

THE CATTLE CALL

Newsletter for Alumni of the TCU Ranch Management Program

Volume 36 Number 2

Summer 2009

From the President

Steven Mafrige 1995

Here we are in the middle of June and rainfall seems to be very sporadic. We were blessed with nice rainfall totals in May, but the unusually hot temperatures, and high winds in June have evaporated what moisture was present. I hope and pray more rain is in the near future for everyone who needs it. The cattle prices have not moved in a favorable direction since my last article. There will always be opportunities present, it just seems the time window in which to get them done is small, in such volatile times. Agricultural analysts seem to be optimistic towards cattle prices in 2010, without mentioning the possibilities of massive inflation and the effect it could have on our industry. We need to stay optimistic, but remain extremely cautious during these times.

During my last visit to the Ranch Management Building I found the class of '09 finishing up their management plan. It is always inspiring to see the hard work and effort that the students put into their management plans. Congratulations to the 2009 TCU Ranch Management graduates.

This year's TCU Ranch Management Summer Roping was held at the Tonkaway Ranch in College Station on June 13. I hope everyone who made it to the Alumni Roping, had as much fun as I did, and made it home safely. Kyle and Marci Kacal did an outstanding job of hosting this successful event. The calf roping was very competitive, or comical, I can't decide which one. You might wonder if Pete was the only healer that showed up. That was not the case. He was just that dominant and the rest of us could not compete with his blazing speed. We are very grateful for the generous donations made by our corporate sponsors; Novartis, Merial,

Intervet, and our alumni sponsors; Tom Schwartz, John Merrill, Paul and Stacy Turney, Craig Buford, Chris Scharbauer, Kyle and Marci Kacal, the family of Mary Lessor and myself. Thank you to all of our outstanding volunteers; announcer Dick Winters class of '85, our bookkeepers Amanda Dyer and LeMoine Knox class of '08, our chute help who was led by Rue Ferguson class of '93, and last but not least Chris Farley our Ranch Management Instructor liaison. I hope I have not left anyone out who helped with this great event, if I did, I apologize. It was a great time.

I am writing this article while attending the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association summer board meeting being held on Lake Conroe. It is great to see how many TCU Ranch Management Alumni of various ages that are represented. I encourage more Alumni to get involved in TSCRA. These meetings are very informative.

As always, I am proud to report that the majority of the in depth questions being asked were from our TCU Alumni. The following Alumni have been named Chairmen of the following committees; Primo Walker '78, Fever Tick, a subcommittee of the Animal Health Committee, Larry Horwood '79, Brand and Inspection Committee, Missy Bonds '01, Marketing, and Frates Seeligson Jr. '94 was named Vice Chairman of the Labor Committee.

Tina Buford, class of '96, will start her two-year term as President of Texas Wildlife Association in June 2009.

After serving as Alumni President for six months, I have had a lot of interaction with Alumni of various ages. Throughout this interaction I have noticed how informed our Alumni are and how passionate they are about TCU Ranch Management. It makes me feel very privileged to serve as your Alumni President. Please do not hesitate to contact me with comments.

Steven J. Mafrige
steven@ybarranch.com



2009 Summer Roping Results

Buckle Calf Roping

- 1st Jim Parker '81
- 2nd Craig Buford '78
- 3rd Chris Scharbauer '73
- 4th Stephen Kirkland '08

Ribbon Calf Roping

- 1st Jim Parker '81
- 2nd Chris Scharbauer '73
- 3rd Grady Green '08
- 4th Craig Buford '78

Buckle Class Roping

Chris Scharbauer & Pete Bonds '73

Super Team Roping

- 1st Coke Hoping '85 & Pete Bonds '73
- 2nd Bobby Harter '05 & Pete Bonds '73
- 3rd Ricky Day '69 & Pete Bonds '73



Program Status Report

On May 7th, 26 outstanding individuals graduated from the Ranch Management Program. This year's class was the first to graduate in the new Brown Lupton University Union. These graduates, like all who have come before them, stood the test of time with hard work and perseverance. It was a pleasure to work with this year's class. The level of dedication that each of these fine people put into the program needs to be commended. I hope you will join me in welcoming them as our newest alumni.

