

AUGUST 2020

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

## FROM THE CEO

# World War I and Beef Cattle

NEAL WILKINS

### Grit – perseverance and passion for long-term goals.

During World War I, South Texas ranchers were recovering from drought, fighting cattle fever ticks, and dealing with the recently formed Internal Revenue Service. On top of that, the entire nation was suffering a pandemic of Spanish Flu. In the face of all those challenges, those ranchers had the added responsibility of raising cattle to feed our troops.

In April of 1917, the United States finally entered World War I. We sent more than two million soldiers to France. Our well-fed soldiers tipped the scales in favor of a November 1918 victory for the U.S. allies – Britain, Russia, and France – who had already been fighting for three years. While the direct price of victory included over 53,000 US troops killed in action, there was also sacrifice back at home. World War I was marked by one of the largest campaigns ever to successfully produce food for troops overseas.

Our allies were handicapped by food shortages, and if we were

to win, we would have to learn to feed a huge army overseas. The country responded by conserving food and mobilizing our agricultural systems. President Woodrow Wilson established the U.S. Food Administration and put Herbert Hoover in charge. By 1918, the domestic consumption of food in the U.S. had dropped by 15%. It was only through decreasing consumption while increasing production that our country could possibly meet the needs of the war effort.

Beef was a staple for feeding U.S. troops. An individual soldier's reserve rations, for example, included one pound of beef daily. This was often in the form of canned beef, mostly from cattle coming from ranches in Texas and elsewhere in the Great Plains. During the Great War, cattle prices rose by more than 50% from their pre-war levels. America's ranchers responded by producing more cattle.

But where did all those cattle come from? Much of them came from South Texas. The railhead in Hebbronville was

then among the largest cattle shipping points in the nation. Cattle from ranches throughout South Texas were shipped north from Hebbronville eventually arriving at the slaughterhouses and packing plants in the Midwest. Cattle for feeding troops were shipped north to meat packers in Chicago, Kansas City, and Green Bay. By 1918, the stockyards in Kansas City were handling more than 55,000 head of cattle per day, while meat plants in Chicago were processing more than 1.5 million pounds of beef weekly. By the end of the war, U.S. troops had consumed an estimated 800 million pounds of beef.



Cattle were shipped by rail from South Texas to stockyards throughout the Midwest.



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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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## THE ACME PACKERS

The Indian Packing Company of Green Bay, Wisconsin was one of those wartime packing plants. Under contract with the U.S. War Department, they supplied canned beef to our overseas Army. Some of the canned beef produced by the Indian Packing Company originated as live cattle from South Texas.

After the war, the Indian Packing Company continued to operate, but they apparently had some restless employees. One of the company's receiving clerks, Curly Lambeau, talked his boss into providing \$500 for some jerseys and a field for playing football.

Lambeau, having been a star running back at Notre Dame, knew what he was doing so he both coached and played as running back for the new team. In 1919, their first season of play, the Packers had a 10-1 record. Their only loss was to the Beloit Fairies (it must have been embarrassing for Lambeau to lose to the Fairies).

The Indian Packing Company was not as profitable after the war, so they were sold to the Acme Packing Company of Chicago. The team was then renamed the "Acme Packers."



The wartime demand for beef to feed troops not only helped form the beef cattle industry, but it made possible the Green Bay Packers, one of the grittiest teams ever.

Although Acme continued to produce canned beef until 1943, it only controlled the Packers for a few NFL seasons. Finally renamed the Green Bay Packers, Curly Lambeau's team went on to win more NFL championships than any team in history.

Lambeau played for the Packers for 10 years and coached the team for the following 20 years. He is the namesake for the Packer's Stadium (Lambeau Field) and at 226 wins is ranked the NFL's fifth most winningest coach – right behind Tom Landry at 250. Pretty good record for a shipping clerk at a meat packing plant.

This month (August 2020) marks 100 years since formation of the National Football League (NFL). Originally named the American Professional Football Association, the NFL was birthed in immediate post-war boom of 1920. The "Acme Packers" joined the league during the following year. The origin story of the Acme Packers is one of the greatest in the NFL – and they may be the only team birthed by beef.



