

NOVEMBER 2020

We promote the advancement of land stewardship through ranching, science, and education.



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FROM THE CEO

Improving the Herd

NEAL WILKINS

The idea of improving a herd – a deer herd or a cattle herd – is familiar to both wildlife managers and cattle ranchers. Many of the concepts and terms used for both deer and cattle management are similar, so it might seem reasonable to conclude that the two pursuits have some parallel when put into practice. Because it is increasingly common for ranchers and wildlife managers to be one and the same, it's important to figure out just how far the parallel applies. Take for instance the fact that selecting genetically superior sires is likely to be the most efficient means for improving the desirable traits in a cattle herd.

Put simply, because one bull can breed a lot of cows, a good bull can really help the performance of your next group of calves. Technologies like Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) can help cattle managers choose bulls that are likely to pass on important traits such as longevity, fertility, growth rate, and carcass merit. To realize any of these inherited traits depends, however, on the degree to which cattle have proper forage, water, and

maintenance through reasonable health protocols. So, without regulated stocking rates and good grazing management, the influence of improved genetics can make little difference in herd performance.

Improving the performance of East Foundation's cattle herd includes these good management practices, but we are also working to improve performance by introducing bulls with favorable genetic traits. Zane Herrin's report, later in this newsletter, describes some of our recent work on this.



"Our goal is to improve the efficiency and longevity of our cows. We need cows that are heat and insect tolerant, able to hustle in large pastures, docile to handle frequently, and able to raise a desirable calf and rebreed annually."

-Zane Herrin, East Foundation's Cattle Operations Manager

Now, back to the comparison with white-tailed deer management. When it comes to improving a white-tailed deer herd, it is a buck's antler characteristics that are of interest to most managers. Because superior antler characteristics do tend to be influenced by genetics, improving future antler size and quality ought to be a matter of simply making sure that the bigger-antlered bucks do most of the breeding, right? This has traditionally been attempted through removing what appear to

be genetically inferior bucks. As it turns out, in this case, what appears to make sense on the surface, does not seem to work when put into practice.

In wild and free-ranging white-tailed deer, it is increasingly clear that genetic improvement of offspring through selectively culling bucks is impractical, or it just simply does not work. Attempts at genetic improvement have commonly included culling of bucks judged as genetically inferior, thus leaving genetically



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LOCATIONS

Hebbronville

310 East Galbraith Street
Hebbronville, Texas 78361

San Antonio Viejo Ranch

474 East Ranch Road
Hebbronville, Texas 78361

El Sauz Ranch

37216 Highway 186
Port Mansfield, Texas 78598

San Antonio

200 Concord Plaza Drive, Suite 410
San Antonio, Texas 78216
(210) 447-0126

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superior bucks to sire the next generation of deer. Scientists with Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute have, for 13 years, researched this specific issue on the 113,000-acre Comanche Ranch in Maverick and Dimmit counties. What they found was that intensive culling – removing young bucks with small antlers while retaining young bucks with larger antlers – had no effect on the antler quality of the offspring. No effect!¹

These results were from a well-designed study that had a lot of detail. When added to similar results from previous work by scientists in Texas, Mississippi, and elsewhere, the evidence becomes convincing. This is not to say that antler characteristics are not heritable. To the contrary, there is clear evidence from captive breeding that antler characteristics can be selected and bred into offspring. But a confined breeding facility is a very different environment that includes controls over nutrition, mate choice, breeding conditions, and other variables.



While the concepts are similar, the practicalities of improving the genetics of a cattle herd are quite different than that of improving the genetics of a deer herd, and knowing these limitations is key to making good management decisions.

