



THE CATTLE CALL

Newsletter for Alumni of the
TCU Ranch Management Program

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FROM THE PRESIDENT MISSY BONDS 2001

Well it seems like ever since I have become President of the Alumni Association weather has been a big topic of discussion for most of us. We have been through record high temperatures, record breaking droughts and gustier winds. It seems again drought is a major issue for the majority of the United States. As we pray for rain here in Texas to allow for longer small grain grazing, the TCU Ranch Management class is praying for the 12 Days of Christmas to be over.

The TCU Ranch Management Roundup is again just around the corner. At that time, our new President, Chad McCormick, will take the reins. It will be held in the Fort Worth Historic Stockyards and if you haven't been in a while, we would love to see you again. So put January 26, 2013 on your calendar for a day of education, food, friends, and entertainment.

Once again, we are planning on making TCU Ranch Management known throughout the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Convention. We will be hosting a reception for all alumni and prospective students at a TBD date and time. The alumni also sponsor the Cattle Fax Outlook Seminar during the convention. This is the most attended meeting at the convention so there is great publicity from this event.

Finally, June 22, 2013 will be our annual TCU Ranch Management Alumni Roping. This year Ross Angell and the Oklahoma Alumni will be hosting the event at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, Oklahoma. This is an indoor venue so come beat the heat! Please know you do not have to be a roper to attend!

This time of the year is a time to reflect and be thankful. I am grateful for my family, friends, a job I love and to be a part of this great program. Please spread the word about the program and help recruit new enrollment. We are the best advertisement we have!

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!

Missy Bonds '01

msag98@aol.com

817-917-2958 cell



Kerry L. Cornelius
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 Director
 Burnett Ranches Professor
 Ranch Management Program

WHAT'S NEW

We have had a lot of exciting new happenings at Ranch Management this year. If you get a chance, check out our new web site at <http://www.ranch.tcu.edu/>. The website has a new look with many updated pictures. Our advertising campaign has been updated this year as well. You many have seen the new ads in some of the trade magazines or Livestock Weekly. (Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1) This past fall, to commemorate TCU's first home football game in the Big 12, we hosted a tailgate party at the Ranch Management Building before the Iowa State game. Over 100 people showed up for food and fellowship. During the football season we had several Ranch Management alumni, who are also graduates from other Big 12 schools, ask if we would be hosting a tailgate when their alma mater came to play the Horned Frogs. Our plan is to host one tailgate a year, rotating Big 12 schools so that everyone is eventually represented.

The holiday season it is a great time to visit with friends and family members. During this time, if you meet anyone with an interest in production agriculture, and more specifically Ranch Management, encourage them to check out our website and visit with us at TCU. I have said it many times before but you, the alumni of the Program, are our best source of advertising. We are very appreciative of your efforts in helping us recruit the best and the brightest students each year.

One final thought from the faculty and staff at TCU Ranch Management - we are very thankful to you, the alumni of the program, for all that you do for us each year. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, happy, and prosperous New Year ahead.



B L E S S I N G S F R O M A B O V E

As the holiday season is fast approaching and another year is coming to a close, it is time to reflect on our true blessings from above. Another year of unseasonal rainfall all over this country demonstrates the importance of land stewardship and livestock management as all of you were taught at TCU Ranch Management. On the recent South Texas field trip Clay Neal put it in perspective for me when he said, "it's not total rainfall, it is effective rainfall that makes the difference in forage production." You know it has been a rough year for moisture when you start hoping for just an average year of rain.

Livestock production and land stewardship are areas we cannot take for granted. More and more students will graduate from high school without any exposure to production agriculture. The purpose of Ranch Brigade is to select 20 of the brightest and best high school students from across the state so that they can become ambassadors of land stewardship and livestock production in their respective communities. This select group of students will spend five days of intensive training to develop leadership skills, and learn the truth about livestock production from conception to the consumer. They will then give presentations in their communities, and in turn be rewarded thru scholarships and future ranch experiences.