## Supporting Our Partners

JASON SAWYER

**KING RANCH INSTITUTE**  
FOR RANCH MANAGEMENT  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE

**CAESAR KLEBERG WILDLIFE RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE

**FREE Virtual Symposium**  
October 29-30, 2020  
Register at [krirm.tamuk.edu/symposium](http://krirm.tamuk.edu/symposium)

**Update**  
Symposium is going virtual!

*The Future of the Wildlife Enterprise*  
Applying New Knowledge & Tools

East Foundation is proud to promote our partners as they assist us in supporting land stewardship through science, education, and outreach. We would like to invite all of our readers to join us in attending the The King Ranch® Institute for Ranch Management's (KRIRM) **17<sup>th</sup> Annual HOLT CAT® Symposium on Excellence in Ranch Management** held virtually in partnership with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute (CKWRI).

These two institutions dedicated to the conservation and stewardship of natural resources will present a free virtual wildlife and ranching symposium titled *The Future of the Wildlife Enterprise: Applying New Knowledge and Tools* on October 29 and 30, 2020.

Registration to the virtual symposium is required and free. [Click here to register and download the complete agenda.](#)

The virtual program will be presented on the Zoom platform from 12:00 pm to 4:30 pm on Thursday, October 29th and from 12:00 pm to 3:30 pm on Friday, October 30th. All times are CST. Registrants will not be required to create a Zoom account.

The wildlife symposium will highlight the challenges and future opportunities of balancing ranching and wildlife resources. Managing resource use among overlapping enterprises is seldom as easy as prescribed in the annual ranch plan. Featuring presentations from:

- Dave DeLaney, General Manager of Ranching and Wildlife for King Ranch, Inc.
- Greg Simons, owner of Wildlife Systems, Inc.
- Tyson Johnson, General Manager of Sooner Cattle Company in Oklahoma
- Marc Bartoskewitz, General Manager of Cook Canyon Ranch in Texas

- Scott McFarlane, Wildlife Manager for Deseret Land and Livestock in Utah
- Rick Danvir, President of Basin Wildlife Consulting, LLC in Wyoming
- Clayton Wolf, Chief Operating Officer for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Fidel Hernandez, PhD, Endowed Professor for Quail Research
- David Hewitt, PhD, Endowed Director of Wildlife Research
- Carter Smith, Executive Director of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

After each virtual presentation, time will be allotted for a question and answer session with the respective speaker. A break during the first afternoon will showcase the recipients of the Texas Farm Credit Certificate in Advanced Ranch Management. On the second day of presentations, the break will feature a viewing of American Ocelot, a film that features a glimpse into the life of the endangered wild cat.

## PROJECT PROFILE

# Supporting Ocelot Recovery

TYLER CAMPBELL

“Private landowners are key to ocelot conservation in the United States.” This was the opening sentence of an article contained within the East Foundation’s May 2014 newsletter. This statement is as true today as it was six years ago. About 80% of the known breeding population of ocelots in the U.S. occur exclusively on private ranches in northern Willacy and Kenedy counties in South Texas.

Since inception, East Foundation and our research partners Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have been collecting information on this small, spotted, and highly secretive cat from our El Sauz Ranch, located adjacent to Port Mansfield. Our long-term (and big) goal is to recover the ocelot in the U.S.

Our initial steps have used a combination of data collected at live captures, movement and survival data from ocelots equipped with GPS collars, prey surveys, and camera traps to understand interactions and relationships of the ocelot population occurring on private ranches.

The ocelot population occurring on private ranches is much larger and more robust than the small ocelot population occurring on public lands of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Refuge System. In accomplishing this, we have worked closely with nine different graduate students, having graduated three PhD and two MS scientists into professional positions.



Satisfied ocelot photographed in camera trap on El Sauz Ranch in 2014.

Photo Credit: Michael Tewes

These efforts are advancing science and in 2020 alone three peer-reviewed scientific papers have been published from data collected on our El Sauz Ranch. Two of the papers used our camera trap data and found

- 1) [more ocelot detections in dense woody cover than in open grassland areas](#) and
- 2) [that ocelots use the same areas as bobcats and coyotes](#).

The third paper used GPS collar data and determined that [ocelots were active at night and bobcats were active at dawn and dusk](#), which reduces foraging competition between the two cat species.

