Learn more and share at these sites.

Our editor has likened our Range & Pasture Steward to a Dolly Parton dress. We’re probably asking it to hold too much.

We try to squeeze a lot of information in these pages (forget the dress now), but there’s always more to tell and more we’d like to hear from you. So we look at other channels. I’d like to mention three you can access via the Internet.

You may watch the RFD-TV show Cattlemen to Cattlemen when it airs, but did you know you can watch it online? I mention this because May 13, Cattlemen to Cattlemen carried a segment about mesquite control. If you missed it, watch it on the website, www.cattlementocattlemen.org. Look under Sponsor Segments and click Dow AgroSciences.

We’re also partnering with BEEF magazine to bring you more pasture management topics on the magazine’s website via a department called Pasture Posts. You can access it at www.beefmagazine.com. Look for the clickable banner.

Finally, we want to hear from you and give you a way to share with others. So check out our new website www.TogetherWeGrowGrass.com. Send us a story or photo or both that tells something about your life on the farm and ranch. You could earn a weekly prize or one of four $1,000 grand-prize gift cards.

Tip for winning: Don’t try to squeeze in too much. We can’t wait to hear from you!

On the cover: Aerially sprayed mesquite, Antilley Ranch, Wingate, Texas

Take out invasive mesquite, leave some habitat and shade.

Increasingly, brush management is about selectivity. Selectivity means killing your target invasive, like mesquite, but leaving grasses alive along with more desirable woody species interspersed with your target. Those desired tree and shrub species may be vital for cattle shade or wildlife habitat.

Researchers noticed early on that the mesquite killer now known as Sendero® herbicide was highly selective. Safety to grasses was paramount in its selection for development. But with more field trials, researchers noticed its lack of herbicidal effect on many desirable woody species. “That got our attention,” says Dr. Charlie Hart, a Texas-based range scientist and Range & Pasture market development specialist for Dow AgroSciences.

As their observations collected into patterns, university and company researchers decided to quantify the effect — or no effect — on desirable woody plants.

That research continues and final conclusions are a way off, Hart says. But from the first set of trials in South and Central Texas, evaluated two to three months after spraying, he offered these early observations.

Take mesquite, leave these

In South Texas trials, guayacan, pricklypear, tasajillo and cenizo showed no injury from being sprayed over with Sendero. Leatherstem and coyotillo showed less than 25 percent canopy reduction and no mortality. Oreganillo, Rio Grande beebrush and elbowbush exhibited less than 50 percent canopy reduction and less than 25 percent mortality.

Blackbrush, however, was susceptible to Sendero.

In Central Texas, ephedra, pricklypear, tasajillo, juniper, four-wing saltbush, live oak, post oak, seep willow and buttonbush showed no injury from being sprayed over with Sendero. Wolfberry, algarito and hackberry showed less than 25 percent canopy reduction and no mortality. Lotebush and catclaw acacia exhibited less than 50 percent canopy reduction and less than 25 percent mortality.

Hart says the research will continue with more plots, more readings on the original plots and the collection of data on more species. Researchers also will look at forb shock — how long desirable broadleaf forbs are controlled by Sendero, if at all. Stay tuned.

On the cover: Aerially sprayed mesquite, Antilley Ranch, Wingate, Texas

Post oaks, live oaks and other desirable woody plants have shown little effect from being sprayed over with Sendero® herbicide in mesquite applications.

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