



# THE CATTLE CALL

Newsletter for Alumni of the  
TCU Ranch Management Program

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT  
MISSY BONDS 2001**

As most of you can tell by the temperature outside, summer has arrived. And with it brings a busy schedule of weaning, processing, palpating and traveling around the Bonds Ranch. Summer also brings our alumni roping. It was held in San Angelo June 15-16. We started on Friday with a shooting event and dinner hosted by Charlie Christensen. Saturday was spent at the roping. A girl can get spoiled having an air conditioned arena! Lunch that day was provided by Bayer, AgriLabs, and Animal Health International. A big thank you goes to Clay McKesson, Forrest Watson, and Robert Horner for your continuous support and great food. That evening we had the awards, dinner and entertainment. I would like to take this time to thank all of our sponsors. This event could not have been possible without the hard work and support of Chad McCormick, Dick Winters, Jack Reichart, John Lessor, Jamie Donnell, Alan Curry, Charley Christensen, Stephen Mafrige, Craig Buford, Hargrove Crop Insurance, Southwest Livestock Mineral, Producers Livestock Auction, Cargile Cattle Company, David Vinson, Mike Vaughn, Cliff Caldwell, Larry Horwood, Texas Range Mineral, Paul Turney, Hugh Stone, Paul Hicks, Tom Schwartz, Lorenzo Lasater, GM Welding Supply, Coats Saddlery, Angelo Pellets, Susan Slaughter, Chris Ryan, Happy Toy Maker, Cow Puncher Bit and Spurs, and Zeb York. All of your help made for an outstanding event this year.

Graduation has commenced for the Class of 2012 and preparations are now being made for the Class of 2013. Just want to remind everyone that the best form of student recruitment is from our alumni. Make sure that potential students in your area know about the TCU Ranch Management Program and how much of an impact it made on your lives. If you ask most alumni, they will tell you that the best year of their lives was the year they spent at TCU.

I hope that each of you are able to enjoy this summer and I pray that it will contain more rain and less heat than last year. Remember that I am here for you, so if I can do anything for you, please let me know.

Missy Bonds  
817-917-2958 cell  
Msag98@aol.com



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

**T H E F U T U R E**

A lot of people are wondering about the future including me. The old saying that “no one has a crystal ball” is certainly true. Although basic fundamental economics do come into play when trying to determine price based off of supply and demand. If demographers are right in population projections then demand is going to be extremely high for the foreseeable future. In fact, all agriculture commodities should see increased demand.

On the supply side the main factor that is changing everywhere in the world is climate. Climate is not (Cont. on pg. 2)

(Cont. from pg. 1) and never has been stable. We tend to think of climate as only how it affects our lifetime. But for the environment and the resources, climate has far reaching effects from deep in the past to far in the future. In other words, the effects that the climate has on our environment and resources today will be felt long after we are gone. The main point I'm trying to make is that climate has always been a moving target, and we are still setting new records every year in some climate category.

The most interesting part of supply is the ability of technology to change production. In the past, we have seen tremendous increases in production with new technology. To keep up with the demand in the future and be able to feed the world's population, society is going to have to embrace new technology. Society worldwide is going to have to become more efficient in everything that we produce and consume.

When demand and prices go up that doesn't necessarily translate to everyone seeing more profit. As cost goes up the equity required to operate goes up with it. So to have the same return on investment or return on equity as a percentage, depending on whether or not you are operating on borrowed money or self-financed, your profit per unit of production has to increase as well. This is going to create one of two things; either an operation is going to get bigger, or it is going to get smaller. Why? If it cost more money to operate, and you have a fixed amount of capital, your operation won't be able to compete. So in this example your operation will get smaller. If in turn you want to stay the same size or grow it is obviously going to take more capital to operate.

Then there is the lag effect; it takes time for prices on everything to ratchet up or down. With the information age the lag effect on price is not nearly as slow as it has been in the past. Prices can be, and are, moved up and down extremely fast. This makes it particularly important to stay on top of prices when making projections and running a breakeven. You can't be very accurate running projections off of last year's prices. The neat thing about the information age, it is a lot easier to access the information that you need to help make management decisions.

The future is bright for you operators who as Jake Schrum always said, "Know where you are at." TCU Ranch Management is still teaching this fundamental philosophy to the best of our ability. The students and alumni of this program are prepared to know their cost of production. The class for next year is filling up fast. If you know any potential students interested in the Program have them contact us and we will be happy to visit about the opportunities at Ranch Management.



**Chris Farley**  
j.farley@tcu.edu

Assistant Director  
Southwestern E&LS Professor  
Ranch Management Program

## **RECRUITING**

The TCU RM Alumni sharing their Ranch Management experience with potential students will always be the #1 avenue for filling the classroom with quality, experienced students. As instructors, we are always trying to find

new venues to spread the good word of RM. This past year we added the Working Ranch Cowboys Association Finals in Amarillo which was a great success. We met many RM alumni from the Texas panhandle and New Mexico along with ranch kids that normally do not get down to Fort Worth. We also went to the New Mexico Stock Growers Assoc. convention. We are planning to make it back to both of these new venues and need your help. If you can come by our booth and share your RM experience with future students or bring a potential student by to visit with us; this will make the recruiting trip so much more valuable. You as alumni bring the familiar face and credibility to the booth. If you have a ranching event that you attend and feel it will be a good place to reach potential RM students, we can pay for booth registration and send our new display to the venue for you or I can meet you there. There are no bad ideas for recruiting new students.