An important simultaneous step in recovering the ocelot in the U.S. is to develop assisted reproduction tools and strategies for ocelots. With our partners at the Cincinnati Zoo, the University of Tennessee, and Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute we are collecting and storing semen from ocelots and bobcats live-captured on our El Sauz Ranch.

Viable semen from stored samples will be used to produce new kittens and eventually supplement or establish new ocelot populations in South Texas. Yet another big goal needed for ocelot recovery.

Today, I can think of no wildlife species that captures the spirit of “grit” more than the ocelot. Faced with unprecedented challenges of habitat loss and fragmentation, not to mention the threat of vehicle collisions and population isolation – this species persists and survives

mainly on private working ranches. East Foundation is committed to recovering the ocelot and private ranches are the key to making this happen.



Passion and Persistence

TODD SNELGROVE

The ranchlands owned by the East Foundation were acquired by the East family across a period of about one hundred years. In addition to the regular hardships of ranching in the Wild Horse Desert, the early days when Tom T. East, Sr. and his wife Alice Gertrudis Kleberg East started a family on the San Antonio Viejo Ranch were marked by persistent drought, a world war, a global pandemic, and the Great Depression.

On the surface this may appear to be a bad run of luck. As any ranching operation that has stood the test of time can attest events like this happen more often than we care to remember. Here is a short rundown of notable events since Tom T. East, Sr. started ranching in 1912—certainly, there are more than this.

- World War I (1914-1918)
- Spanish Flu Pandemic (1918-1919)
- The Great Depression (1929-1939)
- The Dust Bowl (1934-1935)
- World War II (1939-1945)
- Korean War (1950-1953)
- Texas Drought of Record (1950-1957)
- Asian Flu Pandemic (1957-1958)
- Hong Kong Flu (1968-1969)
- Vietnam War (1964-1973)
- 1973-1975 Recession: unemployment peaked at 9.0%
- 1981-1982 Recession: unemployment peaked at 10.8%
- Federal Savings and Loan Crisis (1986-1995)

- Gulf War (1990-1991)
- Drought of 1999-2002: in 2001, the Rio Grande ceased flowing into the Gulf
- 9/11 Terrorist Attacks (2001)
- Global War on Terror (2001-2013)
- The Great Recession (2007-2009): unemployment peaked at 10.0%
- Drought of 2010-2012: from October 2010 through September 2011 rainfall averaged less than 11 inches making it the driest year in Texas history.

One thing is clear. History shows that adversity is certain but impossible to predict. Each of these events sent ripples, in some cases waves, throughout the social and economic fabric of our nation often causing significant hardship. Through it all, when others may have faltered, the East family and their legacy have endured.

I have found myself wondering why as we deal with the current slate of challenges. My conclusion—**grit**, or as Angela Duckworth, Ph.D. described “a special blend of passion and persistence.”

The East family was passionate about the land and they persisted despite many hardships—they had grit. Farmers, ranchers, and those who make their living off the land share this passion and the ability to persist—they have grit.

At the East Foundation we are well aware of the challenges our nation faces—no need to list them here—and the impact it has on our ability to meet our mission and carry on the legacy of the East family. I am

Upcoming Events

AUGUST 19

Professional Advisors Meeting via Zoom.

AUGUST 21

Research Partners Meeting via Zoom.

SEPTEMBER 2

Staff Open Enrollment Meeting via Zoom.

SEPTEMBER 15-16

Board of Directors Meeting in San Antonio.



## Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 15-16

Cattle Raisers Virtual Convention.

SEPTEMBER 16

Greater South Texas Women in Agriculture Virtual Conference - Use Your Voice Tina Buford will represent the Foundation as a speaker.

SEPTEMBER 27

Texas Association for Environmental Education Conference - Inspiring the Value of Nature in a Virtual Learning Environment Masi Mejia will represent the Foundation as a speaker.

OCTOBER 15

South Texans' Property Rights Association 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Fundraiser in Encino, Texas.

OCTOBER 29-30

King Ranch Institute 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Holt Cat Virtual Symposium on Excellence in Ranch Management.

reminded of a speech Winston Churchill gave during World War II on October 29, 1941 while visiting Harrow School, his alma mater. Included were these words:

"Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never - in nothing, great or small, large or petty - never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy. We stood all alone a year ago, and to many countries it seemed that our account was closed, we were finished...very different is the mood today.

