

RANCHING

GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE *HANDBOOK OF TEXAS ONLINE*

The following guidelines are intended for contributors writing about Texas ranching. These should be considered as suggestions and not constraints. Explanations and descriptions may vary at the writer's discretion.

The *Handbook* is meant to serve as the principal reference work for all significant aspects of Texas studies and is encyclopedic in scope. All entries should be concise, factual, informative, authoritative, and fully documented.

Entries generally fall into three categories: 1) overview articles providing a general summation of an industry such as *trailing, packing, or feeding*; 2) industry articles developing specific production areas such as *cattle, mohair, sheep, and goats*; and 3) individual entries relating to specific persons, animal breeds, ranches, and ranch-related enterprises, such as *XIT Ranch, Capital Syndicate, Charles Goodnight, Longhorn cattle, and Fort Worth Stockyards*.

Entries for specific ranches should be limited to those which meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. The ranch is historically important of its own accord to the ranching history of Texas.
2. The ranch existed for a significant length of time, i.e., more than 100 years.
3. The ranch is of significant size, i.e., more than 100,000 acres.
4. The ranch has inspired historical scholarship and literature.
5. The ranch has made significant contributions to the ranching industry of Texas, such as the production of special cattle breeds or techniques.

Suggested elements to be included in entries for specific ranches:

1. origin
2. location and size
3. management
4. ownership changes
5. special innovations
6. brands
7. breeds
8. contributions to industry
9. contributions to scholarship and literature

Each entry in the *Handbook* appears over the author's name. We believe that every article will be considered a standard source of information for decades. The documentation of every article, as well as its text, will become part of a permanent file to which scholars will have perpetual access. To those scholars of the future, our authors' sources of information will be important. For these reasons, and because we know that our contributors share our desire to keep errors to an absolute minimum, we have adopted the policy of checking all factual material to be printed in the new edition. This means that we need specific footnotes, with complete publication information, for all of the facts in an article. We regret the inconvenience which this causes, but only by this double check can we be assured that each entry will be the credit to its author that we wish it to be. Furthermore, the extra effort will ultimately save our small staff hundreds of hours and will earn the heartfelt gratitude of our research assistants.

A brief bibliography should be included with each article. We encourage contributors to list primary as well as secondary sources. The list of works should be highly selective; if possible, it should include recent publications as well as the location of major archival collections.

Please send 2 DOUBLE-SPACED copies of each manuscript. We would prefer to have the entries submitted by email to brett.derbes@tshaonline.org or by mail to the address below on a CD or flash drive

in one of the following formats: Word 97 or later (.doc) or for MAC users, Rich Text Format (.rtf).

All articles become the copyrighted property of the Texas State Historical Association when they are received. They will be edited. The association retains the right of disposition of all manuscripts.

Inquiries and articles should be sent to:

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