## **INTERNSHIPS**

Internships are becoming increasingly important for potential Ranch Management students. These internships serve as places for future students to gain valuable experience needed to successfully complete the RM program. Many of you have served as hosts of these students and they have flourished. I thank all of you for volunteering to participate in this endeavor. I have not been able to use everyone that has contacted me, but I have you on the list. Different students have geographical and experience needs so I always need a variety places to send students. Therefore, if you could use a future RM student for a paid summer internship, please contact me with a brief description of the operation/work needs and I will add it to the list. I am only a facilitator in the internship process; all of (Cont. on pg. 3)

(Cont. from pg. 2) the work and payment details are between the student and employer.

### TEXAS RANCH BRIGADE

The Ranch Brigade committee has done wonderful job writing and planning a land stewardship and livestock based leadership camp. This curriculum will focus on teaching students ages 13-17 conception to consumers of beef production with the sustainability of land stewardship. We are searching for a ranch facility or camp this summer that can host 50 to 60 students and adults for 6 days. The Texas Brigades will provide all supplies and meals. Please contact me if you would like to be a part of leading the next generation of natural resources managers or know of a facility that we can contact to host the Texas Ranch Brigade of 2013.

The TCU Ranch Management Alumni are one of the finest groups of people. My thanks to all of you for making our program an exciting place to teach the next generation of resource managers. Without all of your past and current support in so many ways, the success of this program will not continue. If any of you would like to be involved in the above updates, please contact me.



### PLANNING FOR THE NUTRITION NEEDS – WATCH OUT FOR RUTS

A basic caution that I many times offer to ranchers is to be careful of getting into the rut of using the same supplemental feeding strategy every year. While possible, it is very unlikely that the cattle supplement that worked last year is the best fit for this year. However, if one is in an area that gets a very predictable weather pattern that is identical each year, then nutrition in the grass may very well need the same supplement each year. For most of us, variables such as precipitation, plant species, soil fertility, stocking rate, and many others will dictate what the nutritional content in the forage, and therefore the supplement strategy that best fits that forage.

If rainfall is above average for an area and forage supplies are abundant, the winter supplementation strategy might be to encourage dry matter intake with a higher protein supplement. If forage supplies are limited, a high energy supplement will help limit overall dry matter intake – similar to giving a child a candy bar an hour before dinner. Other nutrients are important as well. In most areas, supplemental feed supplements are utilized in the cold or dry season of the year. In these situations, Vitamin A should not be overlooked, either in the supplement or the mineral, or both.

In choosing supplements, be sure to consider the cost of the products, including freight and delivery to the animal. Some supplements may require specialized equipment such as trip hoppers, pumps, nurse tanks, overhead storage, or maybe just a scoop. Be sure to consider the cost of the equipment, fuel, and labor required to take the feed to the animals.

After the supplemental program is in place and the cattle are consuming the feed, monitoring the program is very simple, but important. Three key areas to monitor include the cattle body condition, production, and fecal matter. Production may include both growth and milk production to raise a calf. Of course, fecal matter analysis is the quickest feedback on the effectiveness of the supplement. Within a few days, fecal matter will change to reflect the new supplement.

As with all management decisions, the key is to plan ahead and be pro-active. Later this summer and early fall, opportunities may exist to contract supplements. With some planning and management, a few dollars in cost may be trimmed by working through some of these variables ahead of time.

### **TSCRA Young Leadership Series – Update for Summer Calendar**

Young TCU Ranch Management alumni in Texas, Oklahoma, and nearby areas - be sure to mark your calendar for upcoming Young Leadership Series (YLS) events. TCU Ranch Management Alumni have played a key (Cont. on pg. 4)

(Cont. from pg. 3) role in the development of YLS program. We hope that our outstanding alumni continue to get involved in YLS, as well as other areas of leadership in our industry. The next YLS meeting will be August 17-18 at the TSCRA Headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas. The YLS meeting is slated to have the "Fed Cattle Market Simulator."

The "Packer-Feeder Game" provides cattlemen an opportunity to sharpen their fed cattle marketing and purchasing skills in a fun, game-like environment. The game provides a realistic market for fed cattle and live cattle futures. The participants will role play as cattle feedlot managers trying to market cattle at a profit and as packing plant managers trying to buy cattle at a profit. Actions by players direct market prices.



## TIME TO PLAN

With summer and hot days coming on fast it may be a great time to shade up some hot afternoon and do some planning. One thing to think about is your animal health plan for livestock and horses. Cow calf, stockers, grow yards and feedlots can all benefit from an occasional review of animal health plans and management strategies. Also, do not forget your horses. Nothing is worse than having livestock to work and finding yourself afoot because all of your mounts are sick.

