



RANCH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

THE CATTLE CALL
Newsletter for Alumni of the
TCU Ranch Management Program
Summer/Fall 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT, WAYNE COCKRELL '98

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Well, 2017 has proven to be a pretty tough year for many of our alumni this year. It has been difficult to watch as our friends and fellow ranch management alumni have suffered through one devastating disaster after another. Even tougher for those of you that have experienced firsthand, the wildfires in Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, and the Texas Panhandle, the devastation and flooding brought by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, or life threatening injuries. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected. This business and livelihood that we have chosen is not for the weak or faint of heart! I truly believe that the work effort, determination, and true grit that it took to get through the ranch management program, will be the driving force in recovering from these challenges.

I am proud of the response from our ranch management alumni and the great people in our industry that have come “whippin’ and spurin’” to help! Our fellow alumni and instructors showed up in the Panhandle to rebuild fences, helped organize hay donations, and sent money to help where needed.

Our alumni and the great people in our industry responded when Skyler Flake’s daughter, Casey Jay, was injured by a horse. It was so hard to watch Skyler and Kassie go through this traumatic experience, but so uplifting to see the prayers and support for them.

It was amazing to see the response from our alumni and the ag industry to the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey. We had alumni rescuing people in boats, moving livestock out of flooded pastures, and delivering food, water, fuel, hay and all kinds of supplies.

I am really proud of all of your efforts! To those alumni that are still dealing with the recovery, please don’t hesitate to ask for help. There are alumni that are ready to help.

Start making plans to attend the annual Roundup in January 2018!

WELCOME, CLASS OF 2018



Botanical Research Institute of Texas

THE INTERNATIONAL AWARD OF
EXCELLENCE IN CONSERVATION

The Worthington Renaissance Fort Worth Hotel
September 27, 2017

HONORING

Texas Christian University Ranch Management Program
J. David Bamberger and Selah, Bamberger Ranch Preserve
Frank Yturria, Frank Yturria Family Ranch



Created in 1995, the International Award of Excellence in Conservation is presented to honor individuals and organizations that exemplify the ideals expressed in BRIT's mission. Honorees include scientists, conservationists, heads of state, philanthropists, Pulitzer Prize winners, politicians, and other notables.

The TCU Ranch Management Program was honored to be one of three recipients of the award this year.





Jason Faubion
Assistant Director
John Biggs Professorship
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CULL EARLY AND OFTEN TO KEEP YOUR COWHERD PRODUCTIVE

Cull early and often to keep your cowherd productive: Keep BQA guidelines in mind when making culling decisions. By Jolyn Young

Culling cows and bulls eliminates undesirable animals from the herd and makes room for more productive animals to be added into a beef program. The best time of year to cull depends on the local environment and climate that a ranch is located in. Most cow-calf ranches operate on a spring calving program, selling their calf crop each fall. Culling open cows in the fall is a popular method, but cows can also be evaluated during the spring as well.

Jason Faubion, assistant director of the Ranch Management Program at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas, recommends culling early and often to keep the ranch operating as efficiently as possible. Cows only earn a profit – and therefore their keep – if they produce a calf each spring.

“Whether cows are culled at branding or at weaning, the decision to cull should be made prior to any other management practice,” says Faubion. “Never vaccinate, deworm, or otherwise treat a cow before deciding to remove her from the herd.”

Following this practice serves a twofold purpose: first, it saves the rancher money; second, drug withdrawal periods apply to cull cows being sold for slaughter.

“Always keep records of such treatments,” Faubion says.

Instead of – or in addition to – traditional fall culling, ranchers can evaluate cows during the spring branding season, then sort off dry cows or cows that appear unable to raise a healthy calf. This conserves grass and other resources for more productive cows.

Most ranchers cull cows that come in dry or open in the fall. Old cows, broken-mouthed cows or cows with bad udders are also usually culled. The standard procedure involves running the whole cowherd through a chute and hiring a vet to check for pregnancy via palpation or ultrasound.

Old-time managers, like the late Britt Lay of the Whitehorse Ranch in eastern Oregon, visually assessed the cow herd to determine pregnancy. All cows that appeared “snake-bellied” were culled, saving the company the per-head chute fee charged by a vet to preg check. Any open cows that were missed were caught and culled in the spring when they didn't produce a calf.