Next year's class is going to be here before too long. The number of students that have been accepted at this point is 24. If anyone knows a perspective student let them know we still have a few spots open.

During the recent TSCRA summer meetings, I had the pleasure to visit with several of you about various and assorted topics. Once again it was evident that the Ranch Management Program is very well represented within the leadership of TSCRA. I would encourage each of you to stay involved and contribute your time and talents at whatever level you can. The industry needs people with bright minds helping to make sound decisions.

In closing, it is my wish that each of you will benefit from more timely rainfall, better markets and a little profit at the end. These last few months have been trying times for most invested in the markets. I certainly don't know when the market will get better but one thing is for certain; we are closer now than we were nine months ago. I am beginning to hear about several folks who are finding employment opportunities; maybe this is the start of the upswing in the markets.



Institute Update:

Recently the Institute of Ranch Management was very fortunate to host the first of what is hoped to be many conferences on sustainable ranch management, agricultural land conservation and global cooperation. Our guests for the week of June the 8th were members of the Brazilian land alliance, Alianca de Terra.

The group was comprised of nine Brazilian agriculturists, primarily from the Mato Grosso area, representing a broad range of production agriculture led by the founder of their organization and RM alumni John Carter class of '93. John and his wife Kika, also a RM alumnus, have been ranching in Brazil for many years and have developed a producer alliance dedicated to ranching responsibly while creating incentives for good land stewardship practices. The work these individuals are doing in South America is truly noteworthy and many of their practices and principles are examples for all producers throughout the world.

We were able to combine classroom education and field studies to foster information exchanges and demonstrate a true spirit of cooperation and learning. Dr. Nowell Donovan, Provost, and Dr. Bonnie Melhart, Associate Provost, were able to welcome our guest to campus and represent the TCU administration.

One of the highlights of the week was a visit to our state capital and a meeting with Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples who displayed wonderful Texas hospitality and was able to discuss international relationships and challenges facing agricultural producers.

I feel the conference was very successful and our goal is to continue to work with Alianca de Terra to further

cooperative efforts and explore educational opportunities.

I would like to extend a very special thank you to Mr. Jesse Womack, RM class of '02, Mr. Roger Welder RM class of '80, and Mr. Clay Neel RM class of '95 for making special efforts to help and support the Institute. They, along with others, made the week a very productive, informative, and rewarding experience.

I would also like to personally thank the faculty and staff of the RM program for all of their dedication and help throughout the week. This conference could never have happened without them. It serves as good reminder to me how fortunate I am to work with a team of dedicated, friends and professionals who always demonstrate the highest level proficiency and make TCU Ranch Management a very special place.



“Outside Looking In”

As a fellow alumnus of the Ranch Management Program, I remember wondering each year how the current class was doing and how things had changed since I graduated. Well, those same questions are still being asked today of the instructors as we visit with alumni. As I reflect on my memories of the TCU RM Class of 1996, my thoughts turn to crazy classmates’ stories, tough projects, and the greatest sense of accomplishment I had ever experienced at graduation. The most rewarding part of being an instructor at RM is seeing a new class of students grow and mature into graduates of the RM program. This maturing process is in large part due to you and our fellow alumni opening up your ranches to the students and your financial support of this program.

(See **Outside Looking In** on page 4)

(Outside Looking In cont'd from page 3)

During the last week of school, in the middle of finals, the students were asked to take out a sheet of paper and in their own words tell “what the TCU Ranch Management means to them”. They did not have to put their name on the paper, so I do not have their permission to share their entire story. But I would like to share a few clips from some of the stories to show you what you are providing to these most recent graduates:

“The experience that I have had at TCU Ranch Management has far surpassed what I could have imagined. I have gained an entire new thought process and a tremendous amount of “detailed” information to take with me. RM for me has been a “process” in itself. It has forced me to step out of my comfort zone and submerge myself into a total learning environment. While here I feel that I have not only learned, but I now understand production agriculture and the Cattle Industry in its full realm”.

