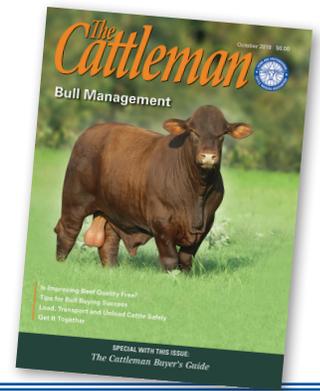


# The Cattleman



October 2019 • [tscra.org](http://tscra.org) • 800-242-7820

**NEWS BRIEFS**



Robert McKnight Jr.

## TSCRA Hails Trade Agreement with Japan

Robert McKnight Jr., president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association issued the following statement in response to the announcement of a bilateral trade agreement with Japan:

"We are elated that today's announcement of a free trade agreement with Japan includes a reduced tariff on U.S. beef. Japan is the largest buyer of U.S. beef exports and the third-largest buyer of Texas beef despite a 38.5% tariff. Previously, the excessive tariff left U.S. beef producers vulnerable to foreign competitors with lower tariff rates. High tariffs were also costly for Japanese consumers who had to pay substantially more to enjoy U.S. beef.

"We sincerely thank the Trump administration for their diligent work on this issue, especially U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Chief Agricultural Negotiator Gregg Doud. The free trade agreement with Japan is a landmark achievement that will benefit American cattle producers for decades to come."

## Four New Staff Members Join TSCRA

TSCRA members may notice some new faces in the Fort Worth office and new names in the magazine as the association recently welcomed four new staff members.

Katrina Huffstutler is the new executive director of communications and editor of *The Cattleman* magazine. No stranger to the association, Huffstutler first joined the staff in 2007 as a staff writer for the magazine. She left in 2012 to launch her own public relations business but continued to contribute content to the association and *The Cattleman* on a contract basis. In her new role, Huffstutler is responsible for all the association's communications strategy, including print and digital media, public relations and social media.

Ashley House is the association's first director of leader engagement. A graduate of the Texas Christian University Institute of Ranch Management, she worked at Texas Agricultural Land Trust and Lone Star Ag Credit before joining TSCRA. House's primary responsibilities include planning, coordinating and supporting TSCRA leadership in various activities and events. Originally from South Texas, her family still runs a cow-calf operation in Three Rivers.

Trisha Caudill is the new payroll and human resources coordinator. She comes to the association from Aledo Independent School District and previously worked at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

Fielding phone calls in the Fort Worth office is the new receptionist, Jenna Proske. She grew up in La Grange and also has connections to the beef cattle industry.

## Special Rangers Warn of Scams Targeting Ranchers

TSCRA Special Rangers are warning cattle producers to take extra precautions amid a surge in scams targeting ranchers. Scott Williamson, director of law enforcement, brand and inspection services for TSCRA, urges all ranchers to be on high alert, but especially those who do business via websites and social media. Con artists often prefer the anonymity of electronic or phone communications, which are more difficult for law enforcement to track down and prosecute the perpetrators.

One popular scheme is for a buyer to inquire about cattle, hay or equipment for sale. The buyer will send a check or cashier's check that is more than the



Katrina Huffstutler



Ashley House

**Cattle Raisers Insurance**  
[cattleraisersinsurance.com](http://cattleraisersinsurance.com)

**TSCRA**  
[tscra.org](http://tscra.org)

**Law Enforcement**  
[tscra.org](http://tscra.org), click on Theft & Law

**Cattle Raisers Convention**  
[cattleraisersconvention.com](http://cattleraisersconvention.com)

agreed price and ask you to cash the check and give the extra money to someone else to pay for transportation and delivery. The check is often counterfeit, designed to look legitimate for just long enough that it can be cashed, and the money wired. Sometimes the scammer will attempt to obtain the items before the check has cleared and found to be counterfeit.

Another common scam targets ranchers who are buying cattle, hay or equipment. The con artist will falsely advertise items using misleading descriptions and fake photos or video, only to deliver inferior products. These scammers are often very good at crafting the transaction into a civil action, which means law enforcement cannot file criminal charges. Also, if you deliver the payment before receiving the property, you may not receive the delivery at all.

Tips for avoiding fraud:

- Use a trusted source to verify the identity of the person you are attempting to do business with.
- When selling items, consider payment options such as an escrow service or an online payment system.
- Never accept a check or cashier's check for more than the value of the sale.
- Confirm that the checks are valid by contacting your bank or the issuing bank.
- When buying items, never issue payment until the items are received, unless you have complete trust in the seller.
- Always inspect and document livestock or items before taking delivery, and remember, you have the right to refuse delivery.
- If you believe that you are a victim of a bait and switch purchase, act quickly. The more time that elapses, the more it appears that you were initially agreeable to the transaction, which erodes your ability to remedy the problem.

## **TSCRA Special Rangers Recover Stolen Property**

A suspect was arrested and more than \$105,000 in stolen property recovered after an investigation by TSCRA Special Ranger Troy McKinney and the Fannin County Sheriff's Office.

The investigation began in June after a Fannin County rancher notified McKinney that a padlock was cut and cattle were missing. Several tips suggested the involvement of a silver dually pickup pulling a red gooseneck trailer, seen in the area around the time of the theft.

A description of the pickup spread on Facebook, and by July 7, alert citizens notified McKinney and other law enforcement officials that a pickup and trailer loaded with cattle and matching that description had been spotted. The vehicle was stopped by Oklahoma authorities and the driver,

Josh Briggs, 22, of Honey Grove, Texas, was arrested. The cattle on board were identified as stolen and returned to their owner in Oklahoma.

With Briggs' cooperation, McKinney was able to recover seven head of cattle, as well as other items found on Briggs' property, including a John Deere skid steer and 28-foot gooseneck trailer stolen from Bryan County, Okla.; a Kubota tractor stolen from Lamar County, Texas; and a Kubota lawnmower stolen from Fannin County, Texas.

Briggs turned himself in to authorities on Sept. 15 and was booked into the Fannin County Jail. He is charged with third-degree felony theft of cattle and if convicted, could face a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, \$10,000 in fines, and restitution. Additional charges are pending in connection to other stolen items.

## **TSCRA EVENT CALENDAR**

*You Are Welcome to Attend!*

**Oct. 3:** Ranch Gathering, Fredericksburg

**Oct. 8:** Ranch Gathering, Pawhuska

**Oct. 9:** Ranch Gathering, Wagoner

**Oct. 10:** Ranch Gathering, Ardmore

**Oct. 15:** Ranching 101, Fort Worth

**Oct. 17:** Ranch Gathering, Gatesville

**Oct. 18-19:** Young Leadership Series, San Angelo

**Oct. 22:** Ranch Gathering, Fowlerton

**Oct. 23:** Ranch Gathering, Hallettsville

**Oct. 24:** Ranch Gathering, Lulingo

Check out our full calendar at [tscra.org/events](https://tscra.org/events).

*We are adding more all the time!*

## **TSCRA Members – ask about discounts from the following partners!**

American Hat Company Inc.

Cattle Raisers Insurance

CattleMax Software

Dell

Ford Partner Recognition

Greeley Hat Works

John Deere

Power Pipe and Tank Ltd.

Ranch House Designs Inc.

Staples Business Advantage

Stay-Tuff Fence

Tru-Test Inc.

Ultimate Wild