“Regardless of the method used, sort off the open cows and strongly consider culling them,” says Faubion. “If an open cow is allowed to roll to another breeding season herd, be sure to identify her.”

Cull cows are commonly sold as hamburger meat. This product typically generates the lowest price at the local sale yard, but there are opportunities for producers to add value to this product. Some packers may be willing to pay more for cull animals they can purchase in larger lots, or possibly offer to help with the trucking for full loads. Grouping cows by age, frame size and flesh can help bring a higher price as well.

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Cull early and often to keep your cowherd productive: Keep BQA guidelines in mind when making culling decisions continued

“Year-branded cows have even commanded added value in past years as a means of age and source verification,” says Faubion.

Bulls are usually tested prior to the onset of the breeding season, and those found to be unsatisfactory are culled. In the Great Basin of the western U.S., the breeding season typically runs June-August. Faubion recommends a thorough breeding soundness exam (BSE), which includes a semen evaluation, testing for any reproductive diseases and an examination of the physical structures of the bull.

“If a bull falls short in any of these areas, it should most likely be culled,” says Faubion.

Bulls can be culled around age five, when they still have useful, productive breeding years ahead of them, in order to command a higher price from a smaller cow-calf producer. This also ensures that the bulls won't grow too large to service heifers, which are smaller-framed than full-grown cows. Waiting to sell the bull until he is older will get more years of use out of him for the original owner, but he'll bring a lower price when he is culled.

This article was originally printed in the Nevada Rancher magazine

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2017



First Row (L to R): Dr. Nowell Donovan, Brennon Fuser, Zac Turner, Caleb Williams, Tori Clay, Fritzi Francis, Lettie McKinney, Carson Wade, Hudson Purvis, Nelson Grimes, Dr. Bonnie Melhart

Second Row (L to R): Janelle Davila, Kerry Cornelius, Jeff Geider, Brent Jarvis, Russell Carrell, Perry Shelton, Grant Mason, Marshall Whorley, Austin Ingram, Campbell Heard, Ben Taggart, Rawley Ice, Kevin Johnson, Michele Barrow

Third Row (L to R): Chris Farley, Ryan Cantarella, Matt Oldfather, Jake Valdez, Tucker Brown, Ben Tate, Jake Goudeau, Hunter Crow, James Prather, Latigo Collins, Jason Faubion

RANCH BRIGADE

2017



Chris Farley
Assistant Director
Southwestern E & L S Professorship
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Ranch Brigade started over five years ago with the mission of “Educating and empowering the next generation of resource managers with the skills and knowledge necessary to successfully manage and promote sustainable beef production.” Ranch Brigade is designed to teach boys and girls ages 13 to 17 years old livestock production, land stewardship, and leadership skills; we have hosted cadets from Georgia, Colorado, Oklahoma, and New York City for the weeklong program. 27 cadets from all over Texas attended Ranch Brigade 2017. We had a few cadets who are children of TCU Ranch Management alumni, and two young men from the Cal Farley Boys Ranch. Ranch Brigade has added many new activities over the past year for the purpose of demonstrating the complete picture of “Gate to Plate” in sustainable ranching.

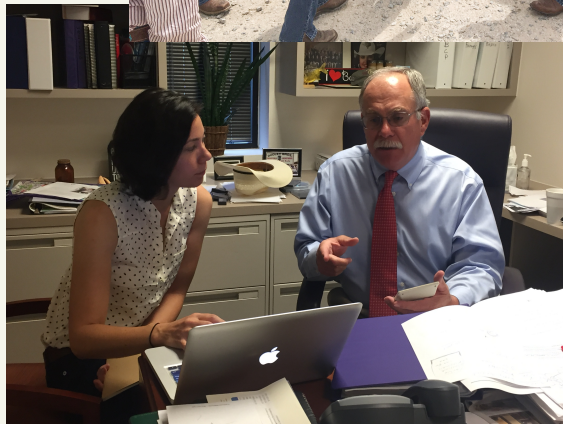
Ranch Brigade starts with soils, plant ID, and stocking rate calculations. This year we added an actual Prescribe Fire demonstration. The cadets were very interested in learning the benefits of fire, and were looking forward to sharing their new knowledge upon returning to their respective communities. Next on the agenda for the cadets is learning about cattle nutrition, animal health, and hands on cattle processing after an excellent low stress cattle handling demonstration. Livestock marketing and a meat cutting demonstration are always looked forward to, and this year Beef Check-off brought in charcoal grills and the cadets were able to select a steak, season it, and cook it for a delicious supper. We made every effort this year to let the cadets share their stories of Ranch Brigade thru their own social media platforms. The cadets posted their highlights on Instagram, Facebook, and each one wrote a letter to the editor of their local newspaper. All of this is for the purpose of preparing these cadets to go home and share their new found knowledge of ranching with their peers; cadets who do the best job of spreading this new found knowledge are rewarded with either a \$4,000, \$2,000, or one of two \$1,000 college scholarships presented by the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo.

