



FARM & RANCH CLUB FLASH

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JUNE 2008

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Shanna Weaver

Well – there is no doubt that “Texas summer” has arrived! Just check how high your thermometer reads these days....and how empty your rain gage is. Sounds like we may be in for a long, hot summer, but certainly nothing we haven't experienced before.

I had the opportunity to attend the Fort Worth Chamber's 126th Anniversary luncheon recently and it amazing to see how influential and important the chamber is to our city. As an “arm” of the chamber – our club can be proud to be associated with this ambitious group of folks. The chamber was recently recognized as one of the top 20 Economic Development agencies of 2007. They work hard for this city and it shows! The list of the chamber highlights for 2007-2008 is lengthy and impressive to say the least.

On another note – with all the negative media that we tend to hear these days, it seems like there is always something disappointing being reported about America's youth...how they are in trouble, causing trouble, have lazy tendencies, expect things to be handed to them, etc...it's enough to make people worry about the generation behind us. I wish the media would work as hard at finding positive stories – although they would NOT have to work very hard if they would peek into the agricultural youth of Tarrant county and surrounding areas. Some of these local students that have achieved more before their high school graduation than some folks achieve in their adult lives. Hats off to them for their drive and determination to go above and beyond. There are so many students that have much to be proud of – but a few special students come to mind from the Crowley FFA. Congratulations to the recent State Champion Floriculture Team as well as the Nursery/Landscape, Dairy Food and Food Science Teams who placed well in their respective competitions. With news like this – it should keep us ever mindful that we, as a club, are on the right track supporting local agriculture and providing scholarships for some of these deserving students!

Hope to see you at the next meeting!

Shanna Weaver

JUNE:

Jim Bradbury

Tuesday, June 24, 2008
12 Noon
TSCRA Brand Room
1301 West 7th Street, Fort Worth

Brisket/Turkey - \$10.00

Speaker = STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM IN FFA
FLORICULTURE CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENT

Becky DeShazo will bring her state champion team of Rachel Owen, Heather Beets, Megan Dornan, and Brooke Beck. This team from Crowley ISD FFA recently won the floriculture state championship held at Sam Houston State. These young ladies will compete later this year in Indianapolis, Indiana at the National FFA Convention. This is the first time that a Crowley ISD FFA team has competed at the national level.

CLUB NOTES:

Encourage someone you know to join us for lunch!





FARM & RANCH CLUB MINUTES

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Museum, Brand Room

May 27, 2008

54 MEMBERS AND GUESTS

CALL TO ORDER: Shanna Weaver

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW: Guests for lunch were: Mrs. Jim Link, David Kercheval, Dale Berkebile, Carter Hicks, Allison White, Lydia Laske, Casey Brenlee, and Rodney Woolson. It was announced that M. L. Marshall had passed away. It was also announced that our own Jake and Breinn Richter are expecting.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Paul Burrough reported that “Rendezvous at the River” Gala held on April 24th at the River Ranch to benefit scholarships grossed \$29,735.00 and netted \$23,000.00.

It was reported that Pizza Ranch was also a big success with between 4,000 and 5,000 students participating. They learned a lot of valuable information, like the back end of a cow was called the “utter” end.

Treasurer’s Report given by Rosalind Sullivan reported an ending balance of \$8,979.31.

PROGRAM: LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL ISSUES IN AUSTIN AND WASHINGTON D.C.

Jason Skaggs - Executive Director Governmental Affairs – Texas Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association said that the Texas population will double in the next two years. Texas concerns are private property rights, water issues, Trans-Texas Corridor and wind. Austin issues include:

1. Is wind a property right?
2. Surface damage issues for oil and gas production – abandonment, etc.
3. Eminent domain/condemnation
4. Fresh water issues and annexation

Jason informed us that 96% of our market is outside of the United States. On March 27, Commissioner Todd Staples announced a deal had been reached with Mexico to open their border to all U. S. breeding cattle. Up next: Korea, Colombia, and Panama. He let us know that COOL should be completed by September 2008, and cattle would be extended in the pipeline in the U.S. until July 15th. On another issue, approximately one-fourth of the 2007 U.S. corn crop was converted to ethanol. Imagine what will happen to prices when we have a drought. Texas leaders are trying to put the brakes on this trend. TSCRA supports Governor Perry’s request to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a 50 percent waiver from the RFS mandate and Senator Hutchison’s legislation to freeze the RFS at current levels. TSCRA supports the production of ethanol from sources not tied to feed grains and free of government mandate and incentives. For additional questions or information contact Jason at jskaggs@texascattleraisers.org

DRAWINGS:

Member door prizes provided by the Southwest Dairy Museum and our own wonderful contributor Albert Ross.

Water Foul Print – Nan Wardlaw Fidler; Conservation Print – Turkeys – Mable Malone; Guide to Birds – Manuel Martinez; DVD on Birds – Buddy Almy

Guest door prize of a free lunch at our next meeting – David Kercheval

ADJOURNED: Shanna Weaver adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.
