

A teal-colored map of the state of Texas is centered on a white background. The map is filled with a solid teal color and has a black outline. The title and authors' names are printed in black text over the map.

Free Range Livestock in Texas

by Clarence Schomburg
Frank Lewis, Jr.

FREE RANGE LIVESTOCK IN TEXAS

Clarence Schomburg

Frank Lewis, Jr.

Hereford





Angus Cattle





Brangus Cattle



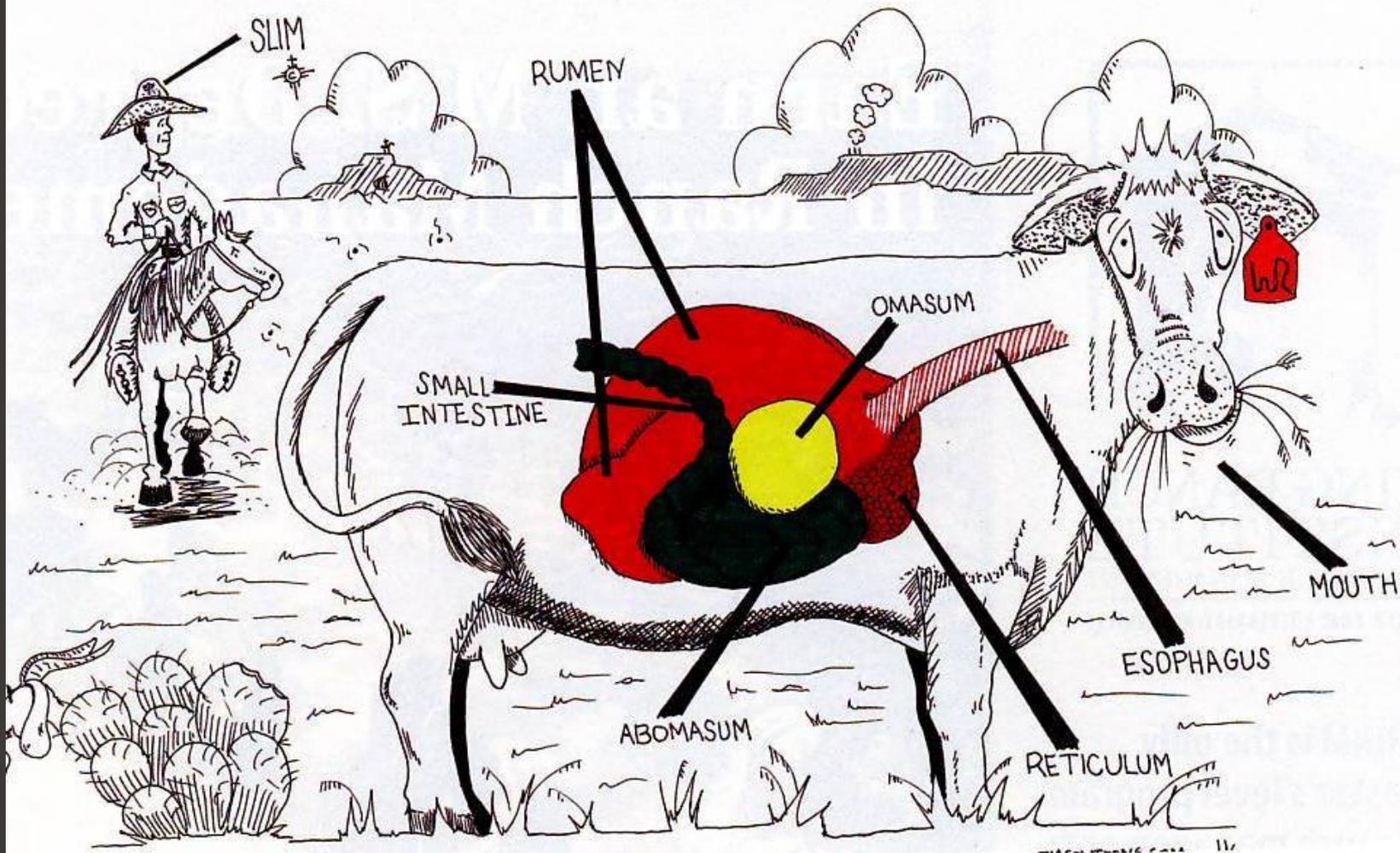


BEEFMASTERS



Santa Gertrudis Cattle







← Clydesdale
Arabian →



Horses



Quarter
Horses





Suffolk Sheep



Hampshire Sheep

Southdown Sheep



Rambouillet sheep





Spanish goat





Boer meat goats





Free Range Feral Hogs



Mixed Breeding in Beef Cattle



Stages in Beef Production



Birth

Cattle have a nine-month gestation period, and while calves can be born year round, many ranchers plan calving for the spring of each year. Especially in colder climates, this ensures that calves are strong enough to handle harsh winters. Calves remain with their mothers for the first several months of life on farms or ranches.



Cow-calf operation

Most beef calves are born on cow-calf operations. These are farms and ranches like those you may see along highways and country roads. During this stage, cattle graze in herds on large pastures within sight of their mothers.

Most cattle farms and ranches are family owned and operated and daily life revolves around caring for the animals, pastures, barns and fence-lines. For many producers, raising cattle is a family tradition passed down through generations.

Weaning

