

**NOVEMBER 2019**

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

FROM THE CEO

What's for Dinner

NEAL WILKINS

I butcher and wrap almost all the meat from my game hunting, making notes on a freezer storage bag as to what is inside. A few weeks ago, I discovered a bag at the bottom of the freezer in the garage. It was roast cut from a hindquarter, and it was packaged in plastic wrap and tucked inside a ziplock bag with the message “WTD 24 Nov 17” scrawled on the outside. With that label, I had everything I needed to know about that piece of meat. The “WTD” meant that it was a white-tailed deer, which cleared-up a big question because the other candidates for venison-looking meat in my freezer included axis deer, nilgai antelope, elk, and pronghorn. The “24 Nov 17” part of the label told me that the deer was taken on the Friday following Thanksgiving, two years ago.

I remembered that deer – it was a buck that I took in the morning as it came out of a ravine moving toward a brush thicket near the Llano River. I also remember pan-frying some of the fresh backstrap for family

gathered at our little weekend cabin nearby.

Once thawed and cooked, that roast was just fine, despite being in the freezer for almost two years. It was better than just another high-quality piece of meat. The source of that meat I could identify to an individual animal from a specific place. Because I know that piece of land and I know some of that animal's story, eating it was a better experience for me.

In the same way, I know the individual animals for the other meat in that freezer. The elk steak sourced from the headwaters of the Canadian River in New Mexico is not like any other elk steak to me. Eating the nilgai tenderloins sourced from a South Texas ranch is more interesting experience for me than eating a similar piece of meat from somewhere I cannot identify. This means, that for me and my family, the meat in my freezer is not interchangeable with similar meat elsewhere.

Now don't get me wrong, I really enjoy lots of other meat, even when I can't trace down its' specific origins and all the stops it took along the way. The choice beef I enjoyed last night was a great experience, even though I didn't know exactly where it came from. That's because I have grown to trust our nation's beef production system.

TRANSPARENCY AND TRACEABILITY

Michael Uetz of Midan Marketing gave an interesting keynote address to the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management's recent Holt Cat Symposium. Uetz drove home the point that trends in consumer preferences were towards greater demand for *transparency* in the source of food, particularly meat. Leann Saunders with Where Food Comes From, Inc. followed with some detailed observations of consumer demand for being able to verify the conditions under which a piece of meat was produced – this is *traceability*. What this means for beef cattle production



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San Antonio

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is that tracing the origins of how animals are raised, handled and processed will be important – and then labeling beef with accurate information regarding its source will be important as well.

Dr. Russell Cross from Texas A&M noted that cattle ranchers have some of the most compelling stories to tell, and that telling the stories of good stewardship and natural resource conservation will be key in competing with the rise of “fake meat.” Meat substitutes, in the form of plant-based or cell-cultured products, are increasingly highlighted by the media.

According to Cross, cattle ranchers will need to join in the fight to defend the word “meat.” Dr. Cross’ comments related directly to the transparency and traceability issue. Among the claims of the meat substitute proponents is that the difficulty in tracing cattle through all the steps of the supply chain means that consumers can’t confirm that their meat is safe and healthy.

To decide that you would prefer your meat cultured from stem cells rather than having it born and raised from a ranch is certainly a 21st century option. But it may be 21st century technology that gives us the ability to trace the source of each individual calf through the supply chain, and finally into the meat case at the supermarket.

WHAT’S NEXT?

East Foundation is participating in a pilot program administered by Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) and the Texas Cattle Feeders Association (TCFA). At this year’s fall weaning, we attached radio frequency identification (RFID) ear tags to over 800 new calves. Each RFID tag is uniquely coded and can be used to record each individual’s information. For example, weaning dates, weights, vaccinations, pasture movements,

and transfers can all be read with a “wand” to-and-from a database.

This technology can be used to trace animals in case of needing to discover the source of a disease outbreak. Similarly, the future use might include tracing the identification of a specific piece of meat back to an individual animal from a specific place. And knowing the story behind that animal, and the natural setting from where it came, just might be better than knowing that your piece of meat was cultured from stem cells in a food technology laboratory in Berkeley, California.



Cattle on the San Antonio Viejo Ranch.

