



STLA NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH TEXAS LONGHORN ASSOCIATION

New Scholarship Program to be Ready for 2007

At their July 22nd meeting, the STLA Board of Directors accepted the framework of a plan to make educational scholarships available to our qualified youth starting again in May 2007.

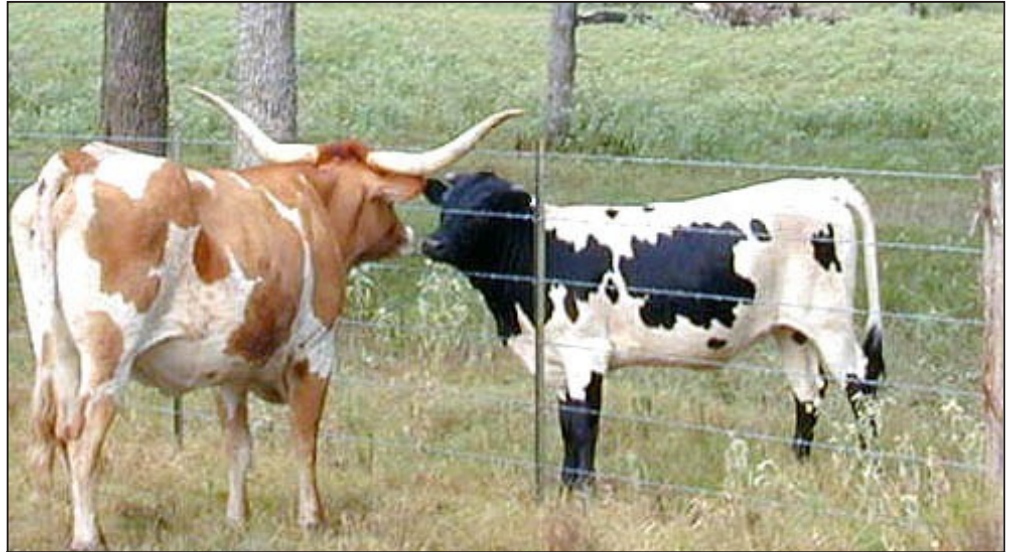
This new scholarship program has been written and researched by Vice-Presidents, Steven Zunker and Clarence Harabis over the last few months. Details are currently being finalized and should be approved by the Board during early September. Complete information on the revitalized program will soon be available to all members who might have students wanting to apply for scholarships to help with education costs upon completion of high school.

The maximum value of any one scholarship will be \$500 — and there will be two types of scholarships for which high school seniors may apply, if they meet the criteria established by the program. Applicants may only receive one scholarship and the monies awarded may be used at any accredited university, college, or trade / technical school.

The STLA Breeders of Tomorrow Scholarship will be available to any young person that has been a member of STLA, and/or whose parent(s) or guardian(s) have been members of STLA, for the current and previous two years. The STLA Kids & Horns Scholarship will be available for any young person who has shown in six (6) STLA-sponsored Texas Longhorn Shows within the last four years.

In addition to the official application forms, all applicants will be required to complete an essay on a topic chosen by the Scholarship Committee for that year. The applicant must request, complete, and return all application documents during the period of February 1st through April 15th of their high school senior year. Announcements of scholarship awards will be made by STLA by May 15th.

"We believe our youth are an integral part of our association. By involving our young people with Longhorn cattle, we feel they will learn lifetime values, build ethical character, as well as have fun and adventure. These scholarships are one way all of us can encourage and reward the youth that will carry on the future of the Texas Longhorn legacy," explains Zunker. The popular STLA Silent Auctions held at various events throughout the year will serve



Studies have proven that calves separated from their dams — but allowed to see, hear, and smell them across a fence—spent more time eating and less time walking and bawling than those that were completely separated from their dams at weaning.

Photo Courtesy of Star Creek Ranch

Oh- It's Crying Time Again... How To Make Weaning Time Less Stressful for Everyone

Weaning time can be stressful for cows and calves—not to mention those humans living in close proximity to the process. Most ranchers will tell you a stout fence and an even stronger set of earplugs are a basic necessity.

With traditional weaning practices, changes in environment and diet [for the young calf] can reduce animal performance and result in health problems. In response to these challenges, interest in "fenceline weaning" has grown in recent years.

Fenceline weaning is a management system in which the calves are removed from their dams but are allowed to see, hear, and smell their mothers. Depending on the fencing used, physical contact may also be possible. Fenceline weaning has the potential to reduce stress related to transport, changes in environment, and diet adaptation.

Calf Behavior & Performance

Research on fenceline weaning has demonstrated a reduction in signs of stress in young calves. Price et al. (2003) observed that calves that were separated from their dams but allowed to have contact with them across a fence spent more time eating and less time bawling than their counterparts that were completely separated from their dams. The behavior of calves that had been fenceline weaned was more like that of non-weaned calves.

These "Fenceline" calves were compared to calves weaned totally removed, or "Separated," from their dams. Calf behaviors were monitored for five days following weaning. Fenceline calves and cows spent approximately 60% and 40% of their time, respectively, within 10 feet of the fence

(Continued on last page)

as the major source of funding for this new program. Additional funding may potentially come from memorial contributions. Complete information about the scholarship

program will be posted on the STLA website during October and details will also be provided at the upcoming Fall Field Day.



