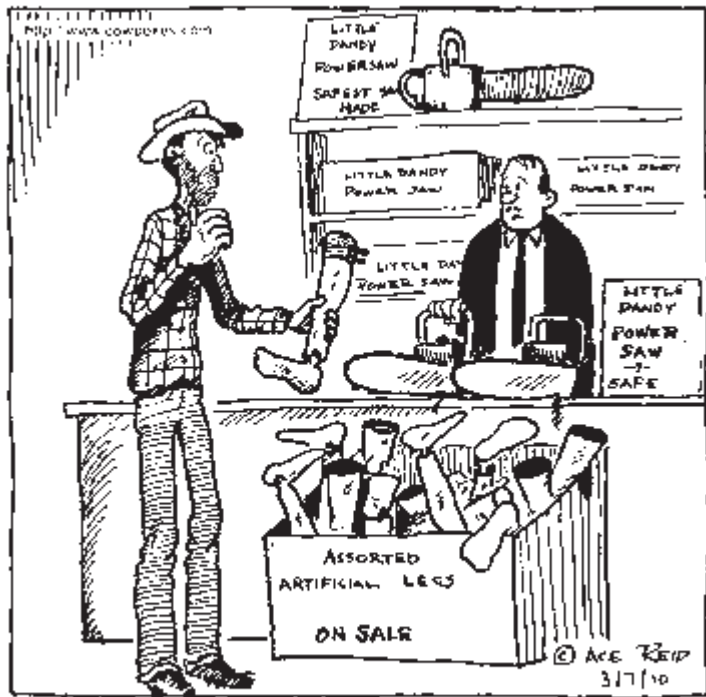


COWPOKES™

By Ace Reid



"Mister, if these here Little Dandy Saws are so safe, how come you're sellin' so many wooded legs?!"

Chute 'n the Bull by Tommy Neyland



Tommy Neyland

I am disturbed by the number of people in this country who seem to take agriculture for granted. Many have had little to no experience with the land and only know what they read and hear from what are often unreliable sources. They jump on bandwagons about global warming, animal rights, energy use or even belching cows, largely uninformed. Agriculture cannot be understood by only reading books or listening to people with political agendas. It is a business that has been passed on through generations of research, knowledge and experience.

Our country seems to have become "environmentally aware" in the last 30-40 years, but we understand little about food and what it takes to produce it. Why is this? The answer, in my opinion, is that most Americans spend less than 10 percent of their disposable income to support their dietary needs. According to the USDA's Economic Research Service, food expenditures by families and individuals as a share of disposable income were 13.8 percent in 1970,

11 percent in 1988 and only 9.6 percent in 2008. Could it be that food is too cheap or Americans are too wealthy, and we have little need to be worried about where our next meal will come from or how we will pay for it? We hear too much talk about GMOs, cap and trade, carbon sequestration and cows belching gases into the atmosphere causing global warming and too little about the security of our nation due in part to our agriculture industry. Somehow we need to educate the public that farmers, ranchers and land managers are an essential link to the health and success of our society. We should all care about the environment, but land managers must do more to educate the public about the safe, wholesome and inexpensive food and fiber our industry provides to the nation and the world. There has never been a more important time for us to portray ourselves as stewards of the land and educate the public about our business.

Lloyd Noble understood the importance of agriculture to our nation, and this is one of the reasons why he established the Noble Founda-

tion. Mr. Noble believed people who were raised on the land were people of character and integrity with moral and spiritual values, and that people who raised livestock and crops had a much greater appreciation for their fellow man. He once said that "the ownership of a piece of land, no matter how large or how small, is the greatest defense there is against tyranny." He was a man of forethought and vision.

Since carbon and CO2 emissions are of such interest today, maybe it would be beneficial if those of us who manage the land were known as "carbon facilitators." After all, our real job is to capture carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere with the plant factories growing on the land. The sequestered CO2 in the plants is then removed by livestock and wildlife. This is all done with hopes of making a profit so that the system can be sustained. Most of the carbon we sequester in our grazing lands is recycled by herbivores and insects, thus remaining in our lands' carbon sink. Our goal as carbon facilitators is to keep this system operating as

efficiently as possible. If we graze our factories too short, we sequester less carbon and production decreases because we become overstocked. On the other hand, if we let our factories get too mature, efficiency decreases and we limit profitability because we become understocked.

In short, a carbon facilitator is one who manages a very complicated and always evolving factory. He is educated about the environment and works very hard to balance the process of photosynthesis for optimum plant growth with livestock and wildlife production for economic and ecologic sustainability. So the next time you're visiting with someone and they ask, "What line of work are you in?" casually reply, "I'm a carbon facilitator," and be ready to answer their questions. If we do not begin to educate others of agriculture's importance to society, we may wake up one day and find ourselves dependent on other nations for our food and fiber.

