

The Cattleman



February 2018 ★ tscra.org ★ 800-242-7820

NEWS BRIEFS

Join Us for the Largest Ranching Event of the Year

TSCRA will be hosting the 2018 Cattle Raisers Convention March 23 to 25 at the Fort Worth Convention Center and you're invited! Listen to discussions of state and national issues, learn new skills to improve your ranch management, shop the largest ranching expo in the region and enjoy live music, entertainment and fantastic meals. For more information, schedules, registration and housing options, visit cattleraisersconvention.com.

Cattle Raisers Expo

This year will feature the largest Expo in the history of the Cattle Raisers Convention. With acres of equipment, technology and information under one roof, it's a true showcase of the latest and greatest from the region's leading agribusiness companies. From our indoor shooting range to world-class exhibitors, the Expo has something for everyone.

New for 2018

Livestock Handling Workshop: A special Thursday night workshop featuring in-depth livestock handling instruction from stockmanship and stewardship expert Curt Pate.

Ranch-to-Retail Workshop: A special Friday night workshop showcasing how beef carcasses are transformed into the retail cuts valued by consumers.

Information for Your Operation

Industry experts will deliver relevant updates on issues that have a direct impact on your cattle operation:

- Washington, D.C., Legislative Update
- CattleFax Market Outlook
- NAFTA and International Trade
- Changing Consumer Preferences
- Update on Eminent Domain Reform

Get Motivated

Be inspired by the unique perspectives of our opening and closing session speakers:

- U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue (invited) will provide his perspective on the state of U.S. agriculture.
- John O'Leary, author and motivational speaker, will inspire attendees with his presentation, *The Power of One: How One Attitude, One Action and One Person Can Change the World*.
- Nick Adams, CEO of the Foundation for Liberty and American Greatness, will discuss efforts to ensure that the next generation of American leaders understands what it means to be an American.

Have Fun

- Cattle Raisers Dinner and Dance: A delicious meal and entertainment from Jake Hooker and Summer Dean will bookend the TSCRA PAC Live Auction.
- Welcome Reception: Catch up with old friends and make new friends while enjoying drinks and great beef in the Cattle Raisers Expo.
- Cow Camp: Young cattle raisers will have a blast at the Cattle Raisers Museum.



March 23 to 25
Fort Worth Convention Center



www.cattleraisersconvention.com

[#CattleRaisers2018](https://twitter.com/CattleRaisers2018)

High Court Says Clean Water Rule Suits Belong in District Courts

The Supreme Court ruled on Jan. 22 that challenges to an Environmental Protection Agency regulation defining the Clean Water Act term “waters of the United States” must be filed in federal district courts.

TSCRA President Richard Thorpe issued the following statement after the ruling on the proper venue for challenges to the 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule:

“We applaud the U.S. Supreme Court’s unanimous ruling that challenges to the Obama-era WOTUS rule belong in federal district courts, not federal appeals courts,” said Thorpe. “This decision not only maintains the integrity of our judicial system but also ensures that challenges will first be weighed by courts closer to the people and communities they affect.

“The so-called WOTUS rule has already been withdrawn by the EPA, but the ruling sets a sound precedent for future challenges to over-reaching federal rules.”

Drought in Texas and Oklahoma Increases Wildfire Risk Through Spring

The National Predictive Services in conjunction with the National Interagency Fire Center released on Jan. 1 the National Significant Wildlife Fire Potential Outlook for the period covering February, March and April 2018.

From February through April significant fire potential is expected to increase to above normal across portions of Texas and Oklahoma, where a warmer and drier than average pattern in the southern Plains has produced an expansion and intensification of drought conditions.

Low humidity and gusty wind cold frontal events will continue to produce episodes of elevated to high fire risks across portions of Oklahoma, Texas, and Western Arkansas, where the drought is expected to deepen. Fuel sources will be very receptive and fire risks should trend to above average levels from February onward. Above average grass loadings will magnify risks for large and higher rates of spread fire potential.

Persistent dry conditions and warmer than average temperatures from weakening La Niña weather patterns in the surface waters across the equatorial Pacific Ocean will produce an average potential for wildland fires. High dead fuel loadings left behind by hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria will continue to pose unique fire danger concerns for coastal Texas and will need to be considered, should drier conditions emerge.

For more in-depth information, as well as daily, weekly and monthly fire weather forecasts, visit www.predictiveservices.nifc.gov.

February BQA Tip: Don't Let Low BCS Affect Pregnancy Rates

The body condition score (BCS) of a cow prior to or at calving is the major factor affecting pregnancy rates. To optimize pregnancy rates, 2- and 3-year-old females should be in a BCS of 6 or better at calving. Cows 4 years old or older should be in a BCS of 5 or greater. After calving, weight loss should be controlled so that cows don't lose more than 1 body condition score in about a 100-day period. If hay or forage quality is low, appropriate supplementation to achieve or maintain these targets will ensure that low BCS does not reduce pregnancy rates.

Are you a certified Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) producer? If you're not, the training is free and available online and in person at select meetings across the state. Visit texasbeefquality.com for more information.

TSCRA MEMBERS ask about discounts from the following partners!



TSCRA EVENT CALENDAR You Are Welcome to Attend!

- Feb. 6:** Rescheduled January Ranching 101 – Cattle Nutrition, Fort Worth
- Feb. 20:** TSCRA Ranching 101 – Cattle Selection and Buying Basics, Fort Worth
- Feb. 28:** Cattle Raisers Convention Special Housing Rate Cutoff
- March 6:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Stephenville
- March 12:** Cattle Raisers Convention Early Registration Cutoff
- March 13:** Ranching 101 – Cattle Health, Fort Worth
- March 19:** Cattle Raisers Convention Pre-Registration Cutoff
- Mar. 23-25:** Cattle Raisers Convention and Expo, Fort Worth