Too many days without any rain and too many days of 100+ degree temperatures have caused many ranchers to give up on hay production and to let the cows simply graze the brown and dried-up fields for extra standing forage during this long, hot summer. However, baled hay for wintertime feeding has now become as precious as spun gold! Brush up on some nutrition tips to help make the most of what you have as we move into the fall months.

Supplement Savvy

No producer likes to spend money on supplemental feed for cows, but as forage becomes dry, dormant, or totally scarce, it is truly a necessity. If there is a lack of forage due to drought, or when forage gets dried out in early fall, feeding supplemental protein can give a boost to intake and digestion. "It's meant to complement the [available] forage," says Jan Bowman, a beef cattle nutritionist at Montana State University. Protein supplements can be important for winter grazing. "Dormant winter range forage is usually very low in protein content, making a supplement beneficial. The periods of calving through re-breeding are critical nutritional periods for cows. Feeding a good quality hay can help overcome some of this deficit."

"To know when protein supplements are needed," indicates Ed Huston, Texas A&M University beef nutritionist, "takes a critical eye. Watch the cow's condition. A body condition score (BCS) of 4 to 6.5 is a good target. If her BCS gets below or above that, something needs to be done." Bowman adds, "As a rule, high-producing cows need up to 3 lbs. of crude protein per day during lactation."

"Most nutritionists agree that it's best for animals to have all the nutrients they need every day. However, infrequent supplemental feeding of cattle on pasture—three times per week—produces satisfactory performance and actually has some benefits," says Huston.

He reports that performance of cows fed a weekly protein supplement is comparable to that of cows supplemented daily or three times

per week. "We know offering a weekly protein supplement gets them well-dosed with protein for four to five days, like 'stockpiling,' and by the time the protein levels go down in the animal's blood/urea levels, it's within a day or two of getting the supplement again." [From our studies] "...we also get a better distribution of feed among the animals that are fed infrequently, due to a reduced bullying effect. The perceived unlimited amounts of food, rather than smaller, limited quantities put out on a daily basis, likely causes animals not to fight and to eat in peace."

Excerpted from www.americancowman.com/when_to_supplement_cowherds/

Water Quality and Quantity are Big Concerns

Drought conditions have resulted in water shortages and poor-quality drinking water for many of the region's livestock producers. The high temperatures and lack of rainfall have caused many ponds, tanks, and creeks normally used for water sources to dry up or become undrinkable.

During periods of high temperatures, livestock need greater quantities of water, with lactating females having the greatest need. Poor-quality water results in lower water intake and reduced productivity. In some cases, livestock deaths have been reported due to poor quality water or severe shortages.

Ranchers should check animals often during periods of hot weather. Pay particular attention to symptoms of heat stress, such as rapid respiration. Signs of dehydration include: tightening of the skin, loss of weight, and drying of mucous membranes and the eyes. In cattle, the eyes will appear sunken and dull.

Excerpted from www.ag.ndsu.edu/drought/glh2oquality.htm

Seen & Noted - continued on page 7

President's Letter

Dear Members,

I hope you're getting all the rain you need. If you are, count your blessings. Severe drought conditions have made things tough on many breeders. On a more fun note, our Events/Field Day Committee has planned an exciting weekend for us this fall. Don't miss the chance to visit the Double R Cattle Co. in Sandia, Texas and the famed El Coyote Ranch near Kingsville on October 14th and 15th. This is sure to be an informative and fun-filled weekend for everyone. Please mark your calendars so you can attend. You will find all the details about this Field Day Weekend starting on the opposite page and watch for updates and additional information on the STLA website.

While at the Double R Cattle Co. on Saturday, October 14th, we'll have a short membership meeting. There will only be a few items on the agenda, but they're important. One of the items is a vote to amend the STLA Bylaws. Some of the amendments are minor, but some will have an impact on the way we do business. Please see the details concerning these amendments on page 7 of this newsletter.

Also, check the STLA website www.stla.org/ for the latest information about current events. Show schedules for San Antonio and Rockdale are being determined and will be posted soon. You can also provide feedback and make suggestions on the website's Message Board. Please take this opportunity to get involved in your South Texas Longhorn Association.

Until next time,

Rick Adams

You're Invited to the 2006 STLA FALL Field Day Weekend

Saturday & Sunday,
October 14 -15, 2006



HOSTED BY

(Saturday - all day)
Double R Cattle Company
Randy & Eileen Schuette
Sandia, Texas

&
(Sunday morning)
El Coyote Ranch
Riviera, Texas

Please RSVP by October 7th

to Eileen Schuette
Phone: 361 /547-7439
e-mail to: EileenDoubleR@aol.com
or to Suzanne Perry
Phone: 512/263-5313
e-mail to: suzannep@austin.rr.com

Please let us know if you will be attending for both Saturday and Sunday, or for the Saturday events only