In the wild, a buck's antlers simply are not a reliable measure of his breeding value. The cumulative influence of nutrition, drought, stress, and age outweighs genetic potential when it comes to the

expression of antler characteristics. Adding further to this, the breeding behavior of deer is such that individual bucks cannot effectively monopolize breeding. So, in any one year, the number of fawns sired by any one buck is small. Thus, an individual buck, no matter how great his genetics, cannot have a large effect. This is essentially what the results of the Comanche Ranch study tell us.²

DEER #25

She was first captured on November 16, 2011, on the Agua Dulce pasture in the north-central part of the San Antonio Viejo Ranch. She was 4 ½ years old, weighed 97 lbs., and she was not lactating – the latter fact indicating she did not produce a fawn that year. In her right ear, she was fitted with ear tag number 24 – tag 25 went in her left ear. Blood samples and measurements were taken and then she was released. Nine years later she was recaptured on November 8, 2020. She was 13 ½ years old and weighed 104 lbs. She was lactating and in reasonably good condition – she had produced a fawn (or fawns) this year. She was recaptured within three-quarters of a mile of where she was captured nine years earlier.

At 13 ½ years, this deer has thus far survived at least three extreme droughts – one of them being the worst of the last century. She has thrived in some of the harshest conditions that could be faced by any white-tailed deer. She was extremely advanced in age – while rare, deer this old are not unheard of. She is an example of the myth of the “old barren doe” being just that – a myth. For wild, free-ranging white-tailed deer, it turns out that there is little evidence for “reproductive senescence.”

In one study published in 2007, researchers in Minnesota found that does up to 15 ½ years old were still as reproductively successful as were younger deer.³ In fact, they suggested that these older does

might be making stronger genetic contributions to their offspring for surviving through tough environments. These scientists concluded “...a significant value of these long-lived, reproductive individuals may be their notable potential to contribute to the variation of phenotypic qualities upon which natural selection acts through inheritance of associated genetic factors.” In other words, older does are survivors, and they give birth to offspring with tougher genetic traits. Or, simply stated, they are just good mamas.



Since 2011, we have collected information from over 3,200 white-tailed deer in order to support the science that informs wildlife managers. With one of the largest known populations of wild, unmanaged, and un hunted white-tailed deer, East Foundation’s ranches serve as a valuable resource for our science partners at Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute and elsewhere.

1. Colleen Schreiber with Livestock Weekly recently highlighted this work as presented by Comanche Ranch Manager Donnie Draeger. You can access Colleen’s article [here](#).
2. Thanks to Dr. Dave Hewitt for fact-checking this.
3. DelGuidice, G.D., M. Lenarz, and MC Powell. 2007. Age-specific fertility and fecundity in northern free-ranging white-tailed deer: evidence for reproductive senescence? *Journal of Mammalogy* 88(2): 427-435

PROJECT PROFILE

The Next Generation of Science-Minded Managers and Management-Minded Scientists

LANDON SCHOFIELD

Cattle herd performance is measured and quantified using a variety of different metrics including weaning weights, breed up rates, and other measures. Each of these metrics are driven by different inputs and management practices that, when applied appropriately, can produce a desired outcome. The same approach can be used to create a lasting impact on the next generation of managers, biologists, and industry leaders. But what are the inputs that can be applied and how do we measure our progress?

For most every wildlifer there was an “aha” moment, because of cumulative “inputs” a point when it all just clicked, and they realized this field was where they wanted to dedicate their time and energies as a vocation. For me, those inputs came while growing up in south-central Idaho, where family and friends ranched sheep and cattle across the semi-arid alpine desert. It was there that I began to learn of the dynamic relationships among

livestock production, wildlife management, and the land. I am the product of a variety of “inputs” that have influenced my view on wildlife management and land stewardship.

A major “input” led by the East Foundation is known as the deer capture project. Since 2011, undergraduate students, faculty, and volunteers from around the state have traveled to South Texas to help on our annual deer captures which are conducted across our four largest ranches. Through the decade-long project, nearly 800 students have helped in the captures and data collection on more than 3,200 deer.

In an age of virtual classrooms and online degrees, the deer capture project provides up-and-coming wildlife professionals with critical, hands-on experiences that are needed to get wildlife jobs or to thrive in graduate school. Students

gain experience in proper animal handling techniques, data collection, collecting and storing biological samples, and other methods.