As calves reach six to 10 months of age, they are weaned from their mothers. Weaned male calves (steers) may graze until about one year old (yearlings) and then be sold to a cattle feeder or a stocker/backgrounder who will prepare the animal for the feedlot.



Livestock auction markets

Most cow-calf operators sell their weaned calves to the highest bidder at livestock auction markets, where calves are bought by cattle producers called stockers and backgrounders. There are approximately 815 fixed auction facilities throughout rural America, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).



Supermarkets and restaurants

Retailers and foodservice operators sell beef products in supermarkets and restaurants, where steps are taken to ensure the final safety and quality of the products. Ultimately, consumers dictate the actions of the beef production chain, from pasture to plate, by determining what kinds of beef they will buy and at what price.

Beef producers read demand signals from the meat case and customers throughout the production chain. For instance, beef cattle are now much leaner than just a decade ago as a result of the consumer demand for products with less fat. Consequently, there are now 29 cuts of beef that meet government guidelines for lean, such as the tenderloin, sirloin and 95% lean ground beef.

America's beef producers are proud to offer a variety of beef choices to meet the changing lifestyles and nutritional needs of consumers. Beef producers have adapted practices to provide consumers with the grain-fed, grass-finished, certified organic or natural beef they desire. While each kind of beef offers specific value to consumers, all beef is nutritious and safe.



