



August 2026

A note from Jenny

Jenny Pluhar, Executive Director, TXGLC

In anticipation of the “cooling” weather of fall, our regions have workshops planned from Northeast Texas GLC to South Texas GLC with many other collaborations in between. Check the calendar or our Facebook page for more information. We’re talking grazing, soil health principles, drought planning, and more.



We’ve certainly had a busy summer! We are applying for grants and funding opportunities, exhibiting at TSGRA and the Southern Family Farmer’s and Food Systems Conference, a panel discussion at Texas Wildlife Association, and we’re even heading to the Montana Grazing Expo in early September. Pasture walks, gatherings of regional coalitions, conversations with other producers - these things are always ongoing. You’ll find us everywhere from the Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock to co-hosting the Trust In Beef tour north of Abilene.

Funding for organizations like Texas Grazing Land Coalition has become increasingly scarce. We are seeking foundations, partners, etc who share our passion for stewardship. Reach out if you know of any such organizations in your neck of the woods! Also, if you feel led to support our

mission, please feel free to give as you are able by following the QR code below, [or clicking here](#).

The issues and challenges of grazing lands are not going away. Connect with your local regional coalition and find solutions and steps to head in the right direction from your neighbors.

Help support Texas GLC!



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](#)

Congratulations, Dr. Treadwell!

Adapted from a West Texas Rangelands Facebook post

Texas GLC is proud to congratulate Dr. Morgan Treadwell, our Technical Assistance Chair, on receiving the 2026 Great Plains Fire Summit Lead Ignitor Award. Presented at the Great Plains Fire Summit in Alva, OK, this award recognizes individuals who have made lasting contributions to prescribed fire and inspired others through leadership, innovation, education, communication, and service.

For years, Dr. Treadwell has worked tirelessly to advance prescribed fire across Texas and the Great Plains. Through educational programs, prescribed burn schools, field demonstrations, partnerships with prescribed burn associations, and countless hours mentoring landowners and practitioners, she has helped expand both the knowledge and confidence needed to safely and effectively use prescribed fire as a land management tool.

Most importantly, Morgan's impact extends far beyond the acres burned. She has built relationships, developed future leaders, and fostered a culture of collaboration that continues to strengthen the prescribed fire community across the Great Plains.



Bloody Buckets Cattle Co. named by NCBA as Region 4 ESAP winner

Bloody Buckets Cattle Co. was recognized by National Cattleman's Beef Association (NCBA) as the Region 4 Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) winner. Three generations of the Ortega family and two generations of the Clement family (pictured below) work together to steward the South Texas property.

Texas Grazing Land Coalition and Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association co-sponsor the nomination annually. The national winner will be named at the next NCBA Cattle Con in Nashville, TN February 2027.



Often Overlooked

Originally published by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Working Lands for Wildlife

North America's grasslands, one of the world's most important and diverse ecosystems, is disappearing before our eyes. Across the continent, trees like eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), pinyon (*Pinus edulis*), juniper (*Juniperus* spp.), and honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) are overtaking prairie and sagebrush ecosystems, pushing out native wildlife and impacting ranchers, recreationists, water resources, and communities. As they establish and grow, these woody species transform productive rangelands and wildlife habitat into dense forests that fuel wildfires, reduce water supplies, diminish forage production, and threaten human health and local economies.

Fortunately, there are solutions. Advanced spatial technologies provide landowners and land managers with detailed information on where conservation efforts can have the greatest impact. Preventing trees from invading intact grass and shrublands, acting at the first signs of expansion, and using practices like prescribed fire help protect and restore healthy grassland and sagebrush ecosystems. Partnerships that include growing coalitions of landowners working alongside local, state, provincial, tribal, and federal agencies are creating a sense of hope and demonstrating that collaborative conservation can make a real difference. Because most of North America's grasslands are privately owned, working across boundaries and leveraging the best available science are critical to conserving these landscapes for future generations of people and wildlife. Learn more about how the USDA-NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife partnership is helping lead these efforts at wlfw.org/landscapes/great-plains.



Educating the next generation

Shiner Eppright, Technical Assistance Specialist for our Resilient Ranch Network project funded by the Walmart Foundation, spent time with youth at TSSRM Youth Range Workshop as well as the Texas Brigade's Ranch Brigade this summer sharing valuable grazing land stewardship information. Rode Mills, Jenny Pluhar, Ryan Walser, and Kason Haby also helped with youth activities at YRW. Educating the next generation of land stewards is a priority for TXGLC.





