



27TH Annual TULSA Farm Show

SHOW
PROGRAM

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February 25-26-27, 2021

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DEMONSTRATIONS

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- Twice daily

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LIVE BROADCASTS FROM THE SHOW!



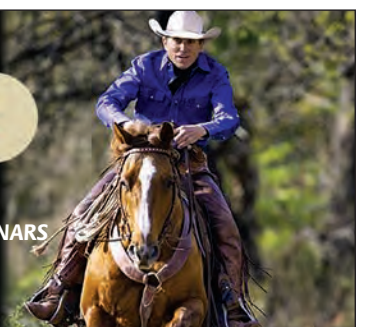
WIN A NEW
SPARTAN MOWER!

- Daily test drives
- Drawing on Saturday



CRAIG CAMERON
HORSEMANSHIP SEMINARS

Two Shows Daily



27th Annual Tulsa Farm Show Event Schedule



February 25, 26 & 27, 2021 | River Spirit Expo | Expo Square | www.TulsaFarmShow.com

Event schedule may be revised, check show office for any changes

EVENT Exhibits — All locations	THURSDAY-FEB. 25 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.	FRIDAY-FEB. 26 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.	SATURDAY-FEB. 27 9 A.M. – 4 P.M.
\$1,000 Showbucks Drawing <i>*Prize is good for purchasing merchandise/services from show exhibitors only. *Sponsored by: CAN-AM *Must be present to win</i>	Registration before 1 P.M. Drawing at 1 P.M.	Registration before 1 P.M. Drawing at 1 P.M.	Registration before 1 P.M. Drawing at 1 P.M.
Craig Cameron—Training & Horsemanship Seminars Northwest Corner River Spirit Expo	10 A.M. & 3 P.M.	10 A.M. & 3 P.M.	10 A.M. & 2 P.M.
Cattle Handling Demonstrations Spartan Mower— Test Drive & Win! Booth # 950-951	11:15 A.M. & 1:15 P.M. Test Drive to register	11:15 A.M. & 2:15 P.M. Test Drive to register	11:15 A.M. & 1:15 P.M. Drawing at 3 P.M.
Livestock Handling Skills Scholarship Competition Cattle Equipment Demo Area—West End River Spirit Expo		Held in December 2020	
Rusty Rierson—Live Music Performances Performance Stage		Check Schedule on Site	

American sheep inventory down 1% in 2020



Journal photo calendar contest entry.

The American sheep inventory totaled 5.17 million head—down 1% from a year ago—as reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service on Jan. 29. Breeding ewes, ewes 1 year of age and older and the lamb crop were all down 1%, as well according to the report.

Shorn wool production was down 4% to 23.1 million pounds in 2020. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 3.28 million head, while the average price for wool sold in 2020 was \$1.66 per pound for a total of \$34.8 million—down 15% from 2019.

In a bit of good news, however, sheep death loss during 2020 was down 4% from the previous year, while lamb death

loss was down 5%. However, the total numbers on sheep death loss (210,000) and lamb death loss (388,000) were still higher than any producer would like them to be.

Texas is still the top sheep producing state at 730,000 with California (555,000), Colorado (445,000), Wyoming (340,000) and Utah (285,000) rounding out the

top five. As has been the case in recent years, however, the largest increases (based on percentage) in sheep population were in the eastern half of the United States. Tennessee, Virginia, Iowa, Wisconsin, the New England region and Indiana posted increases in 2020. Among Western states, only Arizona and Colorado recorded increases. ♦

Cattleac still has same goal in mind:

Quality and excellence that stands test of time

Cattleac Cattle Equipment has been in business since 1993. Since day one, we have specialized in custom building our products with quality and excellence to meet each individual’s needs. After all this time, we are still the same hardworking family business that we were the day we opened our doors. While our product line is always growing and evolving to include additional options, we keep the same goal in mind: To build a quality, American-

made product that will stand the test of time.

We are very blessed to be living in the United States of America, and proud to be part of the industry that won the West. We would like to extend our appreciation to the people of the Beef industry for giving us the opportunity to serve them. We are also honored to help keep the western heritage alive through our Rodeo Line, and look forward to what the future will bring. ♦

Step Up to

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Welcome to the 2021 Tulsa Farm Show!



Oklahoma Farm Bureau and more than 340 exhibitors set to feature the latest in ag products and services

“We are excited to kick off the 27th Annual Tulsa Farm Show and expect to have strong attendance from the areas farmers and ranchers.”

—Scott Guttormson



the world, it is well suited for big equipment and large exhibits while providing easy access for exhibitors and attendees.