**Palmetto Bend
Dam**

Lake Texana

Jackson Co., TX



Ranching HQ

Texana Ranch

Jackson Co., TX



Hawkins Ranch

**Frank Lewis Jr.
Family**

**Matagorda Co.
TX**



Hawkins Ranch

**Frank Lewis Jr.
Family**

**Matagorda Co.
TX**



Holding Pens

Texana Ranch

Jackson Co. TX



**Cattle Chute &
Walkway**

Texana Ranch

Jackson Co. TX



**Seating Area /
Vaccine Shelf**

Texana Ranch

Jackson Co. TX



**Multiple Pens
w/ Water Source**

Texana Ranch

Jackson Co. TX



**Calf / Cow Pen
Sorting**

Texana Ranch

Jackson Co. TX



**Vaccinations /
Internal &
External
Parasite Control**

Texana Ranch

Jackson Co. TX



**Sliding Gate at
Cattle Chute
Entry**

Texana Ranch

Jackson Co. TX



Calf Pen – Texana
Ranch
Jackson Co., TX



Calves worked
separately for safety



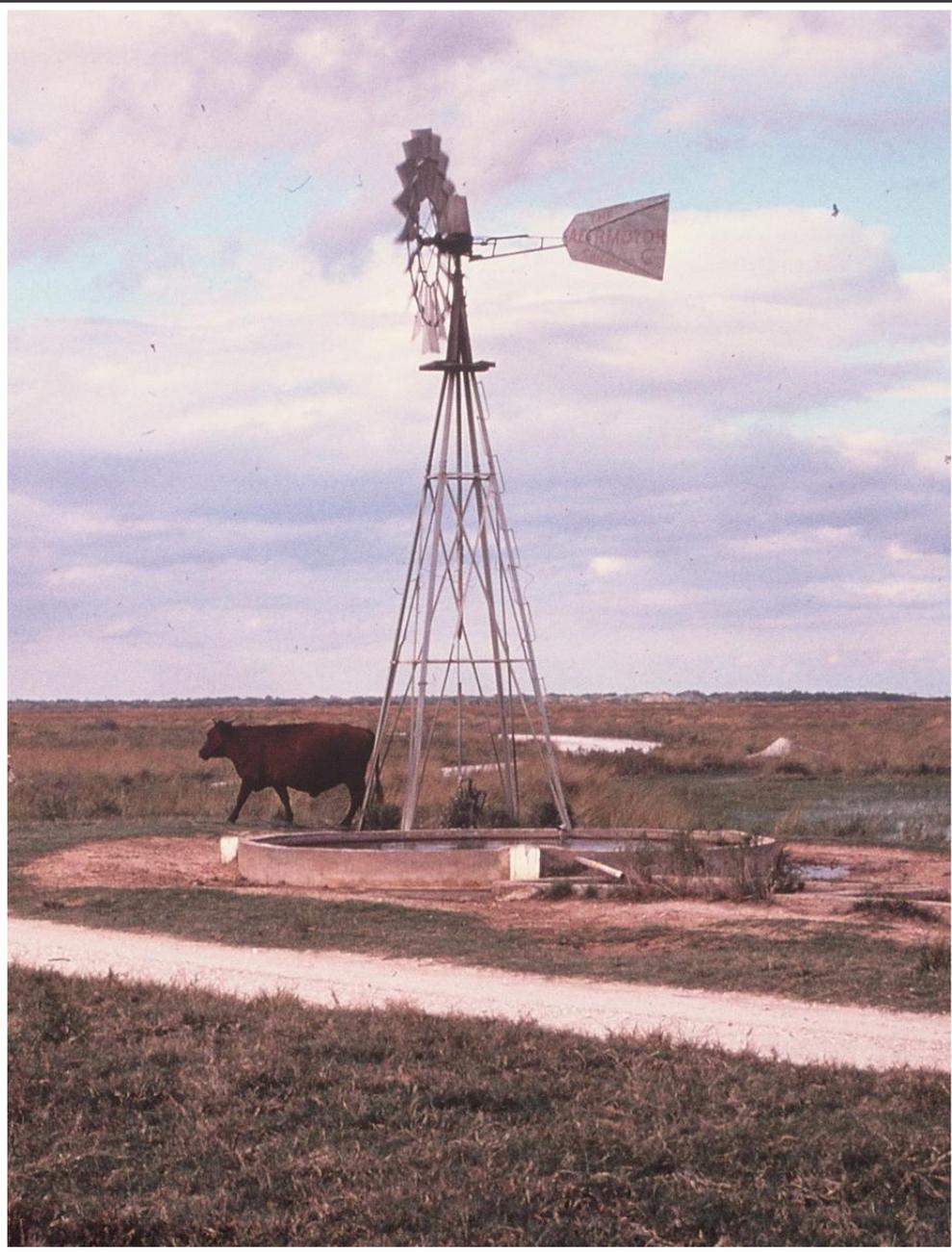
Signs of 2009 -
2010
South Tx.
Drought



**Round Bale
Loading for
Feeding Cattle**

Texana Ranch

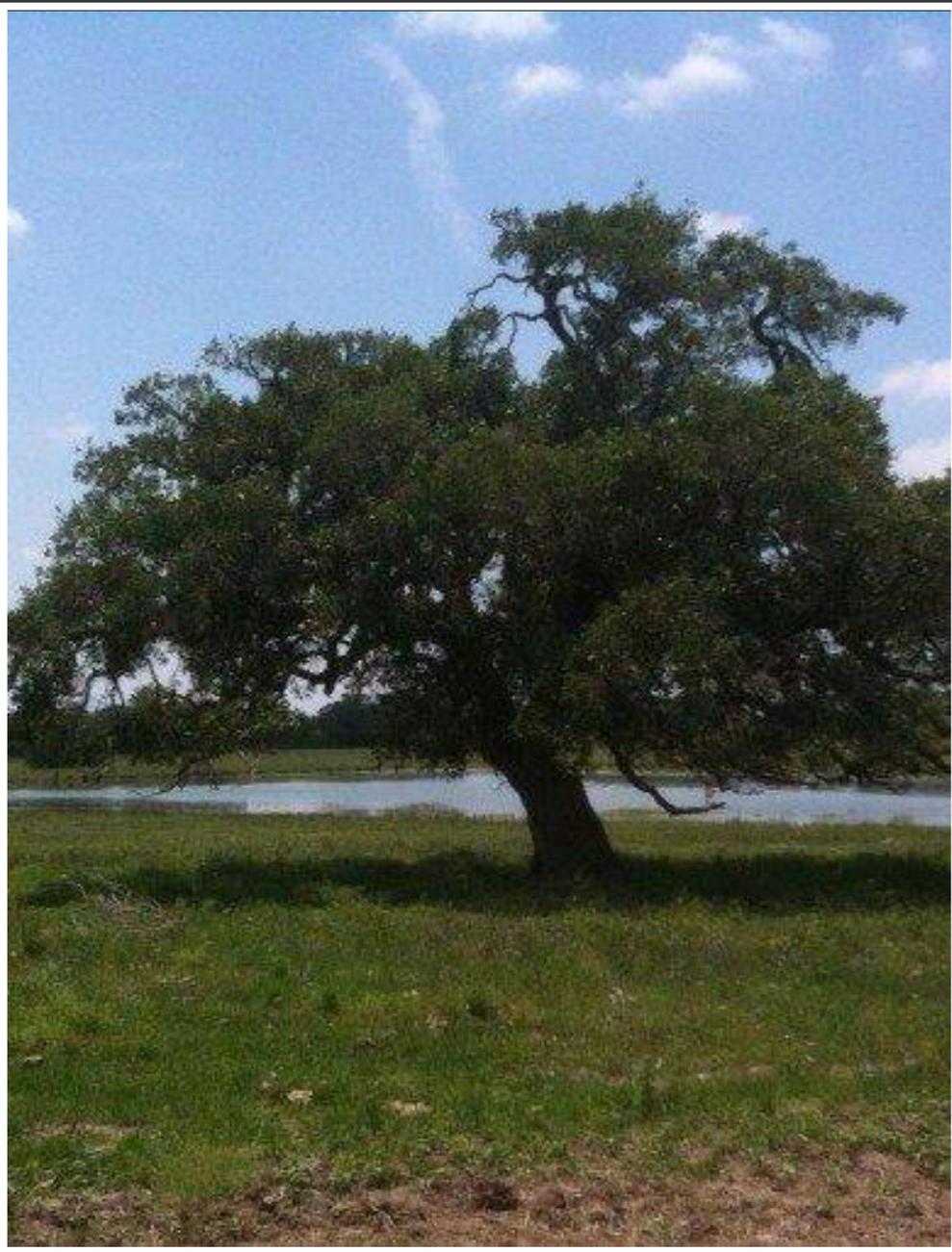
Jackson Co. TX



**Water Source-
Windmill**

**Hawkins Ranch:
Frank Lewis Jr.