A Buffet of Bar-B-Que Brisket will be served at the noon meal on Saturday

Please bring a salad, side dish, breads, or a dessert to share with everyone

Tea, Lemonade, Water, and Coffee will be provided

Ranch Tours on Both Days

A Silent Auction of Longhorn Items will start at 11:30 AM on Saturday
Please bring a special item to donate for the Auction.
All proceeds go to the STLA Scholarship Program

A South Texas Style Breakfast will be served on Sunday morning

Coffee and Juice will also be provided

Weekend Itinerary

Saturday, October 14, 2006

- 10:00 AM Arrive at Double R Cattle Co. (Sandia); meet & greet
- 10:30 AM Hayride Ranch Tour at Double R Cattle Co. led by Randy & Eileen Shuette
- 11:30 AM Silent Auction opens - time to relax and check out the auction items
- 12:15 PM Lunch
- 1:15 PM Short Membership Meeting / voting on Bylaw changes; announcements about upcoming ads, new scholarship program, & other business, etc.
- 2:00 PM Longhorn Learning Session
- 2:30 PM Break
- 3:00 PM Longhorn Learning Session

- 4:00 PM Last chance for bidding; Auction closes at 4:15
- 4:30 PM Auction winners announced / Social hour starts
- 5:00 PM Those staying over will need to travel to Kingsville (about 45 min.) Headquarter's hotel is the Best Western Inn on Hwy 77 North.

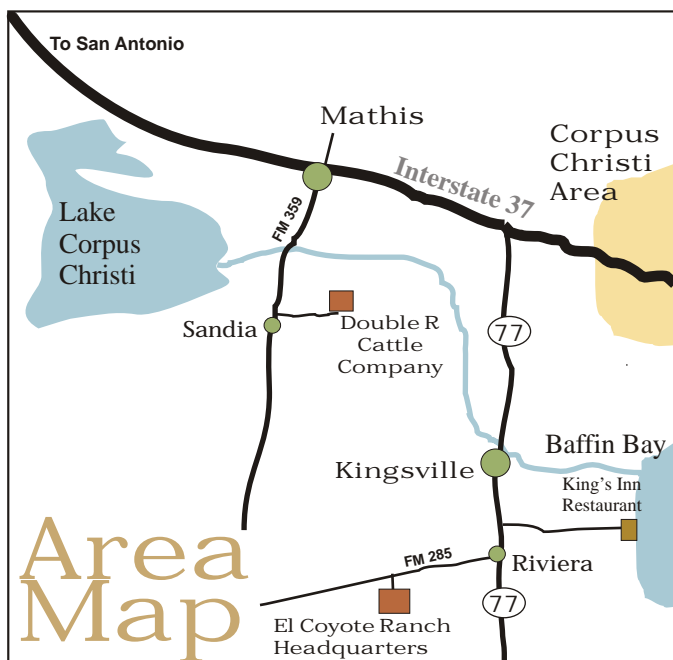
Sunday, October 15th

- 8:00 AM Meet & Caravan from Kingsville to Riviera (20 mins.)
- 8:30 AM South Texas Style Breakfast at El Coyote Ranch
- 9:00 AM Hayride Ranch Tour led by Felix Serna of El Coyote
- 11:30 AM Back to ranch main office / OK to leave if needed / short social time and any special questions
- 12 Noon All depart

2006 STLA FALL Field Day Weekend

Saturday & Sunday,
October 14 -15, 2006

Additional Information



STLA Headquarters Hotel

Best Western Inn - 2402 King Ave. or Hwy 77 North
Phone: (361) 595-5656

Ask for the special STLA Group rate of \$69 per night (based on occupancy of 2 adults)

(All rooms have two queen size beds, internet access, coffee maker, iron, microfridge, and a continental breakfast is included. The hotel is newly built and very nice and clean.)

Additional Lodging in Kingsville:

Comfort Inn, 505 N. Hwy 77

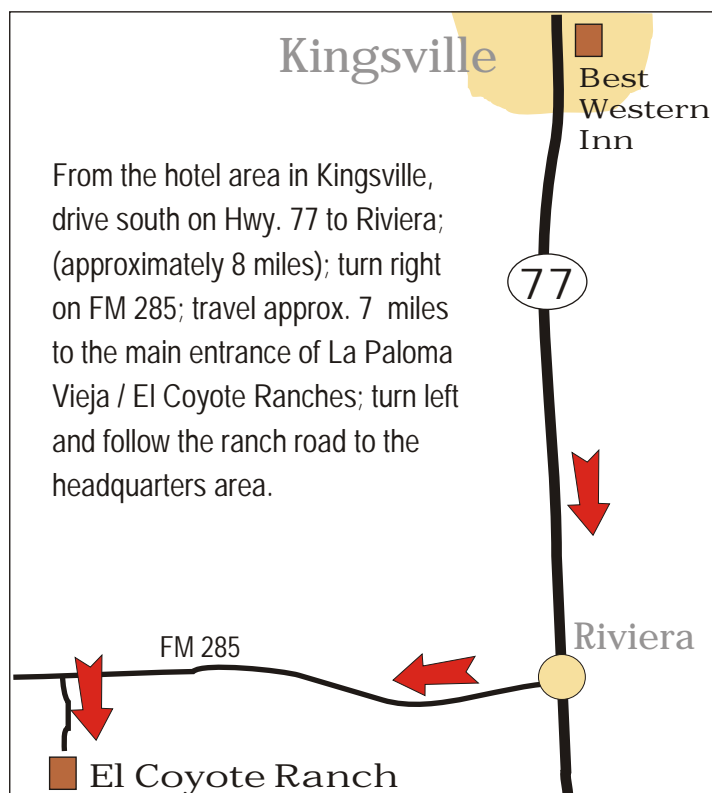
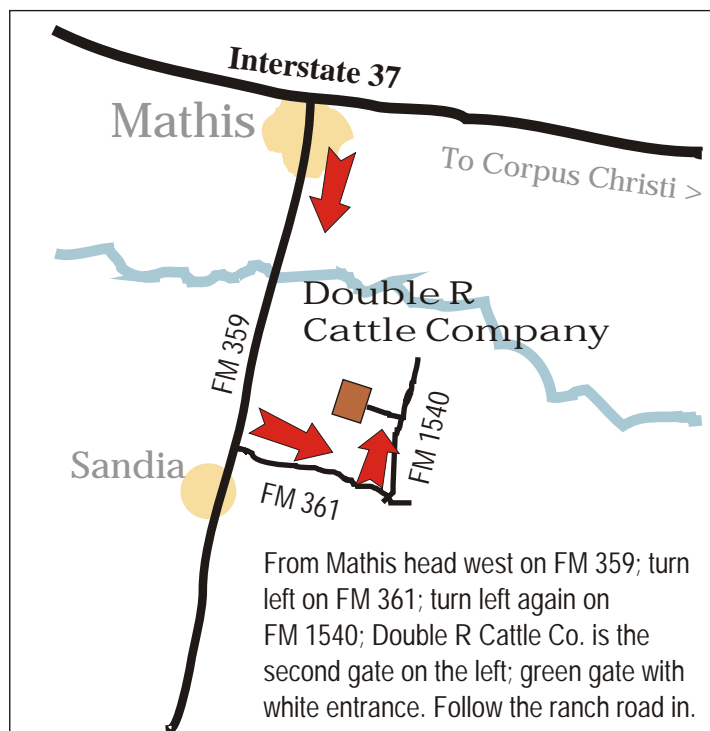
\$72 - \$119 per night

Quality Inn, 221 S. Hwy 77 Bypass

\$68 - 74 per night;

Roadway Inn, 3430 S. Hwy 77 Bypass

\$75 - \$85 per night



Watch for more details at
www.stla.org/

*Enjoy a
Fun-Filled Weekend
of Longhorn Looking
and Longhorn Learning*

JC Longhorns

Clarence & Jeanette Harabis

VICTORIA, TEXAS

Our herd, JC Longhorns, was started several years ago after I met and married Jeanette and moved to Victoria Texas. Having grown up around cattle while living in Shiner, Texas and having worked part-time for a ranch there that raised registered Limousine cattle and 42,000+ laying hens, I found it a great opportunity when I was asked to work for and manage the Double M Ranch at Victoria.

When the talk of raising Texas Longhorn cattle became a serious issue with the Double M Ranch group, I was the first in line to try to talk Matt Vanek out of this crazy notion. My limited knowledge of Texas Longhorns made me believe they were nothing more than skinny-looking roping steers with a lot of horn to give you trouble. I was soon proven very wrong! The more I studied about them and looked at various Longhorn herds and ranches on the internet, the more I was attracted to the classic beauty of these great animals.

My first dealings in shopping for and purchasing some Registered Longhorn cattle was with Rick Adams and Bill Plaisance at the Cedar Creek Cattle Company. While at their ranch and looking for stock for the Double M Ranch, I spotted a pretty little black heifer with a lot of horn. After making a deal on a few cows for Matt's herd, I went back home and began to tell Jeanette about this great-looking black heifer that I had fallen in love with over in Lockhart. It took some serious talking and a whole lot of persuasion, but we made a decision to purchase that heifer for the start of our own small herd of Longhorn cattle.

Once the heifer was at the ranch, Jeanette became more interested in the cattle and when those first baby calves hit the ground, with their wild and varied colors, you could say she was really hooked.



*Clarence and Jeanette Harabis
with their grandson, Jacob.*

We run a very small herd that resides along with the Double M Ranch herd located in DeWitt County, between Victoria and Cuero. We have been very pleased with the results from that pretty black heifer, named CC Backstreet Affair. She has given us some outstanding calves through breeding opportunities with sires from well-recognized breeders such as Cedar Creek Cattle Company, Lonesome Pines Ranch, and the Double M Ranch.

Through our association with other Texas Longhorn breeders, we have been fortunate to meet a lot of very nice people who have never hesitated to help us with questions and/or problems that they have already learned about from their ranching experiences. It has also been through these folks that we have become connected with the South Texas

Longhorn Association. I have been honored to serve as Vice-President of our organization for the past few years. We have also become involved with the Longhorn Shows at Austin and San Antonio each year where we exhibit some of our cattle in the Non-Halterd (Freedom) Classes. During these shows, you will usually find me working cows in the non-halterd pens and getting everything set up for the show.