Britain, other nations thought, had drawn a sponge across her slate. But instead our country stood in the gap. There was no flinching and no thought of giving in; and by what seemed almost a miracle to those outside these Islands, though we ourselves never doubted it, we now find ourselves in a position where I say that we can be sure that we have only to persevere to conquer."

The first two lines, "Never give in, never give in," are those most often quoted. Today I am drawn to the last line, "no flinching and no thought of giving in... we have only to persevere to conquer." Or, in other words, we must have grit.

## EDUCATION EXPERT

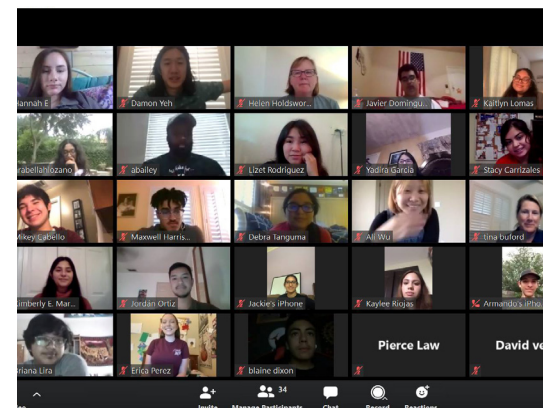
### Making it Work

TINA BUFORD

Like the rest of the world we came face to face with a shutdown due to the pandemic. This had us contemplating a long pause within our education program hoping and waiting for the day we could once again be with our students. Then conversations across the nation started to center around what was deemed "essential" vs. "nonessential", which would pave the way in determining what students had access to while sheltering in place.

Yes, one could argue that food, water, shelter and space are the only essential items needed for our survival but there is more to immediate survival, right? Our connection and care for the natural world not only provides us with the necessary tools for survival it is essential for our mental health.

For this reason, we left our comfort zone and adapted our method of connecting with students by utilizing the very tool we've encouraged them to disconnect from. While we'd rather our students be able to connect with the land directly, utilizing technology is a means to an end while our safety requires us to be apart.



In these unprecedented times, students participate in East Foundation's education programs via Zoom.

Not only has technology allowed us to stay connected and continue our education programs, in the case of our Land Stewardship Ambassador program, it offered a window to connect this year's cohort with brilliant minds from across the nation. This added experience expanded the types of resources students can draw from while serving their communities as future land stewardship advocates.

Without technology, this year's cohort would not have been able to complete their 10-week journey exploring the many facets of land stewardship including but not limited to:

- human dimensions of land stewardship including social attitudes, processes and behaviors,
- the economic engine behind caring for the land,
- how to advocate on behalf of our natural resources,
- and the importance of diversity within the natural resource user groups.

We will remain an organization that values on the land, hands-on learning but now acknowledge the benefits of connecting virtually. We cannot predict when we will host students on East Foundation lands again but what we have learned is that technology should be welcomed as a supplemental tool in providing transformational learning experiences. For now, technology can aid us in sharing interactions with students beyond our fences.

Thank you to our Land Stewardship Ambassador program partner, The Witte Museum and our sponsoring partner, Texas Farm Credit, for taking this journey with us. With your partnership we are increasing awareness of land stewardship principals, promoting civic engagement in today's youth and inspiring them to take action.

## ALUMNI PROFILE



JUSTIN FRENCH

Justin grew up in Ingram, Texas where he discovered natural resource management through participating in 4-H and FFA judging teams, including wildlife and range management contests. He graduated in 2012 with a BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University.

During his undergraduate career, Justin was employed by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, where he began his research career evaluating field methods for vegetation sampling. He earned his MS degree from Sul Ross State University in Natural Resource Management in 2015, studying pronghorn foraging ecology. His thesis research examined seasonal diets and nutritional demands of pronghorn in the Trans-Pecos.

Justin began his PhD in Wildlife and Fisheries Science at Texas A&M University in 2015, studying coyotes on East Foundation's San Antonio Viejo ranch. His dissertation focused on coyote movement ecology, linking their territorial behavior to population dynamics. This project shed light on how coyote life history interacts with predator management efforts.