"It is an unfortunate human failing that a full pocketbook often groans more loudly than an empty stomach." Franklin D. Roosevelt

Leon County 4-H recordbook training set for April 15th

Mark your calendar for the Leon County 4-H recordbook training on Thursday, April 15, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Centerville High School Cafeteria. This training will provide all the information you need to complete a Texas 4-H recordbook. Record keeping is the method that 4-H members use to demonstrate the achievements they have had in a variety of 4-H experiences. The 4-H recordbook requires 4-H members to keep excellent records on their project learning experiences, leadership, community service, and awards. Through this experience, 4-H members develop life skills in organization, record keeping, and communication. It helps members express their creativity, while instilling in them the ability to know where money is being spent on projects, what great experiences they have participated in, and how they have helped their community by giving back. Mrs. Laura Huebinger, Texas 4-H Specialist for District 8 will be the featured speaker for the training so make plans now to attend. In an effort to help with planning you must pre-

register and make registration payment of \$10.00 by April 15, 2010. The registration fee will provide a meal and seminar materials for each participant. For more information please contact the Texas Agrilife Extension Service at 903.536.2531 or at leon-tx@tamu.edu We will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for this meeting. We request that you contact Texas Agrilife Extension three days before the event to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that will be required. Extension programs serve of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

State Fair tags due April 12th

All Leon County 4-H Members wishing to show lamb, goat or swine projects at the State Fair of Texas in 2010 need to order tags by contacting the Texas Agrilife Extension Service at 903.536.2531 by April 12, 2010. Each tag will cost \$10.00 and the tags will not be ordered until pay-

ment is received. Extension programs serve of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

RRC production statistics and allowables for February 2010

AUSTIN -- The Texas average rig count as of Jan. 15 was 510, representing about 43 percent of all active land rigs in the United States. In the last 12 months, total Texas reported production was 345 million barrels of oil and 7.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Texas natural gas production represents approximately 29 percent of total U.S. natural gas demand.

The Commission's estimated final production for November 2009 is 27,747,863 barrels of crude oil and 591,058,794 Mcf (thousand cubic feet) of gas well gas. The Commission derives

final production numbers by multiplying the preliminary November 2009 production totals of 26,261,464 barrels of crude oil and 496,980,404 Mcf of gas well gas by a production adjustment factor of 1.0566 for crude oil and 1.1893 for gas well gas. (These production totals do not include casinghead gas or condensate.)

Texas natural gas storage reported to the Commission for December 2009 was 410,850,036 Mcf compared to 329,721,130 Mcf in December 2008. The January 2010 gas storage estimate is 349,530,136 Mcf.

The Texas Railroad Commission's Oil and Gas Division set initial February 2010 natural gas production allowables for prorated fields in the state to meet market demand of 16,449,885 Mcf (thousand cubic feet). In setting the initial February 2010 allowables, the Commission used historical production figures from previous months, producers' demand forecasts for the coming month, and adjusted the figures based on well capability. These initial allowables will be adjusted after actual production for February 2010 is reported.

TDA Market Recap March 1, 2010

AUSTIN -- (Mar. 1, 2010) For the week ending Feb. 27, feeder cattle prices at Texas auctions were mostly steady to \$5 higher per hundredweight, with some locations to \$10 higher and a few steady to \$1 lower. Fed cattle markets were steady. Cotton prices jumped to a record high \$73.25 cents per pound after China reported its 2009 production was less than previously estimated, further tightening global supplies. Grain prices were also higher amid concerns that wet spring weather would delay planting. As for futures markets, cotton, wheat and corn were higher, while feeder cattle, fed cattle and lumber were lower. Parts of Central

and East Texas recorded up to 1.5 inches of rain for the week while other areas received little or no precipitation. Topsoil moisture supplies were rated mostly adequate to surplus. Winter wheat has responded well to the rainfall, though many areas are too wet for fertilizer applications. The crop is rated in mostly good to fair condition. Wet fields again delayed corn and grain sorghum planting in the Coastal Bend, Upper Coast and Blacklands regions. Pastures were reported to be in poor to good condition. The wet, cool weather has slowed pasture growth and supplemental feeds are still required in many areas.

BUFFALO LIVESTOCK REPORT

Sale Date: 3-6-10	Choice Pairs.....N/T	600-700 lbs.....96-118
Head Count: 1222	Good Pairs.....800-960	700-800 lbs.....95-106
Last Week: 946	Plain Pairs.....510-790	Heifer Calves & Yearlings
Sellers: 189	Bred Cows 3-6 Yr Old.....500-900	<i>Some plainer, hard to place calves below these figures.</i>
Buyers: 78	Steer/Bull Calves & Yearlings	150-200 lbs.....105-150
Cutter Cows.....52-58	<i>Some plainer, hard to place calves below these figures.</i>	200-300 lbs.....105-145
Fat Cows.....50-55	150-200 lbs.....110-165	300-400 lbs.....104-122.5
Canner Cows.....36-55	200-300 lbs.....110-147.5	400-500 lbs.....97-117
Slaughter Bulls Steady/Down	300-400 lbs.....122-140	500-600 lbs.....95-109
Heavy Bulls.....66-68.5	400-500 lbs.....112-131	600-700 lbs.....88-102
Light Bulls.....57.5-64.5	500-600 lbs.....102-120	700-800 lbs.....83-91
Cow/Calf Pairs & Bred Cows		

