

# Chute 'n the Bull by Tommy Neyland



Tommy Neyland

Most cattle producers know that the textbook gestation length of beef cattle is 283 days. Most also realize that biology is variable, and predicting the exact day of natural birth in most mamma-

lian species is very difficult to do. However, some producers seem to forget these biological laws when using new technology in their breeding programs. Many producers associate artificial insemination (AI) with the cow herd behaving in very regimented and predictable ways.

We often recommend implement a timed AI program, in which a large group of heifers is synchronized and inseminated on a single day. Some producers hesitate to implement such a system because they envision the resulting calf crop being born on a single day and creating a problem if the heifers require calving assistance. Fortunately, biological variability takes care of this potential problem.

Artificial insemination in a commercial beef production

system has advantages and disadvantages. Implementation of AI helps a producer better manage the calving season. AI bulls typically have superior, more predictable genetic value compared to herd bulls and sire better-performing calves. Individual bulls can be selected for specific matings to improve desired traits in part of the cow herd, or a single bull can be chosen to sire the entire calf crop. This would tend to increase uniformity, thereby increasing overall value of the calf crop. Artificial insemination can also be beneficial to smaller-scale producers where the upkeep and management costs of a herd bull are not economically feasible. Some disadvantages of AI may include the cost of semen or labor. A considerable amount of handling of the cattle is

necessary and adequate working facilities are required for artificially inseminating cattle. Finally, if the cows aren't synchronized, the producer must spend considerable time each day detecting cows that are coming into heat and are ready to be bred.

AI might not be the right choice for every producer, but more producers should consider the benefits of an AI program for their replacement heifers. A timed AI program has much lower labor requirements than traditional AI, and it doesn't result in all the calves being born on the same day. You can find this and past articles on the web at [www.mycountrytractor.blogspot.com](http://www.mycountrytractor.blogspot.com) for your reference.

## COWPOKES By Ace Reid



"Maw, after looking things over, I don't blame you for gittin' a little nervous about that wind last night."

## Texas Agrilife Extension Service Private Applicators Training

The Texas Agrilife Extension Service in Leon County will host a Private Applicator Training on April 23, 2010. Participants must pre-register in the Texas Agrilife Extension office on or before April 21, 2010. The training will begin with sign in from 8:00am to 8:30am in the Leon

County Annex Grand Activity Room. Following the training Mr. Brad Tullis with The Texas Department of Agriculture will administer the test. Their will be a \$35.00 fee due upon registration of this training. Training will be from 8:30am to 12:00noon and the test will be given at 1:00pm. For more

information please contact the Texas Agrilife Extension Service at 903.536.2531 or at [leon-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:leon-tx@tamu.edu) We will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities for this meeting. We request that you call three days before the event to advise us.

# Goat Gossip

Freestone County Goat Breeders Association

Submitted by Fred Vandermartin



It went well for some, not so good for others. Terry Rife of Murvaul Creek Boers brought 4, 3 bucks and a doe and took one buck home. Sue Fuller of Carleton Ranch brought 5, CONI Doc and 2 does and 2 doelings. Our Prez, Gary Tugwell bought Doc and Sue sold one of the % does.

The Blumich's from Happy Creek Boers did some trading, sold a buck, it's hard to keep up with what Darrell does! He went home with 4 nanny goats. Larry Cobb came with the Blumichs' and brought a nice big handsome red buck and unfortunately took him home. You can e-mail him at [brushcountryboergoats@yahoo.com](mailto:brushcountryboergoats@yahoo.com) if anyone is interested.

