

THE CATTLE CALL

Newsletter for Alumni of the TCU Ranch Management Program

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From the President

Steven Mafrige 1995

Here we are in the beginning of December and the country in South Texas has dried out considerably since my last article. I hope your area has received more rainfall than we have; which is next to none. The current class visited our ranch on their South Texas field trip in late October. The Class, made up of twenty five students, is very nice and an impressive group of young professionals. None of the students in this year's class are enrolled in the bachelor degree plan. However, twenty students currently enrolled at TCU are candidates of the bachelor degree plan.

Round up is right around the corner. It will be held on January 22nd at the Fort Worth Stockyards. This will be the 3rd year to have it at the Stockyards, and it really is a great venue. This year the Saturday morning session will be held in the Stockman's Club Room at the Stockyards Station. The meeting will start at 8:30 am. The rodeo will be at 2:00 pm. The evening event will start at 6:30 pm and will be held in the Stampede Room at the Stockyard Station. The Billy Mata band will be playing again this year on Saturday night.

We will also be having the 3rd annual TCU Ranch Management Alumni party at the TSCRA annual convention in San Antonio on April 2nd, 2011. Missy Bonds does a great job putting on these events. Once again, most of the Alumni who are on the board of TSCRA paid for TCU Ranch Management Alumni to sponsor the Cattle Fax meeting at the convention. The Cattle Fax meeting is one of the most heavily attended meetings at the convention and it is a great place to see the TCU Ranch Management logo displayed. I encourage you to attend both of these events. A special thanks

goes to everyone that help make these events possible.

Please do not forget about the Intervet Scholarship program. This is an easy way to raise scholarship dollars by simply sending in our Intervet receipts. For more information about this program please contact Missy Bonds at msag98@aol.com.

Don't forget to think of prospective TCU Ranch Management students in your area. We have lots of scholarship dollars available for students to take advantage of. The interview process has already begun for next year's class.

The TCU football team is on its way to the Rose Bowl. It has been a great season for the Frogs. Between the baseball team finishing #3 in the county, the football team currently ranked #3 in the country, and TCU joining the Big East Conference. TCU could not ask for more national media attention. It is amazing to watch a school with less than eight thousand undergraduates be so competitive and conduct themselves in such a classy manner. Therefore don't forget to proudly display your TCU decals and show off your purple pride.

This will be my last article as your Alumni President. My two year term has flown by. I cannot put into words what a pleasure it has been to serve you. I have been blessed to get to know our faculty and our alumni on a more personal level. In my opinion, they are the finest you could ask for. I hope that I have met or exceeded the expectations of the alumni and everyone who put me in this position. I want to welcome Missy Bonds as our next Alumni President. I know she will do an outstanding job.

Thanks again for a great two years as your Alumni President.

Roundup

January 22, 2010



Please note the location change for Saturday morning's session of Roundup.

Join us at 8:30 a.m. in the **Stockman's Club Room** at the Stockyards Station .

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The block of rooms has been released for Roundup however you may still contact the following hotels for room availability.

**Hyatt Place** 132 E. Exchange Ave.  
Fort Worth, TX 76106  
817-626-6000

**LaQuinta**  
4700 North Freeway  
Fort Worth, TX  
817-222-2888

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Auction: Please consider a donation to the auction. The sale of these items goes in the Ranch Management Scholarship Fund which benefits future generations of Ranch Management students.

Roundup reservation form inside.



This year's morning Roundup topic will focus on the current political climate and major issues facing agricultural production.

We will examine issues ranging from regulation and governmental intervention to potential farm bill impacts on production agriculture.

We are sure this will be an informative and most likely opinion charged session.

We look forward to seeing you all there.



Ranch Management Internships

Prospective TCU Ranch Management students are required to have actual ranching experience to be considered for the program. This ranch experience is an essential part of the future success of that student. The student with very little actual experience will normally struggle with the practical application portion of the program. The cornerstone of the TCU Ranch Management Program is the critical thinking skills of combining the classroom knowledge with outside work experience to solve the assigned projects of the program. The field trips do enhance this process but are not designed to replace the work experience. This is where the involvement of Alumni could bridge the gap for receiving this actual ranch work experience.

As I travel in the college recruiting circuit, I've noticed that companies have turned to internships as their main venue for recruiting potential employees. The advantage of this process is for the student to determine if this is what they want to pursue as a

career, and the company to evaluate the potential employee. For Ranch Management, the prospective student could determine if the program is right for them while receiving the actual ranch or ranch business experience.

I would like to help facilitate the same avenue of internships for prospective Ranch Management students. This process would be facilitated by providing applications to students as they apply to the program. These applications will be distributed to the list of TCU Ranch Management Alumni ranches or businesses that match their criteria. I would like to broaden the internships, to not only include ranches, but also livestock oriented businesses that deal with the ranching industry. The ranch or business would then contact the student themselves to initiate the internship process.

The purpose of this program is to connect Ranch Management Alumni partners with prospective TCU Ranch Management students that could benefit from ranch work experience.

If you would be interested in participating as a TCU Ranch Management prospective internship partner, please call the office. You will be asked to fill out a general description of your operation and the job. This will give us a better idea of what type of internships we can provide. The prospective students will only receive a listing of internships that are available by category.

Thank you to all the Ranch Management Alumni who continue to be our #1 recruiting source.



Thank You for a Great Year

As we leave 2010 behind and head into a brand new 2011, I take a brief look back at the great year with which we have been blessed. From a TCU Ranch Management perspective, I believe one of the greatest blessings of 2010 has been the TCU Ranch Management Alumni. Old or young – near or far away – recent graduate or “more experienced,” so many of the alumni of this program have helped out in some way or another. I want to thank you all for your continued support.

As part of the faculty of the program, I understand the value of your support to the continued success of the program. Whether you allow us to visit your ranching operation, buy a meal for the class, stop by to visit the students and staff in the Ranch Management building, donate to scholarships, share valuable industry information, help with an alumni event, or so many other generous deeds, you are a vital part of this network.

As I take this opportunity to thank you for your time and resources, I ask that you continue to be active alumni of the TCU Ranch Management Program. Just do what you do – continue your diligent work in this great industry, network with other alumni, come back for Roundup in January, visit the TCU Ranch Management Reception at the TSCRA Convention, make the Summer Roping activities, and anything else that you like to do for the program. And by the same token, let us know how we can help you! We always look forward to the opportunity to help out or visit with you! So one more time, I want to thank you and wish you all a Happy New Year!



A special thanks goes out to the following alumni who helped work the career fair booths this fall at their fellow alumni colleges. **Katie Giles Shaw '05**, Kansas State; **Zack Pogue '07** and **Wade Perks '07**, Oklahoma State; and **Jeff Lewter '08**, West Texas A&M. These alumni stepped up and did an outstanding job recruiting students for the program.

Thanks to all of you who have called or emailed to volunteer for the future TCU Ranch Camp. You are all on a list to be emailed when more details have been finalized. I have been in discussion with the Texas Brigade Camps to determine if a ranching camp fits under their umbrella of educational purposes or not.

If you are not familiar with these camps, you can inquire at www.TexasBrigades.org. These camps are wildlife oriented and have an outstanding focus on the education of Natural Resource stewardship and leadership development. The format

and directorship of these camps are exceptional. Further news to come!