

## Spring Grazing Workshop Focuses on Developing Operational Plans

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Behind every successful agricultural operation is a strategic plan that is being implemented. Just look at Destiny Ranch.

Owners William and Karen Payne's process of "creating the plan; working the plan" allows them to continue to improve their land stewardship and intensive grazing management.

To help other producers find similar success, The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation will host a Spring Grazing Workshop from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, April 24, at the Destiny Ranch, located at 44880 Avoca Road, three miles south of St. Louis, Okla.

This workshop, which is open to the public, is designed to assist agricultural producers in improving their pastures and management skills. "This one-day workshop will help seasoned producers refresh their management skills," said Hugh Aljoe, consultation program manager. "It will also assist new ranchers in developing proper grazing management strategies to enhance both ecologic and economic sustainability."

During the workshop, the Paynes will detail their operation and discuss their long-term management plans, which include cedar and brush control treatments, erosion mitigation and pasture improvement using primarily livestock, and the addition of their first resident cow herd. The Paynes manage calves in truckload-size herds by making daily movements to fresh 1-acre paddocks as forage conditions allow.

"Operating with stock densities nearing 100,000 pounds of live weight per acre during the growing season, the pastures continue to regrow following grazing events," Aljoe said. "This provides average daily gains near 2 pounds per day per head, even during the drought. That's exceptional management."