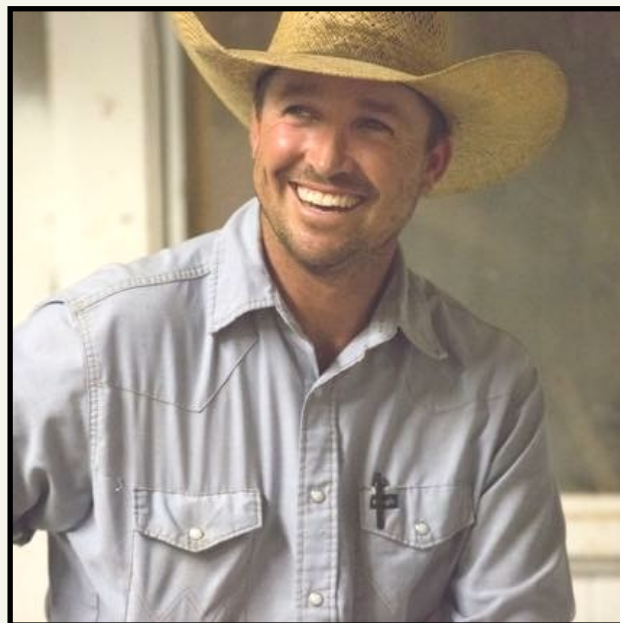
Job Duties/Responsibilities: Oversight of multiple ranch properties, employees, and cow calf herd

TCU RM Reflections: Ranch Management changed my entire outlook on everything, from running breakevens, to soil and water conservation. Without TCU I wouldn't be where I am today.

Advice to Applicants/Students: Even though most of the learning takes place in the classroom, the field trips are priceless so take good notes! It goes by fast so just remember to keep your head on a swivel, IT DEPENDS, and if it rains!

Prior Experience/Education: I got to help my father-in-law Marty Richter out a lot before Ranch Management. If you knew him that was an experience and education altogether! I also got to work alongside other alumni which helped get my interest in attending.

Involvement in Organizations/Clubs: Texas Ranch Brigade volunteer, Ft Worth Stock Show and Rodeo Ranch Horse Committee, TSCRA member



TCU RM Alumni Association Generously Supported By:



Compass Ag Solutions

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Allison Haubold '22

allisonhaubold@gmail.com (940)736-4132

Summer Gathering 2025 Results

We had a great time at the Summer Gathering in Childress, TX. Thank you to all of our sponsors and those that helped us pull off a fun weekend. It was nice to see a mix of new and old faces at the Summer Gathering.

Thanks,
Skyler R. Flake '06

Team Roping

1st Go Winners	Paxtyn Angel	Kevin Przilas	\$280/team	split reins
2nd Go Winners	Chase Chambers	Chance Walker	\$280/team	split reins
3rd Go Winners	Chance Chambers	Chance Walker	\$280 /team	split reins
1st Average	Paxtyn Angel	Kevin Przilas	\$340/team	breast collars
2nd Average	Chase Chambers	Chance Walker	\$220/team	cook stoves

7x7 Round Robin

Ranch Rodeo

11 Teams

1st Average 4 Amigos \$2200/team breast collar

Bill Angel
Chance Walker
Skyler Flake
Klay Ruddy

2nd Average Junior Cowboys \$1320/team split reins

Bill Angel
Tripp Angel
Paxtyn Angel
Klay Ruddy

3rd Average Magnum Cattle \$880/team

Colby Magnum
Billy Goodpaster
Layton Magnum
Camry Magnum

Top Hand

Bill Angel



Thank you to our sponsors!

Angel family

Paul Hicks

Robert Horner-Elanco Animal Health

Clint Jackson & Smith Ranches

Juan & Alyssa Perez

Kevin Przilas-Merck Animal Health

Joel Reimer

Ruddy family

Jay Teague

Forrest Watson-Spitzer Animal Health

Sponsor Spotlight: ***Producers Trading Company***



In this edition of Cattle Call, we are excited to shine the spotlight on Producers Trading Company. We had the pleasure of visiting with Paul Hicks, who shared his insights on agricultural markets, risk management and the ways Producers Trading Company supports producers across the industry. Here is a look at what Paul has to say about helping producers navigate today's market.

