

# The Cattleman



October 2017 ★ [tscra.org](http://tscra.org) ★ 800-242-7820

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Cattle Raisers Relief Fund Accepting Applications

The Cattle Raisers Relief Fund, a relief effort for beef producers by beef producers, has been collecting monetary donations of support for ranch families affected by Hurricane Harvey. The fund is administered by the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization, which also runs the Cattle Raisers Museum in Fort Worth.

Application for funding is now open to all impacted producers in the federally-declared disaster counties and regardless of membership status in TSCRA.

More information, including forms, requirements and how to apply, is available at [tscra.org/relieffund](http://tscra.org/relieffund) or by calling 800-242-7820. Applications must be returned to TSCRA by Oct. 31, 2017.



### Hurricane and Flood Loss Documentation

The USDA's Farm Service Agency has provided documentation information for livestock producers who have suffered excessive livestock death or grazing loss after Hurricane Harvey. These producers may be eligible for federal assistance through FSA's Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) or Emergency Assistance for Livestock Program (ELAP). More information on these programs is available at [www.fsa.gov/disaster](http://www.fsa.gov/disaster).

Producers should record all pertinent information regarding livestock losses due to eligible adverse weather or loss condition. Requirements are listed on the website.

### Cattle Raisers Support Repeal of Federal Water Rule

In June, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced their intention to repeal the so-called "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule. Upon the announcement by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) president Richard Thorpe said:

"The WOTUS rule was a misguided attempt to control private lands under the guise of clean water. Since 2015, when the rule was implemented, ranchers and private property advocates nationwide have fought to maintain their rights in the face of this overly burdensome federal regulation. We applaud the EPA's action to ensure ranchers can continue to provide America with a safe and affordable food supply."

On behalf of TSCRA, Thorpe submitted official comments Sept. 21 to the two federal regulators supporting the repeal. "It is important that every property owner and rancher continue to play an active and vocal role in supporting the repeal of the 2015 WOTUS rule," said Thorpe. "Preserving clean water is imperative for ranchers, and we take great pride in land stewardship, but never have we faced such an outrageous government overreach, and we must ensure its repeal remains a priority in Washington."

### Cattle Raisers Insurance Is Here to Help You



**CATTLE RAISERS**  
INSURANCE™

Hardworking Insurance for Hardworking Families™

Cattle Raisers Insurance (CRI) is here to help you determine your insurance needs and options. Open Enrollment for Individual Health Plans begins Nov. 1, 2017, and ends Dec. 15, 2017, for a Jan. 1, 2018, effective date. Call Cattle Raisers Insurance at 1-800-252-2849 or visit [cattleraisersinsurance.com](http://cattleraisersinsurance.com) for more information.

## Suspect Arrested on Charges of Misappropriation of Ranch Assets

William R. "Bud" Hardin, 34, surrendered to authorities in Bosque County in August on a first-degree felony warrant for Misapplication of Fiduciary Property. The charges and arrest are the result of an investigation conducted by Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) Special Ranger Marvin Wills.

Hardin had been employed since 2014 as a ranch manager by a Bosque County ranch owner, and stands accused of misappropriating ranch assets and equipment throughout the course of his employment. Because the value of misappropriated assets exceeds \$300,000, the charge is elevated to a first-degree felony.

Hardin was booked at the Bosque County jail, where he posted a \$25,000 bond and was released.

"It is important for ranch owners to implement appropriate safeguards within their operation to prevent this type of theft," said Special Ranger Wills. "Agricultural theft and crime can come in many different forms, so vigilance is key."



## Stanton Couple Face Felony Theft Charges

Douglas F. Schaefer, 68 and Peggy A. Schaefer, 61, of Stanton, Texas, surrendered last month to authorities on third-degree felony warrants out of Bell County for Theft of Livestock. The charges are the result of an investigation conducted by Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) Special Ranger Marvin Wills.

In July, a Bell County ranch owner alleged that two former employees had stolen cattle from the ranch over an 8-year period. Wills found evidence suggesting that the long-time ranch manager and his wife had sold 102 head of cattle belonging to the ranch, keeping the proceeds for themselves. Wills presented the cases to a Bell County grand jury, who handed down third-degree felony indictments for both suspects.

The Schaefers surrendered to the Martin County Sheriff's Office and were booked into the Martin County jail. Each posted a \$25,000 bond and was released pending trial.

Wills suggests that ranch owners keep a detailed inventory of ranch equipment, livestock and assets, and carefully watch expenditures and accounts receivable to ensure they are handled appropriately.

## BQA Tip for October: Test Hay Quality

A good nutritional program is an important part of beef quality assurance (BQA). Animals that are in poor nutrition are more likely to get sick and less likely to respond to vaccination. Determining hay quality is critical in developing an appropriate and cost-effective winter feeding and supplementation plan. October is a good time to take hay samples and test its quality.



## Ranching 101 On the Road

Take advantage of the education offered by TSCRA when we go on the road with Ranching 101.

Find us in Buffalo on Oct. 17; Nacogdoches on Oct. 18; or Tyler, Oct. 19. For more information, call 800-242-7820 or register at [tscra.org/ranching-101](http://tscra.org/ranching-101). Scroll down to "Other Upcoming Programs."

**TSCRA MEMBERS**  
ask about discounts from  
the following partners!



## TSCRA EVENT CALENDAR

*You Are Welcome to Attend!*

- Oct. 3: TSCRA Ranch Gathering – Hillsboro
- Oct. 4: TSCRA Ranch Gathering – Alice
- Oct. 4: TSCRA Ranch Gathering – Caldwell
- Oct. 5: TSCRA Ranch Gathering – Hondo
- Oct. 5: TSCRA Ranch Gathering – San Marcos
- Oct. 10: TSCRA Ranch Gathering – Gatesville
- Oct. 11: TSCRA Ranch Gathering – Livingston
- Oct. 12: TSCRA Ranch Gathering – Anahuac
- Oct. 13: TSCRA Ranch Gathering – Midway
- Oct. 17: Ranching 101, Choosing the Right Equipment – Fort Worth
- Oct. 24: TSCRA Ranch Gathering – Fredericksburg
- Oct. 25: TSCRA Ranch Gathering – Lubbock
- Oct. 27: TSCRA Ranch Gathering – Gainesville
- Oct. 28: Texas Beef Quality Assurance Training – Waxahachie