Justin is now the Big Game Specialist and post-doctoral Research Scientist at Borderlands Research Institute. His research focusses on the spatial ecology of pronghorn, mule deer, and bighorn sheep in the Trans-Pecos. He seeks to link basic science with practical application to develop more robust management strategies.

### **In his own words:**

"I am tremendously grateful for the opportunities East Foundation provided me during my PhD. Their commitment to the science of wildlife management is contagious, and I have taken their goal to make 'more science-minded managers and management-minded scientists' to heart in my own career.

The uniqueness of San Antonio Viejo, with its large, unharassed coyote population, and East Foundation's support made for an amazing experience. While my project was largely remote (thanks to GPS tracking), I will always remember the particular brand of excitement coyote captures brought and the great people who took part in them. Those experiences left me with many great memories, and a healthy respect for coyotes, the hidden dangers of brush mottes, and good helicopter pilots. I am blessed to have had such an opportunity."





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## RANCH REPORT

### Hanna

GILLY RIOJAS

“Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth.”

– Mike Tyson

In production agriculture there are definitely some days when you feel like you’ve been punched in the mouth. Ranching and farming are not industries for the faint of heart. You must be prepared to go through droughts, floods, market collapses, and worldwide pandemics. To survive and prosper in this industry you need to always have a plan A, B, C, D, and E. We operate in a system where you plan for the worst and hope for the best. Sometimes these plans must be made on a moment notice during some tough circumstances.

It can be easy for us to sit in a climate-controlled office and make projections and run different analysis about how much money we are going to make and how we think we’re going to operate, but how do we react when something out of the blue occurs that we were not expecting and drastically alters our operations?

A few weeks ago, Hurricane Hanna passed through South Texas and we were lucky that she was only a category 1 hurricane. Hanna brought a lot of wind and a lot of rain, and for the most part there was a little damage to our properties. We had a few stray limbs, some trees knocked over, we lost electricity for a bit, and a few damaged windmills, but for the most part we were blessed with copious amounts of rain.

From October 2019 until March of 2020 most of our ranches had at best a minuscule amount of rain. On March 21 our luck changed as

the rain began to fall. From March 21 until July 28 all six of the East Foundation ranches have had 20 inches of rain or more. Over a 30-day period we went from planning of how many cows we were potentially going to cull, to looking over pastures that are producing more forage today than in their past 50 years. But, not everyone has been so lucky.

I have a close friend that farms in the lower Rio Grande Valley and as hurricane Hanna passed, he watched his entire cotton crop disappear in front of his eyes. In 48 hours, he went from having 2,500 acres of cotton that was going to yield 2.5 bales an acre to nothing. That’s one of the days when you’ve been punched in the mouth.

The character and grit of someone in production agriculture shows not when they’ve been punched in the mouth but how they respond after the punch. Do you have the heart and character to get back up and rise to the occasion?

The East family lived their life devoted to their ranch. They had the grit and integrity to rise to the occasion. Thankfully, those of us at the East Foundation have inherited those same traits. We look forward to finishing out a great summer growing season and to cooler fall weather.



