



July 2026

A note from Jenny

Jenny Pluhar, Executive Director, TXGLC

Here we are in July. It has been raining over much of Texas. We are not all “caught up” yet but certainly better off than we were 60 days ago. I’m not sure if I will ever reach that magical destination of “caught up.” But if I do, I will take photos and commemorate the occasion! I have not even caught sight of it yet!



The heat in the dog days of summer will surely dry us out in a hurry. Be mindful of forage quality. Did you know TXGLC has a credit account at the TAMU Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management’s Ranch Diagnostics Lab? Formerly known as the Grazing Animal Nutrition (GAN Lab), services including fecal analysis are available to ranchers free through our existing line of credit. For more information, [read the transition letter here](#), and find it permanently on the [Resources tab](#) at texasglc.org.

We are not letting our foot off the gas with our project, Principles B4 Practices. Stay tuned for a workshop coming to a regional coalition near you. The regional coalitions slow down a bit in July and August and come September, workshops are out in full swing again! There’s spring, also known as “before it gets too hot” and fall, “after the heat lets up a bit!”

Stay cool, hydrated and observing what is happening on your rangeland and pastures!



While some dread the dog days of summer, Baxter's remedy is a swim in the livestock tank - any tank: dirt, galvanized, steel, followed by a roll in cowpies - the fresher the better. Preferably repeated several times in a row, before shaking off and joining Jenny back on the Ranger. With a big smile on his face! We should all be so mindful and thankful for the simple things in life.

New World screwworm (NWS) best practices

Texas GLC Chairman Stephen Diebel asked us to share the following information with our readers regarding new world screwworm:

- No need to panic, we have a plan in place that works
- The food supply is safe, this is not a food safety issue!
- Treated and inspected cattle can move
- Monitor and report. Quicker to report, quicker to get sterile fly dispersal**

We ask ranchers and landowners to regularly put eyes on their livestock and wildlife, maintain a strong relationship with their veterinarian for treatment and prevention protocols, and report suspicious wounds or

infestations immediately. Early detection, rapid response and managing animal movement inside infested zones when necessary, remain our strongest tools for containing and eradicating NWS. Sterile flies will be disbursed to those areas that report, so please encourage everyone to report. Maintaining continuity of business is essential and following protocols set forth by the Texas Animal Health Commission and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department remain imperative in the protection of our resources.

Resources:

[USDA APHIS New World Screwworm Site](#)

[Texas Animal Health Commission New World Screwworm Site](#)

[TSCRA New World Screwworm Producer Guide](#)

We've taken PB4P online!

Are you looking to enhance your understanding of rangeland management and sustainable practices? Make sure to check out our online course, **"Principles B4 Practices"**!

This self-paced course, developed by Texas Grazing Land Coalition, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and the Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management is designed to equip you with the foundational knowledge and practical tools needed to effectively assess and care for your rangeland. Among the presenters are ranchers who employ the techniques you will learn and share their experiences with them.

What you'll gain from "Principles B4 Practices":

- **Master the Six Soil Health Principles:** Gain a deep understanding of the core principles that drive healthy soil rangeland ecosystems.
- **Effective Rangeland Assessment:** Learn how to evaluate and monitor your rangeland to make informed decisions and plan appropriate actions.
- **Grazing Management Expertise:** Discover and apply key grazing management practices that align with soil health principles.
- **Self-Paced Learning:** Complete the course at your own convenience, in approximately 1.5 hours.

Whether you're a seasoned rangeland manager or just starting your journey, "Principles B4 Practices" will provide you with invaluable insights to foster healthier, more productive rangeland.

This course is also available with Spanish captions. Ready to transform your approach to rangeland stewardship?



Register Now!
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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PRINCIPLES B4 PRACTICES

online course

A FREE, self-paced online course from Texas Grazing Land Coalition that equips rangeland stewards with essential knowledge in soil health, rangeland assessment, and grazing management practices proven to support resilient landscapes.

Available in both English and Spanish.

Funding for this project is provided by the USDA NRCS Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) (NR237442XXXXC015)



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and Ranch Management



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PRINCIPIOS ANTES DE PRÁCTICAS

curso en línea

Un curso en línea GRATUITO, autodirigido, de la Coalición de Pastizales de Texas, que brinda a los administradores de pastizales el conocimiento esencial sobre salud del suelo, evaluación de pastizales y prácticas de manejo de pastoreo comprobadas para apoyar paisajes resilientes.

Disponible en inglés y español.

Financiamiento para este proyecto proporcionado por la Iniciativa de Conservación de Pastizales (GLCI) de USDA NRCS (NR237442XXXXC015).

