

The Cattleman



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

NEWS BRIEFS

Shop Health Insurance Options With Cattle Raisers Insurance

Cattle Raisers Insurance is here to help you shop for your insurance needs before the fall season gets too hectic. Visit with the CRI team to see if you qualify for group medical insurance. *Group medical plans offer a variety of medical plans at a competitive price and a larger physician and hospital network selection and can be purchased throughout the year.* Open Enrollment for Individual Health Plans begins Nov. 1 and ends Dec. 15, 2018, for a Jan. 1, 2019, effective date. Call Cattle Raisers Insurance

at 1-800-252-2849 to consult with one of our experienced insurance team specialists who understand the insurance needs of the ranching community.



**CATTLE RAISERS
INSURANCE™**

Hardworking Insurance for Hardworking Families™

TSCRA Statement: WOTUS Injunction Endangers Cattle Raisers



Robert E. McKnight

A South Carolina District Court issued an injunction Aug. 16 that allows the 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule to take effect immediately in 26 states, including Texas and Oklahoma. In response to the ruling, TSCRA President Robert McKnight issued a statement, saying the ruling “is a tremendous blow for ranchers and landowners

who hoped the ill-conceived 2015 WOTUS rule had finally gone by the wayside. Cattle raisers in Texas, Oklahoma and 24 other states are again threatened by an Obama-era land grab that has the potential to regulate them out of business.

“In the three years since the rule change was proposed, ranchers and private property rights advocates nationwide have fought to maintain their rights in the face of this blatant federal overreach. We will continue the fight to protect the men and women who provide our country with a safe and abundant food supply and look forward to working with the current administration to finalize the repeal of the 2015 WOTUS rule.”

Joined by Louisiana and Mississippi, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a motion in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas on Aug. 22, asking a judge to expedite their request for a nationwide injunction to prevent enforcement of the unlawful WOTUS rule, which Paxton claims unlawfully expanded the reach of the federal Clean Water Act.

Cattle Raisers Trading Co. Has Your Style

Show off your TSCRA pride and outfit your family for the upcoming fall weather. Check our social media feeds

at Facebook and Twitter for the specials and sales on diner mugs, caps, vests, shirts and more!



TSCRA Crime Watch: 21 Head of Cattle Missing in Texas Panhandle

TSCRA Special Ranger Ben Eggleston, District 2 in the northeast corner of the Texas Panhandle, reports 21 head of cattle missing from a property near Canadian in Lipscomb County. The cattle are black or red, have a Lazy J brand on the left hip and a star brand pink number tag in the left ear. Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact Special Ranger Eggleston at 806-852-4741 or the Operation Cow Thief tips hotline at 888-830-2333. TSCRA offers a cash reward for information leading to the arrest and/or grand jury indictment of individuals for theft of livestock or related property. Anonymity is guaranteed.



September BQA Tip: Protecting Forage With a Sacrifice Pasture

Grazing resources are critical for cow-calf producers and must be protected during drought or other conditions that reduce forage production. One way to protect pasture and rangeland health is through the use of a sacrifice pasture. A sacrifice pasture provides a place to keep and feed cattle during adverse conditions. It is better for long-term forage production to sacrifice a small area than to continue to overgraze the entire ranch. Not overgrazing pastures and rangeland allows them to respond more quickly when weather conditions improve.



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.

Jail Time for Thief Who Stole From Deceased Rancher

William Eugene Smith, 53, of Woodward, will spend five years in prison after he pleaded no contest to four felony charges in August.

The case began in June 2017 when numerous items were reported stolen from the estate of late Ellis County rancher Donnie Johnson, prompting an investigation by the Ellis County Sheriff's Office and TSCRA Special Rangers. A reward was issued through Operation Cow Thief, an anti-theft initiative led by TSCRA, for information leading to the arrest of a suspect or recovery of the stolen property.

Not long after the reward was posted, an informant contacted TSCRA Special Ranger Ben Eggleston with a possible lead on a suspect and the location of a pickup truck and gooseneck stock trailer stolen from the estate. As a result, the stolen vehicle and trailer were recovered, and Smith was identified as the prime suspect. The investigation yielded additional stolen items, and Smith was arrested by Eggleston and Ellis County Undersheriff Monty Martin on Aug. 18, 2017. Smith was booked into the Ellis County Jail, where he remained pending trial.

On June 21, 2018, Smith entered a plea of no contest on the four charges that stemmed from the investigation — one count of felony unauthorized use of a vehicle and three counts of felony grand larceny. He was sentenced to 15 years in state prison on each count. The sentences are to run concurrently, with all but the first five years to be suspended.

TSCRA MEMBERS ask about discounts from the following partners!



TSCRA EVENT CALENDAR *You Are Welcome to Attend!*

- Sept. 11:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering - Goldthwaite
- Sept. 12:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering - Ozona
- Sept. 13:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering - Uvalde
- Sept. 18:** TSCRA Ranching 101 - Fort Worth
- Sept. 19-21:** TSCRA Policy Conference - Lost Pines
- Sept. 25:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering - Monahans
- Sept. 25:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering - Walters, OK
- Sept. 26:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering - Cheyenne, OK
- Sept. 27:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering - Alpine
- Sept. 27:** TSCRA Ranch Gathering - Borger