Kyle Lamb of Lone Wolf Gate Co. brought a big traditional buck he sadly took home. E-mail him at [lonewolf-franch@gmail.com](mailto:lonewolf-franch@gmail.com) if anyone is interested. Bill Rascher of Watership Farm brought a big bunch of meat goats and wethers. He sold the wethers and two of the meat goats. The meat goats didn't do as well this sale, which made me sad

Jennifer Newton Brought a bunch, sold two very nice, potential GC wethers to the Blackwell Boys and sold a Doe. She also did some trading. Bill DeVaul brought two bucks, a nice big mature one and a young red buck which he took home. Contact Bill at [bdevaul@etex.net](mailto:bdevaul@etex.net) if you have an interest in his bucks.

Omega Boers did well with the goats they brought. Thank you to Walker and Karla Kyle for their generous donation of two bucklings to the Dew 4-H for their projects. I'm sure that Ginny will find some hard-working youngsters to show them goats. Contact the Kyles at [walkerkarlakyle@yahoo.com](mailto:walkerkarlakyle@yahoo.com).

We took 15 and brought 14 home. Ya'll know how to contact me! We still have

some wethers and bucklings and doelings.

Mr. Don Hall of Fairfield won the Raffle doe, congratulations Don! We managed to raise a little over \$500 with the raffle, which was split by our fund and the Dew 4-H.

The next big event for the Freestone County Goat Breeders Association will be our membership meeting on Tuesday, April 13 at 7 p.m. at the Freestone County Courthouse in Fairfield, Texas.

The next announced East Texas Goat Raisers Assn. event is the Goat Clip and Show- March 20th, preparation for the Cherokee Co. fair - begins at 10 am, at ETGRA property, located south of Jacksonville on the east side of highway 69. Goats must be washed before clipping. Fee is \$10 per goat, this includes lunch. There will be a practice show after all goats are clipped and groomed. Contact Rene McCracken at 903-854-3508 for more information.

General Membership Meeting - April 24, 2010 at 10 am at ETGRA property on highway 69 south of Jacksonville. The property is on the east side of the highway two driveways north of the Dialville exit. Signs will be posted at the property. Please bring your own lunch.

Speaking of events, the NETGRA will be having a Field Day Saturday, April 17th. Saturday, May 8th they will have their General Meeting with a Round Table discussion and dinner.

Ms. Sheila Howell of Texas Tea Boers <http://www.freewebs.com/texasteaboer-ranch/> would like to announce the Tall City Boer Goat Shows Saturday, March 20th and Sunday March 21st at the Livestock Barns, 300 North St. Theresa, Stanton, Texas. Arrival times are from 4 p.m. till 9 p.m. Friday night, March 19th and from 6-8 a.m. March 20th. Entry fees are \$20 per head/per show,

deadline March 12th. Late entry fees: \$30 per head/per show, deadline 8 a.m. March 20th. There will be a JABGA Show at 10 a.m. Saturday judged by Joetta Boyd followed by an Open Show at 1 p.m. judged by Josh Lackey. Sunday's show will be at 9 a.m. and will be judged by Reggie Phillips. For more information call Richie Withers at (432) - 853-8619 or go to <http://www.freewebs.com/texasteaboerranch/tallcityclassicsshow.htm>.

Ms. Jan Wesson of Dunroamin' Boer Goats <http://dunroaminboergoats.com/index.html> would like me to pass on that the Southeast Arkansas Goat Producers Association will be having their Spring Fling Boer Goat Shows in Pine Bluff, Arkansas on Saturday, April 11th and Sunday April 12th. Saturday's ABGA sanctioned shows kick off at 9 a.m. with Kip Brown of Mississippi judging. Show 2 starts after lunch with Phil Stacey of Oklahoma judging. Show 3 starts at 9 a.m. on Sunday with Ron Dilley of Oklahoma judging. Jan says the ultrasound machine will be available and lunch will be provided for a small donation on both days. Go to the Association's web site at <http://www.southeastarkansasgoat-producersassociation.com/abgashows.html> for more info on the shows and entry information and forms.

Ms. Robin Walters of Bar None Meat Goats [www.barnonemeatgoats.com](http://www.barnonemeatgoats.com) asked me to post the following announcement about the 2010 Lone Star Belt Buckle Series.