The highlight of Ranch Brigade for me this year was the addition of Donald Brown coming in as the Guest Ranch Manager to share his story of the historic R.A. Brown Ranch and his passion for sustainable ranching. The most inspiring part of Ranch Brigade has become the nightly vespers which are given by a presenter of that day who shares their personal belief of how God is interwoven into land stewardship, livestock production, and these young people’s daily lives. This small segment of the camp has grown to be the most inspirational part of the week for cadets and adult volunteers.

Ranch Brigade needs you as TCU Ranch Management Alumni to recruit future cadets. Online registration begins December 1 and runs thru March 15 at www.TexasBrigades.org for the July 23-27, 2018 camp. Adult men and women volunteers are needed to serve as herd leaders each year, and Ranch Brigade is always in need of volunteers to hang out and cook beef for kids all week. Ranch Brigade has been blessed financially by TCU RM alumni who have given yearly to support the running of the camp, but we are also in need of financial help so that we can offer partial scholarships for cadets who cannot afford the \$500.00 camp fee. Texas Brigades is the parent organization of Ranch Brigade and it is in need of finding permanent funding. If you know of a foundation or company that would like to support youth education of the outdoors, Texas Brigades could sure use your help.

I would like to express my continuous and heartfelt appreciation to our Ranch Brigade yearly financial donors, and the Warren Ranch for hosting us each year. Ranch Brigade could not survive without you both. I would also like to thank all the TCU Ranch Management Alumni volunteers who give up their time for countless meeting dates and a week out of their summer to serve possible future TCU Ranch Management students.

If you would like to help Ranch Brigade in any way,
contact Chris Farley at the office (817.257.7145) or j.farley@tcu.edu.



THANK YOU

Joe Brhlik & Standard Meat Company, Ashley House, Patrick Murray & Lauren Lovelace, and Dustin Valusek & Megan Philipp for welcoming the Class of 2018 with a delicious meal on their first day of orientation!



STANDARD MEAT

2017 SUMMER ROPING ALUMNI AND FAMILY SUMMER GATHERING

The 31st Annual Summer Gathering was held in Childress, TX the weekend of June 16-17. Once again, there was camaraderie, networking, talks about the ranching way of life, and down right fun! Kassie and Skyler Flake and the committee provided a memorable time—thank you!

As alumni, we rely on strong working relationships and bonds with one another in our industry and encourage all to engage in participation of Texas Christian University Ranch Management events and gatherings.

Thank you to those who donated: Bill Angell, Big Bend Trailers, Mike Brisnahan, Bustamante Boots, Class of 1993, Ed Crosby, Wayne Hallett, Hargrove Ranch Insurance, Jason Harlow, Paul Hicks, Frank McLelland, Merck Animal Health, Johnny Miller, John Phelan, Tom Scheartz, Teal Blake Studios, and Triangle Ranch.

Mary Beth McCormick's ticket was drawn for the raffle for the saddle donated by Merck Animal Health and Jeff Mitchell's ticket was drawn for the raffle for the boots donated by Bustamante Boots.