Through these events, we are able to meet more breeders and other people interested in the Longhorn cattle. You also get to see the young people showing off their animals. During the shows, you really have the chance to enjoy the majesty and beauty of the Longhorns. We think there is nothing more grand than watching a beautiful Texas Longhorn walking through the pasture or out into the show ring.

This takes me to the family part of our lives and our youngsters. Jeanette and I have three grown children, along with four grandchildren. One of our grandsons, Jacob, lives with us now. Jacob is only seven years old, but when it is time to go to the ranch and work cows, he is always ready to give me a helping hand with penning or giving shots. I think we have a young cowman in the making. Does this mean that there will be some halter breaking in the future? along with some "halterd" show animals? Time will certainly tell!

Jeanette and I would like to extend our thanks to all of the people who have helped us along the way as we've started raising Longhorn cattle. We always enjoy the great times we have with everyone— whether it's working together or just having fun!

You can contact Clarence and Jeanette at their place in Victoria, Texas. Their phone number is (361) 648-6249 or visit them on their website at www.jctxlonghorns.com.

New Five-Year
"Sustaining"
STLA Membership
Soon to be Available

Look for the revised Membership Application Form on the website soon and sign up for the new, longer-term STLA Sustaining Member status
Five years for \$125. Makes a great gift for Christmas or for a friend!

Lucky 7 Longhorns - Young, hand-tamed and excellent-pedigreed bull for sale. Used him on heifers and as AI clean-up this year. Revenue 108 x Delta Bella (an Emperor daughter) breeding; HUGE horn bass. Photo at 12 months old can be seen at <http://i59.photobucket.com/albums/g293/lucky7longhorns/Longhorns031.jpg>
Contact Jeff Lowe, 512-577-4302 05 e-mail to: lucky7longhorns@gmail.com

Kimble Cattle Company, Karnes City, Texas. First Offering: 62" Overwhelmer Jack semen; the sire of WOW. For color, horn and conformation. Cattle for sale at all times. Call (830) 780-3151.

Pearl Longhorn Ranch - *Long Horns, Deep Bodies, and Proud Pedigrees!* Got black & white? See the fancy offspring of our Senior Herdsire, CC Blue Warrior. And check out our Junior Herdsire, CC PeaceKeeper - an outstanding Phenomenon son! Visit us at www.pearl-longhorn-ranch.com for more info & photos. Allen & Suzanne Perry. Call (512) 263-5313 (ranch office) or (512) 970-3793 (cell).

Astera Meadows Ranch- Colorful yearling heifers available. 2006 heifers and steers sired by Texas Tuff and Tomcat available at weaning. Select two- and three-year-old bred cows also available, many bred to Tomcat and Double Eagle. Our HD Leading Edge son is back on the market; he has lots of color and horn! Call Wilton Wilton (512) 560-1263 or visit us at www.asterameadows.com

Cedar Creek Cattle Company has quality Longhorns for sale at all times. Visit our website for more details at www.c4longhorns.com or call (512) 398-9340.

Quail Ridge Ranch - Burnet, Texas. Tom and Mary Beth Peoples. Come see our Spring 2006 calves sired by QR It's A Lonely Knight and other top show sires. Visit us at the ranch or at www.peoplestx.com. Phone: (512) 756-2999.

Hitching Post Ranch - Herd Sires are *Romeo Robert, DH After Shock, Pat's Desperado*, and the newest addition to our herd sire lineup, *LWR Legend (GF Handsome Hitter x TeeTa's Pride)*. Check out our website at www.hitchingpostranch.com. Jody, Tonya, & Patrick Beck, Cedar Creek, Texas. Phone (512) 321-0312; or e-mail to beckslonghorns@aol.com.

Star Creek Ranch - Where it's fun to own Texas Longhorns and fun to be one too! Raising the kind you'll want in your pasture. AI services offered. Visit our website at www.starcreeklonghorns.com or call at (979) 272-3600. A Millennium Futurity Partner.

Heartland Ranch Longhorns - Robert & Polly Housewright, Harwood, Texas. Call (830) 540-3678 or e-mail us at robpol@gvtc.com.

Box Z Ranch - now located between Luling and Lockhart. Lots of color to go with horn, conformation, and pedigree. Schedule a ranch tour soon to view our four herd sires and their offspring. Steven Zunker & Louis Christa, 1506 Harwood Rd., Luling, TX 78648 Ranch mobile: 210-827-3940 or visit us at www.boxzranch.com.

Double J Longhorn Ranch - *Breeding Quality Texas Longhorns.* Introducing our new herd sire, Super Hero. Come take a look at www.doublejlonghorns.com or e-mail us at: info@doublejlonghorns.com

The Struthoff Ranch - *Breeding Quality Texas Longhorns*
JK Sterling 262 and Dixie Goer calves for sale. Great show animals with multi-colors and horns. Herd sire prospects for sale. 9660 FM 1863, #1, San Antonio, Texas; Ranch (830) 980-3250, (830) 980-9523 fax; e-mail: LWStruthoff@aol.com or visit us at www.struthoff-ranch.com.