Our first set of shows in Cuero TX will be April 24-25. There will be 2 shows Saturday & one Sunday. Saturday we will have a youth showmanship between the two shows. For more information, location map, & rules go to <http://www.barnonemeatgoats.com/2010.html> We had a great turnout last year.

## TDA Market Recap March 8, 2010

AUSTIN - (March 8, 2010) For the week ending March 6, feeder cattle prices at Texas auctions were mostly \$2 to \$5 higher per hundredweight with a few sales to \$10 higher and some steady to \$2 lower. Wet pastures and muddy roads continued to hamper livestock movement and limited supplies at local sale barns. Fed cattle prices were up slightly. Cotton prices increased to new record highs in response to tighter-than-expected global supplies and strong demand. Weak export sales caused grain prices to decline, though concerns about potential planting delays in the Midwest did provide some support. As for futures markets, feeder cattle and fed cattle were higher; cotton, wheat and corn were lower; and lumber was

unchanged. Rainfall during the week ranged from little to none in South Texas to as much as an inch elsewhere. Topsoil moisture was reported in mostly adequate to surplus supply with short conditions lingering in parts of the Panhandle and West Texas. Winter wheat was rated in mostly fair to good condition with the crop on the High Plains benefiting from recent rains. Corn planting has been delayed by wet fields and is now 3 percent complete, well behind the normal 17 percent by this date. Wet conditions have also delayed grain sorghum planting and preparations for cotton planting. Pastures were reported in mostly fair to good condition.

## BUFFALO LIVESTOCK REPORT

<b>Sale Date:</b> 3-13-10	Choice Pairs.....1000	600-700 lbs.....100-120
<b>Head Count:</b> 1156	Good Pairs.....800-960	700-800 lbs.....92-107
<b>Last Week:</b> 1222	Plain Pairs.....550-750	<b>Heifer Calves &amp; Yearlings</b>
<b>Sellers:</b> 201	Bred Cows 3-6 Yr Old.....500-850	<i>Some plainer, hard to place calves below these figures.</i>
<b>Buyers:</b> 74	<b>Steer/Bull Calves &amp; Yearlings</b>	150-200 lbs.....105-155
Cutter Cows.....52-60	<i>Some plainer, hard to place calves below these figures.</i>	200-300 lbs.....105-135
Fat Cows.....50-558	150-200 lbs.....110-180	300-400 lbs.....107-122.5
Canner Cows.....35-56	200-300 lbs.....110-147.5	400-500 lbs.....97-115
<b>Slaughter Bulls Steady/Down</b>	300-400 lbs.....120-145.5	500-600 lbs.....96-109
Heavy Bulls.....66.5-74	400-500 lbs.....115-138	600-700 lbs.....91-104
Light Bulls.....61.5-65.5	500-600 lbs.....109-127	700-800 lbs.....87-92
<b>Cow/Calf Pairs &amp; Bred Cows</b>		

## BRAZOS VALLEY LIVESTOCK REPORT

<b>Date of Sale:</b> 3-9-10	400-500.....93-114	600-700.....81-88
<b>Total Receipts:</b> 545	500-600.....90-104	<b>Stocker Cows</b>
<b>Previous Week:</b> 500	600-700.....88-100	Palpated Cows.....310-870
<b>Total Sellers:</b> 122	<b>Feeder Heifers - Med/Large #1</b>	<b>Cow/Calf Pairs</b>
<b>Total Buyers:</b> 59	200-300.....110-119	Choice.....---
<b>Feeder Steers- Med/Large #1</b>	300-400.....105-116	Good.....---
200-300.....145-160	400-500.....100-113	Plain.....---
300-400.....121-142	500-600.....97-107	<b>Slaughter Bulls</b>
400-500.....114-129	600-700.....92-105	High Yield 1-2.....65-70.5
500-600.....106-124	700-800.....88-94	Lower Yielding.....55-60
600-700.....101-111	<b>Feeder Heifers - Med/Large #1-2</b>	<b>Slaughter Cows</b>
700-800.....94-101	200-300.....101-110	Shelly Cows.....25-41
<b>Med/Large #1-2's</b>	300-400.....95-107	Cutter Canners.....45-60
200-300.....111-130	400-500.....90-100	Cutter/Boning UT.....49-58.5
300-400.....106-120	500-600.....85-95	

