



Rangeland Management Equals Water Management

An old topic to us all is brush management, as much as everyone likes to see a nice smooth pasture and one that is easy to move livestock and run a 4-wheeler across. We need to ask ourselves, do we sacrifice production for looks. In the dried out landscape of Coke County, I would like to throw out some food for thought. Keep every drop of water that falls on your place and all that your uphill neighbor will give you.

There are many practices that can help achieve this goal. These can include brush control, grazing intensity and riparian area management. Practices such as brush control are always thought to decrease the amount of brush and increase the amount of grass. However, let's also think of increasing water as well. During the drought that we have been in for the past few years, many pastures only have water in a depression in the ground, which could have been caused from clearing the brush. Now, as a result of clearing the brush and leaving the depression in the ground, you have a means of slowing down the water and holding it to grow grass.

Other means of pasture management to conserve water is grazing management. Grass roots serve many purposes. Two of the most basic are to take up nutrients from the soil and bring it to the plants and to keep the soil loose where water infiltrates into the soil instead of running off of the soil. The easiest way to maintain a good root system is to maintain good above-ground plant structure such as leaves and roots. By utilizing the old theory of leave half - take half, you will allow the above-ground portion of the plant to maintain enough structure to support the roots.

Another way to improve water with grazing management is to control the grazing in the riparian areas. Riparian areas are classified as the interface between the creek, river or stream. When proper management occurs, these areas can produce more vegetation than many land managers could ever imagine. For a riparian area

to maintain maximum production, it is necessary to hold off grazing until you can establish a stable plant community and stabilize the banks to prevent erosion. Once the banks get an established plant community, you can utilize this area with short duration grazing.

Bronte Longhorn Golf Club announces Summer Youth Golf Program

The Bronte Longhorn Golf Club will be hosting a Summer Youth Golf Program that is open to all area youth. This summer, learn to play golf or just improve your game.

The program will take place weekly, starting July 3rd from 9-10:30 am. Lessons equipment and refreshments are provided. The program is free, so mark your calendar and come have fun!

Check Out Coke County Library

The date is set: Wednesday mornings at 10 am, the Coke County Library will have a story hour for youngsters from three to eight years old. The morning will begin with a story, followed by a project, and then there will be time for the children to check out books of their choice. Come by or call 453-2495.

The Pew Research Center has done another study of books and children. Their survey showed that parents with minor children at home prefer print books for their children. Even though the parents of children at home are younger and use electronic devices themselves, 87 percent still feel that print books are best for children. One father commented that children have favorite books that they read over and over and just seeing the book on the shelf will bring back warm memories for them. It has been pointed out that children like the same book over and over because they like that they can predict what



Engagement Announced! Mr. and Mrs. Lance Harris of Spur proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Kaitlyn, to Haden Dillard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Dillard of Robert Lee.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Donald and Rita Harris of McAdoo, Doris VanMeter of Crosbyton, Doris Davis of Duncan, Oklahoma, and the late Howard Pierce of Duncan, Oklahoma.

The groom is the grandson of Mickey and Jerry Dillard of Millersview, Martha Hemphill of Brady and the late Carroll Hemphill.

Miss Harris is a 2011 graduate of Spur High School and is attending Howard College in San Angelo. She is currently employed at Texas State Bank in San Angelo.

Mr. Dillard is a 2011 graduate of Robert Lee High School and has received his AAS degree in Golf Landscape and Turfgrass Management from Western Texas College. He is currently employed at San Angelo Country Club in San Angelo.

The couple will be married August 10, 2013, at the Lytle Cove Cottage in Abilene.

happens next. Also, parents feel that electronic devices have too much distraction at the fingertips for children. Some parents feel that this need not be an either/or situation and provide both resources.

The Library has recently received a donation of a wonderful collection of children's books and they are ready to be checked out by the children now.

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Pre-Registration Available

Program suitable for children age 3 yrs. to those entering 6th grade.
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