From "sty ward" to "stewardship"



Stewardship: defined by Webster as "1. the office, duties, and obligations of a steward. 2. the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care."

TXGLC believes strongly in stewardship. It is literally at the heart of everything we do. Everything. Workshops, programs, collaborations, pasture walks, technical assistance, educational materials and probably every conversation.

The late Reverend J. Hugh Magers of Bryan, Texas used to explain the origins of the word “stewardship” to the youth at Texas Section Youth Range Workshop in a way that captured their attention and was memorable. When he was through, the audience got the message. I guess it comes from his many years in front of a church congregation and his reputation as one of the best fund raisers the Episcopal Church of North America ever had! Where exactly did “stewardship” come from? Why do I have to take care of my rangeland? Or my family? Or my bank account?

It started somewhere in the 11th-15th centuries - references are conflicting and my memory just isn't that good anymore. Nonetheless, the story is the same.

Times were simpler then. No Wal-Mart. Not a grocery store of any kind anywhere! Households raised their own food, preserved, etc, planning their food supply into the future. It was common to have a pig, or four, outside in the “sty.” The pig's fate was always the same, to be food for the family. The manager of the food chain for that family was responsible for keeping the pigs healthy. They were fed everything from small grains to the scraps from the household. The manager of the food chain for any particular household, be it a one family dwelling or an estate with a large castle, was a very important position. Without his/her careful management, the people would go hungry. The pig needed to be at the right age and weight to slaughter when the current supply of meat ran low. That important household position came to be known as the “sty ward.” Sty ward evolved into 'steward', the one responsible for care of the animals and the people. And one could suppose the care of the animals depended upon wise use of the land available for those animals to graze or wallow in, whatever the case may be. In time, the rise of Wal-Mart and the availability of food from across the globe at any season has diminished the role of the “sty ward” of any household. Or certainly changed it! We do find that even today, good stewards of the groceries are much appreciated!

Today, the term stewardship is applied to a variety of occupations. However, there is no higher calling than to recognize and practice stewardship of our natural resources. The steward impacts everybody from the folks buying meat at the grocery store to the folks who enjoy bird watching on federal land to everyone who turns on the tap for a drink of water. What we do is pretty important stuff! Something to be proud of something worth fighting for! Complicated, mysterious, merciless at times, always dynamic, we are pretty special!

If grazing management was easy, we'd call it rocket science! - Jenny

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.



Inland Sea Oats

Chasmanthium latifolium

We are going east for this month's plant. East Texas, where it always stays green (or seems to) and the rest of us are green with envy most years! Inland sea oats is not confined to East Texas, thriving in wet, shady environments as far west as Arizona, but is far more commonly found in East Texas than points west. Sea oats is also known as wood oats, creek oats, broadleaf Uniola (from its former categorization in the genus *Uniola*), and strangely INDIAN sea oats according to the USDA data base. Not sure if they misunderstood the pronunciation of "INLAND" and typed "INDIAN" once, forever to remain in the federal database, the only place I could find using "INDIAN" as part of the name!

If you've been to the beach, you've likely seen the cousin of inland sea oats, sea oats, a tall grass valuable for dune stabilization. Inland sea oats is smaller in stature, and is palatable to livestock. Populations can be easily eliminated from too much grazing pressure. It is an important species in stabilization of stream banks and maintaining healthy wetlands. The leaves are broad and bright green, some turning yellow in late summer. People who think trees provide the only colors of autumn are sadly mistaken! The seed heads are droopy and feature a unique arrangement of seeds.

Inland sea oats recently found new popularity as a landscape plant in mostly shady areas where other grasses and native plants struggle. Interestingly, it has also been tagged as important for fireflies. Apparently, they like to rest on the foliage in the daytime and the larvae prefer the ground beneath the plants.