As many of you know, the South Texas ranching community recently experienced a tragedy. Our long-term helicopter pilot Charles Short and Wagner Ranch Manager J.R. Garcia lost their lives in an accident. We are deeply saddened by the loss of lives and encourage everyone to help support the families of the men affected. If you would like to contribute, please mail your contribution in as follows:

Charles Short Family Fund
c/o Frost Bank
P.O. Box 1600
San Antonio, Texas 78296

or

J.R. Garcia Family Fund
c/o Frost Bank
P.O. Box 1600
San Antonio, Texas 78296

PROJECT PROFILE

Hot Off the Press

TYLER CAMPBELL

Knowledge is power. The East Foundation is continually working on new ways to distribute reliable information collected through our research and education programs to varied audiences including ranchers, landowners, policymakers, scientists, and students. Because... well... knowledge is power.

The Foundation's primary means of distributing information in written form is social media, quarterly newsletters, peer-reviewed scientific publications, and popular articles in magazines and other outlets. Additionally, the Foundation regularly presents findings during sessions at industry tradeshow, scientific conferences, and other important events.

The one-stop shop for East Foundation publications is our website (<https://eastfoundation.net/>). Both peer-reviewed and popular press articles can be found under the Program Tab, then Publications. Presentations by previous Three Minute Thesis competition winners can also be located under the Program Tab.

A new feature aimed at knowledge expansion are East Foundation Management Bulletins. These non-technical articles are brief presentations of recently completed research that focus squarely on the "so what?" for ranchers and land managers. New Management Bulletins will be released periodically throughout the year.

The Foundation recently published Management Bulletin No. 1, titled *Documenting a Late Season Quail Hatch*. https://eastfoundation.net/media/46944/east_t_b_template_20191025.pdf

Herein, Abe Woodward and other scientists at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute and East Foundation describe and discuss the implications of the late hatch that occurred prior to the 2018/2019 season. It is a must-read for any quail enthusiast!

Another excellent article "hot off the press" was published in the *Wildlife Professional* and titled, *Working Lands, Teaching Lands*. https://eastfoundation.net/media/46943/nov_dec_2019.pdf See page 56.

Authors Masi Mejia and Tina Buford, both of the East Foundation, highlight the importance of getting our young people out on the land, connected with nature, and practicing land stewardship.

"Empowering future generations with the tools to make educated decisions regarding our natural resources will help conserve the land and the life that depends on it."

-Masi Mejia



Working Lands, Teaching Lands

THE EAST FOUNDATION SHOWS YOUTH THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIVATE LANDS AND CONSERVATION

By M. F. "Masi" Mejia and Tina Y. Buford

How do you connect children, often far removed from the land and living in urban centers, to understand the relevance of private land stewardship in their life? Students may believe their basic needs to be iPhones and video games, but their real basic needs tie directly to the land: food, water, shelter and space.

Showing students how private land stewardship is relevant to their lives is important. About 62% of the nation's land is managed by private landowners. Here in Texas, 95% of the land is in private hands.

The East Foundation runs an education program that recognizes the value of a multifaceted system.

We start with delivering the message of natural resource conservation in schools and continue with involving students in land stewardship practices on our working lands.

A ranching legacy

The East Foundation is the legacy of a 100-year-long South Texas ranching heritage that followed the marriage of Tom T. East and Alice Kleberg East. (For more information, check out the book *Horses to Ride, Cattle to Cut: The San Antonio Viejo Ranch of Texas* by Wyman Meinzer and Henry Chappell.) A bequest at the passing of their son, Robert Claude East, in 2007, the foundation was created with a mission to promote the advancement of land stewardship through ranching, science and education.

▼ Students from United High School in Laredo, Texas, work alongside cowboys where they had the opportunity to ultrasound, vaccinate and discuss careers in cattle management.

Credit: East Foundation



The Long Game Mindset for Stewardship

TODD SNELGROVE

Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago. - Warren Buffett

I learned this lesson early in my career as a young forester working in east Texas. The large timber we were harvesting was a product of good decisions made many generations before me. When not prepping stands of timber for harvest or supervising logging operations, I was planting seedlings, marking a stand of timber for its first thinning, or developing management plans. At times it was disheartening to think that, if I was lucky, I might get to enjoy the fruits of my labor by the time I retire 40 to 50 years later—it's a long game. Twenty-five years later, I am often reminded of this reality—most recently in a discussion on our El Sauz prescribed fire project.