Start with a review of the past year and see where improvements and changes can benefit your operation. Good records are a must to help make these decisions. Death loss and medicine cost always jump out at a producer, but don't forget lost performance, poor or slow breed ups, and marketability of cattle. Management of nutrition, timing of vaccinations and what we vaccinated for, weather and exposure to problems are just a few things that also need to be considered when evaluating the past year.

Talk to your neighbors, extension personnel and your veterinarian to get information on what problems they have faced in the last year. Trends evolve yearly in animal health, and it can be very advantageous to know these trends regardless of whether you are a cow calf, stocker or feedlot operator. Check with others for new ideas and solutions. Your vet can consult with the diagnostic labs for the diseases and toxic plants that are causing problems, and they can also see which antibiotic is currently working the best. Your vet or animal health supplier may also be aware of new treatments, antibiotics or vaccines that are on the market that could be a great help in your operation.

The summer is also a good time for continuing education or taking a trip to see other producers that you know and would like to learn from. Cow calf and stocker operators can benefit from follow-up information about where their cattle went after they were sold.

Additionally, summer is a good time to review Beef Quality Assurance practices that not only help with providing excellent beef, but also help the products we use perform like they should. Record keeping on animal health products and practices is important to review for management decisions and for possible legal reasons, also. Summer may be a great time to review treatment protocols for everything from calving complications and pink-eye to foot rot. Often we do a great job on planning vaccination programs but fall short on how to treat the problems that arise. Have a written plan that you and your employees can refer to when vaccinating or doctoring livestock and horses.

Be sure to involve your staff and others in this process. It often helps to bounce ideas off of another producer or your veterinarian. Time spent planning can help when things get busy this fall. Remember an ounce of prevention.....





### RANCH MANAGEMENT CLASS OF 2012

The Graduation ceremony for the Class of 2012 was held on May 10, 2012 in the Ballroom of the Brown Lupton University Union. Family and friends from around the country joined in the celebration. It was a pleasure and honor to work with this group of young people for the past nine months. We want to commend them on their accomplishments and welcome them into the TCU Ranch Management Alumni.

First Row (L to R): Jason Faubion; Kevin Johnson; Chris Farley; Dr. Bonnie Melhart; Dr. Nowell Donovan; Kerry Cornelius; Jeff Geider

Second Row (L to R): **Joseph L. Ramage** (Mirando City, TX); **Bowman Williams** (San Antonio, TX); **Kenneth Kyle** (Inman, SC); **Albert Moursund, IV** (Round Mountain, TX); **Shelby Clements** (Pampa, TX); **Matt McLelland** (Tahoka, TX); **Waylon Davis** (Aspermont, TX); **Kevin Roach** (Breckenridge, TX); **Jace Beardsley** (Miles City, MT); **Eric Miller** (Davenport, NE)

Third Row (L to R): **Gretchen Berns** (Peabody, KS); **Jarrold Price** (Big Spring, TX); **Charles Busby** (Centennial, CO); **Macy Jennings** (Ringgold, TX); **Brendan Garrison** (Lubbock, TX); **Austin Phillips** (Fort Worth, TX); **Kelley Sullivan** (Galveston, TX); **Mario Gomez** (Michoacan, Mexico); **Warren Wallace** (Sonora, TX); **Nadine Williamson** (Arkansas City, KS); **CJ Hill** (Midlothian, TX); **Dakota Holmes** (Alpine, TX); **Sam Walzel** (Whitehouse, TX)



2012 SUMMER ROPING RUNDOWN

**Calf Roping**

- 1st Place: Stephen Kirkland
- 2nd Place: Waylon Davis
- 3rd Place: David Mayfield

**Ribbon Roping**

- 1st Place: Jamie Donnell
- 2nd Place: Skyler Flake
- 3rd Place: Craig Buford

**Goat Roping**

- 1st Place: Bob Buchholz
- 2nd Place: Payton Chambless
- 3rd Place: Skyler Flake

**Class Roping**

- 1st Place: Bill Angell/Ross Angell
- 2nd Place: Ross Angell/Bill Angell
- 3rd Place: Bill Angell/Payton Chambless

**Buckle Team**

- 1st Place: Jeff Mitchell/Bill Angell
- 2nd Place: Jeff Mitchell/Paul Turney
- 3rd Place: Ross Angell/Bill Angell

**Mixed**

Payton and Kacey Chambless

**Drawings**

- Saddle: Larry Horwood
- Spurs: TE Warren
- Bit: Bob Payne







**FIRST ANNUAL RANCH MANAGEMENT ALUMNI/FAMILY TAILGATE**

Join us for some tailgating and family fun—Saturday, October 6, 2012  
before the TCU vs. Iowa State football game!

If you are interested in attending, please e-mail Mrs. Pound at [k.l.pound@tcu.edu](mailto:k.l.pound@tcu.edu) to put your name on the list. Final ticket information (pricing) should be available in July. There will be a limited number of tickets, and they will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

We will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, side dishes, and desserts catered by Coburn’s Barbeque.

Water and tea will also be provided.

For all other beverages, the event is BYOB.

We hope to see you all on October 6th!

**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!**