What a time we had at TWA WildLife 2026!



Panelists for Texas GLCs panel discussion, Habitat Management: Cows Can Be a Problem, But They Are Always the Solution, included Michael Vance, Hunter Lehman, Ryan Walser, Greg Simons, and Neal Wilkins. The room was packed and the hour long session produced incredible conversation.



Gemma Walser, panelist and Texas GLC technical assistance specialist Ryan Walser's precious daughter, intently watching her dad speak from the aisle.



Our team had the best time chatting with folks at the trade show. The rain may have kept people inside, but they seemed to enjoy getting to know our rainfall simulator instead!

Regenerative grazing - what does that even mean?

“Regenerative agriculture” is a popular term these days. USDA-NRCS targets practices they deem regenerative with a \$700 million dollar carve out of existing Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding. Are we dissuading some producers from even listening to the discussion when the mindset is “if you do not adopt these practices, you are doing it wrong?”

To some grazers, “regenerative” means small pastures, rotating livestock often, sometimes several times a day. Many others look at that and say “Not for me!” The infrastructure can be daunting: water development and fencing. Virtual fencing has tackled some of those challenges and is catching a lot of attention. Water is often the limiting factor.

Some have adapted and rotate less often. And still see positive results in forage quality and quantity. It is important to note that there is no recipe or standard for “regenerative grazing.” First and foremost, it must work for your individual operation with your financial resources, labor resources, and goals.

But here's what I wonder: in the 1960's, my great uncle, Pete LeVeque taught me various grasses in southeastern Montana and repeatedly told me his responsibility was to "leave the country in better shape than he found it." I have heard many a land steward echo that same exact sentiment. Certainly my great uncle qualified as a "regenerative grazer" back in the day. While not moving livestock daily or weekly, he made sure pastures and hay meadows were rested and remained healthy rangelands.

Furthermore, I have seen land stewards who graze continuously but are properly stocked or a bit understocked and achieving the goal of "leaving it better than they found it." They may not get the results as quickly as those who are more intensively grazing and rotating, achieving long rest periods. But in my book, they are still practicing "regenerative grazing."

The key to all of it is not pasture size or how often you move the livestock, but starting out with the **proper stocking rate!** Many a land steward has adopted intensive grazing, invested in a lot of electric fence and water infrastructure, only to fail. Only one reason why: they were not properly stocked at the outset. Stocking rates often increase over time, but when the incorrect stocking rate is chosen at the outset, failure is surely on the horizon. Stocking rate is the key decision every land steward makes. And adding to the complexity, that stocking rate can change even within the same year.

I think that the buzz around the word "regenerative" leaves some people who are doing a good job feeling left out and sometimes even looked down upon by those touting their aggressive regenerative practices. We must meet people where they are and be cautious not to condemn or demean people doing the best they can with the circumstances they have. Context is a big component of both the soil health and the grazing management principles.

As I say often: *If grazing management was easy, we'd call it rocket science!*



Monday morning observations

What could be going on here? This is in the northwest Texas Panhandle and illustrates several things.

SOIL HEALTH. Soil surveys are amazing maps but they cannot capture what they call "inclusions." The mapped soil here is Viggo-Dallam fine sandy loam 3-8% slopes. The small inclusions as pictured (there are larger areas of these inclusions throughout as well) are a loam, possibly Spurlock loam.

You do not need to know the soil names to understand what happens here. The loam/clay loam soils support blue grama (you do **NEED** to know or find out the plant names!). Blue grama is the lobster tail and the creme brulee on the plant buffet. Selected first by cattle. Every time. More often than even the tall grasses on the sandy sites.

These inclusions are the **KEY** grazing sites. The places to watch to determine when the cattle need to move along to another pasture and give those blue grama plants time to recover. These inclusions are scattered all over this 30,000 acre ranch. Thousands of them. Many suffered from **WAY** too much grazing pressure in the past and are slowly recovering. They were grazed so hard that the roots became diminished to the point where, in a drought year, especially a year like 2011, the plants die.

Side note: I have had ranchers tell me the '11 drought was so bad it killed their grass. No, sir, you abused the grass so long and so hard, it did not have the resilience to withstand the drought. That's on you buddy! Not the weather!

This blue grama pictured here is as healthy as they come. Long leaves. Healthy seedheads. Why the erosion?

The loamy fine sand simply blew away and the roots of the healthy blue grama held the loam soil in place. Further adding to the equation is the SW facing slope...prevailing winds are out of the SW and the near absence of grazing pressure due to remoteness and distance from water.

The scenario left us with this little island of lovely blue grama, just holding the world together.