On our El Sauz Ranch, we recently initiated a prescribed fire project with the goal of quantifying the effects of short and long fire return intervals on rangelands and wildlife. We measure differences in plots from season to season and year to year, but the most impactful differences may take decades to tease out. When looking at the logistics of longer return intervals, it quickly became apparent that some of us would be considering retirement well before some of the long interval plots were burned for even a second time. Much less a third, fourth or fifth time.

Graduate students conducting research on this project will likely only see a handful of the plots burned in the three to five years they spend with us. Projects like this take time and, in this case, we are laying the groundwork for a

living laboratory that will influence generations to come—again, it's a long game.



A graduate student initiates a prescribed burn on El Sauz Ranch.

In today's fast paced world, we are almost hard-wired to expect instant results. When we don't see results, positive or negative in a short period of time, we get distracted or consider the effort a failure. At the East Foundation, we intend to positively impact the future of land stewardship and ranching. This is reflected in the investments we make in science, education, and professional development, and manifests itself in every decision we make on the land.

When making decisions we ask ourselves questions like—Will this make a difference? Is this an enduring solution? Can the next generation build upon this? Adopting this mindset results in future focused daily routines and actions. It also requires a shift to the long game mindset.

As land stewards, ours is a long game. It is embodied in the simplest definition of stewardship—leaving things better for those generations who

follow us; in our case the land and resource we've been entrusted to manage.

It still makes sense to measure short-term progress toward goals—annual covey counts, increases in weaning rates, students impacted by our programs, and new professionals entering the work force who we had the chance to mentor. We celebrate these accomplishments, but after each success we raise the bar keeping in mind that to truly impact the future—generations of ranchers, wildlife biologists, rangelands managers, and

conservation communicators with a well-grounded private lands stewardship ethic and healthy rangelands that sustain life, health, and prosperity—we have to play the long game.

In 1903, when addressing a group of farmers, Theodore Roosevelt said, "Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." As a land steward it may take a lifetime to fully enjoy the harvest of seeds sown years before, but it is indeed work worth doing.



After a burn, new growth provides forage and habitat for wildlife.

ALUMNI PROFILE



JEREMY BAUMGARDT

Jeremy grew up at the base of the Cascade Mountains in Washington State. He spent his childhood hiking and fishing in the tall forests around Mount Rainier and among the sagebrush steppe along the Columbia River as his interest in wildlife began to develop. After receiving a bachelor's degree from the University of Washington in Wildlife Sciences, he married his wife Robyn and within a few years, they moved to Kansas for a master's program. Later, Jeremy and his family moved back west for a PhD position at the University of Idaho where he studied sage-grouse.

In 2013, he, Robyn, and their three children moved to Kingsville when he began a post-doc with Texas A&M University, Natural Resources Institute focused on establishing a long-term monitoring program for the vertebrates and vegetation on East Foundation lands. Jeremy found this position to be both challenging and exciting as it provided the opportunity to work with a diversity of wildlife that few biologists get to experience in their career, let alone in a single position.

Last year, Jeremy was offered a position with the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute working on methods to help eradicate cattle fever ticks from nilgai and white-tailed deer.

In his own words:

"I grew up in the Northwest where public lands are much more common. Out there, many wildlife studies and conservation efforts take place entirely on public land, simply because they can. Here in Texas, this is not an option, which is recognized by the Foundation.

I am impressed with East's mission to promote the advancement of land stewardship through ranching, science, and education and their commitment to supporting research at unprecedented scales. Efforts such as theirs is critical if we hope to preserve the amazing biodiversity of Texas rangelands as the human population continues to grow and land use continues to change."



Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 7-10

Masi Mejia will attend the Confluence of Young Conservation Leaders at McKinney Roughs Nature Park in Bastrop to represent Land Stewardship Ambassadors.

NOVEMBER 13

Texan by Nature Conservation Wrangler Summit and Celebration in Dallas.

NOVEMBER 21

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Meeting in Temple.

DECEMBER 3-7

Masi Mejia will represent the East Foundation at the National Association of Agriculture Educators Conference in Anaheim, California.

DECEMBER 10

East Foundation Investment Committee Meeting at the San Antonio Office.