BRAZOS VALLEY LIVESTOCK REPORT

Date of Sale: 3-2-10	400-500.....98-111	600-700.....82-88
Total Receipts: 500	500-600.....90-104	Stocker Cows
Previous Week: 500	600-700.....85-92	Palpated Cows.....400-790
Total Sellers: 84	Feeder Heifers - Med/Large #1	Cow/Calf Pairs
Total Buyers: 55	200-300.....106-122	Choice.....---
Feeder Steers- Med/Large #1	300-400.....105-121	Good.....820
200-300.....122-149	400-500.....100-109	Plain.....385-400
300-400.....115-137	500-600.....100-108	Slaughter Bulls
400-500.....111-131	600-700.....90-98	High Yield 1-2.....68-74
500-600.....105-125	700-800.....85-88	Lower Yielding.....60-67
600-700.....93-102	Feeder Heifers - Med/Large #1-2	Slaughter Cows
700-800.....88-99	200-300.....99-106	Shelly Cows.....30-40
Med/Large #1-2's	300-400.....95-102	Cutter Canners.....41-59
200-300.....111-120	400-500.....90-99	Cutter/Boning UT.....44-58.5
300-400.....105-114	500-600.....90-98	

GROESBECK LIVESTOCK REPORT

Date of Sale: 3-4-10	Young Bred Cows.....800-1000	500-600.....108-125
Head Count: 796	Older Plain Cows.....500-700	600-700.....106-117
Cut/Boner: 53-57.50	Good Choice Pairs.....1000-1150	700-800.....92-110
Canner Cow: 48-52	Common Medium Pair.....800-950	<i>Heifers Good & Choice</i>
Breaker Utility Com Cow: 52-55	Stocker & Feeder Calves & Yearlings	Up to 200.....---
Thin Cows: 38-42	<i>Steers Good & Choice</i>	300-400.....110-120
Bulls Yield Grade 1&2: 60-63	Up to 200.....---	400-500.....105-111
Bulls Yield Grade 3&4: 58-60	300-400.....120-142	500-600.....100-108
Stocker Cows	400-500.....115-130	600-700.....96-103

ANDERSON CO. LIVESTOCK REPORT

Date of Sale: 3-3-10	400-500.....1.00-1.29	500-600.....92-1.13
Head Count: 343	500-600.....98-1.15	600-700.....90-1.05
Buyers: 32	600-700.....95-1.11	700-800.....80-90
Sellers: 51	700-800.....80-90	Slaughter Cows.....35-54
Steers/Bull Calves & Yearlings	Heifers Calves & Yearlings	Slaughter Bulls.....52-62
200-300.....1.10-1.39	200-300.....1.05-1.35	Stocker Cows... 425.00-775.00
300-400.....1.05-1.39	300-400.....1.00-1.23	Pairs..... 625.00-950.00
	400-500.....95-1.20	

EAST TEXAS LIVESTOCK REPORT

Date: 3-2-10	Slaughter Bulls55-68.50	305-400.....95-130
Volume: 597	Bred Cows520-890/hd	405-500.....84-114
Tested: 187	Cow/Calf Pairs630-940	505-600.....80-109
Sellers: 124	Feeder Steers/Bulls Large Frame #1's	605-800.....73-105
Total Buyers: 66	150-200.....118-140	Compared to last week:
Packer Buyers: 5	205-300.....111-150	All classes of feeder steers and
Order Buyers: 11	305-400.....105-147	heifers ended fully \$2 to \$4 higher
Cattle Companies: 25	405-500.....90-131	with certain class instances \$5
Feeder Orders: 196	505-600.....83-121	higher. Slaughter cows ended
Slaughter Cows	605-800.....80.50-120	firm with slaughter bulls mostly
Canners.....38-47.00	Feeder Heifers - Large Frame#1	steady to \$1.50 lower. Buyer
Boning/Utility.....48-53.00	150-200.....110-128	trade was very active with the
Cutters.....54-60.00	205-300.....100-134	demand strong on a mostly de-

- Emergency Calls at clinic or farm
- Full service equine hospital
- Cutting edge lab offering on site blood analysis
- Digital X-rays; Endoscopy; Ultrasound
- Surgery suite with a fully padded knockdown/recovery room
- Indoor monitoring stalls for critical care
- TV monitored, climate controlled, extra-large foaling stalls
- Quarantine/Isolation barn with large stalls
- Two stallion barns with individually attached pipe turnout paddocks
- Lighted mare motel with spacious stalls

CVRS
Eddie Sanchez DVM
903-536-2424
3771 FM 811, Centerville, TX



Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm
Sat. by appt. only.
Credit Cards Accepted