

The Cattleman



May 2015 ★ tscra.org ★ 800-242-7820

NEWS BRIEFS

Corsicana, Navasota Site of Railway Meetings

TSCRA IS HOSTING 2 INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS ON THE PROPOSED TEXAS CENTRAL RAILWAY (TCR), TO provide information to TSCRA members, ranchers and landowners who may be impacted by the proposed Dallas to Houston high-speed rail project.

The railway would require an estimated 3,000 acres of right-of-way for the rail line and related infrastructure.

Rural communities and landowners will have no access to the line and receive no benefits of having the TCR in their area, property values in proximity to the rail line will be negatively impacted, and TCR will adversely affect the ability of ranchers to graze and move cattle, transport equipment, and effectively and efficiently use their property.

Attend one of these informational meetings. Please feel free to invite any neighbors, other ranchers and landowners in communities who may be impacted by the proposed railway.

Call 800-242-7820 or email info@tscra.org for more information. No RSVP required.

May 14, 2015 • 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Navarro County Exposition Center

1921 North 45th Street, Corsicana, Texas 75110

May 21, 2015 • 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Grimes County Expo Center

5220 F.M. 3455, Navasota, Texas 77868



Visit tscra.org and click on the Cattle Raisers Convention Coverage button to find pictures, videos, presentation handouts, leadership election results, lists of winners from raffles and contests, and more from the 2015 Cattle Raisers Convention.



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Join TSCRA at the Beach

BRING THE FAMILY AND ENJOY EVERYTHING HISTORIC GALVESTON ISLAND has to offer, June 25 to 27. The schedule has been modified to allow attendees to enjoy their time on the island and fish, play golf or enjoy the beach. Visit tscra.org and click on the summer meeting button on the right side of the page for more information, including a schedule.

Young Leadership Series Meets in Austin

TSCRA YOUNG LEADERSHIP SERIES PARTICIPANTS WERE IN AUSTIN IN APRIL to learn about issues important to Cattle Raisers, such as groundwater rights and eminent domain reform. On April 14, the group heard tips on communicating with legislators and their staff, received a state issues update, and talked about how association policy is formed with TSCRA staff members in the Austin office.

On April 15, the group made congressional visits to the state Capitol to discuss ag issues with lawmakers and get an inside view of Texas legislature.

The Young Leadership Series is sponsored exclusively by Merck Animal Health. For more information on the series and for a schedule of future activities, visit tscra.org and click on the “Young Cattle Raisers” menu.



Attendees of the Young Leadership Series April meeting visited with lawmakers at the state Capitol in Austin to discuss issues important to Cattle Raisers.

Rockwood Man Gets 15 Years in Cattle Theft



DON ERNEST ESTES, 40, OF ROCKWOOD, HAS pleaded guilty and been sentenced to 15 years in the state penitentiary on charges of cattle theft and prior criminal mischief. TSCRA Special Ranger Joe Roberts and Coleman County Sheriff's Deputy Archie Lancaster led the investigation into the disappearance of \$3,000 worth of cattle from a rancher in Coleman.

Roberts received a phone call on March 6, 2014, from a Coleman ranch hand regarding 3 head of missing cattle. The foreman told Roberts that fence wires had been cut and it appeared that the gate to a neighbor's property had been moved.

Estes was the owner of the neighboring land. Roberts was able to determine that Estes had stolen the cattle from the victim, whose land shared a fence line.

The victim stated that the missing cattle would have weighed about 650 pounds each, and were either black or red heifers or steers with no brands. Roberts contacted the Coleman Livestock Auction and discovered Estes sold a red 615-pound steer at the auction on Feb. 5.

Roberts was able to identify the steer by a blue ear tag that said Estes. Later that week, Deputy Lancaster and the ranch owners found and confirmed the identity of the remaining 2 head of missing cattle on land being leased by Estes. The cattle had fresh brands of the letter E.

Estes was arrested and charged with 3rd degree cattle theft, but the charge was later enhanced by Coleman County District Attorney Heath Hemphill to a 2nd degree felony due to prior convictions. Estes pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 15 years in the state penitentiary for cattle theft and prior criminal mischief.

TSCRA would like to thank the Coleman County Sheriff's Department for their assistance with this investigation.

"It is crucial for ranchers to always brand and keep an accurate count on their cattle," said Roberts. "Taking these precautions serves as the first line of defense against cattle theft. Additionally, it is important for ranchers to report suspicious activity to their local law enforcement as quickly as possible. In this case, we were able to work with the victim and local law enforcement to investigate the crime and arrest another cattle thief. We will always work to seek justice for ranchers when necessary."

Hugo Man Charged With Larceny of Livestock

A HUGO, OKLA., MAN WAS ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH LARCENY of livestock April 10 in the case of multiple cattle thefts from Watkins Ranch in Madill, Okla. The suspect, Robert Don Covington, 34, was an employee of the ranch.

TSCRA Special Ranger Bart Perrier led the investigation with assistance from Special Ranger Troy McKinney. Perrier says Covington is alleged to have stolen 3 calves from the Watkins ranch on March 22 and transporting them to Atoka, Okla., where they were sold the following day for \$2,648.81.



Covington is also alleged to have stolen 2 more calves from the ranch on March 28, again taking the animals to Atoka, where they sold for \$1,466.93.

Covington was arrested on unrelated charges and was being held at the Marshall County jail in Madill. He was arraigned the next day for the larceny of livestock charge and bond was set at \$35,000.

Two of the stolen calves were recovered. Authorities believe a second suspect was involved in at least 1 of the thefts. An investigation is ongoing and additional arrests and multiple charges in multiple counties are expected.

TSCRA would like to thank the Marshall County Sheriff's Department Investigator David Barnes for his assistance in the case.

TSCRA EVENT CALENDAR

You're welcome to attend!

- May 7-10: Western Heritage Classic, Abilene
- May 8: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Abilene
- May 13: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Floresville
- May 14: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Seguin
- May 14: Tx Central Railway Info Meeting, Corsicana
- May 19: Ranching 101, Topic - Livestock Marketing, Fort Worth
- May 21: Tx Central Railway Info Meeting, Navasota
- May 26: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Brownwood
- June 16: Ranching 101, Topic - Rancher Panel Discussion, Fort Worth
- June 25-27: TSCRA Summer Meeting, Galveston

TSCRA members — ask about discounts from the following partners!