Keeping up with Dan

We could feature TXGLC Technical Advisory Committee member, Dan Caudle, in every issue of our newsletter. He may have retired from USDA-NRCS years ago, but I think a strong case can be made that he does even more now than he ever did then! He inspires the Texas GLC team every day. I can only hope and dream to be as active and knowledgeable as Dan someday. There's plenty of young professionals he has influenced and inspired who would struggle to keep up with him!

Dan by the numbers:

- 8 ranches
- 1 nature center and refuge
- 1 museum
- Countless young folks & adults who've benefited from his expertise
- 24,680 acres ongoing technical assistance

He is a regular in the TXGLC Booth at TSCRA Cattle Raiser's Convention and probably talks to hundreds of people there. And the best part of all of this: he loves the land, talking to people about stewarding the land, and teaching them the importance of plant identification and how to identify plants. He is incredibly skilled at making native plants something that everyone from ranchers to the people of Fort Worth will learn from and understand, and instilling in them the responsibility we have as stewards of Texas' range and pasture lands. We are so grateful to call Dan our own!



USDA hosts farm programs, loans, and conservation webinar on July 21

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is hosting *Texas Third Tuesday*, a quarterly webinar series, the first of which is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21 at 12:00 p.m. CT.

Texas Third Tuesday provides an opportunity for farmers, ranchers, and others interested in FSA and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs to receive updates on farm loans, conservation, disaster and commodity price support programs.

The event is free, but registration is required. [Please register here.](#)

For more information, contact Joshua Coleman at joshua.coleman@usda.gov or 979-680-5252.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations should contact Joshua Coleman at 979-680-5252 or joshua.coleman@usda.gov by Tuesday, July 14, 2026, or dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunication relay services.

The answer is KNOW!

In order to speak the language, one must know the words. Similarly, on rangelands knowing which plants are growing in your pastures and how to manipulate them to meet your forage goals is crucial. Every month we will explore a new plant in our newsletter.



Guayacán

Guaiaacun angustifolium

The South Texas brush country is unlike anywhere else in Texas, or the USA, for that matter. Other parts of our state strive for diversity in grasses and forbs. South Texas “mixed brush” represents a variety of species of brush specially suited to the harsh climate and infrequent rains.

Guayacan (pronounced why-uh-cahn) may be the very definition of resilience. It is a shrub with thick, leathery leaves that wastes little energy on branches. The thick leaves are pinnately compound in 4-8 pairs and fold together in the heat to conserve moisture. It flowers in the spring with beautiful 5 petaled pink – purple flowers, often following a rain. Another common name for guayacan is “Ironwood” as it is one of the hardest

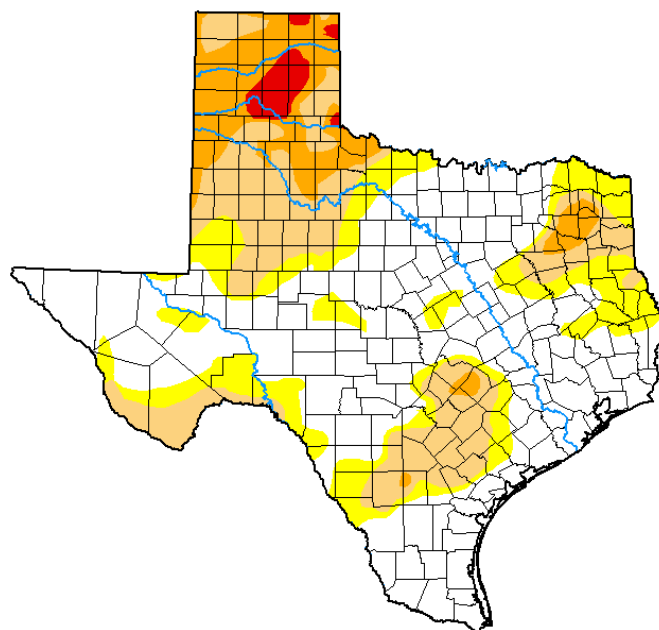
woods found in North America. Guayacan is evergreen and has somewhat distinctive seed pods, each bearing 1-3 shiny red-yellow seeds.

Oddly, it flourishes on poor upland soils in both South and West Texas. Even better, it is valuable forage for wildlife, something far too many species of brush in Texas cannot put on their resume!



To view this and other [range plants of Texas](#), visit Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Plants of Texas Rangelands Virtual Herbarium.

U.S. Drought Monitor



Intensity:

None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

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National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Summary - Southern U.S.