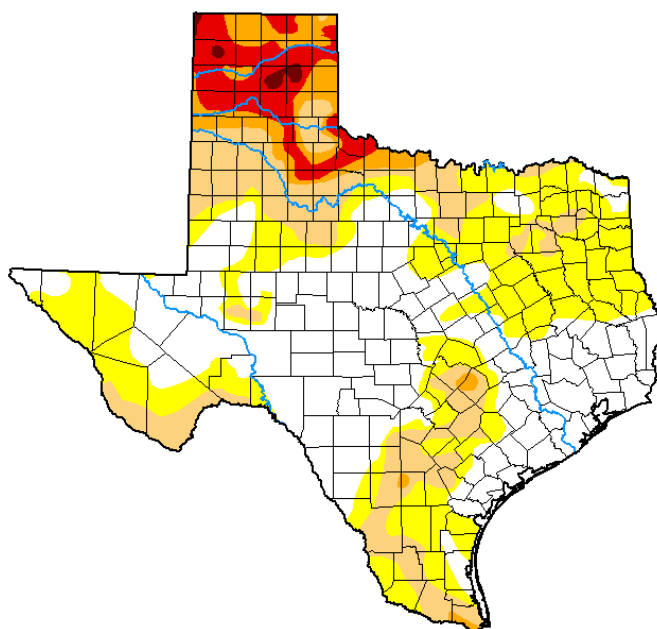


To view this and other [range plants of Texas](#), visit Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Plants of Texas Rangelands Virtual Herbarium.

U.S. Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

August 11, 2026
(Released Thursday, Aug. 13, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Summary - Southern U.S.

Dryness and drought have been expanding and worsening over much of the South Region for the past few weeks. Rapidly deteriorating conditions have been observed across Oklahoma, the Texas Panhandle, and adjacent areas of Arkansas, but almost all states saw declining conditions this past week. Tennessee was an exception, where more widespread heavier rainfall prompted some improvement in central and eastern parts of the state, with persisting or deteriorating conditions limited to northern and western parts of the state. Farther west, deterioration was introduced through most of Oklahoma (especially the eastern half of the state), the Red River Valley, Much of the Texas Panhandle and northeastern Texas, western Arkansas, northern and eastern Louisiana, and scattered patches across the remainder of the Region from the Lower Mississippi Valley westward. Oklahoma has seen very little precipitation over the last 30 days, with most locations reporting less than 25 percent of the normal. Temperatures averaging 3 to 7 deg F above normal mid-summer values significantly exacerbated the drying conditions across much of Oklahoma and northern Texas, including the Panhandle. Temperatures averaged near or up to 3 deg F above normal elsewhere. Much more abundant rainfall prior to the past 30 days is keeping longer-responding impacts from ramping up too quickly, but some crops and streamflows are being deleteriously affected. Almost half of Texas oats and over one-third of Oklahoma soybeans are in poor or very poor condition. Across Oklahoma, 44 percent of pastures and rangelands are in poor or very poor condition, as are 33 percent of those in Arkansas.

[Click here to visit and view the U.S. Drought Monitor site.](#)

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

Texas GLC events can be found in red.

TSCRA Ranch Gathering

Mount Pleasant, TX | August 20, 2026

[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering

Jacksboro, TX | August 27, 2026

[More information here.](#)

Texas Watershed Steward

Hamilton, TX | August 27, 2026

[More information here.](#)

20th South Texas Wildlife Conference

Cotulla, TX | August 28, 2026

[More information here.](#)

Ranching Technology Summit

Lubbock, TX | September 2, 2026

[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering

Huntsville, TX | September 3, 2026

[More information here.](#)

Coffee and Cows Pasture Walk

Batesville, TX | September 4, 2026

[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering

Comanche, TX | September 8, 2026

[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering

Odessa, TX | September 9, 2026

[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering

Alpine, TX | September 10, 2026

[More information here.](#)

2026 Grazing Expo

Billings, MT | September 10 - 13, 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.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering
Damon, TX | September 17, 2026
[More information here.](#)

Graze the Desert
Marfa, TX | September 18 - 19, 2026
[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering
Navasota, TX | September 22, 2026
[More information here.](#)

National Grazing Land Coalition Bus Tour: Grazing the Heartland
Sioux Falls, SD | September 23 - 24, 2026
[More information here.](#)

Crescent C Ranch Tour
Encinal, TX | September 24, 2026
[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering
Childress, TX | September 24, 2026
[More information here.](#)

7th Annual Prairie Day
Yantis, TX | September 26, 2026
[More information here.](#)

86th Annual Meeting of Texas Soil and Water Conservation District Directors
Round Rock, TX | September 27, 2026
[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering
Mabank, TX | September 29, 2026
[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering
Buffalo, TX | October 1, 2026
[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering
Van Alstyne, TX | October 6, 2026

[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering

Cameron, TX | October 7, 2026

[More information here.](#)

Working Lands Innovation Summit

Blooming Grove, TX | October 8, 2026

[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering

Uvalde, TX | October 8, 2026

[More information here.](#)

Working Lands Workshop

Weslaco, TX | October 8 & 9, 2026

Flyer forthcoming. For information, call Servando Leal @ 956.740.7378.