“This program has made me more disciplined and has given me a better work ethic. I have learned just how valuable time is and it has made me a better time manager. I now look at situations and people with a different perspective and a critical mind. It has taught me how to find something good in everything but at the same time find a way to make it better. I have become a better people person and a better communicator. It has taught me to be open to new ideas and that you can learn something from every single person you meet. I have learned it always depends, to know your numbers and do business with people that don't know there's and purple chairs make you fat. I am definitely a better farmer and steward of the land and animals than I was before and I am definitely a better cowboy”.

“It is funny how the only people that can respect what you have done are Alumni”

This last student comment really does sum up the truth of the RM Program into one statement. It is a true honor to be a part of the TCU Ranch Management Program. I would like to give praise to the forefathers of this program, the financial supporters and the ranch hosts for their part in making the Class of 2009 a great group of TCU RM Alumni.



Lost in Translation

We have been pretty busy since the class of 2009 graduated and left the program. The staff has all been running different directions and working on various projects to get prepared for the new class coming in August. We recently had the privilege of hosting a group of ranchers from Brazil for a chance to learn from one another and visit several ranches in Texas. In order to communicate, we all required the assistance of translators. Something that I found interesting, was the difficulty that the translators encountered when translating certain words that were very common in one language, but not the other.

One such word was the term “steward” as it applies to ranch management. Apparently, there is not a good word to describe a steward in the Portuguese language, spoken in Brazil. They have words for administrator, overseer, and other related words, but not for the concept of a steward. As I think of the difficulty our gifted translators found as they struggled to translate the word, I believe we should constantly remind ourselves of the definition – because we are all stewards. I will spare you the dictionary definition, but a steward can hardly be defined without using the word “manage” or “care.” In most cases, a steward works for someone else and is managing or caring for that individual's possessions. This definition holds true for some of the great Bible stories, and is still true in

each of our lives today. A steward also has a passion or drive to complete these duties as best they possibly can.

In the field of ranch management, we are entrusted with land and livestock that we must nurture, maintain, and heal or repair as if each was our own. When in actuality, all of these things are simply in our care for a short time. We are going to leave them behind at some point, and hopefully, in better condition than we took them in.

As the Brazilian group was leaving, both the Texans and the Brazilians expressed appreciation for all that we learned from each other. We also looked forward to learning more from one another in future visits. I believe the concept of stewardship is one of the greatest things that they took back to Brazil with them and it will be an important concept to continue to get across to them in the future. Because, in many ways, the area of Brazil where the ranchers come from, is much like Texas and other parts of the United States were about 150 years ago. If the Brazilians can learn something from our mistakes and the instances of poor stewardship over the past century and a half, the whole world can benefit.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Roundup: January 23, 2010 Fort Worth Stockyards

Watch for further information in the fall issue of *Cattle Call!*



2008-2009 Evening Program Graduates



Michael William Tindall
Granbury, Texas
Fall of 2008

Patrick Seth Lewis
Arlington, Texas
Spring of 2009



The Evening Division Graduation and Field Day was held at the Bear Creek Ranch in Aledo, Texas.

The NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) gave an overview of the services that they provide to land owners and discussed the exemplary grazing tools that Bear Creek has been using for land stewardship. The ranch has been using livestock grazing, water distribution and electric fences for many years to establish some of the finest Fort Worth prairies.

Following a barbeque lunch, the new graduates were presented with their Evening Division certificates. We would like to congratulate them on their accomplishments and welcome them into the Alumni.



Summer Roping 2010

Steven Mafrige

The 2010 Summer Roping will be held in San Antonio, TX. There will be some additional events, hopefully making it more appealing for Alumni who do not rope, and adding more family activities.

We will be have a sporting clay shoot at National Shooting Complex in San Antonio on Friday, 6/11/2010. The shoot will be for all Alumni and their families. We can have an Alumni and youth competition. We will have an evening meal and social at their Beretta Pavilion. For more information on their facility please go to www.nationalshootingcomplex.com.