Dr. Clayton Hilton, of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, shows how to measure body length of a captured white-tailed deer to students from Texas A&M-College Station.

These data also allow the East Foundation to answer important questions South Texas landowners often ask about, including the effect of drought and lactation on animal stress, the influence of soil type on antler size and body mass, the effect

of rainfall on fawn recruitment, and how forage quality and quantity influence deer populations.

During captures, students learn from and network with faculty, wildlife professionals, and current leaders in the field. One such student is Ethan Teparo, a wildlife student at Texas A&M University, who volunteered on a deer capture in October. Teparo noted, “The deer captures held by the East Foundation are unlike anything

we are exposed to on campus in our coursework. We look forward to these captures every year, and everyone who participates walks away with quality, long-lasting experiences.”

While we can measure the number of students that participate, the number of deer that are captured, and the data that is collected, the influence of the deer capture project on student education is more difficult to quantify. However, we

are convinced that our “input” into students of wild things and natural resources will help produce future generations of science-minded managers and management-minded scientists who have a deeper appreciation for land stewardship.

Research Partner: Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville

EDUCATION EXPERT

Teaching in a Virtual World

MASI MEJIA

As a natural resource educator, I have always recognized how exciting it is to take students out on the land. Fast forward to fall 2020 and educators in formal and informal settings have, by necessity, changed the way they connect with students. Admittedly, I joined many education conferences, webinars, and Zoom meetings this summer, and I watched many YouTube and TikTok videos to fully verse myself in how we could best deploy our own education programs.

Many school districts and grade levels are utilizing different educational platforms to educate their students in this new virtual world. As I learned about the many platforms available, I was overwhelmed as I thought about accessibility for students in South Texas. At the beginning of quarantine, many families found themselves utilizing tablets and cell phones to complete schoolwork, as well as sharing limited internet bandwidth. I too found myself asking my teenage brother to “Get off the wi-fi!”

Despite these challenges, educators have been quick to adapt to their surroundings and be extremely fluid

this year. East Foundation staff have done the same. We have taken our field lessons – virtual.

We decided the best way to implement virtual field lessons would be to capture and share prerecorded content of our professionals that normally join our in-person field lessons but utilize a live host for a more engaging viewer experience. We have developed five field lessons that highlight the work that we do alongside our partners. If you’re interested, you can sign up for upcoming lessons [here](#). The field lessons we offer are:

- A Look into Our Past: How South Texas Ranchlands Were Settled
- Who’s Eating Who? Predator and Prey Relationships on the San Antonio Viejo Ranch
- Elusive Ocelots
- Land to Sea Stewardship
- Behind the Gates of a Working Cattle Ranch - Coming in December!

We even partnered with the Archbold Biological Station in Florida to create a onetime event where we compared three species (green jay, caracara, and tortoise)

found in Texas and Florida. Our joint Facebook Live event reached more than 1,500 views. We are now in the process of creating a similar event with Bamberger Ranch Preserve.

To date, we have conducted ten virtual field lessons and have had more than 2,000 registered participants. Teachers are grateful for these virtual field lessons as they are TEKS aligned and allow students to learn from the experts. Educators across the state realize students perform better when they are engaged in the classroom. At the East Foundation, we believe students perform better when they are inspired by the outdoors. As soon as we are able, we plan on getting students back on the land but will continue to use our new virtual platform to expand our reach beyond south Texas.

We are grateful for Archbold Biological Station, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Museum of South Texas History, Texas A&M Carnivore Ecology Lab, The Texas Zoo, and the University of Texas- Rio Grande Valley Coastal Studies Lab, along with our East Foundation staff, for taking the time to visit and record content.

RANCH REPORT

Improving Efficiency and Longevity

ZANE HERRIN

This fiscal year we turned a new page in cowherd improvement – purchasing bred heifers and single-breed English bulls. To appreciate where we are going, we need to remember where we came from.