Great events at the show

In addition to exhibits, many events, demonstrations, competitions, test-drives, performances, and prize drawings are popular attractions at the show.

Craig Cameron, renowned natural horse trainer, will provide daily horsemanship seminars and interact with attendees throughout the show. Craig’s entertaining and interactive demonstrations have been a Tulsa Farm Show favorite for the past 25 years.

Country singer Rusty Rier-son will also be performing daily acoustic music sets each day of the show. Livestock management is also a key focus of the show and cattle producers can see the new products put to the test in side-by-side demonstrations. More than ten brands of cattle chutes will be demonstrated with live animals and moderated by experienced

livestock industry experts. The demos will occur twice daily in the southwest corner of the River Spirit Expo, adjacent to the Behlen Country exhibit.

Daily Prize Drawings Prize drawings are always popular at the Tulsa Farm Show. Utility vehicle maker Can-Am is sponsoring a \$1000 Showbucks drawing, given away daily at 1 p.m. Registration and daily drawing will be held at the Can-Am exhibit.

Spartan Mowers is also hosting a Test Drive and Win promotion offering the chance to win a new Spartan Mower. Attendees who take a test drive of a zero-turn mower will be included in the drawing held Saturday afternoon.

The Tulsa Farm Show runs February 25, 26 and 27, 2021 at the River Spirit Expo (located at Expo Square, home of the Tulsa State Fair). Admission and parking are free. An interactive show floor plan and additional information can be found at www.TulsaFarmShow.com. ♦

Tulsa is set once again to host Oklahoma’s largest indoor farm show February 25, 26, and 27, 2021. The event was rescheduled from the original dates in early December 2020. The annual event brings area farmers and ranchers to the River Spirit Expo to view the latest in agricultural & ranching technology. Oklahoma Farm Bureau, the show’s sponsor, and more than 340 exhibitors will feature thousands of agricultural products, ranching equipment, and services, making the Tulsa Farm Show one of the country’s premier agricultural events and the largest show of its

kind under one roof.

Show Manager Scott Guttormson commented, “We have been extremely pleased with the cooperation we have received to help make the switch from December to February for this year’s show. The Expo Square staff, show sponsors, exhibitors, and other key partners have worked well together to ensure a smooth transition to these new dates. We are excited to kick off the 27th Annual Tulsa Farm Show and expect to have strong attendance from the areas farmers and ranchers.”

Ag producers and ranchers

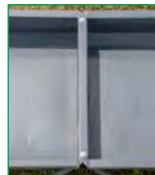
from Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Texas regularly make the Tulsa Farm Show part of their end-of-year activities. Attendees enjoy free admission and plenty of free on-site parking. The River Spirit Expo is part of Tulsa’s Expo Square, the area’s premier event complex and host of the Tulsa State Fair. Tulsa’s marquee expo center, the River Spirit Expo, provides one of the largest and most versatile exhibit halls in the country with over 400,000 square feet of exhibit space. As one of the largest clear-span buildings in

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Welcome to Green’s Welding & Sales

GWS, or Green’s Welding and Sales of Appleton City, Missouri, continues to strive to serve their customers by providing quality products at reasonable prices.

As things have changed over the last 37 years at GWS, quality, integrity, and passion have remained the same. GWS continues to design products to help improve efficiency on the farm. They work to meet current needs of their valued customers. GWS bulk feed bins are currently the hottest item in the sales line. GWS bulk bins allow for convenient, safe storage of bulk feed, which decreases cost of using bagged feed. GWS bulk bins are 14-gauge

steel construction with sight glass, rain guard, ground opening lid, and feed door perfect for filling buckets. Capacity is based on ground corn. Bulk bin sizes include 5-, 3-, and 1-ton stationary models. Portable bulk bins come in 3- and 1-ton models. GWS 3-ton portable bulk bin has been upgraded to 10 ply tires. Some options available on 3-ton portable models include torsion axle, dual axles, fenders, lights, and 2-inch Bulldog coupler.

Another hot item is the GWS all steel construction 10 foot feed bunk. It is ideal for easily feeding large or small herds of livestock. A great feature is the overlapping ends

that allow bunks to be bolted together. GWS bunks make great single bunks or work very well for inline feeding. Bunks are 14-gauge steel with heavy-duty legs. A 10-foot feed bunk weighs approximately 150 pounds, so they are heavy enough to stand up to livestock but light enough to move. Another important feature is drain holes in all four corners. GWS continues to build quality products while trying to maintain reasonable prices for farmers and cattlemen. For more information or to find a dealer near you, call Green’s Welding and Sales at 660-476-5598 or visit greenswelding.com. ♦

Thank you!