Can you tell us a little about your background and how Producers Trading Company serves agricultural producers?

I was raised in Fort Worth, TX, and my father was a doctor. During college at Texas A&M, studying finance, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work for a couple of ranches in the Bluffdale area, and that is where my love for ranching, the land, the livestock, and the producers grew. I learned of the Ranch Management Program, and after the interview with Mr. Merrill, I knew it was the right step to find my way into the agriculture industry. Upon completion of the Ranch Management Program, 1981, I went to a diversified farming/ranching operation in Mississippi, then landed in Colorado with Cattle-Fax. Following that, I was hired by another former Cattle-Fax employee who had a commodity office and cattle operation. Since then, my location has changed back to Fort Worth, but the work is essentially the same. Producers Trading Company started in 1996, with the help of Jeff Geider. The focus of Producers Trading Company has been to serve cattle producers with their price risk management needs. We have been fortunate to have more than a handful of Ranch Management Graduates work or intern here. Currently, James Dangelmayr '20, and Shane Hlavinka '24, work here, along with Jason Sanders, a 29-year veteran of PTC, who has addressed many of the recent classes.

What kind of insurance and risk management options do you provide for producers? Do producers need to have a certain size operation to work with you, or can operations of all sizes benefit from your services?

We offer Futures, Options, Livestock Risk Protection, Pasture, Rangeland and Forage Rainfall Insurance, Multi-Peril Crop Insurance, and Annual Forage. We work with producers from all operation sizes and strive to provide consistent service to all our producers. Because of the services we offer, we are able to adapt to most any operation. When using the futures and options markets, it is most efficient to have load-sized lots - 40,000 lbs. for live cattle (fats), or 50,000 lbs. for feeders. LRP is based on head count and average projected weight, so the minimum size is 1 head. These services, along with our other insurance programs, allow us to tailor a risk program to any size producer and almost every commodity they may produce.

Can you explain how LRP insurance works and why it is valuable to livestock producers?

LRP works similar to buying a put option, in that it creates a price floor while leaving the upside open. The two biggest differences would be that the premium isn't due until the end of the expiration of the policy, and the U.S. government subsidizes a portion of it. A couple of other advantages would be flexibility - with it being based on head count and estimated weight. There is no requirement to sell the livestock, if they are calves and feeder cattle, and coverage is provided every month.

How do you help producers evaluate their risk tolerance when making market decisions?

It starts with getting to know the producer, his experience, his operation, his relationship with a lender (if he has one) and goals, then discussing what all is available and evaluating each.

continued on pg. 12

Sponsor Spotlight continued

What makes Annual Forage and PRF insurance a valuable tool for producers, and how does Producers Trading Company tailor the program to each producer?

The PRF and Annual Forage programs are both a benefit to the producer because they can recoup losses when there is a lack of rainfall in their area. With these programs, customers are able to expand their risk programs beyond just price risks for their commodities. The benefit of using Producers for these programs has two major advantages: the first being to keep all your risk management in one place and work with us to make sure you, as the producer, are covered for anything that may come your way. The second reason would be that we take over 75 years of rainfall data and analyze which intervals and at what percentage are the most advantageous for each individual operation.

How do you stay ahead of market trends to ensure clients receive the best guidance?

We try to follow trends when the market is trending, not necessarily predict trends. Markets aren't always in a trend. Also, if you want to define a trend, first you need to define the time you are looking at - such as a 10-minute chart, daily chart, weekly, or any other time period. We focus on knowing the customer and his operation and making sure he understands the tools available to help him make the choice he is comfortable with to achieve his goals.

How has your approach to risk management evolved as markets have changed over the years?

The main thing that has changed in the markets we are mostly involved in — live cattle and feeder cattle — is the price level. The dollar moves or values are greater, and the limits have been expanded, but that is necessitated by the overall price levels. Percentage changes and volatility are still within norms.

How do you balance short-term market movements with long-term risk management for producers?