DECEMBER 11-12

East Foundation Professional Advisors Meeting at the San Antonio Office.

RANCH REPORT

Tag, You're It!

GILLY RIOJAS

As November begins and temperatures begin to cool down, we are slowly winding down the fall cattle working season. Since October, East Foundation Ranches has been weaning our spring cow herd across all the ranches. The weather has been good, and the cows and calves are in good shape.

This weaning season our steers are weaning at 564 pounds, which is 21 pounds over their five-year historic average of 543. The heifer calves are weighing 536, which is 23 pounds over their five-year historic average of 513. Our palpation results this year are at 83% for the entire spring herd to date.

We've focused on creating systematic breeding seasons for our herd and on overcoming a Trichomoniasis issue— Trichomoniasis is a venereal disease that causes infertility. We're now entering year three of being free of Trichomoniasis and our cow herds are settled in their respective breeding season. Now we can make like comparisons across our herds and see their true productivity.

During this fall working season, we're participating in a pilot program where we apply Electronic Identification (EID) tags to our weaned calves. EID tags will allow us to identify what pasture each calf comes from, their weight, and to where they're shipped. EID tags are attached to the calf's ear and we use a scanner to enter the ear tag number and other metrics into a database.

These initial tests will show if this system could potentially work with our entire cow herd. If it does, it would allow us to track our entire inventory system and all production metrics "chute side" and instantaneously as we work an animal giving us improved accuracy in culling animals, sorting cattle, and providing a fast and efficient and way to update inventories.



Cattle on the East Foundation Ranches receive an ear tag and an RFID tag.

It is with a heavy heart that I write this last paragraph. On October 23 the East Foundation lost one of its own, helicopter pilot Charles Short. Charles was an amazing pilot who had worked across the Foundation's ranches for numerous years gathering cattle and performing wildlife surveys. He was a truly amazing pilot, friend, husband, and father. We at East Foundation will sorely miss Charles as a friend and as a pilot. His work here at East was truly legendary.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE



TREY DYER

Trey is a native Texan, born and raised in Abilene. He graduated from Texas A&M University where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets and joined the Army National Guard.

As the Director of Land and Fixed Assets for the East Foundation, Trey wears many hats. He negotiates oil and gas leases, manages easement, right-of-way, and surface use agreements, and maintains the Foundation's land records. He oversees the construction, maintenance, and purchasing of the Foundation's fixed assets and fleet, and sometimes he's even on the construction crew. Prior to working at the Foundation, Trey was an in-house landman for GeoSouthern Energy Corporation and Devon Energy in The Woodlands.

In his spare time, Trey enjoys spending time with his family. He and his wife Chrissy have two children. When he's not at work, Trey helps his wife remodel houses. He also enjoys hunting, going to Port O'Connor with his family to fly fish the Texas Coast, and watching Aggie Football.