EVENT RESULTS

Team Tying

- 1st -- Matt McClelland, Jeff Davis, Bill Angel
- 2nd -- Matt McClelland, Jeff Davis, Skyler Flake

Team Roping

- 1st -- Heath Cox & Bill Angell
- 2nd -- Skyler Flake & Bob Payne
- 3rd -- Jeff Davis & Bill Angel

Ranch Rodeo

- 1st -- Chance Walker, Bob Payne, Luke Abraham, John Haley
- 2nd -- Bill Angel, Richard Myers, Heath Cox, Skyler Flake
- 3rd -- Mickey Steed, Chance Walker, John Haley, Cory Carruth

Top Horse -- Chance Walker

Top Hand -- Bill Angell





VS



6TH ANNUAL TCU RM ALUMNI AND RECRUITMENT TAILGATE

We will tailgate on the lawn at the Ranch Management building before the game between TCU and West VA on **Saturday, October 7.**


Food will start being served at 12:30 with game kick-off at 2:30!

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 is a great way for them to get information about the Program, meet alumni, and see the building.



Lone Star Ag Credit has made arrangements with Cowboy Chef Newton from Master Chef to be on hand cooking chili and burgers!



TCU Alumni Roundup Saturday, January 27

Event details to come, but hotel reservations can now be made!

Hyatt Place FW Historic Stockyards, 132 East Exchange, Fort Worth, TX 76164

When booking by phone: Call 1-800-833-1516 and refer to the group under the name of *TCU Ranch Management 2018* with group code *TCU8*

When booking online: Follow the web link <http://www.hyatt.com/hyatt/reservations/flow6/place/propCheckAvailability.jsp?pid=DFWZF&extCorporateId=G-TCU8>

Reservation Due Date: *Tuesday, December 26, 2017* at 11:59pm

It's not too early to make a donation to the silent auction! Donations in high demand are hunts and custom made items. The value of your donation is tax-deductible with proceeds benefitting RM student scholarships.

AN ENDURING BRAND

by Dan Talbot '71

Mattie B. Miller, granddaughter of pioneer Coleman County rancher J.P. Morris, had her own cattle brand - a simple O. When she married Frank Rogers in 1931, the couple registered two touching Os as their brand. They named it the Lazy Eight.

Nine decades later, their grandsons - Zachary ("Zac") Fulshear Allen and Lemuel ("Lembo") Byron Allen Jr.- proudly continue to use the Lazy Eight brand on their Quarter Horses and on the thousands of stocker cattle Zac runs on pastures and wheat fields in five West Texas counties.



Their maternal great-great-grandfather, J.P. Morris, trailed cattle from South Texas to the grasslands of the Dakotas and beginning in 1884, he invested his profits in land around Jim Ned Creek, a tributary of the Colorado River, northeast of Coleman. An innovative and progressive rancher, he named his operation the Rafter-3 and over 36 years expanded it from 12,000 acres to more than 71,000 acres, plus another 12,000 in Shackelford County.

Lembo, 51, and Zac, 49, grew up riding horses and working cattle both on the portion of the Rafter-3 inherited by their mother, Susan Rogers Allen, and on the 2,500-acre farm founded by their paternal great-grandfather along the San Marcos River in Guadalupe County. The Allens are descended from Churchill Fulshear, one of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred colonists.

The brothers' father, Lemuel B. Allen, a former chairman of the Texas Ethics Commission, raised registered Herefords and F-1 Brahman-Herefords. At the 1991 ABBA National F-1 Sale, the Lazy Eight exhibited the national champion pen of open heifers.

Lembo earned a law degree at SMU, while Zac graduated from the TCU Ranch Management School in 1989.

A couple of years later, the brothers started to revive the Lazy Eight horse program. "We started with just two mares," recalls Lembo, "and we've worked hard over the years to breed versatile horses with good bone, sound feet, great dispositions, and cow sense."

One of their first mares was by the world champion stallion Tenino San, a son of Mr San Peppy. On the advice of AQHA Hall of Fame trainer Matlock Rose, they bred Miss Tenino Sam in 2000 to Mr Sun O Lena, AQHA Champion and 1997 NCHA Super Stakes Champion. The result was Sun O Tenino, a red dun colt that Rose later trained and the Allens nicknamed "Matlock."

He has won several Top Ranch Horse awards at ranch rodeos, and his offspring have been reliable mounts for ranch work, as well as showcasing their talents in competitions like the Fort Worth Ranching Heritage Challenge, the RHAA Finals, and NCHA cutting events.

