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NEWS & NOTES

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In This Issue!

★ Upcoming Events!

June 3-4: TIPS Professional Development Mason, TX
June 8-12: Pasture Management Conference Jefferson, TX
June 23-24: Drought Mitigation Corpus Christi, TX
June 29- July 1: Planned Grazing Short Course Amarillo, TX
August 10-12: Drought Mitigation and Field Day Bastrop, TX
September 27-30: Fall Grazing Conference Marfa, TX

★ TIPS Professional Development

Join land professionals and others from across the state on June 3-4, 2010 in Mason, TX for a ground breaking, collaborative, and informative workshop dealing with current trends and applications of biological monitoring. This is an opportunity to hone your technical skills, build inter-agency connections, and learn about trends in biological monitoring and how you can make the most of it in your profession.

★ Pasture Management Conference Coming Soon

Join Holistic Management Texas, top scientists and grazing gurus in Jefferson, Texas June 8-12, 2010 for clear explanations, practical tools and on-the-land examples of how to achieve optimum health and productivity on your own pastures. Greg Judy, Dr. Pat Richardson, and more!

★ Two Drought Mitigation Workshops Coming This Summer

We've had great feed back from the participants of the first two Drought Mitigation Workshops and we hope you'll join us in Corpus Christi June 23-24 or Bastrop August 10-12!! Drought is a consistent state of the environment in Texas, particularly the South Central Valley and Gulf Coast Regions. As an organization that is committed to the health of the land, HMI Texas believes it is important to educate landowners about how they can prepare, manage through, and recover from drought. Farm Aid scholarships are available for qualified participants!

★ Planned Grazing Short Course

This three-day Holistic Management course will be jam-packed full of information for you to use on your land and your business! Kirk Gadzia will cover grazing planning, rangeland monitoring, financial planning, land planning, and more. The content will be relevant to both managerial and operational level employees, with varying levels of formal education. This Amarillo area class will run from 8am to 4:15pm each day and includes lunch.

★ **HMI Texas' Spring-in-Review**

HMI Texas is in the midst of a busy spring; see what we've been up to!!

★ **AgriLife Research Economist Participates on National Climate Research Panel**

Texas AgriLife Research economist Dr. Bruce McCarl was part of a team of researchers who participated in a series of climate change reports released Wednesday by the National Research Council- the operating arm of the National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Engineering. The three reports examine how the nation can combat the effects of global warming. One report focuses on the science that supports human-induced climate change, and the others review options for limiting the magnitude of and adapting to the impacts of global warming...

★ **Pickens wants Court to Derail State Water Plan**

Billionaire T. Boone Pickens wants a court to derail state approval of a water management plan that he claims would take \$10 million off the value of his groundwater rights in the Texas Panhandle. Pickens' attorney, Marty Jones, said Tuesday that the oilman filed a lawsuit against the Texas Water Development Board last month...

★ **What? Bitterweed is Now a Garden Flower**

Dakota Gold helenium had a tough childhood. Cast into life as a common weed, it had to survive abusive Texas summers, frequent and brutal right-of-way mowings, trompings in over-grazed pastures and abandonment in empty lots. Worse, it just got no respect, having been stuck with the ignoble name of "yellow bitterweed," said a Texas AgriLife Research horticulturist. But along came science...

★ **Wind in the Wires**

Many Texans like wind power. Few want electric transmission lines running through their ranches. That's the difficulty facing the state's energy regulators as they set about approving routes for nearly \$5 billion worth of new wires across Central and West Texas...

★ **Groundwater Public Hearing Set for June 14th**

After a months-long, sometimes contentious process to formulate new groundwater rules for Kendall County, a public hearing on the matter has been set for the board's regular meeting June 14. The new rules could be adopted by the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors in a vote following the hearing. Proposed changes include some new rules, several amendments to existing rules and the repeal of an existing rule...

★ **Conscientious Land Stewardship Protects Texas' Water Resources**

A recent survey found that only 28 percent of Texans could correctly identify the source of their drinking water. Regardless of whether your water comes from a well, a river or a reservoir, there is one answer that is always correct: Virtually all of our water comes from rainfall...

★ **Cedars Cause Watery Eyes and Dry Lands**

For half a century, Hill Country ranchers have been telling tales of springs bursting from the ground after they removed those allergy-causing, water-sucking Ashe junipers. Now a study on 700 acres owned by the state 40 miles north of San Antonio is giving federal researchers the data to find out just how much water the trees use, and if a massive program to restore grasslands across the Hill Country would result in more water for cities, farms and wildlife. "Now we are controlling the water with the landscape," said George Ozuna, the deputy director of the U.S. Geological Survey's Texas Water Science Center...

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