Family**

**Matagorda Co.
TX**



**Water Source-
2 1/2 acre Stock
Pond**

Texana Ranch

Jackson Co. TX



**Water Source-
Low Water
Creek Crossing**

Texana Ranch

Jackson Co. TX



Water Source-
Artesian Well
100 Yds. from
Lavaca River

Texana Ranch

Jackson Co. TX



**Water Source-
Lavaca River**

Texana Ranch

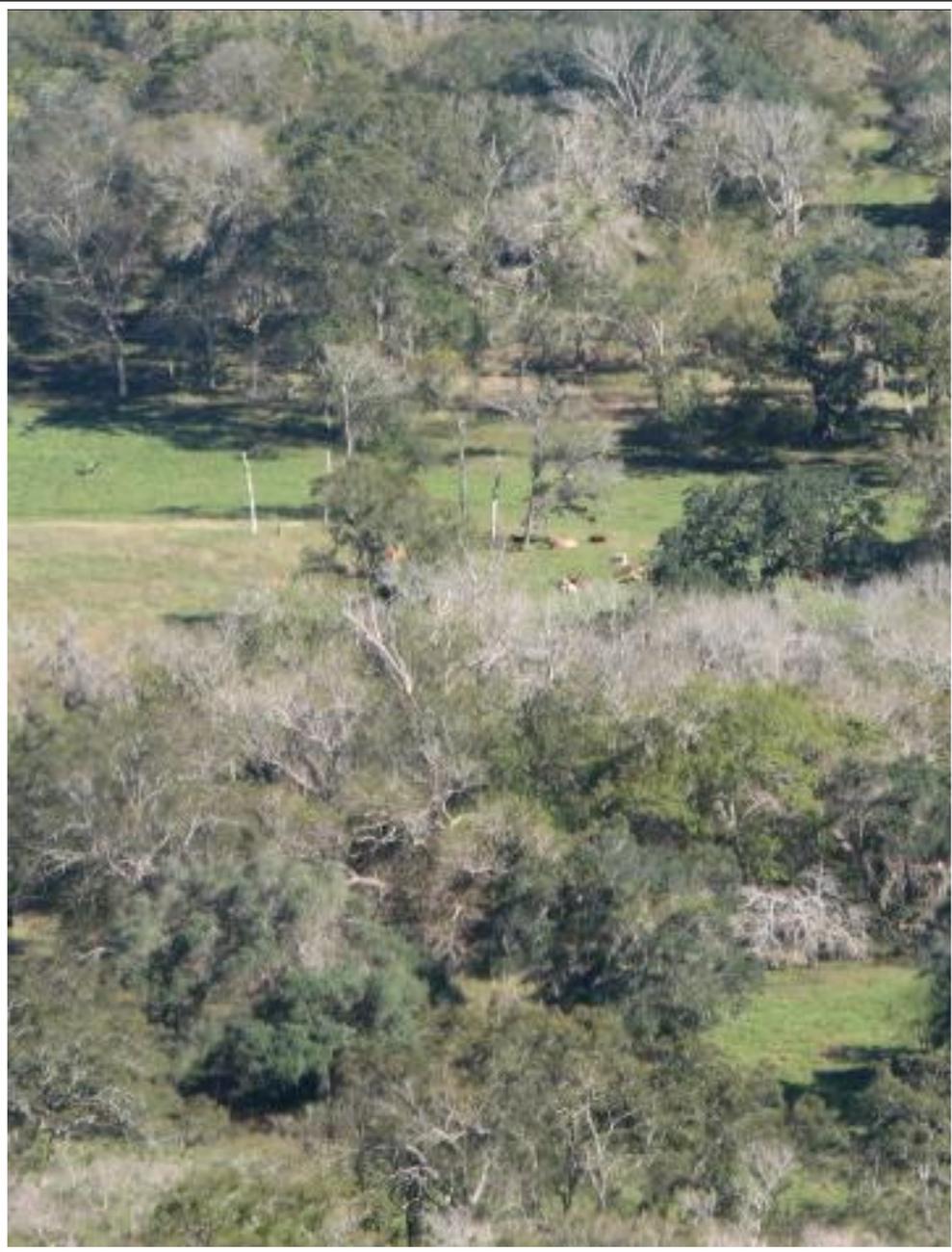
Jackson Co. TX



Lavaca-Navidad River
Flooding Near
Confluence 2009



Texana Ranch
Jackson Co., TX



Cattle Refuge
during Flooding
(Old Indian
Mound)