Double R Cattle Company - Longhorns for sale at all times. Come see our new calves out of High Center, a Highway Man son. Also have three breeding-age bulls available. Visit us at www.doublercattlecompany.com. Owners Rick Middagh and Randy & Eileen Shuette. Call (956) 358-1708.

Longbranch Longhorns. Cattle for sale at all times. Top lineage, docile longhorns that have it all! Color, conformation, and some of the longest horns in central Texas. Jimmy & Joann Muse. (512) 253-6722 or longbranch@ev1.net.

Lemley Longhorn Ranch - Joel & Shirley Lemley, Blackwell, Texas. Home of Tri 7 Southern Emperor. Phone (325) 282-4006 or e-mail to sdl@camalott.com



JC Longhorns, Victoria, Texas: Very splashy black and white heifer for sale. Show quality. Check her out at www.jctlonghorns.com. Junior herd sire (High Center x CC Backstreet Affair) and other longhorns for sale as well. Call (361) 648- 6249 or e-mail charabis@hotmail.com

ASOCL - A Splash of Color Longhorns Kay & Ted Roush - Millennium Futurity Partners. Cattle for all occasions: show, breeding stock, or yard art. Offering progeny of EOT Outback Hot Shot, ASOCL Unstopabull Chex, and ASOCL Remarkabull Tommie. Visitors always welcome and nationwide delivery is available. Call 775-655-2405 or visit us at www.asocl.com.

Double M M Ranch - Victoria, Texas. Need a trophy steer for the front pasture? Orange & white in color; horns 51" ttt and 75.75" total. Check him out and other cattle for sale on our new website at www.doublemmranch.com. For more information call (361) 648-6249 or e-mail charabis@hotmail.com.

Rocking "O" Ranch, featuring heifers and bulls from Brawl (Overwhelmer x India) and Blue Jacket (Abraham X Hello Dolly), the 1999 TLBT National Grand Champion. Blue Jacket is for lease (\$100 per month) or sale (\$2,500). Located 20 miles south of Austin. Call for a photo price list or ranch visit. Curtis Ohlendorf, (512) 327-5766; e-mail: c.ohlendorf@mail.utexas.edu.

JC Texas Longhorn Ranch, Joe Wissel, San Marcos - For Sale: Three young herd sire prospects - one from Hudson's Kobra, one from Dark Star Chex, and the last one from Outback Elija (a Boomerang CP son). All three for \$1,800 or &650 each. Bulls can be seen on our website at jctexaslonghorns.com. E-mail to joel@jctexaslonghorns.com or call 281-723-7210.

Travis Peak Ranch is liquidating the choice Longhorn herd of Alaskan breeder, Bill Sims, who recently sold his Belton-area ranch. Daughters of Abraham, Overwhelmer, Lethal Weapon, and Wall Street available. Big-bodied cows with lots of horn and color; most with calves at side. Call Bob Coffee (512) 474-5261 or gkcoffee@aol.com

Krazy K Longhorns - "Krazy about our Longhorns ... Serious about the Breed." Straight Butler and blended genetics. Herd sires, Shakota Chex (Coach), Cadillac Chex, straight Butler (VJ Tommie), Southern Justice KKL (GF Southbrooke), and Whizzbang KKL (585 Overwhelming Toro). Visit us at www.krazyklonghorns.com. Theo & Gail Kocian, Hallettsville, Texas; phone (361) 798-6774, or e-mail to: kklonghorns@aol.com.

Whether you need show or pasture cattle; we have cattle for sale at all times. Also, we are partners in the Millennium Futurity, so anything you purchase is eligible for the Futurity. Stop by anytime for a visit. Lonesome Pines Ranch; John & Christy Randolph; (713) 703-8458.

C&W Ranch. Wes & Carol Chancey, Lampasas, Texas. Home of Keyman, big son of Gummman with horns measuring 70-1/8" ttt. His 2006 calves are exceptional and are all Millennium Futurity eligible. Watch our nursery grow through our website! Our newest Junior Herdsire, M Arrow Just Whistle is a great- looking Phenomenon son. Call (512) 556-8186; or visit our website at www.cwlonghorns.com. Our new e-mail is cwlonghorns@wildblue.net.

Lucy Creek Ranch, Lampasas, Texas. *Bill and Anita Wappler Look for the AWB brand* - 23 years in the breed....Offering an impressive young herdsire with great horn genetics; dam is 73+ inches ttt; also opportunities for colorful heifers, select springers and pairs. Please visit our great hill-country showroom. Check us out at www.lucycreekranch.com or e-mail to wappler@austin.rr.com. Call 512-345-3280.

Texas Two Steapp Longhorn Ranch - Dr. Clyde & JaLayne Steapp, Schulenburg, Texas. We are now boot scootin' with Longhorns and really enjoying our new dance. Working on breeding quality longhorns with great genetics and conformation. We have Cows, Heifers, Calves and Bulls for sale. Visitors always welcome. Please visit our new web site at www.texas2steapplonghorns.com.

JbarB Longhorn Ranch - Jim and Barbara Homer. *Our Gentle Giants Are "User Friendly."* Heifers and bull calves for sale, out of Leprechaun or Abraham sons. We have two young bulls, W 04 Roundup, a Roundup /Tabasco grandson, and Blackjack, solid black out of Country Leprechaun; both with great horns. You can reach us at: (512) 858-7246 (Ranch); or (512) 585-1618 (Mobile); or e-mail to jbarblonghorns@aol.com.

