

The Cattleman



May 2018 ★ tscra.org ★ 800-242-7820

NEWS BRIEFS

Serve on a TSCRA Policy Committee

Interested in becoming more involved in TSCRA or the beef industry? Serve on a TSCRA policy committee and help steer the association to a bright future! All TSCRA members are invited to apply.

The policy committees identify, study, and prioritize the issues and opportunities which affect members and the cattle industry. They also include the development of policy positions that guide legislative, regulatory, research, education, and other actions and activities of the association.

The available policy committees are:

- Agricultural Research and Education
- Cattle Health and Well-being
- Law Enforcement
- Marketing and Transportation
- Natural Resources and Wildlife
- Property Rights and Tax

For more information on what the committees do, what committee member responsibilities are, and how you can apply to serve, email tscra@tscra.org or call 800-242-7820.

Join Us for a Summer Meeting in Marfa

Make plans to trek to Marfa June 15 and 16 for our summer meeting at the Hotel Saint George. The TSCRA Summer Meeting is a unique opportunity to combine family and



fellowship with the important work of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA).

All TSCRA policy committees will meet and attendees will have the opportunity to hear from lawmakers and industry leaders about topics important to the ranching and landowner communities.

In addition to business meetings in a relaxed atmosphere, the agenda provides the freedom for attendees to enjoy Marfa's eclectic mix of small town, West Texas charm and world-class attractions.

Visit tscra.org for more information. Lodging in Marfa is limited, so if you plan to attend, we suggest making your reservations soon.

Changes at TSCRA Top Executive Position

TSCRA announced on April 17 a major staffing change with the expected retirement of current Executive Vice President and CEO Eldon White. Succeeding White will be TSCRA Executive Director of Government and Public Affairs, Jason Skaggs.

White announced his planned retirement to the TSCRA Executive Committee during the 2018 Cattle Raisers Convention and Expo in late March. He will step aside on Sept. 1, 2018, after which time he will continue to serve as executive vice president emeritus until his official retirement on Dec. 31, 2018, to aid in a smooth transition.

White joined TSCRA as executive vice president and CEO

in May 2007. Throughout his 11-year tenure, he has been an asset to the association and cattle industry.

Skaggs will take over the position on Sept. 1, 2018. For the past decade, Skaggs has led the TSCRA Government and Public Affairs office in Austin, where he earned the respect of legislators and others in the government affairs arena, as well as TSCRA members and leaders.



Jason Skaggs

BQA Tip for May: Bull Management

Bull management is critical for high pregnancy rates. Prior to the breeding season, always commingle bulls that will be used together in multiple-sire groups. This will reduce fighting and potential injuries. Groups should consist of bulls that are similar in size and age. After bulls are turned out with cows, watch to make sure that all the bulls are actively checking and breeding cows. If a bull is off by himself, it may indicate that something is wrong, and he should be checked for injuries, foot rot, or other potential problems.



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. For more information, visit texasbeefquality.com.

Suspect Surrenders in Million-Dollar Embezzlement Case

On April 12, 2018, Marty Robert Maahs, 33, turned himself in to the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. A warrant had been issued for his arrest as the result of an investigation by TSCRA Special Ranger Scott Williamson.

Williamson initiated an investigation in early 2017, after being contacted by Frazer Bank in Altus. Bank officials were concerned about possible illicit activities by Maahs in connection with a bank loan valued at more than \$1 million, in which he put up cattle as collateral. Through the course of the investigation, Williamson discovered that Maahs had disposed of livestock proceeds without payment to the bank. The investigation also revealed embezzlement of livestock funds, false statement and representation of collateral to the bank, and the sale of mortgaged personal property without payment to the bank.



Marty Robert Maahs

The investigation led to three felony counts: embezzlement greater than \$25,000, obtaining by trick or deception greater than \$1,000, and chattel encumbered greater than \$1,000. The three charges could land Maahs in prison for up to 23 years. He also faces possible fines of more than \$15,000 and restitution to the bank exceeding \$1 million.

Maahs was booked into the Jackson County Jail after his surrender. He was released on bond and is awaiting trial.

Information Sought, Reward Offered for Stolen Sheep

TSCRA Special Ranger Kenny Wadsworth is seeking information after approximately 125 head of Dorper sheep were stolen from a Crockett County ranch in West Texas sometime between March 14 and 28.

A cash reward of up to \$2,500 is offered for information leading to the recovery of the animals and/or arrest of the persons responsible. The total includes up to \$1,000 from Operation Cow Thief, an anti-theft initiative led by TSCRA, \$1,000 from the victim and another \$500 from Crockett County.

Anyone with information that could help identify the perpetrators should call TSCRA's Operation Cow Thief hotline at 888-830-2333 or Special Ranger Wadsworth at 325-392-2552.

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TSCRA EVENT CALENDAR

You Are Welcome to Attend!

- May 5:** TSCRA Ranching 101
– Our first Saturday class, Fort Worth
- May 10:** Cattlemen's Luncheon
– Wichita Falls
- May 10-13:** Western Heritage Classic
– Abilene
- May 11:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering
– Abilene
- May 15:** TSCRA Ranching 101 – Fort Worth
- May 22:** Beef Quality Assurance Training
– Mt. Pleasant
- May 23:** Beef Quality Assurance Training
– Athens
- Jun. 15-16:** TSCRA Summer Meeting
– Marfa