



THE CATTLE CALL

Newsletter for Alumni of the
TCU Ranch Management Program

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT
MISSY BONDS 2001**

Spring is here. Warmer weather and much needed rains have blessed many so far this year. The recovery from the drought, though, is still going to be a long process for most.

Spring also is the time for Management Plans! The class has recently finished these and they are all turned in. This does not mean the pressure is off. Forage Plans are just around the corner.

Spring also brings the TSCRA convention. The sponsor for this year's TCU Ranch Management reception was Boehringer Ingelheim. A special thanks to Mike Mustian for helping make it happen. The alumni also sponsored the Cattle Fax Outlook meeting. This is the most attended meeting at TSCRA, so TCU Ranch Management got some great exposure.

The TCU Ranch Management Summer Roping is just around the corner. Mark your calendar down for June 15-16 to be in San Angelo. The San Angelo alumni have been working really hard to put together what is sure to be a remarkable time. Friday will be the sporting clay shoot and dinner at the Cargile S Ranch. The roping, kids' events, and evening social will be held on at the climate controlled 1st United Credit Union Spur Arena on Saturday.

I would like to also offer my congratulations to Chad McCormick for being elected our President Elect for the Alumni Association. I know he will do a fantastic job.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the TSCRA and at the Roping.

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Director
Burnett Ranches Professor
Ranch Management Program

R O U N D U P R E C A P

We had a great turnout for Roundup again this year. Close to 350 people attended the Saturday evening event. I would like to encourage you as you see our event sponsors to be sure and let them know how thankful we are for their support of the Program. Here is the list of Sponsors and the people directly responsible for making these sponsorships available.

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Bayer Animal Health | Clay McKesson |
| Boehringer Ingelheim | Mike Mustian |
| Elanco Animal Health | Terry Barber, John Jeffrey |
| Global Animal Health | Bruce Voyles |
| Land O' Lakes Purina Feed | John Gardner |
| Lone Star Ag Credit | Julie Porter Mayfield |
| TSCRA | Stacy Fox, Tim Niedecken |

It is because of our sponsors that we have been able to keep the cost affordable and improve the quality of the event. This year was our first silent auction. Obviously we learn when we try new ideas. We intend to constantly improve and make this event better each year. This year's auction raised \$15,500.00 for the alumni scholarship fund. Thank you again to all the folks who made auction items available and to those of you who bid and purchased items. The Ranch Management students of the future will benefit from your generosity.

Make plans to attend the Summer Roping in San Angelo this coming June 15 & 16th. See details on pages 6-7.



LEARNING FROM A “CHARACTER-BUILDING” YEAR

As many of those that receive this Cattle Call look hopefully at the promise of a new spring, it is important to remember that we should learn from the past – even recent past. After the winter and early spring here in north Texas, one could easily forget the hardships of 2011's drought, except for the absence of cattle in many pastures and the harshly overgrazed pastures with zero dormant grass residue standing.

For those that didn't have a drought plan, and many that did, the 2011 drought took them by surprise, causing for much destocking. As the beautiful green begins to cover the scars of last year, let us not forget the need to learn from what we went through, and build a plan for the next drought. In all of the stories of tragic destocking, thin cattle, terrible breed-back, and moving cattle to grass in other areas, it would have been nice to hear of a triumph or two. Those stories were few, but did occur. Those that had a drought plan and were disciplined to stick to the plan came out of the year much farther ahead than their neighbors. By setting a deadline for the rain, then destocking accordingly can allow for higher prices for sold cattle, more opportunity for finding grass and hay, and, most importantly, prevents permanent damage to the range and pasture resources. In most cases, this proactive management also allows for quicker restocking.

I would expect that many of the more seasoned ranchers will have already fine-tuned their respective drought strategies, as they have seen a few more droughts with which to compare 2011. For those that haven't seen as many rough years, more notes should be taken down to record just exactly how the drought affected their operations. Armed with those notes from such an unprecedented drought, these younger managers will be well prepared for the average hot, dry-spell.

By recording and journaling management strategies, a manager can build his own database to fall back upon in a similar year down the road. In my five years here at TCU Ranch Management, we have had one year with record high precipitation – near 50 inches in Tarrant County – and now another year with less than half of that amount. Facing challenges like these, ranchers don't need to spin their wheels by re-learning the same lesson that didn't stick last time. Now please don't think that I am talking down to all that found themselves in a bind last year. With intensity of 2011's drought and heat, almost all were slammed by its harshness. The important thing is learn from it, put it behind us, and search out opportunities presented in the future. I pray that you all have a great spring and summer growing season in 2012.