RAINFALL REPORT

I Wish We Were No Stranger to the Rain

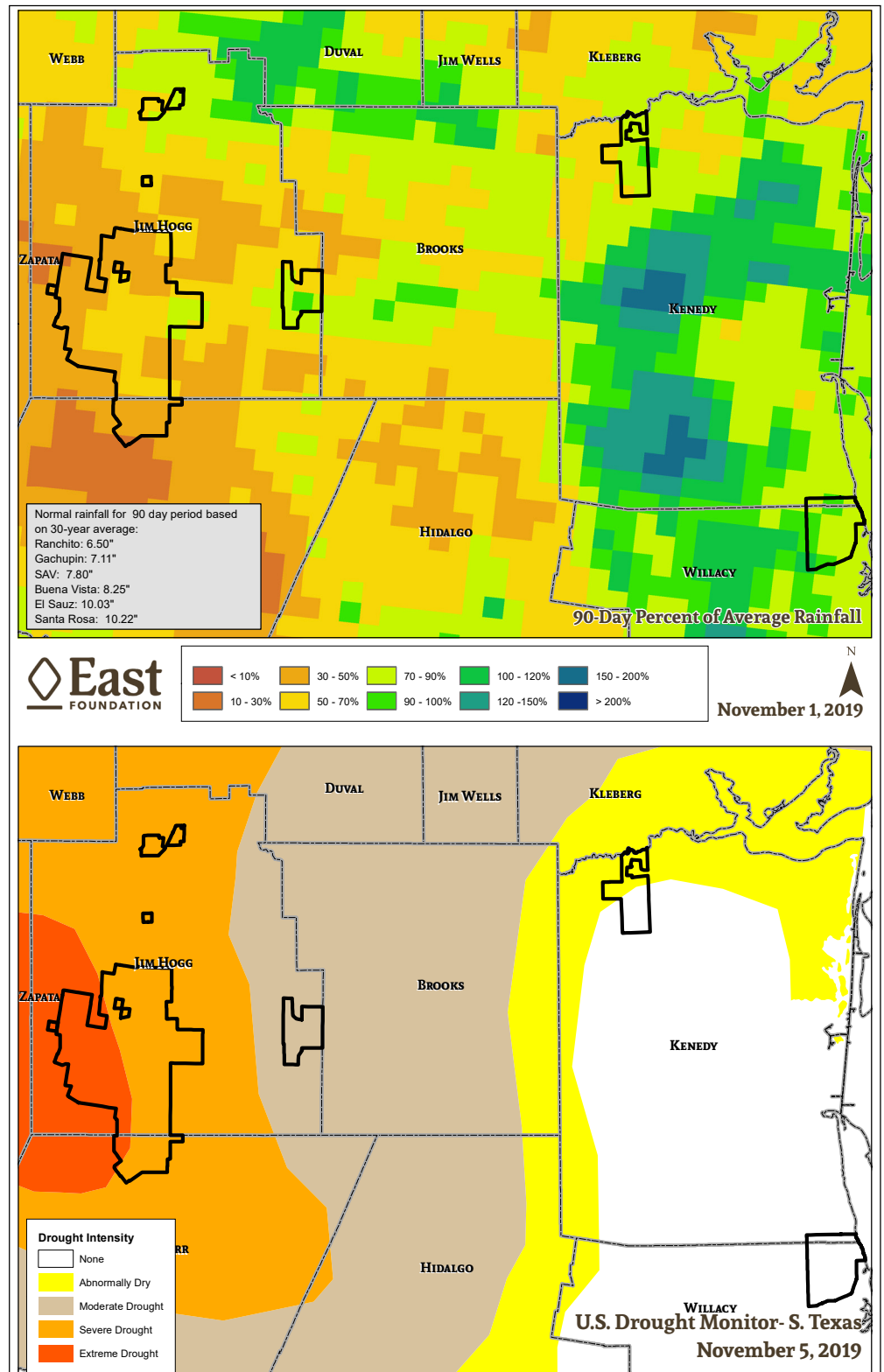
ALLIE BIEDENHARN

Recognizing the role rain and drought play on the south Texas landscape, we generate a monthly snapshot of the U.S. Drought conditions and a short-term percent of normal rainfall for East Foundation Ranches.

The fall of 2019 brought no relief, only more hot and dry days, with most ranches receiving less than our average expected rainfall. Hardest hit is the San Antonio Viejo ranch, where the western half has slipped into severe drought conditions, as we have only received about half of the average rainfall during the months of August, September, and October.

Knowing how quickly rangeland conditions can deteriorate, we use the 90-day percent of normal rainfall as an indicator of short-term drought conditions. On a happier note, El Sauz and Santa Rosa ranches have received average rainfall over the past three months and are not in drought conditions, thanks to some good September rains.

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>.



From San Diego to South Texas

JANEL ORTIZ

This past summer I returned to the San Antonio Viejo Ranch, a year after my PhD graduation from Texas A&M University-Kingsville. I returned with two of my undergraduate students, Beatriz Martinez-Martin and Angelica Ocaña from the University of San Diego (USD) to participate in a research experience which is required of their Biology program. This was a chance for them to grow as scientists and for me to grow as a teacher and as a research mentor. Given my previous experience as a graduate student working with the East Foundation, I thought this opportunity would be a perfect fit to the commitment and mission of East.



Students set up a pitfall trap to catch arthropods using an X-shaped guidance barrier.

Before arriving to the ranch, students planned out their research projects, gathered their field supplies, and were ready for life on the ranch. Once on the ranch, it was a quick start in setting up transects, flagging locations, and setting pitfall traps. The students conducted projects on avian insectivores and diet availability and sex aggregations in White-tailed deer, of course after a bit of tweaking and

troubleshooting on project topics. My students and I were busy from sun up to sun down, experiencing the beautiful South Texas landscape and sunsets, and the not so fun heat of course.