**The Cattle Classifieds can be seen everyday at www.stla.org/
The online listings offer a direct link to the individual ranch websites.**

The next full-color STLA Co-op Ad to appear in the *Trails* magazine is scheduled for the February 2007 issue.

You can reserve a space for your ranch ad starting on October 14th at the STLA Fall Field Day.

For more information, contact Steven Zunker at boxzranch@msn.com

Better Bales

If you don't want to lose forage quality once a bale is made, consider using plastic net wrapping rather than twine. According to a two-year study by the University of Wisconsin, net-wrapped bales have lower storage losses during outdoor storage compared to twine-wrapped bales (7% vs. 11% respectively). Researchers say this is because the net-wrapped bales shed water better— if they are stored on well-drained areas.

Limit Feeding of Hay to the Cow Herd

With many cow operations very limited in forage resources, cattle managers will be looking for methods to make optimum use of the hay that they do have available.

Purdue University beef nutritionists evaluated the effect of limiting access time to large round bales on cow performance and hay intake. They conducted two trials using 32 pregnant, non-lactating cows in each trial. Cows were allowed access to large round bales for 4, 8, 12, or 24 hours each day.

Trial 1 involved large (about 1,480 pounds) mature cows getting access to moderate quality orchardgrass/alfalfa hay. Cows were limited access by enclosing the large hay bales in a small corral. The cows were turned into the pen for the predetermined amount of time and then moved back out of the pen. (Note: It is necessary to have adequate space available for the cows to all get to the hay when the time is restricted greatly.) The mature cows, when limited access to the orchardgrass/alfalfa mixture, had reduced intake from 29.6 pounds of dry matter intake per day down to 18.6 pounds of dry matter intake per day. However, weight change was only slightly affected.

In Trial 2, second calf heifers (about 1,180 pounds) were fed mixed grass hay. This trial also was conducted for 50 days. A dramatic decrease in the amount of daily dry matter intake was measured. But, these younger cows were *more adversely affected* by the reduction in hay intake.

Cows can be limit fed large round bales of hay by limiting access time to extend forage resources. "Ball park" estimates are about 7.5%, 20%, and 40% reduction in dry matter disappearance, respectively, for 12, 8, and 4 hour limited access compared to having 24 hour access.

Researchers felt that restricted access time resulted in more efficient use of the hay. Part of the increased efficiency is due to less hay wastage, and part is due to increased digestibility of the forage.

Limited access time will cause decreased dry matter intake and could result in reduced weight gain, especially in younger cows. Strategic supplementation may be necessary to maintain adequate body condition on cows with limited access to forage. (Source: *Lemenager, et al. Purdue University 1998 Annual Report to NCR-87 Committee and personal communication.*)

You can read the complete article on this study and view graphs concerning dry matter intake and feeding time allotments compared to weight gain/loss at this website:

Excerpted from: *The Cow-Calf Corner: Dept. of Animal Sciences; Oklahoma State University Extension Service*
www.ansi.okstate.edu/exten/cc-corner/

Herd Management Tips for Fall

As autumn approaches, it's time to lay the groundwork for a successful calving season next spring. What you do with your herd this fall can greatly influence your calving success, weaning rate, and re-breeding rate next

S&EEN & noted CONTINUED

from page 2

year. Here are some ideas to implement:

1. Preg-check your cows. The most cost-effective measure you can do this fall is to be sure you're only feeding pregnant cows through the winter months. Imagine owning a business where you have 100 employees. What would you do if 10 of them never showed up for work all year long?

2. Vaccinate for health. Many ranchers vaccinate for the wrong diseases at the wrong times, or don't vaccinate for diseases they could prevent. Ask your veterinarian what, if any, vaccinations are needed for your area at this time of the year..

3. Deworm all animals. Eliminating parasites as cows go into the most costly time of the year to feed them will nearly always pay good dividends.

4. Conditioning. Calculate a BCS on each cow. If cows are thin, it is much easier to add weight earlier in the winter rather than later. A cow needs to be in BCS 5.5-6.0 at calving, and a heifer needs to be in BCS 6.5. The goal is to have them at ideal BCS at least for 1-2 months pre-calving, so you don't have to play catch-up close to calving time.

One BCS point is roughly 75-100 lbs., so if a cow is in BCS 4 on Nov. 1 and due to calve March 1, she needs to gain 150-200 lbs. in the next 2-3 months. Cows that need to add body condition likely can't do so on hay alone. A

(Continued on last page)

Info on Amendments to STLA Bylaws

A vote will be held by the general membership of STLA on October 14, 2006 to make the following changes to the association's Bylaws:

1. There will be a specific vote on revising the way in which members of the Board of Directors are notified of special meetings (currently shown as by mail or telegram). The change will allow for notification by e-mail.
2. Also to be included is the provision for allowing the Board of Directors to vote via e-mail to obtain a Board directive on certain day-to-day issues that require timely responses.
3. There will be a blanket provision for other minor revisions that pertain to grammar, spelling, and erroneous cross-references in the original document. These revisions do not change the intent of the document, but provide for greater accuracy.