Texana Ranch

Jackson Co. TX



Weed / Brush
Control—
Helicopter



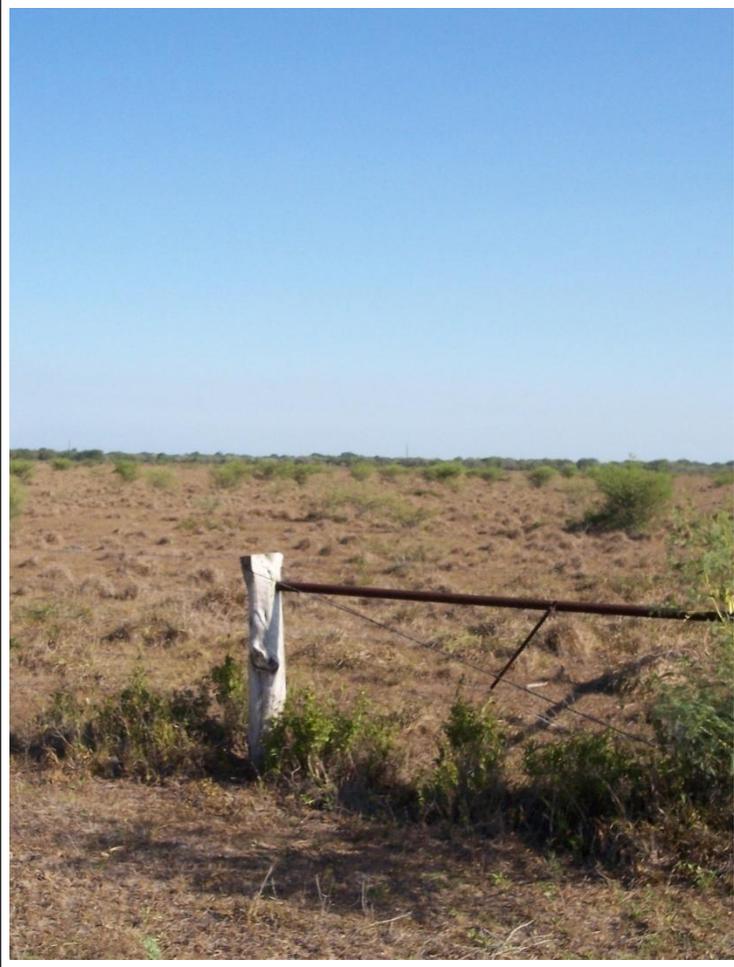
Fertilizer Application /
Seed Planting
Bi-wing Airplane