This is where TCU Ranch Management Alumni can have a great impact on the future generation of ranch managers. Working along with me as Ranch Brigade officers are Jon Taggart, Amanda Dyer, Mike Micallef, Dusty Abney. There are also various committee volunteers. The budget for the July 31 thru August 4, 2013 camp is \$18,000. This includes \$10,000 for the camp facilities, with the remaining funds being used for supplies and scholarships. Our committee **must** raise this money by April 1, 2013 thru private donations, educational grants, and corporate sponsorships. Other needs for the week include calves to work and one animal for a necropsy.

Many of you have asked how you can help with this great mission and this is your chance. You can write a check to Texas Brigades for Ranch Brigade 2013. Texas Brigade is a 501c3 and your gift is tax deductible. All of the application information for Ranch Brigade will be online beginning in January. If you know of a potential student for the camp please have them go online at Texasbrigades.org to apply. Also, if you know of any potential donors to the Ranch Brigade please email me at j.farley@tcu.edu and I will be happy to contact them. Please help us make the TCU Ranch Management Alumni shine bright to the future generation of ranch managers.



NEED HELP WITH NUTRIENT ANALYSIS ON FORAGES?

I had a little brainstorm over the past couple of days and decided to pass it along. I hope this can develop into a useful tool for all of us to add to our toolboxes. The level of usefulness will require some help from many of you. I would imagine that most of us have wondered what the nutrient content of our forage might be. Of course the answer is found by gathering a forage sample and sending it off for a nutrient analysis. As TCU Ranch Management faculty, the challenge that I face here in the program is finding the forage analysis for many native plants. For our classwork, we can use the book value for many of these and try to adjust as best that we can for the weather pattern or soil fertility in our area, but many plants are not in those books and need to be gathered and tested in the region that each grows. For example, we always have a student working on a management plan in south Texas that would like to build a nutrition plan and wonders the nutrient level of Buffelgrass at a given time of year – or a New Mexico student needing the same information on Blue Grama – or Big Bluestem in the Kansas Flint Hills during the 90 day early intensive grazing program.

Here is where I ask for your help. It would be near impossible for me to gather and test a wide variety of plants over the course of several years to get a sample from an optimum rainfall year and a drought year, as well as samples of each of those from different times of the growing season and dormant season. This is not to mention the expense of the analysis, time, and travel that would be required. In my opinion, a great resource for a manager's records of a ranch would be a forage analysis for the primary grazed forages on the ranch for 3-4 different periods of the year, as well as for at least three possible rainfall levels. Those periods would be the (1) lush, vegetative spring growth, the (2) lull of hot summer if it applies to the area, the (3) transition to reproductive seed head production, the (4) dormant forage after a killing frost, and possibly (5) a weathered mature dormant sample from late winter. The different rainfall levels would be above average rainfall year, an average year, and a below average year. Of course rainfall is a huge variable with which an area could have above average rainfall because of one huge rain event during the year. This is where we have to become artists instead of scientists, remembering that there is both an art and a science involved in ranching.

But back to the favor that I wanted to ask our Alumni, if you have forage analyses from your ranch or any area that might be pertinent, I would love to have a copy of those, old or new. Basically, all I would have to have would be the county or area that the sample was grown, time of year that the sample was taken, and the nutrient specs from it. Any other information would be great to help with the background. For example, telling me the growing conditions, fertility or rainfall for the year that the sample was grown would be very helpful. Feel free to mark out any personal information before sending, but I will be sure to gather the information that I need and not use anyone's personal information. I would simply compile a list that includes the forage species and the nutrient specs grown under various conditions. Anything will work, even if it is a scribbled-on old forage test that you have on your desk. I will not post the whole analysis or the ranch's information. My hope is to get enough that I could construct a small database that we could all share.

If you would like to send in your analyses, feel free to call me with questions or just send them on in. You can email me at j.faubion@tcu.edu or fax to (817) 257-7144 or mail in photocopies to TCU Ranch Management; Jason Faubion; TCU Box 297420; Fort Worth, Texas 76129.

In addition to all of this, it would only be fair for me to offer my help anytime you have questions on your analysis results or with taking samples. Please don't hesitate to call with your questions.