TSCRA Ranch Gathering

Fredericksburg, TX | October 15, 2026

[More information here.](#)

Texas A&M Beef Sustainability Field Day

Decatur, TX | October 16, 2026

[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering

Victoria, TX | October 20, 2026

[More information here.](#)

Trust in Beef Tour

Abilene/Albany, TX | October 20, 2026

More information TBA.

Texas Section Society for Range Management Annual Meeting

Abilene, TX | October 20 - 22, 2026

[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering

San Angelo, TX | October 22, 2026

[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering

Carthage, TX | October 29, 2026

[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering

Dalhart, TX | November 5, 2026

[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering

Morgan, TX | November 10, 2026
[More information here.](#)

TSCRA Ranch Gathering
La Grange, TX | November 11, 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.](#)

WildLife Convention 2027
San Antonio, TX | July 15 - 18, 2027
[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.



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"**!

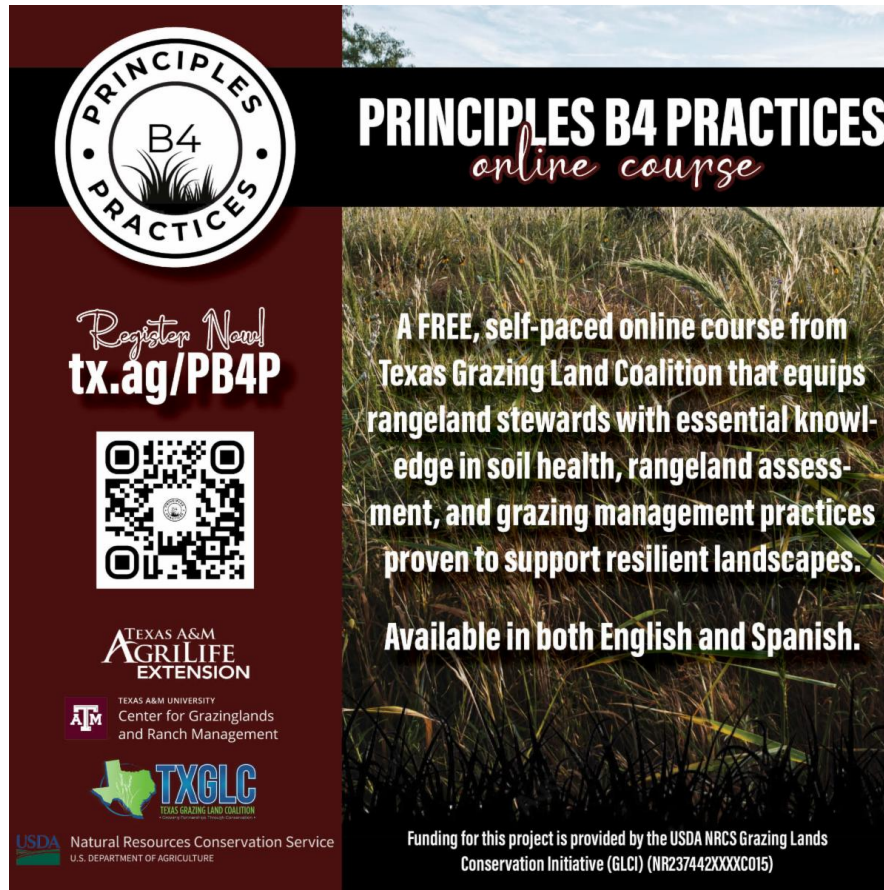
This self-paced course, developed by Texas Grazing Land Coalition, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, and the Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management is designed to equip you with the foundational knowledge and practical tools needed to effectively assess and care for your rangeland. Among the presenters 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?



PRINCIPLES B4 PRACTICES
online course

Register Now!
tx.ag/PB4P



TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management



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

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)



PRINCIPIOS ANTES DE PRÁCTICAS
curso en línea

Regístrate ahora
tx.ag/PB4P



TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Center for Grazinglands and Ranch Management



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

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).



CONNECT WITH TXGLC



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