



E-Newsletter

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Letter from the President

Fellow

TBBA

Members,

In the last letter the weather was our first truly cold snap and now two weeks later we are thawing out from the first REAL winter blast of the year which came in with a vengeance effecting most of the state! Many of you have had sub-freezing temps for at least 2 or 3 days with enough ice to build an igloo! Driving in the northern part of the state has been treacherous for those whose had to be on the road. It appears we will be trending to some moderate temps over the coming week until the next blast heads our way. Most of the college bowl games are set so get your TV's tuned up for the marathon starting after Christmas!

I have been asked to advise you of a couple of very important deadlines that need to be addressed.

1) the 2014 TBBA Calendar is about to go to print later this week and will be mailed out with the January issue of the Brangus Journal! We have gone to great lengths to attempt to include all sale dates, conferences, shows etc in the calendar, BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!! If you have a date you want to have acknowledged in the calendar, please send me and Tyler Dean the details of your date so it can be included! The deadline is this **WEDNESDAY DEC. 11** at noon.

2) the committee for the MISS AMERICA SALE in March at our annual meeting in Salado has advised me we are **short** a number of nominations for this sale. If you haven't outfit your nomination and would like to do so please contact Garry Clem or Steve Densmore. The deadline for submitting nominations has passed but we will extend the deadline until January 15! Please look and see if you would like to nominate some cattle for this

Help our marketing efforts meet YOUR needs. Any suggestions to the Facebook page or E-Newsletter should be sent to mollie@txbrangus.org

Texas Brangus Breeders Association

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sale. We are also allowing pens of 3 so call Garry or Steve for details.

3) I received an email from a breeder in Montgomery County last night looking for 20-30 commercial Brangus 3-n-1's to add to his existing commercial herd. Unfortunately I was not able to help him but got his permission to put his request in the newsletter and he will be joining the TBBA. I am including his contact email address and phone number for those who may be able to help him out so you can contact him and discuss the details. His name is George Rogers. george.rogers@internet-pls.com 832-317-2872

Please be safe during these times of inclement weather

Joe Dillard, TBBA President

Cool Weather and Your Herd

Winter is a time of increased vigilance for livestock producers, according to Tom Troxel, animal scientist at the University of Arkansas.

"One climate model is projecting winter to be warmer and wetter than normal," Troxel said. "If predictions are wrong and the weather turns cold and wet, it can compound dangers to cattle, and producers need to keep a closer eye on herds."

Cattle are in rather good body condition due to good rainfall and excellent growing conditions in 2013, but hay quality may be disappointing so cattle producers need to monitor body condition carefully as spring calving approaches.

"Calving increases nutritional demand on the cow's system," Troxel said. "For example, as a cow calves and begins to lactate, her energy requirements increase by 36 percent; her protein requirements increase by 62 percent and dry matter requirements increase by 17 percent. As weather becomes colder and wetter, this also adds nutritional demands on the cow's system."

To meet that demand, cows need more calories, protein and roughage.

"With much of the state receiving rain in early May and June, many producers were unable to bale hay when the forage was at its peak quality," he said. "This is going to

result in feeding lower quality hay than normal to late gestating cows and lactating cows later in the winter and early spring."

That may mean cow body condition can suffer resulting in lower milk production and slower bred back. Body condition becomes very critical as the production cycle moves into calving.

"All of these conditions could add up to the cow producing less colostrum and less concentrated colostrums," Troxel said. If the newborn calf isn't well protected, scours - or diarrhea - may become a real problem this year.

"Cows in poor body condition produce less milk compared to cows in moderate body condition," he said. "This will affect the weaning weights of the 2014 calf crop. In addition, cows in poor body condition take longer to re-breed.

Forage testing is critical to ensure the health of beef cattle through the winter and healthier calves come springtime. "The key is quality and quantity ration," he said. "The first step is to obtain a forage test to determine the hay quality."

"Once the protein and energy values of the hay are known, the proper supplement can be determined to balance the diet," Troxel said.

-Release by University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture
for Southern Livestock

Farm Bill Update

Bowing to pressure from corn and soybean interests, farm bill negotiators are testing new options for paying crop subsidies on some variation of a farm's historic base acres - rather than what's actually being planted each year.

The reversal dashes early hopes - shared by the House and Senate - to adopt a more transparent system of paying on planted acres. Indeed, a major criticism of the current direct cash payments to farmers is that the money goes out regardless of what is being planted, if anything at all.

The rough goal now is to pay on 85 percent of base acres for both the new revenue and price loss programs in the proposed commodity title. Following Wednesday's break-out session, there continues to be optimism that a deal is possible, and a meeting of the full House-Senate

conference could be called next week.

But much depends on what scores come back from the Congressional Budget Office Monday. And at this stage it seems almost certain that the House will not vote before it goes home next Friday, Dec. 13th.

From a political standpoint, the shift back to a base acre approach testifies to the immense power of corn and soybeans, which came to fear they would be exposed to trade complaints if subsidies were tied to current production.

