

The Cattleman



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

NEWS BRIEFS

TSCRA Policy Conference at Lost Pines Resort

Make plans to join TSCRA for the 2018 Policy Conference Sept. 19-21 at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort in the scenic Texas Hill Country, between Bastrop and Austin. The Policy Conference is where Cattle Raisers tackle tough issues and develop grassroots policies that guide TSCRA leaders and staff in our activities in Austin and Washington, D.C.

All TSCRA members, family, and friends are invited to attend the conference. All association policy committees will

meet to consider new policy and renew existing policies.

A block of discounted sleeping rooms has been reserved at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines for \$199 per night. The discounted rates are available through Aug. 28. Attendees can make their room reservations by calling 512-308-1234 and referencing the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association room block.

Visit tscra.org/policyconference for more information.



TSCRA Policy Conference

SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2018 • LOST PINES, TEXAS

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BUYER'S GUIDE

Do you have a business or service you would like listed for FREE? Send an email to buyersguide@tscra.org.

August BQA Tip: Horns and Dehorning

Management of horns in beef cattle is important for animal welfare, animal handling, handler safety, and animal value. The easiest way to manage horns is by using polled genetics; quality polled genetics can be found in all major beef breeds. Using homozygous polled bulls in *Bos taurus* cattle will result in a 100 percent polled calf crop even if the cows have horns; in *Bos indicus*-influenced cattle the expression pattern is sometimes different, but most calves will be polled. Stocker and feeder cattle with horns should be dehorned or tipped as early as possible using methods that minimize stress.

Are you a certified Texas Beef Quality Assurance (TBQA) producer? Training is free and available online and at one-day in-person workshops. Visit texasbeefquality.com for more information or call 800-242-7820.



A Caterpillar 320DL excavator similar to the one stolen.

Missing Excavator Recovered by TSCRA Special Rangers

TSCRA Special Ranger John Bradshaw sought public assistance in locating the 2009 Caterpillar 320DL excavator, worth approximately \$200,000, stolen in mid-February from a ranch near Holliday.

Four months later, an anonymous tip helped lead Bradshaw and Special Ranger Troy McKinney to a remote property south of Saint Jo. A DPS helicopter identified an excavator of a similar make and model to the one stolen, and further investigation confirmed that the serial number was a match. The excavator was impounded at the Montague County Sheriff's Office until a property hearing.

The investigation into who stole the excavator continues. Bradshaw and McKinney asking anyone with information that could aid investigators or identify additional suspects should call Special Ranger Bradshaw at 940-389-6123. All information is kept confidential and tips may be provided anonymously.

Branded Cattle Key in Felony Theft of Livestock Indictment

William "Willie" Rittenbaugh, 47, of Mount Calm, was indicted July 6 on charges of Theft of Livestock. The indictment is the result of an investigation led by TSCRA Special Ranger Marvin Wills.

The case began in May when a Hill County rancher contacted Wills and claimed that Rittenbaugh had stolen several his cattle. Wills located 11 head of cattle in Rittenbaugh's cattle pens, nine of which were branded with the victim's brand. After the cattle were identified, they were seized and returned to the victim.

Rittenbaugh was arrested June 20 by sheriff's deputies and booked into the Hill County jail. The evidence was presented to a Hill County grand jury, which handed down an indictment for third-degree felony theft of livestock. If convicted, Rittenbaugh could face up to 10 years in prison, fines, and restitution.

TSCRA MEMBERS ask about discounts from the following partners!



TSCRA EVENT CALENDAR

You Are Welcome to Attend!

- Aug. 6-8:** Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course, College Station
- Aug. 21:** TSCRA Ranching 101 – Range and Pasture Management, Fort Worth
- Aug. 21:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Refugio
- Aug. 22:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Three Rivers
- Aug. 23:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering, Mission
- Aug. 28:** CattleFax Market Outlook, Seymour
- Aug. 28:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering, La Grange
- Aug. 29:** CattleFax Market Outlook, Bryan
- Aug. 30:** CattleFax Market Outlook, Gonzales