2021 Tulsa Farm Show Sponsors & Supporters



Oklahoma Farm Bureau

- Official 2021 Show Sponsor

American Farmers and Ranchers

- Sponsor: Scholarship competition

Behlen Country

- Sponsor: Livestock equipment demonstrations & scholarship competition

Cattleac Cattle Equipment

- Sponsor: Scholarship competition

Chad Enlow

- Sponsor/auctioneer: Scholarship competition, fundraising auction

Ddee Haynes

- Volunteer/supporter: Scholarship competition—supplying many hours of hard work to promote, manage, and execute the scholarship competition.

KVOO, KFAQ, Big Country 99.5

- Media and promotional partner

Can-Am

- Sponsor: Daily \$1,000 Showbucks drawing

Oklahoma AgCredit

- Sponsor: Scholarship competition

Oklahoma's Cattleman's Association

- Sponsor: Scholarship competition

Priefert

- Sponsor: Scholarship competition

Radio Oklahoma Network & Ron Hays

- Media and promotional partner

Ritchey Livestock ID

- Sponsor: Livestock equipment demos

South Coffeyville Stockyards

- Sponsor: Livestock Equipment demos

Spartan Mowers

- Sponsor: Spartan mower test drive and prize drawing

Stewart Martin Kubota

- Sponsor: Online interactive floor plan

W-W Livestock Systems

- Supporter: Supplier of round pen for Craig Cameron demonstrations

Expansion in the Diamond W Corral family

Check out our newest units today! The new additions to the Diamond W Corral family, manufactured by Burlington Welding, LLC, have just arrived.

The rectangular tube unit is our stoutest unit yet, weighing an average of 7,300 pounds. This unit is made out of 3 inch x 2 inch 14-gauge rectangle tubing. Multiple gates add to the ease of movement in and around the unit while working your cattle. All rectangular tubing corrals have three 4-foot walk-through gates with spring latches and two divide gates, one 12-foot gate and one 9-foot gate in a 12-foot gate

frame. This unit is equipped with lights, a 2-inch ball hitch, and a hitch jack for easy backing and hooking. The dual wheel axle helps ensure a smooth pull of the unit up to highway speeds.

The Diamond W Cattle Box has been designed to work in conjunction with our other Diamond W Corral products by connecting to one of three places on the box. The Cattle box mea-

sures 8 feet 6 inches wide by 32 feet long with a gooseneck hitch for a total transport length of 48 feet long. All panels and gates are 6 feet tall. Each unit has double 5 foot 6 inch-wide rear gates and double 7-foot wide front gates along with two 3-foot wide alleyway gates. Adding to the ease of use are two 4 foot walk-through gates. The center divide gate is 12 feet long and is covered

with 4 feet of 14-gauge sheet metal. All Diamond W Cattle Boxes are equipped with walking I-Beam suspension, electric brakes, 235x16 radial tires and transport lights.

These products can be set up as quickly and efficiently as our other corral tubing types, making your cattle handling tasks quick and easy.

Contact us to find your per-

fect cattle handling fit and start to head out within minutes with our quality Diamond W Portable Products.

Call or stop by Burlington Welding, LLC, home of the Diamond W Corral, 1101 Industrial Blvd., Cherokee, OK 73728, 580-596-3381. You can visit us on the web at www.diamondwcorrals.com or email us at diamondwcorrals@yahoo.com. ♦



Diamond W Corrals

Mfg. by Burlington Welding, LLC

DWC Cattle Box
Patent Pending

Chute & Alleyway
Patent Pending

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www.diamondwcorrals.com

REGISTER & WIN

\$1000

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Drawing at 1pm daily

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WIN A NEW SPARTAN MOWER!

- Daily test drives
- Drawing on Saturday



From the Rawhide family to yours

John McDonald knows a thing or two about livestock equipment after working with cattle and rodeo livestock most of his life. Years spent hauling a portable arena across America for televised bull riding events allowed him to put his experience and knowledge to the test when it came to portable corrals. His family will joke about not being able to throw away anything he had notes on, because that item could just hold the prototype idea or drawing for his next big design.

In 2002 John and his family relocated to Abilene, Kansas to fulfill his dream of designing a portable corral that would be easier than the other systems on the market. After working with multiple prototypes and cattle producers in the local area John finally introduced his original Rawhide Portable Corral design to the public at a farm show in Kansas. It could be set up by one person without any lifting and it could be done quickly; yet it could also be pulled down the road at highway speeds, ensuring that no time would be wasted while catching cattle. It was everything he wanted it to be.