## RAINFALL REPORT

# Saving for a Rainy Day

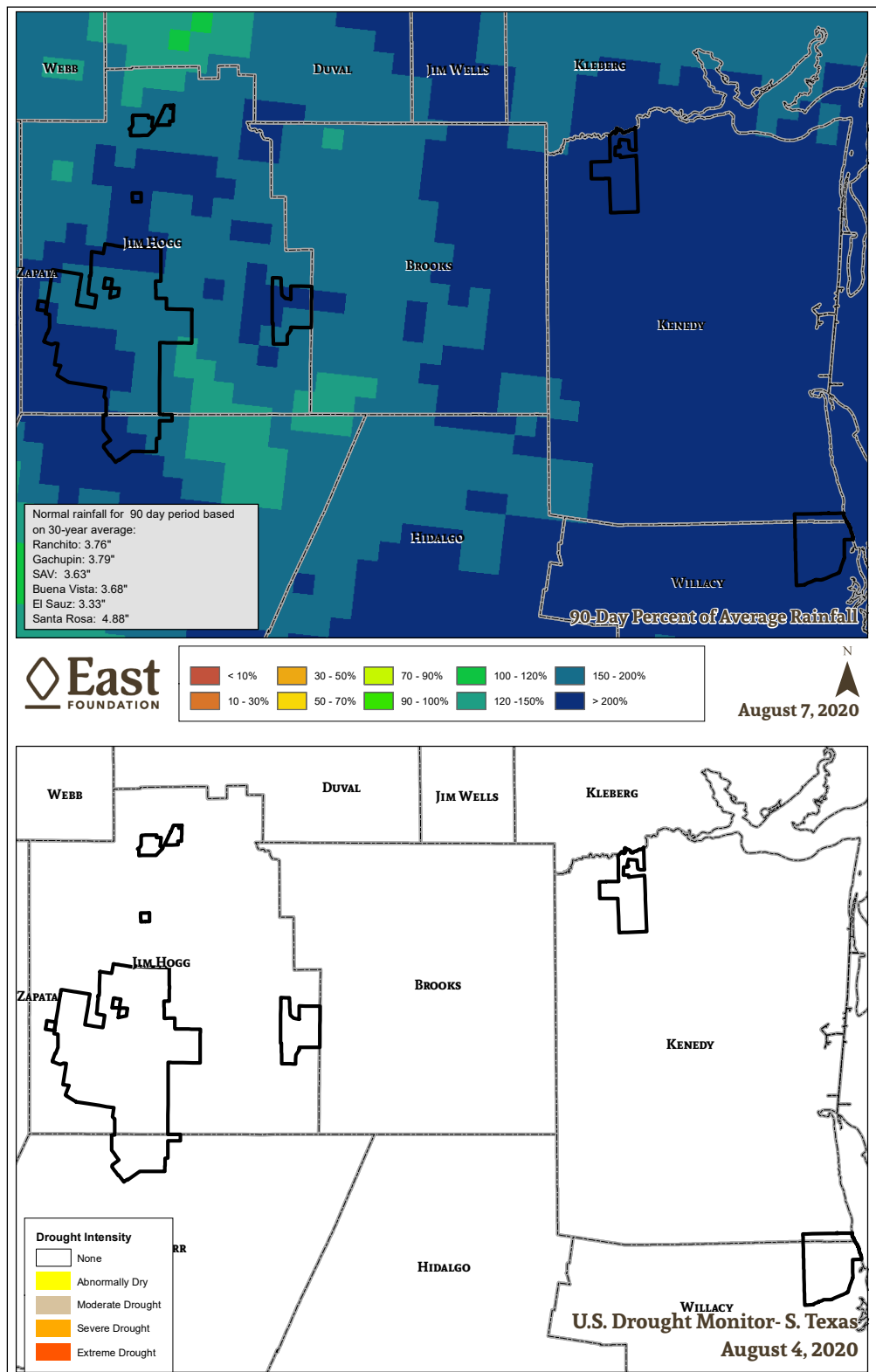
ALLIE BIEDENHARN

It takes a certain perseverance, hardiness, and backbone to ranch in the Wild Horse Desert. Most summers are never ending heat and drought. However, that gumption has been rewarded and renewed this summer as we are mid-August and drought free! Timely and abundant rains through the spring and summer have kept the soil moisture up and the early season hurricane giving between four to nearly 15 inches of rain across the ranches kept us out of the red.

The San Antonio Viejo ranch has received well above average rainfall amount with some areas receiving 10 to 18 inches of rain in the past 90 days.

With the recent rains, all East Foundation ranches have received over 150% of the typical rainfall amount since May, with most receiving over 200% of what is normally obtained. The El Sauz Ranch in Willacy County, took the hurricane head on, and has received 18-20 inches of rainfall in the past 90 days.

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>.



# Looks Like Rain

TREY DYER

Rain! We've been blessed to have a lot of it lately. And while rain is the lifeblood for the land, livestock and wildlife, it can also be a major obstacle when it comes to infrastructure. Roads are the most affected. Hard, flooding rains like we experienced in the wake of Hurricane Hanna are the most detrimental.

