

The Cattleman



June 2018 ★ tscra.org ★ 800-242-7820

NEWS BRIEFS

Join Us for the 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.



Williamson Named to Top TSCRA Law Enforcement Spot

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) has named Scott Williamson executive of law enforcement effective June 1. He takes the position vacated by Larry Gray, who retired after 37 years of distinguished service.

Williamson has served TSCRA for more than 31 years, where he started as a brand inspector in 1987. He was later commissioned as a special ranger and held that position for more than 23 years with dual commission by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI). He also served as regional supervisor over 77 counties in Oklahoma and Texas.

Williamson has established himself as a leader within the law enforcement community, maintaining close relationships with the DPS, OSBI and many other national, state and local law enforcement agencies. Williamson has served as the president for both the International Livestock Identification Association and the Western States Livestock Investigators Association, and currently serves on the Joint Terrorism Task Force headed by the Department of Homeland Security and FBI. He is also well versed in emergency management and most recently aided in disaster recovery efforts following Hurricane Harvey.

John Bradshaw, an 18-year TSCRA veteran from District 8 in Northwest Texas, will fill the regional supervisory position vacated by Williamson's promotion. Gary Baros will take over as supervisor in far South Texas with the retirement of Sonny Seewald.

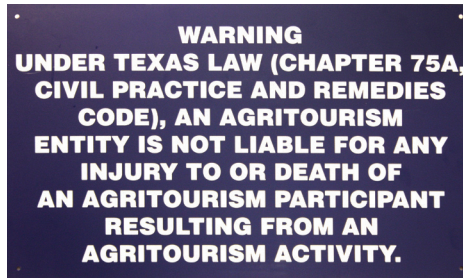
In all, TSCRA has 30 special rangers stationed throughout Texas and Oklahoma. An elite group of law enforcement officers, TSCRA special rangers have extensive knowledge of the cattle industry and primarily investigate cattle theft and other agricultural crimes, though they are well-trained in all facets of law enforcement.



L to R, Gary Baros, Scott Williamson and John Bradshaw

Purchase Metal Agritourism Signs for the Ranch

Protect your ranch by ordering our new 20" x 12" metal agritourism signs. These signs satisfy the posted warning requirement for the Limited Liability for Agritourism Activities Act. Also available in plastic. For more information, visit tscra.org and select "Cattle Raisers Trading Co." under the "What We Do" menu. Then look under the "gate signs" menu items.



BQA Tip: Managing Stocking Rates

It is tempting to increase cow-calf numbers to take advantage of surplus forage that abounds in early summer. However, if ranches are stocked to utilize all the forage at peak production, it means that the rest of the year the property is overstocked. When managing stocking rates, keep forage production patterns in mind so that stocking rates are appropriate throughout the year. It is also worth considering to stock at 80 percent, or a level below maximum capacity, to allow for drought and any adverse weather conditions.



Are you a certified Texas Beef Quality Assurance producer? Training is free and available online and at one-day in-person workshops. In-person sessions are being scheduled around the state. Visit texasbeefquality.com for more information.

Sentence Handed Down in 2016 Cattle Theft

Jeremie Del Ral Ford, 30, was sentenced to 12 years in prison and ordered to pay more than \$4,000 in restitution following a May conviction on charges of theft of livestock. The charges were the result of an investigation led by Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) Special Ranger Larry Hand. Hand was assisted in the investigation by TSCRA Special Ranger Jimmy Dickson and the Smith County Sheriff's Office.

The case involved 3 cows that were reported stolen from a ranch in eastern Smith County in October 2016. TSCRA special rangers located 2 of the animals, which had been sold at a local livestock auction. The seller was identified as Ford. Hand also recovered a feed sack at the crime scene that he traced to a feed store in Arp, which provided an invoice further linking Ford to the crime. It is believed he used the feed to entice the cattle and facilitate their removal from the pasture.

With substantial evidence connecting Ford to the theft, a felony arrest warrant was issued by a Smith County judge. Ford was arrested by the Kilgore Police Department on Feb. 24, 2017, and later transferred to the Smith County Jail where he was arraigned on March 2, 2017. Ford was subsequently convicted of theft of livestock less than \$150,000 by a Smith County jury on May 3, 2018. He remained in custody on a \$300,000 bond until the sentencing.

Hand believes additional suspects may be involved with the theft, but authorities have not yet obtained enough evidence to bring charges. Anyone with information that could aid in further convictions is urged to call the TSCRA Operation Cow Thief hotline at (888) 830-2333 or Special Ranger Larry Hand at (903) 592-5252. All information is kept confidential and tips may be provided anonymously.

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TSCRA EVENT CALENDAR

You Are Welcome to Attend!

- Jun. 15-16:** TSCRA Summer Meeting – Marfa
- June 19:** Ranching 101 – Developing Plans, Fort Worth
- July 12:** Cattlemen's Luncheon at McBride's Steakhouse, Wichita Falls
- July 17:** Ranching 101 – Genetics and EPDs, Fort Worth
- July 19:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Salado