

The Cattleman



April 2016 ★ tskra.org ★ 800-242-7820

NEWS BRIEFS

Take a Private Property Rights and Eminent Domain Survey



Strengthening private property rights is a top priority for TSCRA. After visiting with many members and landowners across Texas, it is clear that our state's eminent domain laws need serious reform. TSCRA welcomes your input and involvement on eminent domain issues as we prepare for the upcoming 85th Texas Legislative Session.

In an effort to collect information from private property owners, we ask you to participate in a survey by visiting tskra.org and clicking on the Eminent Domain Survey button. The data we receive from those who complete this survey will be extremely useful as we work on important eminent domain issues.

TSCRA welcomes and appreciates your involvement as we work to protect your constitutional private property rights.

Join Us for a Ranch Gathering Near You

Ranch gatherings are free events hosted by local industry partners or individuals in the ranching community, featuring an evening of fun, food and fellowship. A delicious beef dinner is usually followed by information or education presentations, a talk with your local TSCRA Special Ranger and a few words with TSCRA leaders about what the association has been doing on behalf of members and landowners.

All the folks who join TSCRA at these events will take home a free metal gate sign courtesy of Bayer.

Be sure to check our event calendar on the reverse side of this newsletter to see if we have an event scheduled in your area. A more complete listing is found at tskra.org and we add additional ranch gatherings throughout the year. Everyone is welcome, so bring your friends and neighbors!

TSCRA Leader Appointed TAHC Chairman

Gov. Greg Abbott has appointed TSCRA Director and Executive Committee member Coleman Locke, Hungerford, the presiding officer and chairman of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC).

Abbott also appointed 3 TAHC commissioners: Jim Eggleston, Weatherford; Stephen Selman, Woodway; and Leo Vermedahl, Dalhart.

The commission works to protect and enhance the health of animal populations across the state.



BQA Tip of the Month: Cattle Behavior and Facilities Design



Cattle handling and facilities design can impact beef quality. Many bruises, dark

cutters and other damage to the meat product can be reduced if cattle are handled properly. Proper handling is easier to accomplish in facilities designed to take advantage of the natural instincts and tendencies of cattle.

Understanding cattle behavior facilitates handling, improves handler safety, animal welfare, reduces stress and bruising. Bruising due to improper cattle handling costs the industry millions of dollars each year in carcass trim at the packing house.

Low-stress handling decreases shrink and improves the immune system and rumen function, resulting in decreased respiratory disease and lower cost. Mishandling can also develop temperament and behavior problems that are retained throughout the animal's life.

Carthage Cattle Thief Receives 12-Year Prison Sentence

Stacie Laine Soape, 44, of Carthage, was sentenced to 12 years in prison on Feb. 29, 2016, after pleading guilty to her involvement in the theft of 12 head of cattle and equipment from a Harrison County rancher in September 2014.



Harrison County 71st District Court Judge Brad Morin sentenced Soape after reviewing the joint investigation by TSCRA Special Ranger Larry Hand and Harrison County Sheriff's Investigator BJ Fletcher. A previous felony conviction enhanced Soape's theft of livestock offense from a third degree to a second-degree felony.

A second suspect, Michael Duane Nettles, 32, was sentenced to 35 years in prison on Feb. 18. Two additional suspects, Alex Christopher Hinton, 36, and Elizabeth Ann Newton, 39, are out on bond and await trial in Harrison County.

TSCRA Special Rangers Catch Cattle Thief Red-Handed



TSCRA Special Rangers Harold Dempsey and Dean Bohannon arrested a Guymon, Okla. man on March 4 after catching Dannie Talcott, 63, of Guymon, in the act of stealing cattle from a Dalhart livestock auction.

Dempsey said he was contacted by TSCRA Market Inspector Anita Prizilas concerning the suspected theft of 2 head of cattle from the Cattlemen's Livestock Commission in Dalhart. Prizilas told Dempsey that the owner of the sale barn had been coming up short on head counts.

An investigation revealed that Talcott had been purchasing cattle from Cattlemen's Livestock Commission via the Internet and shipping them to Preferred Beef, a packing plant in Booker. When Talcott picked up the cattle he bought from the auctions, he would load more animals than he had paid for.

Dempsey and Bohannon caught the suspect stealing the cattle by setting up surveillance at the sale barn around 11:00 p.m. on March 3. Around 5:00 a.m. the following morning, the special rangers watched Talcott load the cattle he had purchased, plus a couple of extra cattle that were not his. Dempsey and Bohannon stopped Talcott and arrested him.

Talcott was transported to the Dallam-Hartley County Jail where he admitted to stealing the cattle. He also confessed to committing the same crime on 4 other occasions. Talcott was charged with theft of livestock and the remaining cases will be presented to the Dallam-Hartley County District Attorney.

TSCRA EVENT CALENDAR

You're welcome to attend!

- April 8-10: Cattle Raisers Convention and Expo, Fort Worth
- April 19: Ranching 101 - Livestock Marketing, Fort Worth
- April 21: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Weatherford
- April 26: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Bullard
- April 26: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Roaring Springs
- April 27: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Seminole
- May 3: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Bryan
- May 3: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Uvalde
- May 4: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Cotulla
- May 5: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Beeville
- May 12: Wichita Falls Cattlemen's Luncheon, Wichita Falls
- May 12-15: Western Heritage Classic, Abilene
- May 17: Ranching 101 - Chuteside Demo, Fort Worth
- May 24: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Sulphur Springs
- May 25: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Nacogdoches
- May 26: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Navasota
- June 16-18: TSCRA Summer Meeting, La Torretta Lake Resort, Montgomery
- June 21: Ranching 101 - Rancher Panel Discussion, Fort Worth
- June 23: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Fort Worth
- June 28: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Elk City, OK
- June 29: TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Dumas

TSCRA members — ask about discounts from the following partners!