Obviously, when roads wash out, they must be fixed. However, it is also important to perform preventative maintenance so that in the event of a heavy rain, damage is minimized. This includes repairing potholes, cleaning out or installing culverts in low lying areas, and adding material where needed.

would have required much more intensive labor and materials to fix after the fact.



Ready for a drive? Director of Field Operations & Security Management, Chris Huff, checks the road after the road work crew. Job well done!

The theme for this newsletter is *Grit*. And while this section may not be an example of "courage and resolve," I will offer up another definition of grit: "small loose particles of stone or sand." And that seemed apropos!



A freshly laid caliche road on Santa Rosa Ranch stretches for over a mile.

Through a team effort with some of our neighbors at Santa Rosa, as well as one of our Oil and Gas operators, we were able to do just that. And do it just in time! About two days before Hanna came ashore, we added 107 loads (about 2,200 yards) of caliche to the main road at Santa Rosa. This absolutely prevented further damage to the road that

## EMPLOYEE PROFILE



MASI MEJIA

A native Texan, Masi was born in Laredo and raised in Laredo and Encinal, Texas. She has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Conservation of Natural Resources and a master's degree in Wildlife, Aquatic, and Wildlands Science and Management from Texas Tech University.

As the East Foundation's Educator, Masi works hard to educate students and teachers in classroom with the hope that she can bring them out to visit one of the ranches. She especially enjoys running the Land Stewardship Ambassadors Program because she loves seeing the students grow throughout the semester and how they become advocates for land stewardship. Whether in the classroom or in the field, Masi serves students from all over South Texas.

In her spare time, Masi enjoys being outside, watching nature, and learning and teaching about ecology through memes. Although 2020 has been trying for many, Masi has many blessings to count this year! In the last few months, she's gotten married, bought her own ten-acre ranchito, and is expecting a visit from the Texas Wood Stork in early 2021.



# Caliche Roads or Wildlife Corridors

MATT ROBINSON

I have traveled a lot of caliche roads and two-tracks in my days. These roads are great for getting through the ranches, usually in a manner faster than is necessary. While bumping along in my vehicle, I realized there is more to these roads than meets the eye.

Many years ago, an old game warden friend, Billy Works, and I would patrol caliche roads in Comanche county. Occasionally, during these patrols, one of us would come up with a profound thought. Billy, on one such occasion, turned to me and said, "I think that removing all the caliche roads would be a good method to reduce the coyote population." I asked, "How's that?" To which he replied, "They would all die because they wouldn't have a place to poop."

Now that's probably not a feasible way to reduce the population, but it has made me think about all of the animals that use the caliche roads besides ranch folk that are in a hurry. Here are a few of the main ones that need to be watched for while traveling our ranch roads.



Don't Tread on Me!

The Texas tortoise has had a population explosion on the ranches. I do not know if there are really that many or they just like caliche roads. Nevertheless, it is common to see five, ten or more on every outing. They look a lot like a cow pie when you are traveling fast. So, pay attention so you do not run one over.

Another animal that uses the caliche roads is the Texas Horned Lizard. The horny toad populations really decreased in the 1960s and 70s due to kids like me trying to keep them in shoeboxes as pets and maybe a little bit of that DDT pesticide thing. The population on East Foundation properties has really come back. If you are paying attention, you will see a number of them on the caliche roads on every trip. Slow down and try avoiding running over any.

Killdeer and Pauraque (Nighthawks) lay their eggs on caliche roads and oil field pads. Now that does not seem like the smartest thing to me, but it is what they do. If we know this, maybe we can pay better attention and not squash a whole family.

Then there are all the birds and animals, including livestock, which are more mobile and can move out of the way if you do not surprise them by driving too fast. Many times, cattle will gather on the road at night and bed down, especially at El Sauz where the mosquitoes are more numerous in the grass.

It is good practice to turn your headlights off and drive with only parking lights when you drive into a bunch of cows on the ranch roads at night. The headlights blind them and make shadows. As you approach the cows, the shadows from their body comes toward them and at the last minute, they will think something is there. They can be startled and will sometimes jump from the shadow toward your vehicle causing damage, especially the calves.

I guess my point to this story is to remind everyone - slow down and pay attention and stop aggravating the security guy. Also, remember to watch your step if taking a walk on a caliche road. Damn coyotes!