John's wife, Mary, joined the business in 2005 because it was growing at such a rate that he couldn't handle building the corrals, selling them and all of the office and bookwork necessary. Employee numbers also began to grow as he grew his business; prompting him to move to new locations in Abilene a few times, ultimately landing in the current location in 2013.

Over the years he made changes to the system; some at the request of customers and others just so that it would work better for the producers. The best change he will tell you is the electric over hydraulic lift for every jack on the system. John's design was the first portable corral on the market to offer the hydraulic lift option.

After selling his original design for five years or so he envisioned an even better design. Customers wanted to do more with the system and he wanted to break away from the copycat designs on the market. In answer to this he developed the Processor, which offers the same concept of pen configurations as his old design but he was able to make the transport wheels permanent on the system and a manual adjustable alley is standard on every model. Most customers note the obvious difference is that it's the gooseneck model of the portable corral.

The Processor continues to be the most popular model and is offered in three sizes for the convenience of ranchers and cattle producers throughout the world. The main feature with this design is the ability to customize the corral upon ordering by including a hydraulic alley, head gate or loading chute. Any combination of options is available on a Processor. Whether you simply want to catch your cattle or process them on site and load them into a trailer from the pasture, you are able to do so with the Processor.

The design of the Processor

continues to impress cattle producers with its versatility and ease of use. The permanent sheeted adjustable alley aids with working your livestock, whether it is done on site or in the field. The adjustable alley can be sized from 30 inches down to 16 inches; either manually or hydraulically.

In 2016 John decided to build his older design again; only this time it had one major change. The transport wheels are now permanent. The Rawhide Original is still a bumper pull model because it is not as heavy as the Processor, but other than that new update it's pretty much the same. The permanent wheels make the corral much safer as there is no chance of it tipping over like competing corrals. A temporary alley can be made for those that find themselves in need of one. The Original comes in only two sizes, Standard and Large, and does not have the capability of options.

The most notable features of the Rawhide corrals are that they are easy to set up and they are easy to transport. Rawhide means it when they say that one person can open up the corral without lifting a panel. This will continue to be the model as we move forward with our newer designs.

Customers can manipulate the panels so it is not just one big pen, but two, three or even four pens for sorting, as one can never have enough pens when it comes to working cattle. Rawhide leaves it up to the customer on how they utilize their system. When each customer picks up their system, which Rawhide assures at least 80% of their customers come to

Abilene to pick up their own unit and haul it home, they will receive a demonstration.

Some customers are brand new to the product and some purchase a system with knowledge of it after working with neighbors or borrowing someone else's. With each purchase of a corral the customer receives a diagram of the unit, a bird-eye view so to speak, showing how the panels are configured. The most important part is that it shows how the panels fold up.

Every panel on a Rawhide Portable Corral has a solid rubber wheel positioned in a specific location so that when folded up the panels will all fold flush against the others. This is especially important with the larger size systems as the racks holding the panels are only so big. This ensures that the system is road-width legal and is not considered oversized.

With the diagrams a customer will also be shown different ways they can configure the panels. Again, the system is theirs to do what they want with it and every pasture or field is different. However, the diagrams help with the learning curve.

Rawhide staff will also give a demonstration on a system before the customer leaves. Much the same as the diagram, it helps the customer understand why certain features were added and gives them an idea of what to do with their own. Each customer is encouraged to take the system home and unhook it from their truck, unfold it and then fold it back up at least once before working with cattle. This way they

understand the hydraulic system better and are not in a rush.

The electric over hydraulic jack has been so popular that Rawhide now offers customers the option to buy the Hydraulic Lift Kit so that they may upgrade existing equipment of their own. A lift kit includes the jack, power unit, solar panel and the option of including a battery at time of purchase.

John and Mary McDonald run the family business out of their manufacturing plant in Abilene, Kansas; which is where all Rawhide Portable Corral's are built. They proudly employ thirty employees from around the area and John emphasizes quality work to every one of them.

Many customers want to know about warranty work on a system like this and the McDonald family is only too happy to inform them of theirs. All welding work and assembly is done by their employees so anything that may happen to those welds or to the panels John and Mary will stand behind and call it their Lifetime Warranty.

Other parts on the system that are purchased from vendors including the hydraulic cylinders, transport wheels, power unit and solar panel are given a one-year warranty. If any customer has a concern or an issue, they can simply call Rawhide and someone will help them out.

Two of their three children work at the plant with them, truly making the business a small family affair. When calling in to get information about a unit you will most likely talk to Mary or Ethan McDonald, son, about the corrals; Cassy Wilson, daughter, handles accounts receivables, accounts payable, marketing and human resources side of the business.