The bull battery once consisted entirely of ranch-raised bulls, maverick and branded, and heifers were kept as replacements with little selection criteria. Once the Foundation was established, bulls were both purchased and raised on the ranch. The bull battery since 2007 has consisted of Braford, Hereford cross, paint Beefmasters, and ranch-raised bulls.

In 2015, ranch-raised bulls were phased out and solid-colored Beefmasters and Santa Gertrudis were purchased. We continued raising our own heifers, so we know they are a percentage Beefmaster or Santa Gertrudis.

Historically, bulls were with the cows year-round, so we could not accurately measure annual reproductive performance. It was a long and hard-fought battle to plan and implement a new breeding program, but we have now had six years of defined breeding seasons. We won the war, and now pull bulls with relative efficiency. It is a much-improved herd today, thanks to those who fought the fight.

Breeding seasons allow us to monitor reproductive performance more accurately, and as a result, we have recognized the need for continued improvement. We track pregnancy rates, weaning rates, and weaning weights, combining all three measures to determine

the number of pounds weaned per cow exposed. Management and environment also play a role, but when metrics are consistently lower than industry averages despite drought or rain, we believe it is time to make genetic improvements.

Genetics also affect performance off the ranch. Feedyard and carcass performance have improved over the last several years, but we still have room for improvement. We continue to lose potential revenue, directly and indirectly, due to quality grades below plant averages.



So, why red cows? We hope Red Angus influence will improve the efficiency and longevity of our herd.

Improved traits in a hybrid offspring, or *heterosis*, and breed complementarity are a focus of our program as we move forward. A three-way cross maximizes heterosis, so we assume we have given up heterosis due to multiple generations of breeding crossbred cows with crossbred bulls. The Red Angus breed is a great complement to our cowherd, and we purchased bulls with strong maternal and solid carcass expected progeny differences (EPDs).

Our hope is the Red Angus influence will improve carcass merit of our

Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 1

American Ocelot Premiere at the Paramount Theater in Austin

DECEMBER 1

Land Stewardship Ambassador Application Deadline

DECEMBER 8

Investment Committee Meeting in San Antonio

DECEMBER 10-11

Professional Advisors Meeting at San Antonio Viejo Ranch

DECEMBER 15

Land Stewardship Ambassador Selection Notification

JANUARY 19-20

Board of Directors Meeting in Hebronville

calves and optimize maternal heterosis with our cowherd. Using a single-breed bull allows us to “clean up” our own replacement heifers, allowing us to estimate at least 50% of her breed composition. This is valuable moving forward so we can better select a complementary bull to rebreed her and create a more desirable calf. We also purchased bred first-calf Santa Gertrudis X Hereford replacement heifers, which will result in moderately sized, well-adapted cows.

Ultimately, our goal is to improve the efficiency and longevity of our cows. We need cows that are heat and insect tolerant, able to hustle in large pastures, docile to handle frequently, and can raise a desirable calf and rebreed annually. These characteristics point to a red-hided cowherd with about 25% Brahman influence. We see Santa Gertrudis, Red Angus, and occasionally Santa Gertrudis X Hereford as the breeds most suited to meet our goals.



ALUMNI PROFILE



JASON LOMBARDI

Jason grew up in Nutley, New Jersey, 12 miles from New York City in the most densely populated part of the U.S. He graduated in 2010 with a B.S. in Conservation and Wildlife Management from Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Following his undergraduate degree, Jason began his career with predatory animals by assisting on a behavioral study of captive red wolves in Florida, conducting presence/absence surveys for northern Spotted Owls in Washington, and tracking urban coyotes on Cape Cod. Jason went on to earn an M.S. degree in forestry with an emphasis on forest wildlife management from the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture at Stephen F. Austin State University. His thesis research examined the response of coyotes, bobcats, red foxes, grey foxes, and raccoons to natural and anthropogenic features within the city of Nacogdoches, Texas.