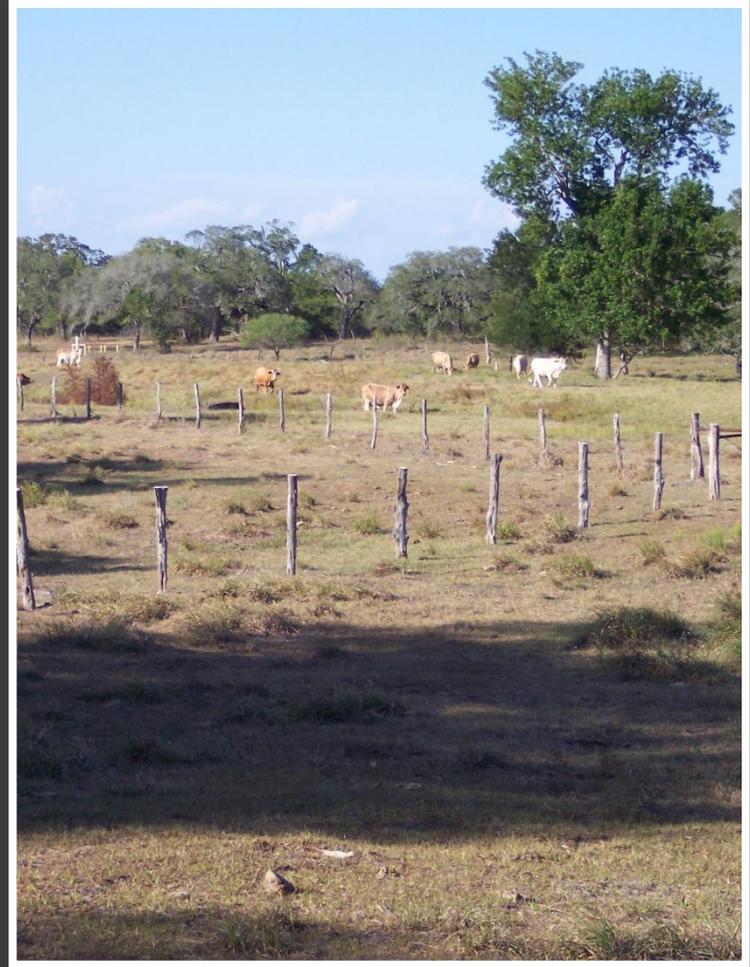
**Fertilizer
Loading-**

**Hawkins Ranch:
Frank Lewis Jr.
Family**

**Matagorda Co.
TX**



Fencing for Pasture
Rotation



Texana Ranch
Jackson Co., TX



Weed Control –
Mechanical Cutting



Hawkins Ranch
Matagorda Co., TX



**Limited Grazing
Options-
Salt Grass
(Tx. Cord Grass)**

**Hawkins Ranch:
Frank Lewis Jr.
Family**

**Matagorda Co.
TX**



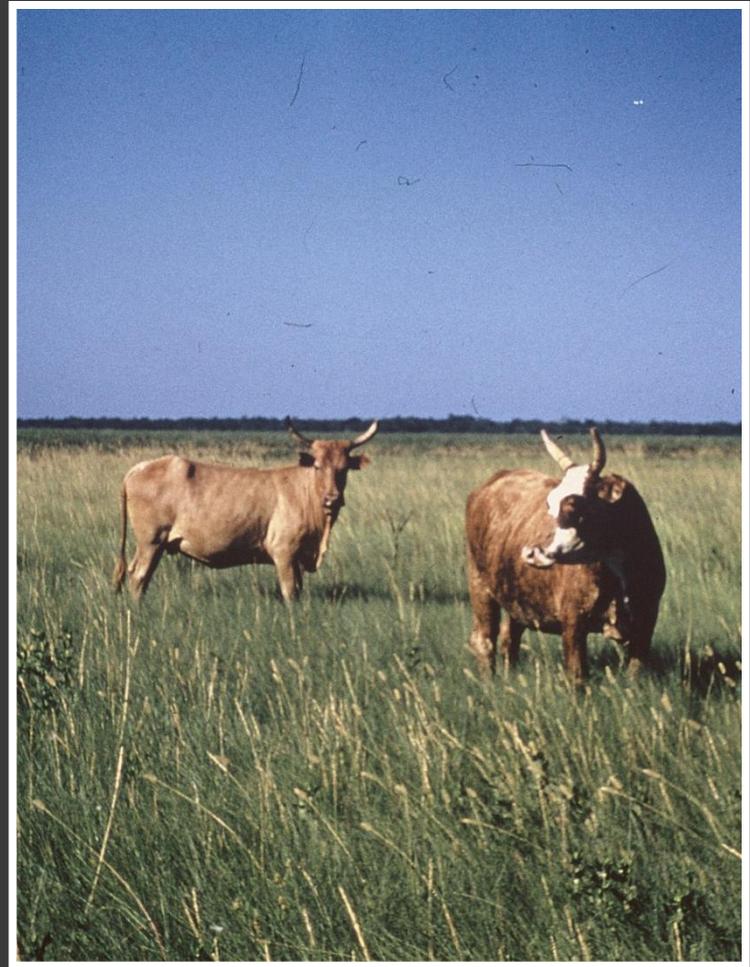
Prescribed Burning

**Control
Measure for
Brush & Salt
Grass**

**Monitored by
Tx. Commission
on
Environmental
Quality (TCEQ)**



Grass Growth After
Prescribed Burning



Hawkins Ranch
Matagorda Co., TX



Native Pasture
Examined by Frank
Lewis Sr.