Rawhide Portable Corral, Inc. is proud to have corrals in 43 states and three countries, which is a true showing of how these units work in a multitude of terrains. Over the last few years they have worked with a couple of dealers to help get their corrals to other parts of the United States. At this time there are dealers in south Texas, South Dakota and potentially the Idaho, Washington and Montana areas. The corrals are all still built in Abilene.

For more information about Rawhide Portable Corral's and to view product videos visit the Rawhide website at www.rawhide-portablecorral.com or find them on Facebook. You can also call 785-263-3436. ♦



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by John McDonald



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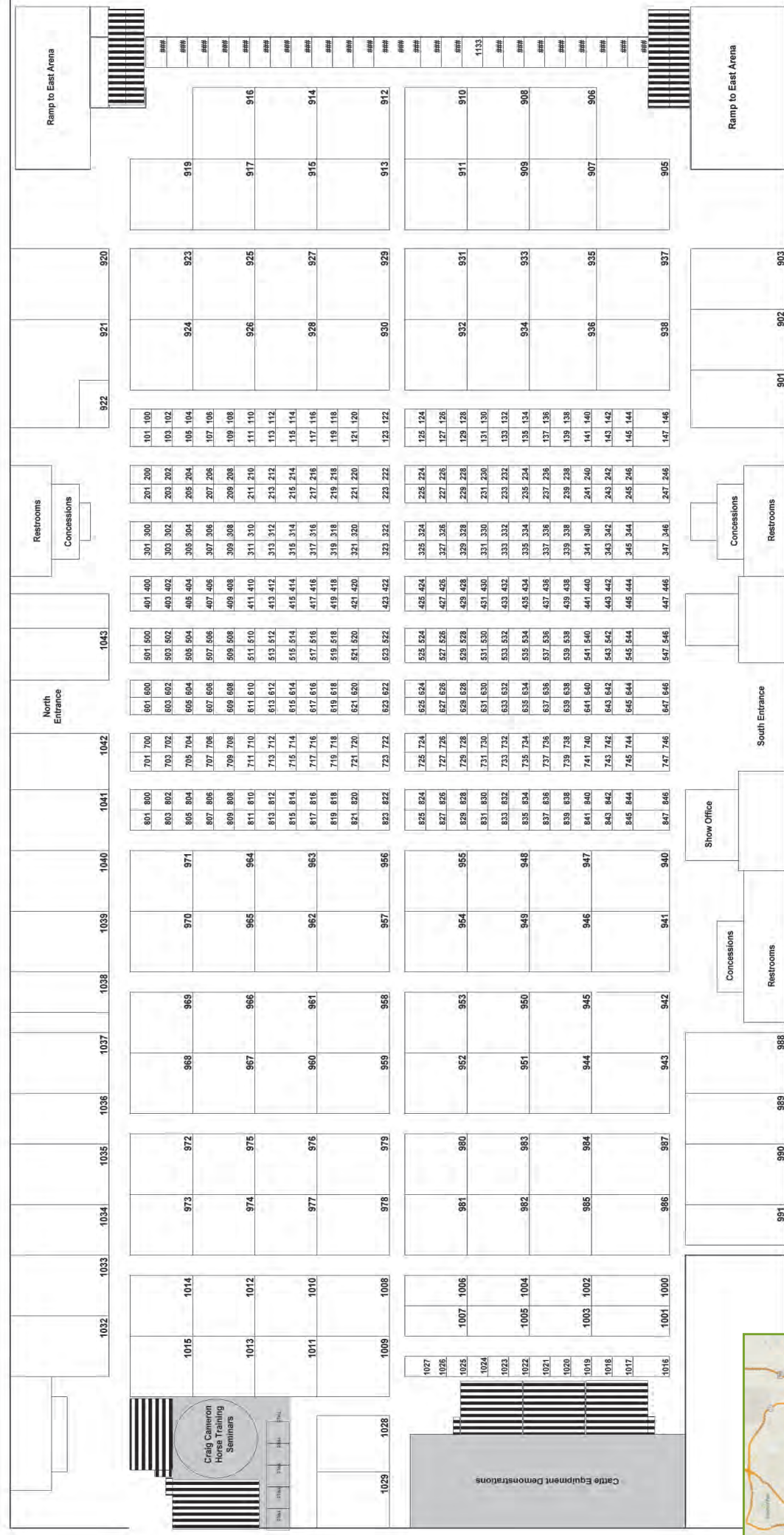
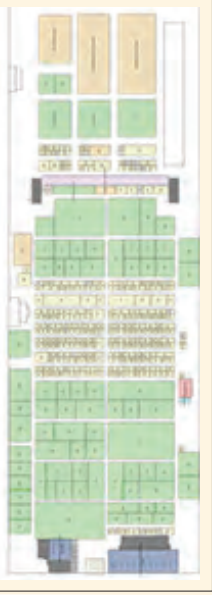
2021 Tulsa Farm Show Directory

February 25, 26, 27, 2021

FREE ADMISSION | FREE PARKING

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Company listings and booth numbers found on Pages 8-9



RIVER SPIRIT WEST EXHIBIT AREA

2021 Exhibitor Booth Listing

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Life on a farm!