Jason began his Ph.D. in Wildlife Science at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute (CKWRI) at Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 2016, studying ocelots on the East

Foundation’s El Sauz Ranch. His dissertation research combined camera traps and collar data to understand the factors related to ocelot occupancy in South Texas. This project sheds new light on how coyotes, ocelots, and bobcats interact in space and time, and how the spatial structure of woody plant communities influences ocelot habitat use over time. Jason is now an Assistant Professor of Research at CKWRI. His primary research focuses on the landscape ecology of ocelots to identify suitable habitat for wildlife crossing structures and recovery goals in South Texas.

In his own words:

“Studying ocelot ecology on private ranchlands in South Texas was a dream opportunity. Studying ocelots is not easy by any stretch of the imagination. The amount of effort to capture one photo of an ocelot, or to capture one ocelot to fit it with a GPS collar, is beyond fathom.

The El Sauz Ranch will forever hold a special place in my heart. I am forever grateful for being able to play my part in helping recovery efforts with ocelots on private lands with the East Foundation leading the charge. Their commitment to recovering ocelots in Texas and doing so in a way that balances good science, land stewardship, and management is a formula for success.”

Looking Beyond 2020

TODD SNELGROVE

In the weeks leading up to the election there was a satirical headline making the rounds on the internet that said, “Election Outcome Predicted to Have No Major Effect on Eternity.” This struck me as particularly fitting to those of us who have the good fortune of being land stewards and reminded me of a lesson I learned more than 25 years ago as a student at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Murray Milford taught Agronomy 301—a general soil science class that several hundred students from agriculture and natural resources disciplines took every semester. Dr. Milford taught this class for decades and was an icon on the Texas A&M campus known for riding his bike to work, his classic flat top haircut, and his passion for teaching. He also had the uncanny ability and commitment, to learn the names of all the students in his classes within the first couple of weeks of school. He could recall your name and academic prowess—or lack thereof, for years. Stories abound of his capacity to even recall your parent’s name and grade if they too were a student of his from their years at A&M.

During one of his lectures on soil organic matter and the important role it plays in soil productivity he shared a story of a research farm outside of London, England, that undertook an experiment in the late 1800s. They took a field and divided it in two. On one half they added compost every year for ten years. On the other half they did nothing. He posed a question to the class, “How long were they able to measure differences in productivity between the two plots?” The answers from

the class were wide, ranging from “one year,” to “two years,” “five years,” and even “20 years.” We were all wrong.

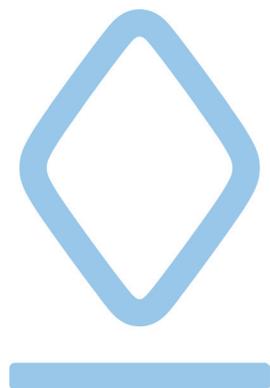
Dr. Milford shared with us that more than 100 years later they were still measuring differences in productivity between the two plots. While certainly a testament to the value of compost, the take home message for land stewards is much more profound. Unlike some professions, our performance will not be measured in months, quarters, or years. It will be measured for decades and generations – long after we no longer call this Earth our home.

With that kind of impact on the line it is important to have a clear understanding of what guides you. At the East Foundation we have made it simple—we do what’s right for the land and the life that depends on it. This is our North Star—a consistent beacon in an ever-changing world. It helps provide context for what we do and is reflected in our mission to advance land stewardship through ranching, science, and education. We stay true to this guiding principle with our commitment to support conservation, impact the future, and maintain our legacy.

The principle of doing right by the land and the life that depends on it permeates all our programs. We conduct applied research that is relevant to the needs of landowners and implement responsible land management practices such as prescribed fire and rotational grazing systems that enhance the productivity of our rangelands. We ensure public policy is based on sound science and incentivizes

conservation on private lands. Our education programs inspire the next generation of leaders and our professional development efforts lead to more science-minded managers and management-minded scientists. 2020 made us adjust how we do some of these things, but it did not change why we do them.

