

# The Cattleman



April 2018 ★ tscra.org ★ 800-242-7820

## NEWS BRIEFS

### 2018 Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo Sets New Attendance Records

The 2018 Cattle Raisers Convention was held March 23-25 at the Fort Worth Convention Center, where attendees from across the state and country gathered to hear industry experts, engage in educational opportunities, connect with other ranchers and browse an enormous trade exposition featuring the latest and greatest products available to cattle raisers.

The Cattle Raisers Convention and Expo is the largest ranching event of the year in the Southwestern United States. This year's convention had more than 4,700 people in attendance, a new record for the 141-year-old event.

In addition to the trade show, the renowned School for

Successful Ranching provided producers an opportunity to gain valuable knowledge from industry experts. Numerous informational sessions were also included throughout the event. Among the highlights were the Washington, D.C. issues update, which was opened by Congressmen Steve Scalise, Louisiana Dist. 1, and Roger Williams, Texas Dist. 25. "Give everyone a shot at the American dream, that's what we're working for," said House Majority Whip Scalise in his remarks. The opening session was keynoted by Congressman Mike Conaway, who challenged attendees to continue to "be the keepers of the republic."

### TSCRA Elects New Leadership

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) announced a change in the officers at the 2018 Cattle Raisers Convention and elected new leadership to the board and executive committee.

Robert McKnight, Jr., Fort Davis, was elected president and Hughes Abell, Austin, is now first vice president. Arthur Uhl, San Antonio, is second vice president and treasurer.

New Executive Committee members, directors and

honorary directors are Stephen Diebel, Victoria; George Harrison, Bay City; and Heath Hemphill, Coleman.

New directors are Cody Fry, Armstrong; D.A. "Day" Harral, Fort Stockton; James Oliver, Ozona; Gilly Riojas, Hebbroville; and Jessica Tate, Marfa.

New honorary directors are Nixon Dillard, Pleasanton; Tom Moorhouse, Benjamin; Rick Peebles, Baytown; and M.R. "Mike" Wirtz, Brenham.



Left to right, TSCRA's new officers: Second Vice President Arthur Uhl, President Bobby McKnight, and First Vice President Hughes Abell.



New executive committee members, from left, are Stephen Diebel, George Harrison, and Heath Hemphill.



Newly-elected TSCRA Directors, from left, are James Oliver, D.A. "Day" Harral, Gilly Riojas, Jessica Tate, and Cody Fry.

## Get Your Western Heritage Classic Passes Before April 28

TSCRA members are eligible for 2 grounds passes, good for the entire Western Heritage Classic, May 10 to 13 in Abilene — a \$36 value! Western Heritage Classic is also offering TSCRA members up to 10 Friday night Ranch Rodeo tickets at the discounted price of \$15 each. Limit 10 tickets per membership.



The deadline to get the free passes or order your Ranch Rodeo tickets is April 28. Go to [tskra.org/whc](http://tskra.org/whc) or call 800-242-7820 for more information.

And remember to join us for a Ranch Gathering on the grounds of the Western Heritage Classic, 1700 TX-36, Abilene, Texas 79602, at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 11. You'll need the grounds passes to get into the Ranch Gathering.

## 90-Day Waiver Issued on Agriculture Use of ELD and Hours of Service

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced on March 14 additional steps to address the unique needs of the country's agriculture industries and provided further guidance to assist in the effective implementation of the Congressionally-mandated electronic logging device (ELD) rule without impeding commerce or safety.

The agency is announcing an additional 90-day temporary waiver from the ELD rule for agriculture-related transportation. FMCSA will also publish final guidance on both the agricultural 150 air-mile hours-of-service exemption and personal conveyance. FMCSA will continue its outreach to the agricultural industry and community regarding the ELD rule.

Visit [www.fmcsa.dot.gov/eld](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/eld) for more information on ELDs.

## Indictments Handed Down in Cattle Theft Scam

Lampasas County Grand Jury handed down a double indictment March 14 against Mark Ray, 57, of Aurora, Colo. The indictments, Theft by Deception and False Statement to Obtain Property, are both third-degree felonies and come after an investigation led by TSCRA Special Ranger Marvin Wills.



Mark Ray

The indictments stem from a cattle transaction between Ray and a Stephens County, Texas, victim in December 2016. Ray is accused of persuading the victim to invest in 52 head of cattle, which he alleged were in Lampasas County, Texas. The cattle were said to have been moved to a ranch in Pawhuska, Okla., where they were to be cared for and later sold.

When the victim failed to receive his interest in the cattle, he became suspicious and contacted authorities. Special Ranger Wills launched an investigation with the assistance of Lampasas County Sheriff's Office Detective David Thorp and the Lampasas County District Attorney's Office.

On Feb. 6, 2018, the Lampasas County Justice of the Peace issued an arrest warrant for Ray. The recommended bond was set at \$100,000; however, Ray requested a bond reduction hearing, and on Feb. 16, State District Judge John Gauntt reduced it to a \$10,000 personal recognizance bond. Ray was booked into the Lampasas County Jail and released.

Wills and TSCRA would like to thank Detective Thorp, the Lampasas County Sheriff's Office, Lampasas County District Attorney's Office and everyone involved with the investigation.

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**TSCRA EVENT CALENDAR**  
*You Are Welcome to Attend!*

**Apr. 17:** TSCRA Ranching 101 – Fort Worth

**Apr. 19:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering – Jacksonville

**Apr. 24:** TSCRA Law Enforcement Field Day – Tyler

**Apr. 26:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering and Cattle Handling Workshop – Decatur