Feeling a little dry? Winter hydration is important

By Trisha Gedon

Oklahoma State University

Many people don't give a second thought to drinking several glasses of water during the hot summer months. However, it is just as important to stay hydrated in the wintertime, too.

"People don't realize body fluid losses can be as dangerous in the winter as they are in the heat of the summer due to high rates of energy expenditure, heavy clothing and increased urine output," said Janice Hermann, Oklahoma State University Extension nutrition specialist. "During the summer, the sweat on your skin is a visual cue you're losing fluids. In the wintertime, colder weather affects the body's ability to detect thirst, which is an early sign of dehydration."

Fatigue, muscle cramps, headaches and even dizziness all can be attributed to inadequate water intake, she said.

Adequate intake of total water is 15.6 cups (3.7 liters) on average for men and 11.4 cups (2.7 liters) per day for women, although that counts food as well as beverages. About 80% of total water consumption typically comes from water and other drinks, while 20% is provided by foods. With that in mind, men need about 13 cups per day and women need 9 cups. To help stay on track, Hermann offered a few tips.

Setting a water-drinking goal is at the top of the list. There are several smartphone apps that can provide prompts to hit specific targets during the day. A less technological option is to take a water bottle everywhere as a physical reminder. Some people find it useful to fill a large container at the start of their day and consume a fraction every few hours.

"Don't think you need to drink ice cold water to keep

your body hydrated. With colder weather, you may want to consume warm liquids, such as coffee, tea, hot chocolate or hot cider," she said. "Despite common concerns about caffeine as a diuretic, caffeinated beverages still contribute to fluid intake when consumed in moderation."

Flavor and texture can help as well. Consider fruit smoothies or simply adding sliced cucumbers, lemons, oranges or limes to a pitcher of water. Mint leaves can add a new twist.

People often assume water must come from beverages, but consuming fluid-filled foods is a great way to get more water into your system. Oatmeal, watermelon, celery, strawberries and yogurt are great examples of hydrating foods. Hermann said homemade soups with seasoned vegetables and herbs also work while providing warmth and nourishment.

For people with workout routines, additional hydration should be considered. Hermann said before physical activity, fluid recommendations are 0.07 to 0.14 ounces (2 to 4 milliliters) of fluid per pound body weight two to four hours before activity. Depending on the type of activity, recommendations range from 13.5 to 27 ounces (0.4 to 0.8 liters) of fluid per hour during a workout. To replace water afterward, the recommendation is about 20 to 24 ounces (0.6 to 0.7 liters) of fluid for every pound of body weight loss.

Hermann said plain, cool water is recommended for non-competitive, everyday activities; endurance athletic events may require carbohydrate-containing beverages. For events lasting more than an hour, sports drinks may be needed to replace fluids and electrolytes. ♦

New partnerships bolster Texas poultry

By Adam Russell
Texas A&M AgriLife

Emerging partnerships with the poultry industry have Texas A&M University poised to bolster an already nationally recognized Department of Poultry Science.

Patrick J. Stover, Ph.D., vice chancellor of Texas A&M AgriLife, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and director of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, announced recently that more than \$850,000 in financial commitments have been designed to draw faculty and deliver infrastructure improvements to the top poultry department in the nation. Stover also hopes to see this number grow throughout the future as part of the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Science's commitment to the poultry science department.

"We value the relationships built between the poultry industry and Texas A&M," he said. "For many decades, Texas A&M has supported the industry through science and education and helped the industry improve its capacity and

efficiency. These initial commitments by companies and individuals within poultry are testament to the mutually beneficial past, present and future shared by the university and our poultry partners."

Stover said he hopes the collective commitment from the college, individual donors and corporate partners within the industry will help the university recruit and retain the best faculty, continue to grow the department's research portfolio, provide graduate students world-class training, and attract and expand the top undergraduate class in the nation who represent the skilled workforce needed to advance the industry in Texas, the nation and globally.