The Roping will be held at Tejas Rodeo Company arena in Bulverde, TX, just a few miles north of San Antonio. It is a very nice covered facility. We will have the standard alumni roping events, as well as a new regional team roping on Saturday morning, 6/12/2010. The regional roping will consists of teams from the following areas competing against each other. North TX, South TX, East TX, West TX, and all out of state ropers will combine together to compete against the Texas regions.

There will be a lunch served, and that evening we will have private steak dinner and party at the arena grounds. There will also be an open rodeo, and live band hosted by Tejas Rodeo Company. They will have all the rodeo events, including a calf scramble. All alumni and their families will be able to watch or compete in the rodeo if they choose to. For more information about this facility please go to www.tejasrodeo.com.

If there is enough interest, we can schedule a visit to Fiesta Texas Water Park, or Sea World for Saturday afternoon. Please contact me if you are interested in something along those lines.

There will be more information coming out in future Cattle Calls. Please pass along any names of possible sponsors

or anyone willing to help, for the 2010 summer roping. We will need more sponsors and help for next year, due to the added events.



DAY GRADUATES

Address Changes & Updates

Austin, Zack '07 4659 Belknap Creek Rd., Bellevue, TX 76228

Becker, Mason '07 403 N. Renfro, Meadow, TX 79345, 806-539-0167, 806-781-3666 (cell)

Conlee, Thomas '89 1701 E. Mescalero Rd., Roswell, NM 88201

Fisher, Dusty '95 111 Rosewood Ave., Boerne, TX 78006, 830-431-1200

Kane, Jess '07 1407 Delaware Ave., Bartlesville, OK 74003-5921, 918-397-2698

Kibbe, Avery '03 PO Box 671, Falfurrias, TX 78355, 361-537-7703

Kritser, John '08 P.O. Box 1201, Breckenridge, CO 80424

Martin, Jody '91 PO Box 907 Brenham, TX 77834-0907

Mathews, Nikole '98 P.O. Box 420349, Dallas, TX 75342

McGilvray, James '07 PO Box 1110 Boyd, TX 76029-1110

Mitchell, Danny '96 vaquera73@yahoo.com

Rogel, Mario '90 10333 N. Oracle Apt. 21204, Oro Valley, AZ 85737,

Staebler, David '61 7953 Clark Lake Rd., Chelsea, MI 48118

Stanfield, Winnie '02 17215 S. Hwy. 281, Falfurrias, TX 78355

Whittenburg, Kenny '87 701 SE 23rd Street, Mineral Wells, TX 76067, 713-240-1733

Winkles, David '93 25 River Creek East, Wichita Falls, TX 76305-6272

EVENING GRADUATES

Address Changes & Updates

Bracken, Nancy E'82 P.O. Box 8029, Tyler, TX 75711, 903-939-3664, 903-521-0300 (cell)

Swihart, John E'78 14004 N. 2330 Rd., Gotebo, OK 73041-8901, 580-538-2280

Thorpe, Sharon E'95 12890 CR 12, Perryton, TX 79070, 806-434-0152, robertthorpe@dishmail.net

JOB CHANGES

Diffee, Paul '08 is working for Ranch Line, LLC. in Marketing and Project Development. 400 W. 2nd, Roswell, NM 88201, 866-623-3111, www.ranchlinehunting.com

Fisher, Dusty '95 is the Owner and Funeral Director for Ebensberger-Fisher Funeral Home, 111 Rosewood Ave., Boerne, TX 78006, 830-249-2321, www.ebensberger-fisher.com

Kane, Jess '07 is an Associate Attorney with Brewer, Worten, Robinette, P.O. Box 1066, Bartlesville, OK 74003, 918-336-4132, 918-397-2698 (cell), jkane@bwrllawoffice.com

Kibbe, Avery '03 is the Owner of Nueces Helicopters in Falfurrias, TX, 361-537-7703



WEDDINGS

Congratulations to **Mason Becker '07** and Meagan Moore who were married on April 4, 2009 in Brownfield, TX.

Congratulations to **Katie Giles '05** and Brett Shaw who were married on May 23, 2009 in Dodge City, Kansas.