SPRING WORK

The time of year is upon us for spring cattle work on ranches. For spring calving herds it is time to work calves and cows, and for fall calving herds it means shipping calves and palpating cows. The drought of the past year has presented some big challenges for all of us. Recently, some areas received much needed moisture while other areas still wait. It is important to remember that the calves born last fall and this spring are from cows that went through some very serious heat and nutrition stress, and one of the unpleasant side effects of this stress is lowered immune function in their calves.

Research has shown that calves born to cows that go through nutritional stress during gestation will have lowered immune function throughout their entire lives, and also develop smaller respiratory tracts and underdeveloped circulatory systems. Micro nutrient deficiencies during gestation are especially critical. These deficiencies probably mean lowered response to vaccines, more sickness, and less response to treatment. The respiratory and circulation systems are crucial for good respiratory health and proper growth. Knowing all of this makes calf work and vaccination even more critical. Going into spring work we can take some extra precautions to improve the health of our calves.

Keeping stress down is always important when handling livestock. Cattle that are stressed are more likely to become ill, and stressed cattle will not respond to vaccinations as well as cattle that are handled properly. This might be a great time to review handling practices with your employees and neighbors. There are a number of low stress handling seminars, books, and tapes that can provide a good review. Also, make sure that nutrition and hydration are good prior to working calves in order to improve the effectiveness of products administered. A great mineral program six weeks prior to work can also help response to vaccinations.

Read the label and follow instructions for vaccine handling and care. Mix, store, and handle vaccines correctly to get the most out of them. Make sure all of your equipment is working and properly cleaned before using. Sunlight and temperature can lower or ruin a vaccine's efficacy. Always administer the vaccines as recommended on the label and check the date to make sure the vaccine has not expired. A BQA processing map is a great checklist to help with records and to serve as a reminder of what we need to administer and how to administer products. When we use BQA techniques we improve the effectiveness of our products in preventing disease, and we assure a quality product for the consumer.

Visit with your veterinarian about things you can do to improve the health of your ranch's calf crop. This may be the year to talk to them about including a pneumonia vaccine for calves on the cow. These vaccines, when administered at branding, have proven helpful for calves on the cow as well as calves at weaning.

We face a lot of obstacles in this business, but having a plan in place can help your odds of keeping your livestock healthy in these challenging times. With calves born out of tough situations it is more important than ever to do things right.

P.S. Since it is early spring do not forget about the horses on your ranch. Encephalitis (Eastern, Western and Venezuelan), tetanus, and West Nile should all be considered for ranch horses on an annual basis. Do not forget to protect you and your employees against the mosquito borne diseases as well. Flu, Rhino, and Strangles should be considered for ranch horses as well, especially if you, or your neighbor, haul your horses anywhere. Sit down with your veterinarian and put a plan in place for your horses.

GO GREEN WITH RANCH MANAGEMENT



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.

26th ANNUAL SUMMER ROPING
TCU RANCH MANAGEMENT ALUMNI

We invite you to come enjoy a good time with great TCU Alumni at the
 First Community Federal Credit Union Spur Arena

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and mail or fax the following registration form by May 20 to:
 Chad McCormick PO Box 511 San Angelo, TX 76902

DO NOT SEND MONEY FOR ROPING EVENTS WITH THIS FORM. THIS IS JUST FOR A HEAD COUNT.
 PLEASE BRING CASH OR CHECK TO THE ROPING TO PAY FOR EVENTS AND/OR DINNER.

Chad: 325-450-0401(c) 325-949-2018 (h) FAX: 325-653-3370 Email: chad@cargileranches.com

Check the Ranch Management Website and Facebook for details

Name _____ Year _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Sporting Clay Shooters _____

Sporting Clay Diners (Complimentary Meal): _____

Roping Registration Team Roper _____ Calf Roper _____ Goat _____

Total Number of Person's attending: _____

Friday Night Gathering: _____

Saturday Lunch at Roping (Complimentary Meal): _____

Saturday Night Dinner: (Approximately \$10.00 each-price could change depending on number
 attending and sponsorship donations) Will not be higher it will probably be lower.

Adults _____

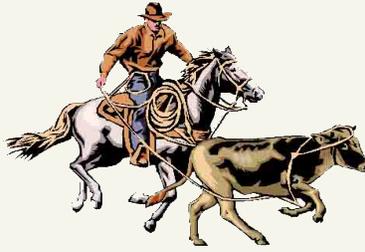
Number of Children (12 and under) _____

Donations Appreciated: Please direct all donations to

PO Box 511 San Angelo, TX 76902 or

TCU Ranch Management Program at TCU Box 297420, Fort Worth, TX 76129.