Introduced Grasses-
Hawkins Ranch
Matagorda Co., TX

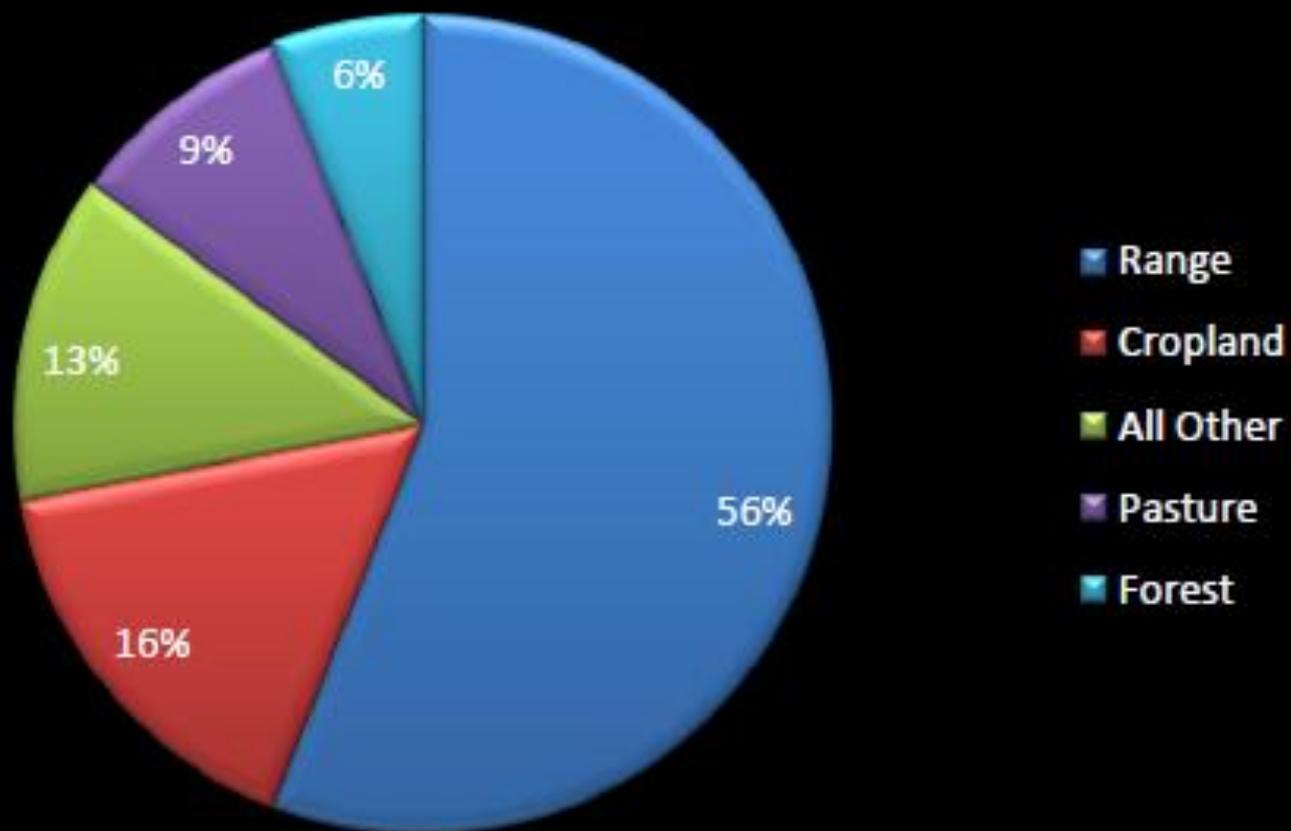


**Native Pasture
and Oaks**

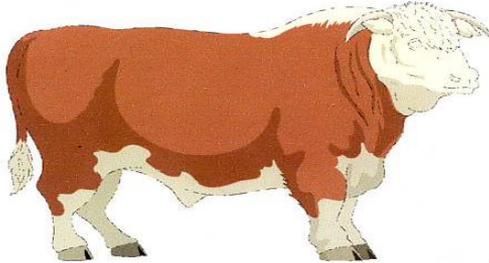
Texana Ranch

Jackson Co. TX

Land Uses in Texas



Cattle By-Products



From Hide and Hair

- Baseball gloves
- Car upholstery
- Drum heads
- Leather coats
- Violin strings
- Shoes
- Felt hats
- Luggage
- Wallets
- Leather watchbands
- Rawhide softballs

From Bones and Horns

- Bone china
- Ice cream
- Piano keys
- Candies
- Knife handles
- Vitamin capsules
- Chewing gum
- Lipstick
- Wallpaper paste
- Combs
- Photo film

From Glands and Organs

- Asphalt
- Cosmetics
- Fertilizer
- Insulation
- Livestock feed
- Medicines
- Paint
- Plastic
- Soap
- Tires