Midwest Republicans in the Senate, allied with corn and beans, were most adamant that base acres be used for a new target price program advocated by the House. But as corn prices have fallen over the summer, the Senate's own revenue protection option-paid on planted acres -became vulnerable to the same complaint.

Last week the National Corn Growers Association and America Soybean Association, which had supported planted acres themselves, warned they would oppose the bill unless all payments were decoupled from current production.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) relented Wednesday in talks with the Senate. And his ranking Democrat, Minnesota Rep. Collin Peterson, confirmed Thursday that he is going along reluctantly in hopes of getting to a deal.

"Don't ask me to defend it, that's all I told them," Peterson joked with reporters. And he cautioned that any agreement was preliminary subject to the scores. "We've never had the base acres scored," Peterson said.

Special accommodations will have to be made for millions of "orphaned" cotton base acres, no longer qualifying for the commodity programs. At the same time, negotiators are testing what it will cost if farmers were to be allowed to reallocate plantings within their base.

Such a reallocation seems almost certain for farms with a cotton base-but which have been planting other crops in recent years. But if done on a national scale, the costs could be high given the expansion of corn.

For example, a farmer in Arkansas, who has 1,000 acres of rice base acres but has been planting 500 acres of corn

and 500 acres of rice in recent years, would he be allowed to reallocate his base according to these plantings? On one hand that makes sense, but given how much could be paid out for corn in 2014 under the Senate's revenue protection program, there is the risk that the costs will balloon in CBO's scoring.

In aggregate numbers, the estimated 260 million base acres counted today in farm programs are not so different from the average of real "planted" acres. But within that universe, huge shifts have taken place as corn and soybeans have grown more dominant while rice, cotton and wheat plantings have declined.

For example in the South, about 12 percent of the base acres went unplanted in a recent year compared with just 3 percent in the Midwest. Oklahoma and Texas alone accounted for more than 4 million unplanted base acres or 26 percent of the total for the nation that same year.

At the same time in Midwest states, plantings over base totaled almost 9.5 million acres in 2010 - more than double that of the South. And in Kansas and North Dakota, corn plantings have soared as land has been pulled out of the conservation reserve program.

Corn and soybeans' victory in this case comes at the expense of those Midwest farmers who had been hoping that aid would be distributed according to average planted acres of recent years. In many cases that would be significantly higher than a farm's base acres.

The other side of the coin is that the drop in corn prices means that corn growers will very likely qualify for generous assistance under the new Agriculture Risk Coverage program, which is the mainstay of the Senate's commodity title.

So much so, that if corn were to reach \$4 per bushel in 2014, a farmer could double what he now gets in direct cash payments-paid on base acres.

At POLITICO's request, the NCGA recently provided such an analysis based on an Illinois farm with a harvested yield of 175 bushels per acre. At a \$4 per bushel price in 2014, the NCGA's own numbers show that the farmer would get \$53 per acre under the new subsidy structure - twice the \$25 per acre he receives in direct payments for the same county.

-Release by David Rogers for POLITICO

Texas Drought Status Improves

Only 47 percent of Texas remains in moderate to exceptional drought status, according to the latest Texas Drought report from the Texas Water Development Board.

"Most of the state showed improvement," the report says, "with an additional 5 percent of the state completely out of drought."

Wichita Falls remains the driest area in the state, showing areas of Extreme and Exceptional drought. Overall, the entire state remains "more than 15 percentage points lower than normal for this time of year."

That 47 percent ranking in moderate to exceptional drought compares to 51 percent last week, 88 percent three months ago and 81 percent last year.

State reservoirs are currently 63 percent full, no change from last week but 3 points better than three months ago and slightly lower than the 65 percent at this time last year. Normally, reservoir level is at 80 percent full at this time of year.

-Release by Ron Smith for Southwest Farm Press

TBBA Business Card Ads

TBBA members have the opportunity to advertise their farm or ranch through the new business card advertisements to be launched on the TBBA website soon. If you would like to purchase a business card ad, e-mail mollie@txbrangus.org for more information. Business card ads will cost \$50.

Call for Cattle Photos

The TBBA is constantly looking for ways to improve our social media sights. If you have photos of your Brangus cattle around the farm or ranch that you would like us to share on the Facebook page, please e-mail those in .jpg format to mollie@txbrangus.org.

To view the current "Around the Farm and Ranch" album, [click here](#).

Dec./Jan. Calendar of Events

December:

11th:

TBBA Calendar Event Submission Deadline

15th:

Entry Deadline- San Antonio Open Brangus and Open Red
Brangus Shows

January:

15th:

TBBA Miss America Sale Consignment Deadline

25th:

Junior Brangus Show- Fort Worth Stock Show, 8 a.m.

Are you a TBBA member with an upcoming sale or field day? E-mail mollie@txbrangus.org to have it listed on the website and E-Newsletter calendar

Sincerely,

Texas Brangus Breeders Association

Serving and promoting the interest of its members specific to the breeding, raising, and marketing of Brangus cattle.