Like most everyone else, we are ready to look back and see 2020 in our rearview mirror. We started this year with a clear understanding of what’s important and we will start 2021 with the same guiding principle—nothing has changed. As land stewards, we will continue to do what’s right by the land and the life that depends on it with the conviction that our positive impact will be measured in decades and centuries, far outlasting any election cycle, economic downturn, or global pandemic.



RAINFALL REPORT

Pray for Rain and Gravy

ALLIE BIEDENHARN

Spoiled by a wet spring and summer, this fall has been much dryer on East Foundation ranches.

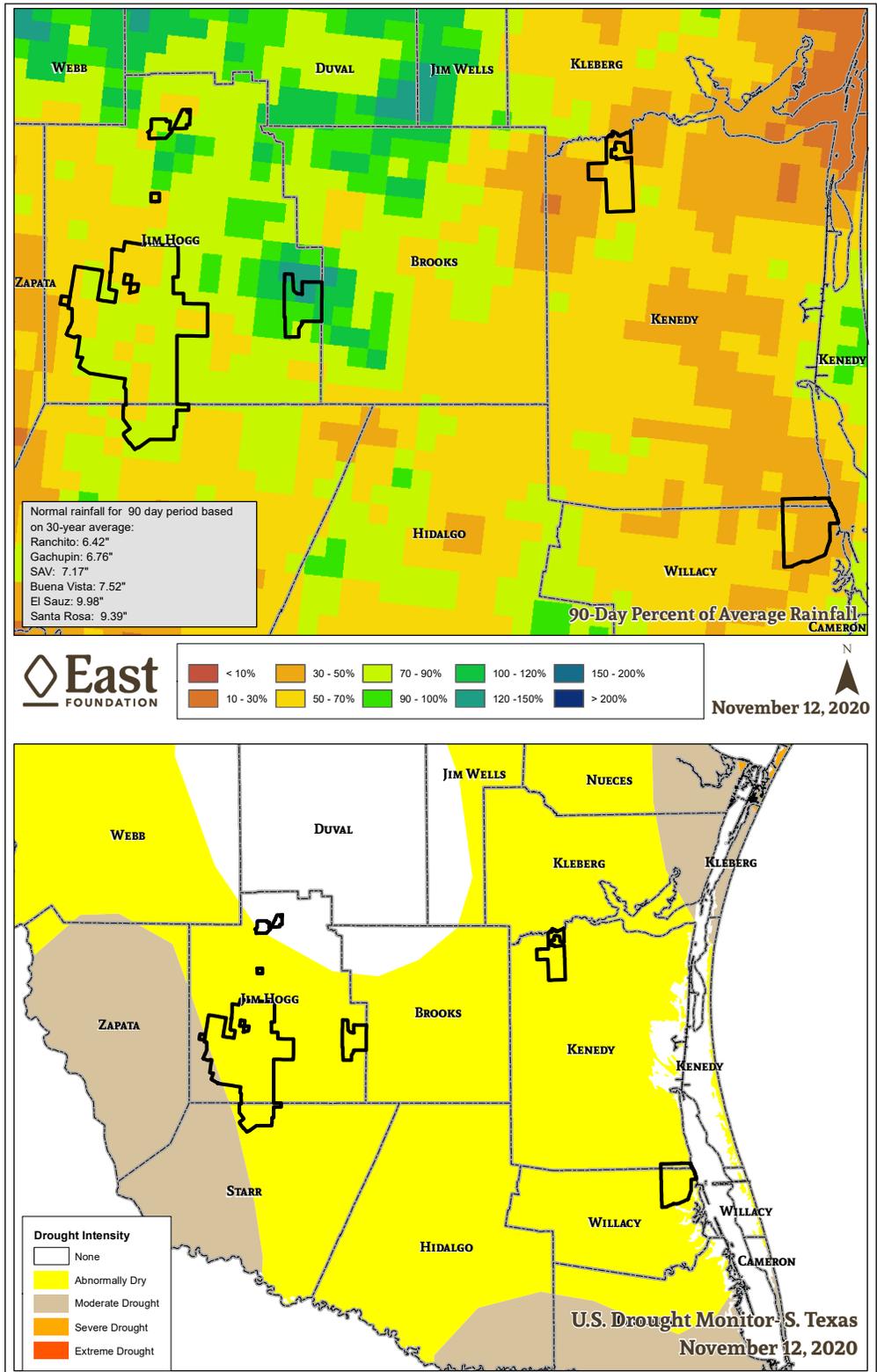
The San Antonio Viejo has received only 60 to 80 percent of the average rainfall in the past three months, with most of the ranch catching between three to six inches of rain in the last 90 days.

