



By Tommy Antilley  
Cooperative Extension Agent

**Impact of Cheap feed**

For the past few years every livestock owner has been complaining about the cost of feed increasing and how it has a negative effect on their livestock operation. In this week's news column every reader is going to think that I have lost my mind and I hope by the end of the article I can clean it up, but I'm going to talk about the negative effects of livestock feed being cheap feed and how today's high feed prices offer a positive incentive for livestock producer to become better land managers.

Every livestock owner would agree that the main reason they run livestock is make use and convert

the product that grows on pasture (forage) to a product that is worth something and is useful to society (beef). I mean face it we can go graze non-stop and receive very little benefit from it, however; when the cow is out there grazing all would agree the beef is very beneficial.

When feed was cheap livestock producers could increase their stocking rate and feed a little bit more that year. This also caused livestock owners to select for animals that were bigger and did not fit the land, having higher nutritional requirements than what a range diet can support. Another negative impact of cheap feed is it allowed livestock owners to keep their livestock too long during a drought. This would force the owner to move from supplemental feeding to feeding a full ration, which goes against the whole logic of running cattle what is to make use of the truly cheap feed the forage on the pasture.

For a long time livestock feed was cheap and when the range condition

declined it was possible to make up the difference by grabbing the sack of feed to meet the animals requirements, however; today's feed prices make it difficult to continue the management practices of the past. This forces one to analyze their management practices and decided what a necessity in their livestock operation. The closing thought that I would like to leave you with is that it is cheaper to grow grass then it is to buy feed.

**Apply now for Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program**

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Applications are available online at [www.principals.org/spirit](http://www.principals.org/spirit). Click the "Apply Now" link. Applications may also be mailed to interested applicants by calling (877) 525-8491.

**RE-ELECT**  
**Marty Boyd**  
*Constable, Precinct 2*

I remain committed to serving the citizens of East Coke County with fairness and professionalism.

*Pd. Pol. Adv. by Marty Boyd, PO Box 391, Bronte, Texas 76933*



**Blackwell CISD**

**Breakfast**

**Monday, October 29**

Pancakes or cereal, juice, milk

**Tuesday, October 30**

Breakfast burrito, salsa, or cereal, juice, milk

**Wednesday, October 31**

Breakfast pizza or cereal, juice, milk

**Thursday, November 1**

Scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits, gravy, or cereal, juice, milk

**Friday, November 2**

Donuts/gogurt or cereal, juice, milk

**Lunch**

**Monday, October 29**

Chicken & broccoli penne, garden salad, apple slices, breadstick, milk

**Tuesday, October 30**

Ultimate taco salad, seasoned corn, fresh fruit bowl, milk

**Wednesday, October 31**

Steak fingers, whipped potatoes w/ gravy, savory green beans, apple-pineapple d'lite, milk

**Thursday, November 1**

Chicken quesadilla, black beans, baby carrots, orange smiles, salsa, milk

**Friday, November 2**

Pepperoni pizza or cheese pizza, garden salad, fresh veggie cup, mixed fruit, milk

**FARM AND RANCH AUCTION**  
**BLACKWELL, TEXAS**  
**OCTOBER 27 2012**  
**10:00 AM**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Farm Equipment<br/>Ranch Equipment<br/>Pipe<br/>Atvs<br/>Antiques<br/>Dozers<br/>Riding Mowers<br/>Collectables<br/>Vehicles<br/>Taxidermy<br/>Machinery</p> | <p>Trailers<br/>Tractors<br/>Deer Feeders<br/>Tools<br/>Hay Equipment<br/>Road Equipment<br/>Guns<br/>Unique Items<br/>Deer Blinds<br/>Art Work<br/>Welders</p> |
|---|---|

Riding Mowers

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REPUBLICAN

**CONAWAY**

FOR CONGRESS

TEXAS' CONSERVATIVE STAR

- ★ **THE EXPERIENCE** of a Businessman  
Conaway is a CPA with a range of experience from large to small firms, including working alongside President George W. Bush as CFO of Bush Exploration.
- ★ **THE VALUES** of a True Texas Conservative  
Conaway is a proven fiscal conservative who voted to cut spending, stop spending increases, has a 100% positive rating from the National Right to Life Committee and is endorsed by the National Rifle Association.
- ★ **THE COMMITMENT** of a Fiscally Responsible Leader  
Conaway voted to repeal ObamaCare, lower taxes, pass a Balanced Budget Amendment and require any new federal program to be matched with the elimination of another of equal or greater cost.

**VOTE**  
NOVEMBER  
**6<sup>TH</sup>**

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