



FARM & RANCH CLUB FLASH

Volume 14, Issue 12

June 2009

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Jim Bradbury

About the time you read this, summer will officially be here and we are headed for 100 degree days. It's the time of year when trees are your best friend.

Several weeks ago, I was traveling through northern Oklahoma and southern Kansas. The plentiful rains that this country received this spring showed in the tall green grasses. While it wasn't quite stirrup-high, it was close. Later that same week, I was in Austin and that part of the state is dry as toast. Lake Travis looked lower than I have seen it in a long time.

Water comes and goes and there is always some cycle to it. But we have reached the point in time in Texas that we need to start looking at a comprehensive plan on water. Cities have grown to unimaginable size and population. And that will only increase as more and more folks move to the State, specifically along the I-35 corridor. Several different water districts including Tarrant Regional are deep in litigation with the State of Oklahoma over capturing and transporting water to supply urban needs. The battle lines have been drawn between rural interests in East Texas and urban interests of Dallas and Fort Worth over the construction of reservoirs.

This is all random and disconnected shooting in the very early stages of what will be a long and painful ride. We don't have a good statewide water policy and we need one. The biggest interest players in water are cities, power generation and agriculture. Across the state, landowners and communities are struggling to understand and deal with groundwater conservation districts. Preservation of groundwater is butting heads with good old fashioned landowner independence. The subject of meters on wells is like the strike of a match.

We have spent a lot of time in the last few years talking about the problem, but have spent very little time doing anything about it. Like a mesquite tree that needs to come down, there is no point in staring at it. You need to start swinging the axe. Rather than let cities or power companies define water policy, I would suggest to you that those best suited to defining a water usage policy are those that depend on it for a way of life. That's us in agriculture. Whether it's through one of the many Ag organizations in the State or on a smaller scale, we need to start developing a plan. And as it is in most complex problems, the one that starts writing the plan usually leads the debate and wins in the end.

June:

Kimberly Thomas

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

12 Noon

TSCRA Brand Room

1301 West 7th Street, Fort Worth

Brisket/Turkey - \$10.00

Speaker = Brianna Grigsby,
Brianna is a member of the Crowley FFA and will be competing in the Soil Conservation Prepared Public Speaking Event. Her topic is the Mystery of Soil.

CLUB NOTES:





FARM & RANCH CLUB MINUTES

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Museum, Brand Room

May 26, 2009

32 MEMBERS AND GUESTS

CALL TO ORDER: Jim Bradbury

INVOCATION: Paul Burrough

WELCOME AND RECOGNITIONS:

Jim Bradbury welcomed members and guests to the May 2009 meeting.

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Paul Burrough announced that the Fort Worth Herd will have a 10th Anniversary celebration on June 12th.

R L Felt announced that the 2009 Pizza Ranch was canceled due to the outbreak of the H1N1 flu virus.

Jim informed everyone that the Farm and Ranch Club would sponsor the Range and Pasture Plant Identification Contest at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo.

Treasurer's Report from Rosalind Sullivan reported an ending balance of \$8,714.77

PROGRAM:

Mark Dunlap from M L Leddy's gave us the interesting history of one of Fort Worth's most famous retail stores.

The story began in 1921 in Brady, Texas when Mr. Leddy, a cotton farmer by trade, lost money on his crop and took a job in a saddle repair shop. In one year Mr. Leddy had bought the saddle shop along with a boot repair shop and opened M L Leddy's. The store remained in Brady from 1922-1936 when they moved to San Angelo to keep up with the demands of an expanding company. Then in 1941 they expanded opening the store in the Fort Worth stockyards where it remains today. The company is currently being run by the 3rd generation of the Leddy family.

Estimated wait times for a custom made saddle is 6-8 months and 10-12 months for a pair of boots.

DOOR PRIZES:

Guest Drawing – Jeff Gerard, free lunch

Member Drawings: AJ Fidler and Sam Stavron both received duck prints

ADJOURNED: Patrick Murray adjourned our meeting at 1:00PM