Congratulations to **Jess Kane '07** and Ashley Whorton who married on May 30, 2009 in Hollis, OK.



BIRTHS

Tyler Braden '07 and his wife Melissa announce the birth of their son Taw Wynn Braden who was born on April 29, 2009 and weighed 9 lbs. 4 oz. and was 20 ½ inches long.

Sara Brannan '08 and Jake Campbell announce the birth of Slade Rankin and Timber Lain who were born on March 28, 2009. Slade weighed 2 lbs. and was 14 inches long. Timber weighed 2 lbs, 4 oz. and was 14 inches long.

Dave Drennan '91 and his wife Tara announce the birth of their daughter Deesa Rene who was born on March 6, 2009 and weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Jeff Mitchell '02 and his wife Jessica announce the birth of their daughter Molly Nash who was born on April 29, 2009 and weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz. and was 19 ½ inches long.

Gilly Riojas '02 and his wife Andrea announce the birth of their daughter Rylynn Sara who was born on May 1, 2009 and weighed 7 lbs. and was 17 inches long.

Dan Sherman '06 and his wife Jordan announce the birth of their daughter Hartley Ray Sherman who was born on February 9, 2009 and weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz.

Sam States '08 and his wife Carolyn wish to announce the birth of their son Buster James who was born on April 3, 2009 and weighed 10 lbs. 5 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Casey Wescott '04 and his wife Candyce wish to announce the birth of their son Cannan Charles who was born on March 27, 2009 and weighed 5 lbs. 14 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Wesley Wisian '98 and his wife Christine announce the birth of their son Layne Edward who was born on March 3, 2009 and weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz. and was 20 inches long.

DECEASED

We would like to express our deepest sympathy to the family of **Philip Bee E'76** who passed away June 8, 2009.

Condolences to the family of **Lewis H. Marshall** who passed away April 5, 2009. Mr. Marshall played a key role in forming the Ranch Management Program.



OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Congratulations to **Amanda Dyer '08** for being chosen to represent the TSCRA at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) 30th annual Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC).



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Ranch Rodeo
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2009 Ranch Management Graduates



On Thursday, the 7th of May, 4 women and 22 men graduated from the Ranch Management Program to Alumni. Family and friends of the graduates came from as far away as Venezuela and Kansas and as close as Fort Worth, Texas to join in the celebration. It was a pleasure and honor to work with this group of young people for the past nine months and we want to congratulate them on their accomplishments thus far. The Faculty and Class members are:

First Row: *Chris Farley*, Fort Worth, Texas; **Kerry Cornelius**, Round Rock, Texas; **Dr. Bonnie Melhart**, Fort Worth, Texas; **Bethany Bill**, Fort Worth, Texas; **Kay Henderson**, Round Rock, Texas; **Cathy Walker**, Laredo, Texas; **Jenny Everett**, Breckenridge, Texas; *Dr. Nowell Donovan*.

Second Row: **Richard Myers**, El Reno, Oklahoma; **DJ Brask**, Catarina, Texas; **Ben Biddle**, Dallas, Texas; **Mark van Es**, Oilton, Texas; **Matt Scott**, Fort Worth, Texas; **Grady Green**, Franklin, Texas; **Carrington Carr**, Jacksonville, Texas; **Cal Marshall**, Marlin, Texas; *Jeff Geider*.

Third Row: **Jose Barboza**, Maracaibo, Venezuela; **Clay Forst**, Waurika, Oklahoma; **Blake Kelly**, Bullard, Texas; **Daggett Arrington**, Canadian, Texas; **Ben Huddleston**, Uvalde, Texas; **Gray Hall**, San Antonio, Texas; **Nick Pickard**, Fairway, Kansas; **Rocky Sullivan**, Galveston, Texas; *Eric Brast*.

Fourth Row: **Stewart Richards**, Dallas, Texas; *Jason Faubion*, **Lee Owen**, Dallas, Texas; **Lee Downing**, Brush, Colorado; **Andrew Marshall**, Aledo, Texas; **James Nusz**, Stratford, Texas; **Wade McKnight**, Jacksonville, Texas.