Memo Line: Summer Roping



**26TH ANNUAL
SUMMER ROPING
SAN ANGELO, TX**

Schedule of Events

Friday June 15

4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Cargile S Ranch-----Sporting Clay and GNAT Shoot

www.retrieversportingclays.com www.gnatusa.com

We will shoot the Sporting Clay course and GNAT beginning at 4:00 p.m. and will have some shooting games afterwards should time allow. Bring your shot gun, shells, and an appetite and even if you can't be there by 4:00 p.m., please plan on attending.

Cost of Sporting Clay event depends on donations from generous friends of the program and alumni, but we expect it to cost between \$50 and \$75 per shooter for the main event.

Cash and Prizes to the top shooters!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

6:00 p.m.

DINNER—Food, Drink, and Visiting with Old and New Friends:

All family members, friends and potential TCU recruits are welcome for this event even if they don't want to shoot. Please email a head count to us if you are planning on being there so we can be sure and have enough for everyone.

Sausage & Tortillas, Hot Dogs, Beans, Chips & Hot Sauce

Iced Tea and Water will be provided

BYOBeer for after the shoot or anytime for non-shooters

This is a fun shoot built for folks that hunt and shoot shotguns on occasion.

If you don't attend, you will wish you had!

Saturday, June 16

9:00 a.m.

1st Community Federal Credit Union Spur Arena

200 W. 43rd St, San Angelo, 76903

<http://www.gosanangelo.com/places/spur-arena/>

Horses may not be tied or stalled in RV area.

Stalls @ \$20.00/unbedded stall/night*

*Please provide current coggins

Shavings @ \$8.00/bag or bring your own

RV hookups @ \$25.00/hookup/night (All have water & electricity & some also have sewer)

Night security is provided

EVENTS**FEE**

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Buckle Calf Roping, 4 head-rope all calves | \$ 50.00 |
| Calf Ribbon Roping, 2 head- rope all calves | \$ 25.00 |
| Goat Roping 2 head progressive | \$15.00 |
| ** Super Buckle Team Roping, 3 head- progressive after 1 head | \$ 100.00/Team |
| ***Buckle Class Team Roping, 3 head- progressive after 1 head | \$ 40.00/Team |

If time permits we will have an open Team Doctoring!

Prizes for events include Cash, bits, spurs, hobbles, headstalls, and Buckles!

**Type of roping is determined by number of Alumni participating (Draw or Round Robin)

**Ropers can be can be from classes one year apart (reverse ends are allowed)

Kids Events- Dummy Roping (Ropes provided), Boot Scramble, *Happy Toy Maker will be on hand for the kids*

12:00 p.m. **Lunch – provided by Walco International and AgriLabs & Bayer**

6:00 p.m. **Saturday night Mixer and Dinner at Spur Arena.**

Cost of dinner is being worked out, but should be approximately \$10.

Live Music will be provided by Country Music Star and Ranch Management Alumni Johnny Dickinson

Awards Presentation

All attendees at dinner are eligible to win a saddle which has been provided by Kevin Prizlas thru Intervet-Schering Plough

Please make your hotel reservations directly. Hotels within 6 miles of Arena:

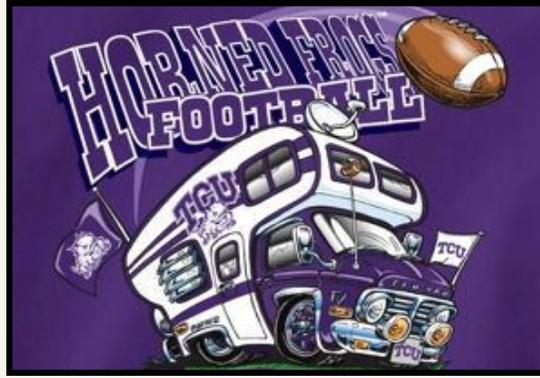
SpringHill Suites San Angelo

2544 Southwest Boulevard, San Angelo, TX 76901

(325) 949-6900 ()

There are a total of 40 rooms blocked (20 suites with one king bed and 20 rooms with 2 queen beds, all with a sofa bed) at \$109/night. The last day to make these reservations is June 1st. One thing to let your guests know is there is another group on the books for that same weekend and once the cutoff date passes, the rate could go up to the regular rate of \$159. Just let them know to ask for the TCU Ranch Management Roping

Other Hotels nearby: Holiday Inn Express, Microtel Inn



ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL??

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, October 6, 2012

TCU vs. Iowa State

First Annual TCU Ranch Management Alumni Tailgate
(Behind the Ranch Management Building)

Food, families, fun, and more!

Look for registration information in the next issue of Cattle Call!

GO FROGS!

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!**