Texas Longhorn Show Schedule

Entry Deadline: Dec. 1, 2006

Move-In: Friday, Feb. 2, 2007

Show Date: Saturday, Feb. 3, 2007

Release: immediately following the show, but exhibitors are not required to move out until Monday, Feb. 5, 2007

Making Weaning Time Less Stressful

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during the first two days. During the first three days, the Fenceline calves bawled and walked less, and ate and rested more; but these differences disappeared by the fourth day. All calves were managed together starting seven days after weaning. After two weeks, the Fenceline calves had gained 23 pounds more than the Separate calves. This difference persisted since, after 10 weeks, the Fenceline calves had gained 110 pounds (1.57 lb/day), compared to 84 pounds (1.20 lb/day) for the Separated calves. There was no report of any differences in sickness, but calves that eat more during the first days after weaning normally stay healthier.

A follow-up study demonstrated similar advantages of fenceline contact when calves were weaned under drylot conditions and their dams had access to pasture.

Post-weaning performance is highly dependent on the quality and amount of feed that is available to young calves once they have been removed from their dams. Early in the post-weaning period, calves weaned onto high-quality pastures would be expected to gain more relative to calves weaned into a drylot. In years where forage quality and/or quantity is lacking, calves weaned and placed into a drylot with high-quality feeds (i.e. good quality hay, silage, grain, by-products) may gain better than cattle weaned on pasture. The decision to provide supplemental protein to weaned calves can be made based on quality and quantity of the forage available.

Calf Health

Research also suggests that reducing stress on a calf can even help improve immune function and reduce morbidity. Fenceline weaning has been shown to reduce the signs of behavioral stress (Price et al. 2003). In the South Dakota State University study, the incidence of disease symptoms and the acquisition of immunity following vaccination was similar for pasture weaned and drylot weaned calves (Pruitt et al. 2005).

Considerations

1. Fencing should be substantial enough to prevent the calves from nursing and keep the cows and calves separated. Producers have used various combinations of electric and non-electric, and high-tensile, barbed, and woven wire fencing. Gerrish (1998) suggests that, for cattle that have not been exposed to electric fencing, either woven wire or at least five

strands of electric fencing will likely be necessary. If the cattle are familiar with electric fencing, three strands will likely be sufficient. Yet another option is to utilize 4 to 5 strands of barbed wire combined with a single strand of electric fence offset from the main fence.

2. Pasture the cows and calves together in the pasture where the calves will be after weaning. One week in the pasture allows time for the calves to become familiar with the fences and water source. At weaning time, return the calves to the same pasture and move the cows to the adjoining pasture.

3. Some producers have found it useful to use a yearling or an adult cow without a calf in the weaning pasture to lead the calves to the water source.

4. Performance of the weaned calves is highly dependent on forage quality and quantity. Options to provide high quality forage in the weaning pasture are: (a) Graze early in the season and allow adequate re-growth prior to weaning; (b) Harvest hay and then graze the hay field at weaning time; or (c) Plant ryegrass, small grains, or other annual forages to provide high quality forage for the weaning calves. The need for supplementation of calves weaned on pasture depends on forage quality and quantity and the desired average daily gain.

5. Fenceline weaning fits well into a herd management system where maximizing gain is not important (i.e. replacement heifer development).

Excerpted from:

"Fenceline Weaning for Beef Cattle," a newsletter article from the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service and "Fenceline Weaning," from the Cow-Calf Corner / Department of Animal Sciences at Oklahoma State University.

Seen & Noted: Continued from Page 7

cow's energy requirement can be met much more easily and cheaply with grains or by-product feeds. By-products such as corn gluten, soybean hulls, and brewer's grains are some feedstuffs that can be used to add energy and/or protein to a cow's diet.

5. **Separate heifers from cows.** Separating bred heifers from adult cows during the winter feeding period through calving and pasture turnout will pay big dividends in calf health and heifer re-breeding rates. Studies show first-calf heifers lack the breadth of immunity of adult cows. These heifers then pass on less maternal immunity to their calves. As a result, all calves in the herd are much more likely to get sick. First-calf heifers are also at a competitive disadvantage in feed consumption. A larger, more aggressive adult cow is always going to get more than her fair share of available feed.

6. **Provide windbreaks, not barns.** Cattle in areas that experience harsh winter weather need protection from the elements, most notably the wind. Windbreaks can be made of wood, metal, or stacked round bales of hay. Cows that have access to windbreaks consume up to 13% less feed than those with no protection.

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Excerpted from: American Cowman: Vet Advice - Herd Management Strategies for Fall www.americancowman.com/health/vet_advice_herd_health/

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS:

This issue of the STLA NEWS contains official notification to all members concerning a vote to amend the STLA Bylaws that will occur during a short business meeting at the Field Day on October 14, 2006. Please review the information provided in the President's Letter and the Amendments information shown on page 7.



South Texas Longhorn Association

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STLA FIELD DAY
WEEKEND
October 14-15th
See More Info Inside!

Mailing label here