Most of their broodmares have show records. "The mares we keep have to be good ones," Zac says. "We know that the sire and dam each make up 50 percent of the genetics of the foals, but when it comes to disposition and heart and a lot of the intangibles, we feel that the dam is at least 80 percent responsible for how the foals turn out."

The Lazy Eight has been an AQHA Ranching Heritage Breeder since the program's inception. The ranch was a founding member of the Working Ranch Cowboys Association, and the brothers competed in WRCA rodeos for several years.

In 2002, after their parents had sold the family ranches, Zac started over with a 900-acre lease in Coleman County, where he pastured yearlings for others on a gain basis for a couple of years to learn the stocker business.

"Then I was ready to take on more risk with my own cattle, and I've tried to grow bigger every year."

Today Zac runs 5,000 to 6,000 head of stockers on about 45,000 leased acres of native grass and wheat fields in Coleman, Concho, Runnels, Baylor and Haskell Counties. Together, the brothers purchased a herd of Angus cows,

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AN ENDURING BRAND CONTINUED

planning to expand back into the cow/calf business.

For the stocker operation, Zac buys 500-pound pre-weaned calves year-round, from Texas to Alabama, with most of the purchases in the fall, from spring-calving herds. Capitol Land & Livestock, one of the largest cattle dealers in the country, is one of its main suppliers. During the year, the Lazy Eight also makes extra income leasing some of its stock for NCHA Futurity pre-works and AQHA ranch horse competitions.

Buying and selling year-round has evened out market fluctuations, says Zac, and also lowered the average death loss from weather and stress to around 2.5 percent. The calves, with individual ear tags, are pre-conditioned (fed and given their shots) for 30 to 45 days before being sorted into separate pastures by lots for accurate record-keeping.

Once settled in, they are inspected once a week horseback by Zac and his four full-time cowboys. Each man has a string of four ranch-raised geldings. Luke Palmer puts 30 to 60 saddles on the two-year-olds before they're introduced to the long miles in the pasture.

"We're in the saddle every day," says Zac. His own favorite mount is Mose Harper, named after Hank Worden's foolish character in the John Wayne classic, "The Searchers," because he seemed slow and lazy at first. The Matlock gelding, however, has proved his worth as an honest ranch horse.

When the yearlings have gained 250-300 pounds, they are either sold private treaty to large buyers like Cargill or Friona, occasionally at feeder sales in Oklahoma, or ownership will be retained through the feedlot stage, depending on the market.

The Lazy Eight currently owns eight broodmares and leases two more. They carry modern performance bloodlines like High Brow Cat and Playgun, as well as Matlock, who is now 16. They also breed several mares a year at the Burnett Ranches in Guthrie. With a good genetic base in their broodmare band, the Allen brothers are now actively looking for a new ranch stallion that will help them produce versatile cow horses that will be highly functional in all aspects of the cattle operations.

"They have to be big enough to use every day out in the pastures and wheat fields without breaking down, yet athletic enough to sort cattle in the pens," says Zac. "That's difficult to put into one package, but we have worked hard at it for over 25 years."

They part with a few of the older remuda horses at private treaty or at auctions like the San Antonio Select Sale or Jann Parker's catalog sales in Billings, Mont. Occasionally they will sell younger prospects, like Bet Shesa Sassy Cat, a three-year-old filly that Gary Bellenfant is prepping for the NCHA Futurity, and La Cuchara Cat, a yearling filly to be consigned to the NCHA Futurity Sales.

Lembo, who wryly describes himself as a "recovering lawyer" after 25 years of private practice, now manages the Allen Mineral & Royalty Company. He lives in Luling with his wife Kelly. They use dependable Lazy Eight horses to tend to their own herd of Brangus cows, and Lembo makes periodic trips to Coleman to help with the big cattle works.

Zac and his wife Cathy have a teenage daughter, Abigail, who rides with the Coleman County Cowgirls drill team and also makes a top hand in the family operation. Her great-great-great grandfather, six generations back, would be proud of her today.

For more information, visit <https://lazeighranches.wordpress.com>.

Reprinted with permission Lone Star Horse Report, September 2017



WHO DID WHAT:

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



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!

Grad Year _____

Name _____

NEW ADDRESS/PHONE/EMAIL

Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

E-Mail _____

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 _____



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.

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Please be sure to give us your name if it isn't clear from your email address.