Near- or warmer-than-normal temperatures covered most of the South this week. Rainfall amounts varied, with some areas staying completely dry, though amounts over 2 inches fell in parts of southern Arkansas, northern and southern Louisiana, central and western Tennessee, northeast Texas and a few parts of the Texas Panhandle and western Texas. Deficits in soil moisture and precipitation lessened in parts of far western Oklahoma, the Texas Panhandle and other areas of western Texas, leading to some improvements in ongoing drought. Likewise, long-term drought conditions were improved in portions of central Tennessee, aided by rains this week. A small area of severe drought developed in north-central Tennessee, where precipitation deficits grew and soils dried. Recent rainfall also improved soil moisture, streamflow and lessened precipitation shortages across much of northern and southeast Louisiana and central and southern Arkansas, leading to widespread improvements to drought or abnormal dryness. Isolated improvements also occurred in northwest Mississippi, though conditions across Mississippi were mostly stable as far as drought or dryness.

[Click here to visit and view the U.S. Drought Monitor site.](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



Got grass? This is Ward Whitworth in his Southwest bristlegrass - grazing with rest and recovery leads to this!



YAY for bermudagrass! Well not really, maybe this is its best use.

West Texas Rangelands Newsletter

Do you love newsletters? We highly recommend the [TAMU Extension West Texas Rangelands](#) newsletter! Even if you don't live in West Texas, this newsletter is full of great information, upcoming events, and the newest research coming out of Texas A&M and the worldwide rangeland community.

Sign up to receive their newsletter [here](#).



Upcoming events and opportunities

Oldham County Stocker Cattle Conference

Vega, TX | July 14, 2026

[More information here.](#)

Prescribed Fire School: Gatesville, TX

Gatesville, TX | June 15 - 17, 2026

[More information here.](#)

TSGRA Annual Convention

Fredericksburg, TX | July 16 - 17, 2026

[More information here.](#)

USDA - FSA/NRCS Texas Third Tuesday

Virtual | July 21, 2026

[More information here.](#)

4th Annual Cattlemen's Workshop

Brady, TX | July 24, 2026

[More information here.](#)

Texas Prescribed Fire Webinar Series

Talking Fire: Smoke, Neighbors, and Public Perception

Virtual | July 28, 2026

[More information here.](#)

Southern Family Farmers & Food Systems Conference

San Marcos, TX | August 3 - 4, 2026

[More information here.](#)

Great Plains Fire Summit

Alva, OK | August 4 - 6, 2026

[More information here.](#)

Texas Prescribed Fire Webinar Series:

Prescribed Fire - Lessons Learned

Virtual | September 14, 2026

[More information here.](#)

2026 Range Exchange Webinar Series

Cut Stump & Stem Spray: Can We Take Diesel Out of the Mix?

Virtual | September 15, 2026

[More information here.](#)

Prescribed Fire School: College Station, TX

College Station, TX | September 14 - 16, 2026

[More information here.](#)

National Grazing Land Coalition Bus Tour: Grazing the Heartland

Sioux Falls, SD | September 23 - 24, 2026

[More information here.](#)

Texas Section Society for Range Management Annual Meeting

Abilene, TX | October 20 - 22, 2026

[More information here.](#)

2026 Range Exchange Webinar Series

Application Technology Research: Balancing Spray Drift Concerns and Herbicide Efficacy

Virtual | December 15, 2026

[More information here.](#)

Are you in need of technical assistance?

Ryan Walser (Albany area) and Kason Haby (Hondo area) are now joined by a new specialist, Shiner Webb (Abilene area, Resilient Ranch Project), and are our Technical Assistance Specialists here at the Texas Grazing Land Coalition. They have had full careers in rangeland and grazing management and we are incredibly fortunate to have them on our team. You will likely see them at some of our outreach events and they are available to assist with conservation planning on your property. Their contact information is listed here and at the bottom of the newsletter. If you need technical assistance and do not live near them, please call us. We also collaborate with [Wildlife Habitat Federation](#) in matching technical assistance specialists to meet your unique needs. We can make arrangements to help you make the most out of the land you love!



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Love the Land - A Texas GLC Podcast

Did you know Texas GLC has a podcast? It's called [Love the Land](#), and you can find it wherever you get your podcasts.

If you have never listened to or subscribed to a podcast, they're like an on-demand radio show. Here's a "how to" tutorial:

1. Download a podcast app on your phone. If you have an iPhone, there is already one downloaded on your phone.
2. Open app. Use the search tool to find specific podcasts like "Love the Land" or categories like "agriculture."
3. Listen to a single podcast or subscribe and get new episodes added to your library any time they are released.
4. Love the Land podcasts are 30-45 minutes.



Regional Coalitions



CONNECT WITH TXGLC



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