## GROESBECK LIVESTOCK REPORT

<b>Date of Sale:</b> 3-11-10	Young Bred Cows.....800-1100	500-600.....110-128
<b>Head Count:</b> 468	Older Plain Cows.....550-700	600-700.....106-117
<b>Cut/Boner:</b> 53-57.50	Good Choice Pairs.....1100-1375	700-800.....92-110
<b>Canner Cow:</b> 48-52	Common Medium Pair.....800-950	<i>Heifers Good &amp; Choice</i>
<b>Breaker Utility Com Cow:</b> 52-55	<b>Stocker &amp; Feeder Calves &amp; Yearlings</b>	Up to 200.....---
<b>Thin Cows:</b> 38-42	<i>Steers Good &amp; Choice</i>	300-400.....110-120
<b>Bulls Yield Grade 1&amp;2:</b> 69-74.50	Up to 200.....---	400-500.....106-116
<b>Bulls Yield Grade 3&amp;4:</b> 65-69	300-400.....124-142	500-600.....100-112
<b>Stocker Cows</b>	400-500.....118-130	600-700.....96-103

## ANDERSON CO. LIVESTOCK REPORT

<b>Date of Sale:</b> 3-10-10	400-500.....1.00-1.29	500-600.....87-1.06
<b>Head Count:</b> 143	500-600.....95-1.20	600-700.....85-94
<b>Buyers:</b> 28	600-700.....90-1.01	700-800.....77-85
<b>Sellers:</b> 47	700-800.....80-91	<b>Slaughter Cows.....35-56</b>
<b>Steers/Bull Calves &amp; Yearlings</b>	<b>Heifers Calves &amp; Yearlings</b>	<b>Slaughter Bulls.....52-65</b>
200-300.....1.10-1.41	200-300.....1.00-1.31	<b>Stocker Cows... 375.00-800.00</b>
300-400.....1.05-1.39	300-400.....95-1.17	<b>Pairs..... 675.00-900.00</b>
	400-500.....90-1.11	

## EAST TEXAS LIVESTOCK REPORT

<b>Date:</b> 3-9-10	<b>Slaughter Bulls</b> .....55-70.00	305-400.....95-138
<b>Volume:</b> 1105	<b>Bred Cows</b> .....520-750/hd	405-500.....84-129
<b>Tested:</b> 301	<b>Cow/Calf Pairs</b> .....630-1020	505-600.....80-119
<b>Sellers:</b> 177	<b>Feeder Steers/Bulls Large Frame #1's</b>	605-800.....73-105
<b>Total Buyers:</b> 83	150-200.....118-155	
<b>Packer Buyers:</b> 5	205-300.....111-152	
<b>Order Buyers:</b> 11	305-400.....105-146	
<b>Cattle Companies:</b> 27	405-500.....90-135	
<b>Feeder Orders:</b> 217	505-600.....83-126	
<b>Slaughter Cows</b>	605-800.....80.50-113	
Canners.....38-47.00	<b>Feeder Heifers - Large Frame#1</b>	
Boning/Utility.....48-53.00	150-200.....110-135	
Cutters.....54-59.00	205-300.....100-144	

### Compared to last week:

All classes of feeder steers and heifers ended fully \$2 to \$3 higher. Slaughter cows ended firm with slaughter bulls firm to \$2 higher. Buyer trade was very active with the demand strong on a decent quality offering.

- 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

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