Dedication to improving food systems

Public-private partnerships across the entire food value chain will continue to buttress and enhance the university's land grant mission to develop science to create future food systems that deliver life-long human health, protect the environment and natural

resources for future generations, and that ensures agriculture is economically viable for stakeholders, Stover said.

"Achieving this mission and goal for the food system will require all of Texas A&M and Texas A&M AgriLife's expertise in research, extension, education and service and support from industry stakeholders," he said. "For a sustainable future, we must ensure that agriculture is the solution to human health, environmental health and economic health."

Poultry is the second largest agriculture commodity in Texas, and its continued growth and ever-changing production challenges make the Department of Poultry Science a strong partner.

J.C. Essler, executive vice president of the Texas Poultry Federation and Affiliates, said Texas A&M's commitment to providing improved and unbiased science and well-educated, well-rounded students ready to join the workforce is invaluable to the industry.

Additionally, Essler said Texas A&M has done a great job help-

ing the industry navigate production methodology changes that emphasize animal welfare, reducing the use of antibiotics and mitigating other challenges within the industry.

"Texas A&M has been an important partner both through science and education, and Dr. Stover's commitment to improve an already stellar poultry program speaks volumes to the shared relationship," he said. "As a commodity group, the Texas Poultry Federation is committed to Texas A&M's land-grant mission, and we look forward to supporting the university's efforts to enhance its poultry program."

A tradition of excellence for poultry science students

The Department of Poultry Science is recognized nationally and internationally as the preeminent university location for poultry nutrition and intestinal health research, including collective faculty expertise ranging from genetics to intestinal physiology and microbiota in health maintenance

to disease and immunology, poultry welfare, bird and waste management, and food safety.

For decades, Texas A&M has awarded more poultry science degrees than any other university in the nation. Texas A&M continues to be the most highly decorated university among six poultry programs in the nation, boasting 16 poultry judging national championships over the past 12 years.

The poultry tradition at Texas A&M sets it apart among land-grant universities, Stover said. Texas A&M's research track record of success spearheading groundbreaking poultry science has propelled the industry's growth and solidified its ability to meet ever-changing market demands.

"Our tradition of excellence is what makes Texas A&M the best place to invest in poultry science and students," Stover said. "We're excited about the future of poultry science here at the university, the future of the poultry industry and engaging with our corporate partners to maximize mutual investment in our collective futures." ♦

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Tracking transboundary and emerging livestock diseases

By Mallory Pfeifer
Texas A&M AgriLife

Transboundary and emerging diseases are constant threats to the livestock industry. Even as biosafety measures have evolved, there is always the lingering threat of highly contagious or newly discovered diseases impacting animal health.

Through a newly funded project, researchers from Cornell University's Animal Health Diagnostic Center, AHDC, and the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, TVMDL, aim to mitigate risks certain diseases pose to the cattle industry by developing technology to detect diseases before outbreaks

occur or become widespread.

Dr. Diego Diel, DVM, Ph.D., associate professor at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, will serve as project director, and Dr. Kiril Dimitrov, DVM, Ph.D., TVMDL virology diagnostics section head, will co-lead this \$1 million project. The project will be implemented in collaboration with the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, NAHLN, and the Plum Island Animal Disease Center. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, NIFA.

Using next-generation sequencing, NGS, the project's

goal is to develop new methods of early detection for transboundary and emerging diseases within the cattle industry. For this project, research will target the viruses responsible for foot-and-mouth-disease and those within the bovine respiratory disease complex—bovine viral diarrhea virus, bovine coronavirus, bovine respiratory syncytial virus and bovine parainfluenza virus Type 3.

One of the overarching goals of this project is to develop consistent procedures and protocols when using NGS technologies and train professionals from NAHLN laboratories. Once complete, the results of this project will be implemented across the NAHLN.

"The completion of this project will enhance the NAHLN's diagnostic capabilities and emerging disease preparedness," Dimitrov said. "The developed assays and staff training will facilitate the implementation of NGS diagnostic methods across the NAHLN."

During the first two years of this project, the research team will develop and optimize targeted and random NGS diagnostics workflows for early detection and characterization of current, transboundary, and emerging pathogens in cattle. Also during the first two years, highly skilled bioinformaticians will develop rapid, semi-automated bioinformatics pipelines for data analyses. The third, and final, year of the project will involve training NAHLN laboratories on NGS procedures and

processes the team develops.

What is next-generation sequencing?

Next-generation sequencing is a broad term to define the use of modern high-throughput methods of DNA sequencing. These methods allow for quicker and more cost-effective detection of DNA and RNA in biological samples and pathogen characterization.