Aside from their respective projects, they also had the opportunity to help create arthropod and plant collections for use by the East Foundation's education programs. This helped them further their skills in arthropod and plant identification, going beyond what they were already learning in their own projects! It was definitely an experience to remember. Here is what the students said in their own words:

"My overall experience at San Antonio Viejo was pretty amazing. Aside from meeting so many interesting individuals from different backgrounds, I had the opportunity to work with a team that taught me how to overcome challenges by staying strong minded when the physical labor would become overwhelming. They taught me a higher level of collaboration, cooperation, goal-orientation, flexibility, dependability, and creativity."

"Working with the East Foundation was a once in a lifetime experience. For the past 18 years I've lived in California and this summer was the first time I have ever been out of the state and being at San Antonio Viejo was a whole new experience. Living on a cattle ranch, going horseback riding, and

meeting real life cowboys made every day an adventure. I learned and saw so many new things that I wouldn't have had anywhere else. The Three Minute Thesis was by far my favorite event held by the East Foundation as I learned about all the different research that goes on at the different ranches. Although I could deal without the heat and humidity, overall my experience with San Antonio Viejo and the East Foundation was incredible and it was a great experience for me to grow as a scientist."



Beatriz sets arthropods in natural positions for placement in the arthropod collection.

We would like to thank the East Foundation for this opportunity. We are so grateful for this experience.

Janel Ortiz, PhD is an East Foundation and Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute Alumna. She is currently the Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of San Diego.

In Search of Land Stewards

CHRIS HUFF

INFRASTRUCTURE

We are still in the construction phase of our headquarters facility at the El Sauz Ranch. We had a few delays in this project due to contractual issues and the building manufacturer failing to supply us with the correct parts to the building. We hope to have this project completed sometime in January 2020.

We are still working on maintenance and cleanup projects around the San Antonio Viejo Ranch. Some of the projects include dressing up our cattle guards with new H-braces and gates, resurfacing a pila near the cemetery, trimming trees, etc.



A pila near the East Family House gets resurfaced and a new paint job.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LAND STEWARDSHIP

According to Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, over the next decade, Texas will experience the largest intergenerational land transfer and potential change in land use to date. Aging rural landowners in Texas will soon transfer working lands to younger generations and first-time landowners. These new landowners may have less experience or

connection with the land, lack basic knowledge of agriculture operations and management, or lack the financial capital to maintain the land once inherited.

Being so blessed to be able to spend most of my life in the outdoors enjoying the land and wildlife, I find this very disturbing. As a matter of fact, this disconnect from the land, livestock and the wildlife is the total opposite of what Robert East expressed in his will.

As most of you know, the Foundation's mission is "to promote the advancement of land stewardship through research, science and education." We at the East Foundation are doing everything possible to help our young people stay connected to the land, livestock and wildlife and to become leaders and advocates for land stewardship. So, the question is, what can you do to save your family ranch? I would say one way is to spend quality time on your lands with your family, educating them about livestock, wildlife and range management and the financial aspects of

ranching. I would also suggest teaching your family about all of the neat little critters on your property and how each one of them contributes to the overall ecosystem.

Another important thing you can do is to instill in your family members the belief that the land and all of the many animals are part of God's great creation and that land stewards are appointed by God, not just by chance. So, if God appointed you as one of his land stewards, it might be a good idea to thank him for the opportunity and ask for his wisdom and guidance.

Upcoming Events

JANUARY 14-15

East Foundation Board of Directors Meeting at the Hebbbronville Office.

JANUARY 14-15

Land Stewardship Ambassadors Meeting at the Witte Museum in San Antonio.

From Donuts to Danger

MATT ROBINSON

On August 21, I was sitting in the Hebbronville office. It was only 8:30 and as usual, everyone was ready for me to leave. This story is an example of how my job can change quickly. One minute I am sitting in the office aggravating everyone and the next, I am dealing with a serious situation.

In this case, I received a call from Cesar Salinas. He is the cowboy responsible for checking the cows in the Ranchito division. Cesar, who is very observant, noticed a white ford pickup on the property. There has been some oilfield activity on Ranchito but none recently, so he was not sure if the truck belonged on the ranch or not. He stopped to look at the truck, which was some distance down a caliche oilfield road.

