

Ranch Diversification in the Blackland Prairie

77 Ranch

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Gary and Sue Price

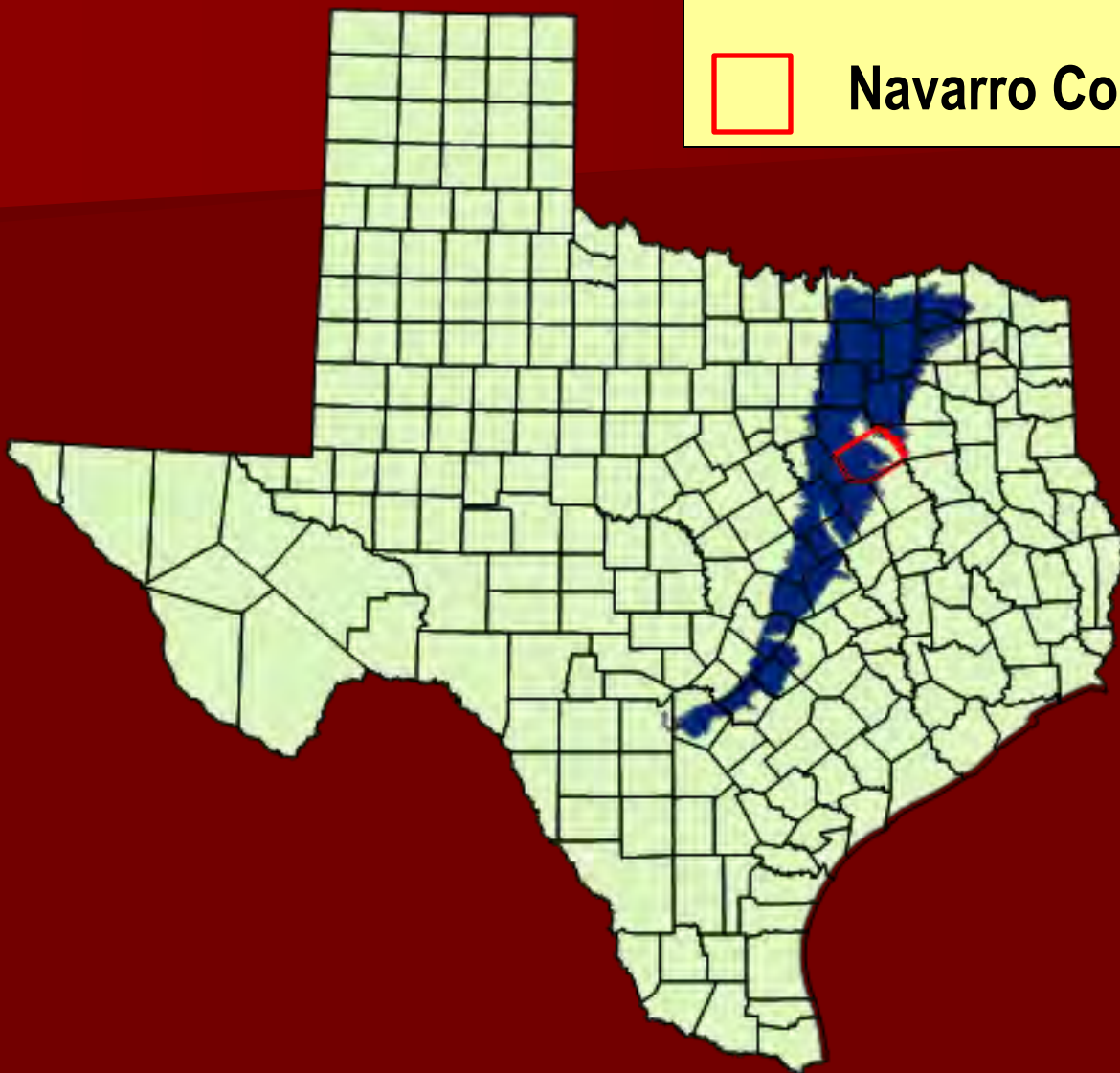




Blackland Prairie MLRA



Navarro County



Native Rangeland



Blackland Prairie



Ranch Management

Ranch Management

- 2,160 acres in the Blackland Prairie ecological region
- Primarily tall grass prairie rangeland some of which has been under rotational grazing management for over 50 years
- Range seeding in highly disturbed areas
- Brush management via clearing and chemical treatment
- Holistic management approach