When it comes to hedging, the main goal should be to try to mitigate price risk. The best way to do this is to have a risk management plan that is on a similar time frame as your cash commodity. The goal is to plan for the longer term so that short-term price fluctuations aren't an issue.

What advice do you give producers who are new to futures, options, or agricultural insurance?

One of the biggest things we try to stress is the question isn't whether to be hedged or not, but what kind of price protection makes the most sense to start with. Then, if the market moves substantially one way or the other, how you may be able improve your position. Risk can happen fast. The risk that is not anticipated can be the costliest.

Do you have any advice for the alumni?

You are missing out if you don't stay involved with the Ranch Management Alumni. Two great ways to get involved are by attending Round-Up and the Summer Gathering.

Paul Hicks '81
Producers Trading Company
(817)626-8111

Congratulations, Class of 2025



Top Row (L to R): Colby Benoit, Will Hayes, Joshua Cramer, Ely Stork, Chadd Moore, Dylan McDaniel, Cash Poole, Hunter Reed

Middle Row (L to R): Baker Roush, Trevor Haney, Kate Kibby, Taryn Mitchell, Abby Schroeder, Britain Thayer, Creed Carlisle, Cody Dyer

Front Row (L to R): Ferguson Boone, Benjamin Glass, Joseph Vasseur, Trey Lusk, Ross Tolleson, J.J. Gibson, Lane Bridges, Zack Carlton

These 24 young women and men graduated from TCU Ranch Management in May after successful completion of the comprehensive curriculum of the program. Intensive classroom study of ranching practices is reinforced in 9,000 miles of travel for onsite case studies of ranches, farms, feedlots, processing plants, market facilities, and research centers. They benefit from years of operating experience with some of the very top people in the ranching profession.

The future of ranching is in good hands.



Sept. 22-26 North TX Field Trip
Sept. 24 North TX Field Trip Dinner, Hereford TX
Sept. 23 TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Waco TX
Sept. 25 West TX A&M Fall Career & Internship EXPO, Canyon TX
Sept. 25 OSU AFNR Career Fair, Stillwater OK
Oct. 2 Auburn University Ag College Fair, Auburn AL
Oct. 4 RMAA Tailgate, Fort Worth TX
Oct. 7-9 TSSRM, Alpine TX
Oct. 8 State Fair of TX AgTech College Fair, Dallas TX
Oct. 8 TX Tech Davis College Career Fair, Lubbock TX
Oct. 14 TSCRA Ranch Gathering, San Angelo TX
Oct. 20-24 South TX Field Trip
Oct. 20 South TX Field Trip Dinner, Uvalde TX
Nov. 13-16 WRCA, Amarillo TX
Nov. 15 TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Amarillo TX
Dec. 3-6 UCA Convention & Trade Show, Hurricane UT

TCU Ranch Management Alumni Association, Inc. Executive Committee and Board of Directors

President: Trevor Caviness '98

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Jessen Cowen '13

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Communications Director: Allison Haubold '22

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Communications Director Elect: Blair Hesse '21

(830)279-9370 blairhesse@gmail.com

Need birthday/holiday gift ideas?

TCU Ranch Management has merch available for purchase!
Call (817)257-7145 or email s.strother@tcu.edu to see what's in stock.



- caps \$35
- gate sign \$25
- long sleeve t-shirt \$25
- short sleeve t-shirt \$15
- onesie/toddler t-shirt \$25
- RM hoodie \$48-\$54
- RM socks \$15



WHO DID WHAT:

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

Grad Year _____

Name _____

NEW ADDRESS/PHONE/EMAIL

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

JOB CHANGE

Company _____

Position _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

WEDDING

Spouse's Name _____

Date Married _____

BIRTH

Baby's Name _____

Date Born _____

OTHER



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!



As a reminder, due to the rising cost of postage, printing, and budget cuts, **Cattle Call will ONLY be sent via email.**

You are able to view past issues on the TCU RM website <https://cse.tcu.edu/ranch-management/alumni/cattle-call-newsletter.php> or <https://www.facebook.com/TCU-Ranch-Management-269381929485>

Please make sure we have your most recent email address.

If you do not have access to a computer or email, or prefer a paper copy, let us know and a copy will be mailed to you.