The truck sped away as Cesar described a “jackrabbit start” in the opposite direction. He was suspicious but thought it could be an oil field worker. At the time, Cesar was on his way out of the property. When he came to the gate, he found it closed but unlocked with one of the locks laying on the ground. That is when he called me and explained what he had observed. I thought it was probably a border patrol truck, so I stopped by the checkpoint to see if any agents were on Ranchito. They advised there were none. I told them there could be a smuggler trying to bypass the checkpoint in Ranchito and I was going to see if I could locate them.

I pulled into the North end of the ranch and drove only about a quarter of a mile when I noticed the front end of a white truck through the brush. It stopped in a sandy area, a couple of hundred yards away. I observed them through

binoculars to see if it was Cesar. What I saw was a man cutting our interior fence in order to bypass a very sandy area. I called Border Patrol and told them I could use some help and that it looked like I had found the smugglers. The smugglers got back in their truck and turned my direction. They continued down a fence line that would take them past my position.

I drove to where I could jump out of my truck and position myself in their path in order to make them stop. They stopped with the engine still running. I could see the driver and the passenger talking and making hand gestures to each other. After what seemed like a very long time (actually 15 seconds or so) of me motioning for them to turn off the engine, they started to move. That is when our discussion ended, and we decided to agree to disagree.

They backed up to go around. I ran back to my truck to follow them because I was not finished with the discussion. I followed them a short distance to the point where they had engine failure and became stuck in the sand. At that point, it was as if I had flushed a covey of quail. People ran everywhere. The driver and passenger ran opposite directions. The people in the backseat ran off and the 10 or so people that I had not seen jumped from the back of the truck and scattered.

Border Patrol arrived shortly thereafter and began to gather folks from the brush. They ended up catching the guide, who was a U.S. citizen and 10 others. Turns out, the truck was stolen in San Antonio

and the two license plates attached to it were stolen from two different vehicles in Laredo. Thanks to Cesar for being so observant and getting the call to me so I could check it out. I guess I can forgive him for messing up my morning donut eating. If Cesar had not noticed the truck, all we would have found was where the smugglers cut the fence to get out.



An empty truck bed long abandoned by its many passengers.

I am usually critical of officers that find themselves in the position I was with this bailout. I usually criticize the fact that they rarely catch anyone. I thought they should at least catch the driver who is usually the guide.

Let me explain why I have been wrong to do this and it is not as easy as it seems. First of all, the schooling effect works! The theory is that when a predator fish approaches a school of fish the numerous fish in the school confuses the predator.

The confused predator is unable to single out a fish from the school and the whole school escapes. In a way, that is what happened to me. People were scattering everywhere. I was thinking of my safety because there are so many people. I was wondering how many more people are still hiding in the smugglers truck. The driver was the first to run so he was farthest away. What are the others going to do if I run past them to catch him? These are just a few of the things I was trying to sort out in a matter of seconds.

Lastly and most importantly, I was thinking I am feeling really OLD! Needless to say, I did not catch anyone, and I will not be so judgmental anymore. I will do better next time and at least single out and try to catch a slow fat one.

GOOD SAYING

I was helping Landon Schofield, East Foundation's Range and Wildlife Biologist, a while back on a project. We were talking about finishing the project quickly. Landon shared a saying that his grandfather used regularly that I would like to share. "It doesn't take all day to work cows 'til noon." I thought this is a great saying indicating good work ethic and something I can say to someone who is goofing off.

I shared this with Game Warden Stormy King. His immediate response was "It does too."

He said, "Usually it is a buddy you are helping for free who has underestimated how long it will take, when in reality it was always about 14 hours' worth of work. He

realizes you probably would not have shown up if he had told you the truth." Or the cows breakdown the pens and escape so you spend all day catching them again. Or the head gate which is held together by bailing wire breaks on every other cow. Or the rancher you're working with only bought one syringe which the first cow kicked out of your hand and stomped to smithereens and it is a thirty-minute drive one way to get more. Or as Stormy says, "Somebody does something stupid."

After thinking about Stormy's comment, I believe the saying works well most places. In the places Stormy and I hang out, it does not apply at all.