In Kenedy County, the Santa Rosa has received only half of the normal rainfall in the past three months, with rainfall accumulation averaging five inches across the ranch.

Since hurricane Hanna over the summer, rain has been scarce on El Sauz and the entire ranch is in abnormally dry conditions. Only three to five accumulated inches of rain have been recorded since September.

We are heading into this winter with early signs of drought spreading across the U.S. Drought Monitor map for deep south Texas. With La Niña conditions developing in the Pacific that often result in extended periods of warmer temperatures and less rain for Texas, we'll be keeping a close eye on our rangelands in the coming months.

For more information on drought and other weather events or to view information specific to your part of the state please visit: <http://climatexas.tamu.edu/drought/maps/index.html>.



EMPLOYEE PROFILE



JAMES POWELL

James Powell is the East Foundation's Director of Communications and is responsible for promoting the Foundation's mission and programs to supporters, partners, the media, and the general public.

With a professional background in land and wildlife conservation and communications, James brings senior-level experience to the East team to guide the organization's promotion of its mission and to expand awareness about the cultural, ecological, and economic benefits resulting from a strong private land stewardship ethic.

He has spent his career communicating the importance of land and wildlife conservation on behalf of organizations including Ducks Unlimited, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Lower Colorado River Authority, and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

He also has spent time in the outdoor retail industry marketing for Cabela's, Inc., and in the timber industry managing and marketing a recreational leasing program for the former real estate investment

trust Plum Creek (now part of Weyerhaeuser).

A former president of the Professional Outdoor Media Association and member of several professional communications and conservation organizations, James holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Technical and Scientific Communication from Texas Tech University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Science from New Mexico State University.

James and his wife Tammie have a son, Gage, 17, and daughter Caitlin, 13, and enjoy an extended family of parents, siblings and others spread across the state. James and family enjoy spending most of their time outdoors camping, hunting, shooting, fishing, riding horses, and caring for their modest and sometimes chaotic petting zoo comprised of miniature horses, chickens, dogs, and cats.



SECURITY REPORT

End of Your Rope

MATT ROBINSON

We had an incident with an unusual trespasser on the Ranchito. Ranchito borders the south end of Hebbbronville near the Jim Hogg County show barn. A prospect show was being held at the show barn and it was the first show for many of the animals. A young heifer got spooked and broke free from the young girl leading her. She jumped several fences and ended up trespassing on East Foundation's Ranchito in a 1,906-acre pasture, so this young heifer had really escaped. We got calls from the owner, ag teachers, the sheriff's office, border patrol, and several others reporting the "trespass violation."

It was Saturday and even though I live on Ranchito, I and everyone else were unable to respond to this major trespass violation until Monday. You would think it is just 1,900 acres; we should be able to easily find this trespasser, grab the lead rope she is still dragging attached to her halter, and bring her to justice. Not so.

Zane and Miguel searched from horseback on Monday and only found her tracks and the drag marks left by the trailing lead rope. The only cows we had in the pasture were four remnants left after the last gathering and she had hooked up with them, undoubtedly learning their bad habits. I spent at least a couple of hours the next few days looking for her and never saw anything but tracks. She had become one of the renegades. It was quite embarrassing that we could not find one white, halter broke heifer named Sweet Pea. It would have been much more appropriate if she were named Jezebel, She-Devil, or even Chaos. I was ready to name her Hamburger.