I would also like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Kevin Johnson
k.l.johnson79@tcu.edu
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo™ Professor
Ranch Management Program

THINGS TO WATCH FOR

The past year has been full of challenges for everyone involved in agriculture. Once again the weather led the charge with the economy and politics close behind. Managing challenges is what we do in agriculture. How we manage those challenges often determines the success of our business. I want to highlight some potential production challenges we have been talking about in class the last few weeks.

The dry weather is shaping up to deliver potential challenges for all of us involved in the cattle business. Besides lack of forage, we need to remember that conditions are right for toxic weeds, nitrate poisoning, aflatoxin problems in grain, and down south, in some areas, there is still potential for prussic acid poisoning. Nitrate can be a problem in weeds, sorghum stubble, hay, silage, and small grain pasture. Heavy fertilization on ground where drought or cloudy weather has interrupted growth can cause problems with nitrate. I have had several calls from people who have experienced problems with unloading cattle in pens or traps with careless weeds in them. They left the cattle in the pens overnight, and the cattle were dead the next morning from nitrate poisoning. Some of the dry land small grain crops where their cattle are grazing may have problems in the next few months due to dry weather. I have heard of several problems with nitrates in some drought stressed hay grazer and milo that was baled this past fall. Nitrates can cause death by asphyxiation, abortions, weak baby calves, low milk production, and overall growth suppression.

Aflatoxin can be present in drought stressed corn and milo, and we all know that there was plenty of opportunity for this problem to occur in the past growing season. Ruminants handle aflatoxin better than simple stomach animals, but they can still have problems. Aflatoxin can cause liver problems, and reduce growth and efficiency. Younger cattle are more susceptible to problems than older cattle, and aflatoxin can cause some major problems with the immune system. Lack of response to vaccines and antibiotic treatments are common in calves that have a diet with greater than 300 PPB of aflatoxin present. High aflatoxin products can be used, but they must be blended to lower the level in the total ration. I would strongly recommend using a nutritionist with experience when handling high aflatoxin products. Remember any type of moldy feed has the potential for problems. These problems can include everything from lost performance all the way to death.

Prussic acid can happen easily in Johnson grass and sorghum that has been drought stressed and then gets a rain on it, or when we get a frost or freeze. Some areas are still green due to the mild fall season and this could be a problem if cattle are grazing these areas. Dry weather and lack of green forage this winter and coming spring could very well lead to cows and yearlings chasing green toxic weeds. We need to look at range management, vitamin levels, mineral and supplemental feed programs to help prevent weed problems.

I also want to give a heads up to cow calf producers. We have made great strides in the battle with Trichomoniasis the last few years. However, the last few weeks I have heard numerous reports of ranches with bulls testing positive before turnout on fall calving cows. These reports came from several states. It is important to keep our guard up on Trich and not let it sneak up on us, as the cattle business has enough problems currently without a Trich outbreak showing up.

There are a lot of challenges on our plate in the cattle business. I am encouraged every day by our students who have a passion for the cattle business. The students are eager to learn and to take on these challenges. Even with all the trials we have in our business may we not forget the wonder and joy of the upcoming season. I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a blessed and prosperous New Year.

R O U N D U P
J A N U A R Y 2 6 , 2 0 1 3

2013 Roundup Hotel Information

If you have not yet reserved your hotel room for Roundup, the information regarding the hotel room block is below.

Hyatt Place Fort Worth Historic Stockyards

132 E. Exchange Avenue

Fort Worth, TX 76106

Phone: 817-626-6000

Rate: \$169.00 + Tax per Night

Group Name: TCU Ranch Management

The Roundup Reservation Form is included here in Cattle Call, or you can fill it out online on the website and send it in.

Morning Program Information

This year's morning program speaker for Roundup will be former Congressman Charlie Stenholm who is a Senior Policy Advisor at OFW Law. Born in Stamford, Texas, Mr. Stenholm went on to serve the 32-county, 17th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was a member of the House Committee on Agriculture throughout his 26-year House career, serving as the Committee's ranking Democrat for his last eight years until 2004. He earned a reputation for building bipartisan alliances in areas as diverse as agriculture, resource conservation, welfare reform, food safety, Social Security, energy, health care, and the budget.

