

The Cattleman



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NEWS BRIEFS

TSCRA Leaders Testify at Congressional Fever Tick Forum in Washington D.C.



Pictured, from left, are Dave Delaney, TSCRA Fever Tick Subcommittee member and rancher from Kingsville; Dr. Andy Schwartz, Texas Animal Health Commission executive director; U.S. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway; Rep. Filemon Vela, Texas-Dist. 34; Freddy Nieto, TSCRA Fever Tick Subcommittee member and rancher from Raymondville; Dr. Brian McCluskey, USDA APHIS Veterinary Services chief epidemiologist.

TSCRA leaders testified July 12 in Washington, D.C., at a Congressional forum regarding fever tick issues impacting the cattle industry in South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley. U.S. Reps. Filemon Vela and Ted Yoho, along with U.S. House Committee on Agriculture Chairman Mike Conaway and Ranking Member Collin Peterson, hosted the forum.

At the briefing, TSCRA representatives, along with USDA APHIS and TAHC, discussed the current setbacks in the cattle industry because of fever ticks and the ongoing efforts to work toward eradication of the pest. Additionally, TSCRA leaders made visits to Congressional offices to discuss the fever tick issue.

Fever ticks are capable of carrying a microscopic parasite that causes bovine babesiosis, also known as cattle fever. This disease causes acute anemia, fever and an enlarged spleen and liver, often leading to death for cattle.

Fever ticks have been contained since 1943 to a thin strip of land along the Texas/Mexico border, known as the "permanent systematic quarantine zone." Due to changes in the ticks' environment in South Texas, lack of action from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and existing regulations on ranchers, fever ticks appear to be moving north. Without attention to this pest, the outbreak in Texas could spread throughout the country, leading to a potential economic impact exceeding \$1.2 billion.

TSCRA Policy Conference Sept. 28-30 in Austin

Registration is open for TSCRA's 2016 Policy Conference to be held at the Sheraton Austin at the Capitol, Sept. 28-30. The TSCRA Policy Conference offers a broad range of sessions highlighting the intersection between ranching and public policy. Topics will include private property rights, water rights, animal health issues, the latest university research, and much more. Participants will include ranchers, academics and public policy makers from around the region. For more information, including accommodation prices and schedules, visit tscra.org and click on the Policy Conference button on the right side of the page.

Information Sought in Garza County Ranch Theft

TSCRA Special Ranger Dean Bohannon, Dist. 7 south of the Texas Panhandle, is seeking information on the theft of five saddles, four ATVs, a shop welder and assorted tools from the Drew Kirkpatrick Ranch headquarters south of Post in Garza County.

According to Bohannon, the theft occurred between 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 24, and 7:30 a.m. on Monday, July 25.

The stolen saddles are a Lane Smith tooled saddle, a Dee Buckner saddle, a Tooter Cannon saddle, a Ryan saddle and a David Barnes saddle.

The thief or thieves also stole a green 2013 Polaris Ranger UTV with a single bench seat, a red 2009 350-series Yamaha Kodiak ATV, a blue 2009 700-series Yamaha ATV and a black 2009 700-series Yamaha ATV. Additionally, a shop welder and assorted tools were taken from the property.

Anyone with further information regarding this case should contact TSCRA's Operation Cow Thief hotline at 888-830-2333 or Special Ranger Bohannon at 806-789-9476. A cash reward up to \$2,000 may be paid to individuals who can provide useful information leading to an arrest and indictment. Individuals reporting information may choose to remain anonymous.

Ardmore Man Arrested in Theft of 90 Head of Cattle

Lynn Masey, 40, of Ardmore, Okla., surrendered to authorities July 20 at the Cook County Jail in Gainesville, Texas, after a felony warrant was issued for his arrest. Masey was suspected in the theft of 90 head of cattle over a 9-month period from two Oklahoma ranchers who had entrusted Masey with care of their livestock. The cattle were sold at livestock markets in Overbrook and Waurika in Oklahoma.

TSCRA Special Ranger Troy McKinney led the investigation with Cook County Sheriff's Sgt. Jimmie Anne Harp. After his arrest, Masey was released on a \$20,000 bond.

"This case provides an example of how important it is to know who you are doing business with," said McKinney. "Cattle thieves often take advantage of others because they think they can get away with it. This was not the case for this suspect. I appreciate Sgt. Harp and the Cook County Sheriff's Office for working with me to arrest another cattle thief."

August BQA Tip: Multi-Use Syringe Care



High quality repeating syringes, or multi-dose syringes, are a great choice when vaccinating more than just a few cattle. These syringes should be cleaned at the end of each day. Rinse the outside of the syringe with tap water to remove dirt and flush the inside with boiling water. Never use soap or any disinfectants like bleach, alcohol, Nolvasan, Lysol or other similar products. These products can leave residues in the syringe that may reduce the efficacy of the vaccine.

Are you a certified Beef Quality Assurance producer? If not, the training is free and available online and in person at select meetings across the state. Visit texasbeefquality.com for more information.

Feds Delist Lesser Prairie Chicken



TPWD picture courtesy of Earl Nottingham

TSCRA applauded U.S. District Judge Robert A. Junell's July decision to overturn the listing of the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species. This announcement comes after the lesser prairie chicken, a Great Plains bird, was listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened in 2014.

"Judge Junell's decision to vacate the threatened listing of the lesser prairie chicken is a major victory for ranchers and landowners across the country," said TSCRA Past President Pete Bonds. "It is apparent that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to consider the many state conservation efforts before listing the prairie chicken as threatened."

"The administration should realize by now that ranchers are the best stewards of our nation's land, and they have proven their ability to successfully implement their own conservation practices. Onerous federal regulations only interfere with the outstanding work American cattlemen and women perform daily to provide food and fiber worldwide."

"TSCRA appreciates Judge Junell and Texas and Oklahoma leaders for their work on this very important issue. We will continue monitoring endangered species listings and fighting against an overreaching federal government that continues trying to regulate us out of business."

TSCRA EVENT CALENDAR

You're welcome to attend!

- Aug. 9: Texas Beef Quality Producer Training, El Campo
- Aug. 10: Texas Beef Quality Producer Training, Victoria
- Aug. 16: Ranching 101, Topic-Range & Pasture Management, Fort Worth
- Aug. 16: Ranch Gathering, Enid, OK
- Aug. 17: Ranch Gathering, Lawton, OK
- Aug. 18: Ranch Gathering, Archer City
- Aug. 24: CattleFax Market Outlook, Belton
- Aug. 25: CattleFax Market Outlook, Seymour

TSCRA members — ask about discounts from the following partners!