Friday rolled around. Zane, Timo, and Miguel were able to break free from their normal cowboy duties and come look for Sweet Pea – here is how Friday went.

A norther had blown in early that morning and it was raining off and on and chilly. We spread out and started our first sweep across Ranchito, they being on horseback and me on a UTV. After about 30 minutes, we ran across two of the remnant cows. We were not really on a mission to catch them, but they did not know that.

They took off running across the pasture like the crazy nuts they are, towards an old raggedy fence that is mostly laying on the ground. One of these stupid renegades chose to jump the fence in an area that was still in fair condition. She got her hind leg hung in it, fell on her side, and could not get out. So now, we had to get her out. We had no tools and struggled to unwind the wire from her hoof.

Timo had a rope on her horns to assist in holding the cow. He was on the opposite side of the fence from the cow and us. We finally got the hoof out and she jumped up and ran off with the rope still on her horns. Timo lost his dally. I was on my UTV “horse” on the right side of the fence so I chased her until I could get a tire on the rope she was dragging and get her stopped. The guys soon arrived and were able to heel her and tie her down. We decided after all the trouble we may as well keep her. We left her tied down to pick up later and continued our search for Sweet Pea.

We crisscrossed all of Ranchito and still no Sweet Pea, so we started a second sweep across the ranch. I was searching in another portion of the ranch when Zane called my cell phone and advised he had caught Sweet Pea and was going to lead her back with the horse to the pens. He also advised that he and Miguel

were in the area of the tied down cow and since it was so late, they were going to release her.

I returned to the pens and met Timo. I noticed he was riding oddly, and his horse had dirt all over its face. Timo said he had been running across an open area when the horse stepped in a hole and they went head over heels. Timo, who is near 70 years old, said it only knocked his breath out for a while. He was aggravated that his horse had run off and he had to walk a good way to catch it. Luckily, neither were hurt, although I am not sure Timo would admit if he were.

A little while later Zane and Miguel arrived leading the uncooperative Sweet Pea. We put her in our holding jail until the owners could get there to bail her out. Zane looked a little scuffed. He said when he untied the cow she jumped up and snorted, which is normal. After they snort, they usually run off. This cow jumped up, snorted, and ran after Zane. Zane said he ran until he couldn't run any more but she was still after him. She knocked him down, hooked, and trampled him a little bit and then ran off. I guess she got even.

Since Sweet Pea was now in custody, we upgraded this aggressive cow to our most wanted list. Now we had Sweet Pea incarcerated in her cell and the owners showed up to bail her out. We figured between three cowboys, a security guy and the owners we could lead Sweet Pea into the trailer. **We were wrong.**

Zane had led her around in the stall and she seemed docile. We opened the cell door; she saw freedom and she put the bad habits she learned from the East Ranch renegades to immediate use. She put her head down and took off with Zane holding on to about the last six inches of lead rope. Zane is young and strong, but with only six inches of rope, there was no stopping Sweet

Pea. I was running behind with just enough speed to keep them in sight. Timo and Miguel were running to get the horses that were already in the trailer. I do not know how he did it but Zane held on, always about half a step from falling face first, trying to get a wrap on anything he could as he went flying by. Finally, Sweet Pea ran into a mesquite thicket and slowed enough so Zane could get some slack and get a wrap around his torso, sit back, and get Sweet Pea turned and stopped.

The posse arrived in the form of Timo and Miguel on horseback. They escorted Sweet Pea to the paddy wagon. Zane proved that, even if you are at the end of your rope, do not give up hope, keep trying and eventually you will get enough slack to get control of your situation.

It was just another day for Zane, Timo, and Miguel but I feel sure the owners of Sweet Pea appreciated their efforts. I know East Foundation appreciates it. Sweet Pea was sentenced to probation and rehabilitation, and is required to wear a hock bracelet to monitor her movements. Good luck at your next show Sweet Pea!