Currently, Mr. Stenholm serves as Co-Chair of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget and on the Boards of Directors of the Concord Coalition and the Business and Industry Political Action Committee. He is a member of the Farm Foundation Round Table and the 25x25 Steering Committee.

Mr. Stenholm graduated from Tarleton State Junior College, now Tarleton State University, where he currently teaches agricultural and energy policy as well as political science. Mr. Stenholm is also a graduate of Texas Tech University, earning a BS and MS in agriculture education. He is the recipient of honorary Doctor of Law degrees from Abilene Christian, Hardin-Simmons, and McMurry Universities.

Congressman Stenholm will cover the following topics in the morning program: 1) How the recent election will affect agriculture, 2) The Farm Bill, and 3) How the Farm Bill ties into global agriculture concerns.

STOCKYARDS STATION

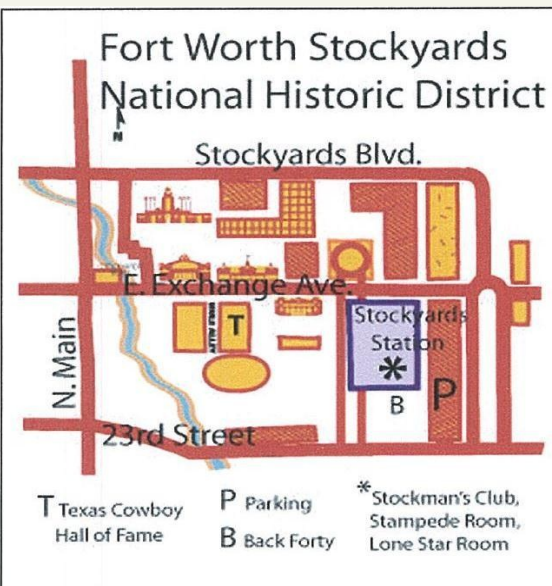


Complimentary Parking Pass

Stockyards Station welcomes
TCU Ranch Management Dinner
Saturday, January 26th, 2013
Stampede Room

Parking payment required without this pass

PARKING AVAILABLE ON EAST SIDE OF
STOCKYARDS STATION, ACCESS
PARKING FROM 23RD STREET OR EAST
EXCHANGE AVE
(See map)



Submit by Email

Print Form

Roundup Reservation Form

Number Attending:

Morning: x \$5.00 =

Rodeo: x \$25.00 =

Dinner/Dance: x \$20.00 =

Total Amount Enclosed:

Payment is Due by Friday, January 18, 2013
Please make Checks Payable to: Ranch Management
Mail To: TCU Ranch Management
TCU Box 297420
Fort Worth, TX 76129

Or pay by Credit Card:

Card Type: Exp. Date:

Card No:

Name:

Grad Year:

Address:

City:

State: Zip Code:

E-Mail:

Guests Names:

AUCTION DONATION FORM

Items:

2013 ROUNDUP AGENDA

Saturday, January 26, 2013

8:30-9:00
 REGISTRATION, LITE BREAKFAST & VISIT
 Auditorium
 Brown Lupton University Union
 Texas Christian University
 Fort Worth, TX

9:00
 MORNING PROGRAM

12:00
 LUNCH
 (on your own)

2:00-5:00
 MATINEE RODEO PERFORMANCE
 Southwestern Exposition & Livestock Show
 Block of 80 tickets \$25.00 each
 First come, first served basis and must be
 paid for by Friday, January 18, 2013

6:30-7:30
 COCKTAILS
 Stockyards Station - Stampede Room
 Cash Bar (Nothing Brought In)
 130 East Exchange Avenue
 Fort Worth, TX 76164

7:30
 DINNER
 Buffet (Menu Below)

8:30-9:30
 AUCTION

9:30-12:00
 DANCE

ROUNDUP MENU
 Tender Smoked Brisket
 Slow Roasted Sausage
 Enchiladas
 Taco Station
 Homemade Potato Salad
 Fresh Cole Slaw
 Seasoned Pinto Beans
 Relish Tray
 Fresh Rolls
 Cherry Cobbler
 Pecan Pie



*May your holiday season be all wrapped up
with cheer and filled with celebration
for the New Year!*

*The Faculty and Staff of the
TCU Ranch Management Program*

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!**