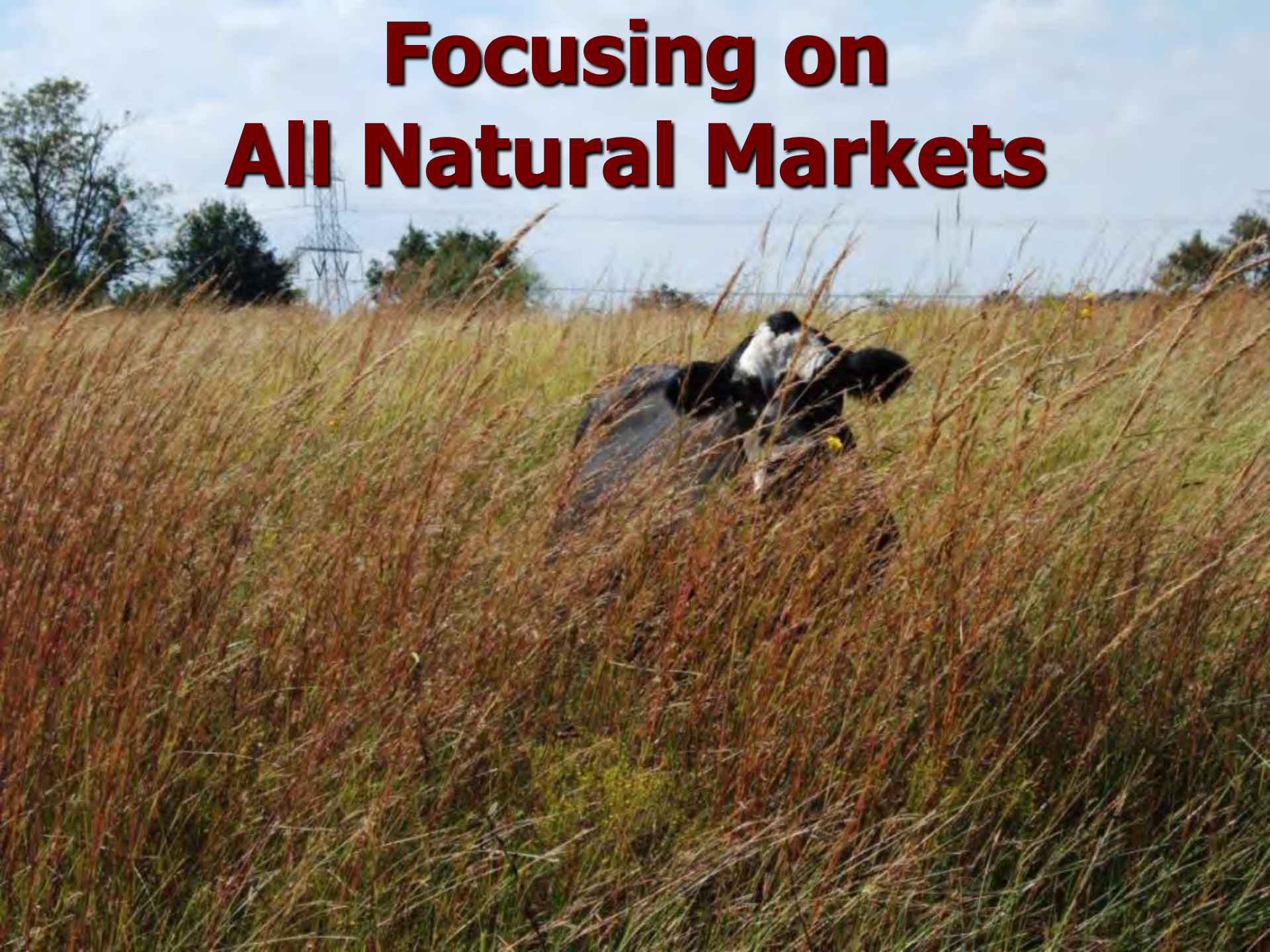
Cattle Production

- Cow-calf operation
- 2 herd, rotational grazing system using 30 pastures
- Conservative, flexible stocking rates
- Black baldy cows producing $\frac{3}{4}$ Angus calves
- Targeting Certified Angus All-Natural markets
- Calves are preconditioned and age/source verified

Beef Cattle Operation

- Cow-Calf operation
 - F1 cows to Super baldies
 - Precondition calves
 - All natural niche markets

Focusing on All Natural Markets



Cow Herd Transition



F1 to Super Baldies



Super Baldies





Spring Calving Herd



Hay Feeding





Preconditioned Calves

Preconditioning Calves



45-60 Days



Preconditioning Ration











Resource Management

- **Drought Management**
- **Rangeland/Grazing Management**
- **Wildlife Management**
- **Water Management**

Challenging Landscape



It's All About Water & Grass



Drought of 2005-2006



Horseshoe Lake



When Will It End?



2007



Indiangrass and Horseshoe Lake



Prescribed Fire As A Tool



Proper Grazing Management



Brush Management

Brush With An Opportunity



Brush Clearing '08



Cedar Elms



Digging



Preparation



Ready For Delivery

Native Pecans



Pecans



Saving Pecans



After Brush Clearing



Beginning To Heal

Rangeland Seed Preparation



Rangeland Seeding



Coastal Hay



Farming Operation



Opportunities Are Not Always Easy To See



Wildlife Diversification



Stocking For The Future



Fishing Operation



Fishing Leases







Ducks



Duck Hunting



How do you address erosion problems?



Wetlands Construction '07



Wetlands Gate '07



-Finished Product- Wetland Waterfowl Habitat



The Experience



Texas Parks and Wildlife Turkey Release



Second Release

Johnson City Lemons to Blooming Grove Lemonade





Rangeland Restoration



77 Ranch Tour '08



Learning Across New Dimensions In Science L.A.N.D.S.



Blooming Grove 4th Grade



Make It Fun & They Will Learn



On Mill Creek

Behind Every Successful Rancher Is A Wife Who Has A Job In Town



At the end of the day...