Currently, real-time polymerase chain reaction, rtPCR, assays are most widely used in diagnostic laboratories for rapid pathogen detection. These assays are useful but are based on existing genomic information and may fail to detect emerging pathogens or variants of known pathogens. Additionally, rtPCR assays do not yield specific genomic information needed to track the source of disease outbreaks and differentiate strains—critical information necessary in developing corrective epidemiological action.

Although NGS technologies exist, widespread application across diagnostic laboratories is hindered. Currently, NGS use is bottlenecked by the lack of standardized protocols and procedures and the need for highly specialized methods to analyze biological data, known as bioinformatics, and the scarcity of NGS training scaled for diagnostic purposes.

The role of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network

In recent decades, diseases such as avian influenza, African swine fever, bovine spongiform

encephalopathy, BSE, and swine influenza have spread across various animal industries. These instances severely impeded animal commerce and production and led to implications outside of their respective animal industries.

NAHLN, established in 2002, is a nationally coordinated effort to mitigate the effects that highly contagious disease outbreaks have on animal health, public health, and the nation's food supply. The network is composed of 60 state and university veterinary diagnostic laboratories across the U.S. Each laboratory is capable of testing large numbers of samples for specific disease agents. These capabilities are imperative during animal disease outbreaks and support response methods.

Pathogens represent significant losses

Bovine diseases are costly across every segment of the cattle industry. Specifically, bovine respiratory disease is associated with over \$800 million in economic losses annually.

"The U.S. is the largest producer of beef and cow milk in the world," Dimitrov said. "Approximately 20% of the world's beef is produced in the U.S. The exported beef and dairy products amount to over \$8 billion and \$6 billion annually, respectively. These enormous industries have vast socioeconomic significance and keeping them safe from transboundary and emerging pathogens is of utmost importance." ♦



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A new study aims to mitigate transboundary and emerging diseases in livestock. (Courtesy photo.)

Raised beds can keep gardeners busy until spring

By Trisha Gedon

Oklahoma State University

Gardeners are counting the days until they can get back to tending their landscapes without the need for hot chocolate breaks. While Oklahoma still has a few cold weeks until gardening season traditionally takes off, gardeners can keep themselves busy building raised garden beds.

The idea behind raised bed gardening isn't complicated: It's an area that is elevated anywhere from a few inches up to 2 or 3 feet above the soil level, said David Hillock, Oklahoma State University Extension consumer horticulturist.

"The options for raised-beds are limited only by your imagination. They can be as simple as a rectangular plateau of soil or a more elaborate bed framed in sturdy material," Hillock said. "Not only can they add visual interest to your landscape, raised bed gardens also have several

other benefits, especially for landscapes with poor soil quality and poor drainage."

Gardeners tend to reap higher yields because raised beds allow more space for growing plants. In addition, gardeners will enjoy better soil since amendments and fertilizer are applied only to the growing area. Hillock said there's little need to rototill, and the soil drains better. As an added bonus, plants grown close together will shade the soil, which decreases evaporation and keeps roots cooler.

Raised bed gardens also are great for people with physical limitations. If built tall enough, the beds eliminate the need to weed on hands and knees, and harvesting is easier. Raised beds can be accessed from all open sides, which is useful for gardeners who use assistive walking devices.

"Raised-bed gardens allow gardeners to get outside a bit earlier in the season because the soil warms up faster and can be

worked sooner than traditional beds," he said. "Rainy weather is less of a deterrent for working in the garden because mud won't be an issue. Another benefit is plants planted closely together in a raised bed helps keep weeds crowded out."

As for pests, raised beds can be covered with insect screening fabric. Crop rotation is easier, which helps mitigate the attraction of plant-specific species.

While a raised bed can be nearly any shape, Hillock recommended a maximum width of about 4 feet to ensure gardeners can reach the backside if the bed is adjacent to a structure.

Before gardening enthusiasts get started building a raised bed, there are a few things to consider:

- For best light exposure, build beds in a north/south orientation.
- Make sure paths between the beds are wide enough to walk comfortably, push a wheel-


barrow or accommodate a walking device or wheelchair.

- Before construction, stake out beds and walk through them to make sure it's a workable arrangement.

- Decide whether an unframed or framed bed best suits your needs. For an unframed bed, eliminate weeds and turf first, then dig a furrow on both sides of the area and pull up the soil around the edges to create a mound.


- If building with wood or other hard materials, level the area and put the frame in place before preparing the soil. In addition to treated lumber or landscape timbers, concrete blocks, rocks or bricks, snap-together plastic blocks, hay bales and recycled materials can be used.

"Be creative with your materials for the beds and the plants you select. Raised beds are a great way to add visual interest and texture into your landscape," Hillock said. ♦



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