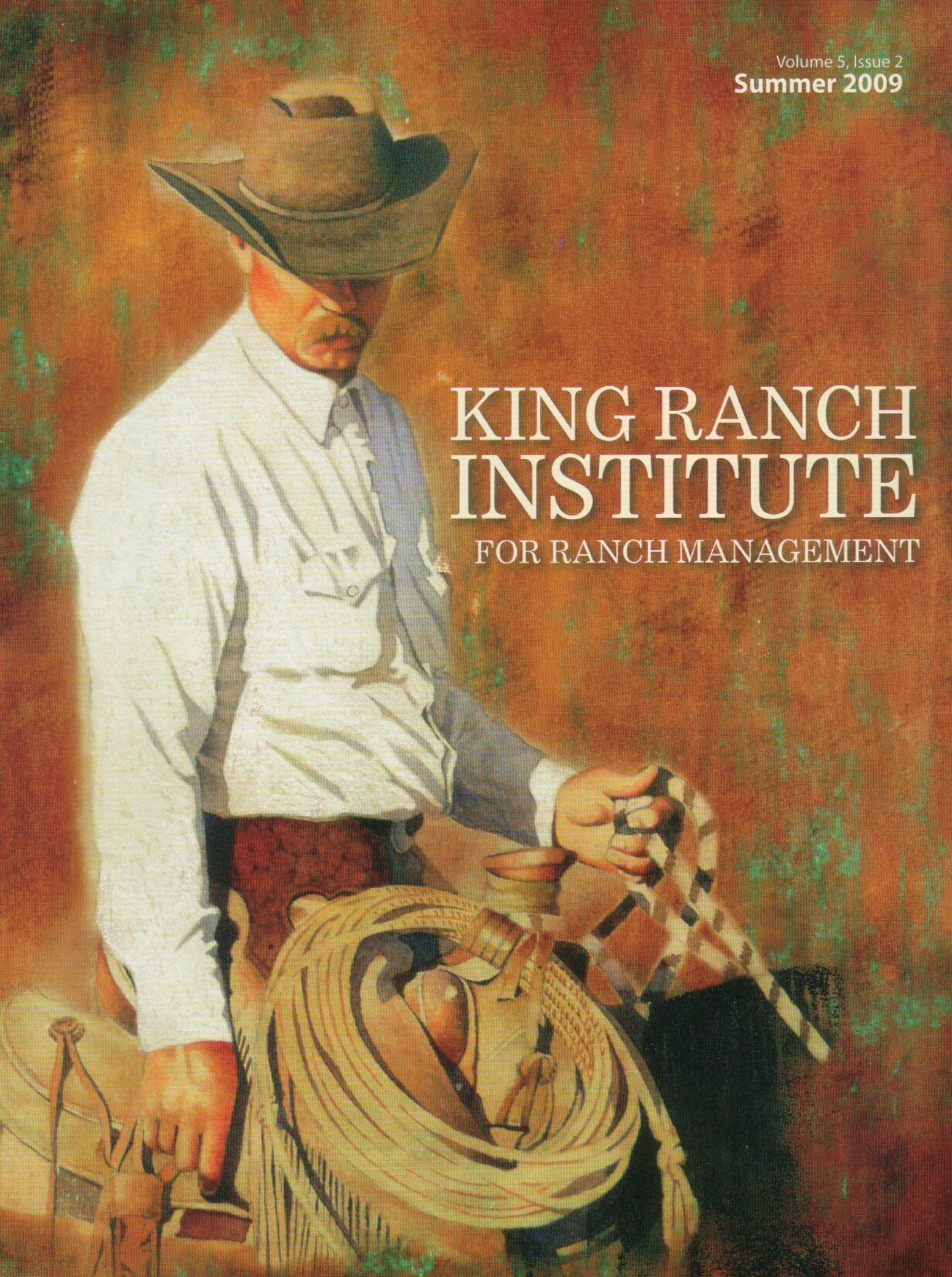


Volume 5, Issue 2
Summer 2009

A painterly illustration of a cowboy. He is wearing a brown cowboy hat, a white long-sleeved button-down shirt, and brown chaps. He is looking down and to the right. In his right hand, he holds a lasso. In his left hand, he holds a coiled rope. The background is a textured, warm brown color.

KING RANCH INSTITUTE

FOR RANCH MANAGEMENT

“In order to be sustainable and successful in the long-term, ranchers must be good stewards of their resources. In today’s world, we can be financially rewarded by cattle, wildlife and even carbon exchange credits. But land value continues to be a driving force in ranching success. If we are poor stewards, all of these values and rewards are in peril.”

-Wayne Fahsholtz, CEO, Padlock Ranch



Padlock Ranch

By Jaimi Butler and Dr. Barry Dunn



More than 65 years ago, Homer and Mildred Scott started Padlock Ranch. This family-owned ranch began with 300 cows and 3,000 acres and has since grown to more than 11,000 cows and nearly 500,000 acres stretching across northern Wyoming and southern Montana. Situated at the foot of the Big Horn Mountains, Padlock Ranch offers beautiful vistas filled with rolling hills and expansive plains. It is a well-balanced ranch that, in addition to its cow-calf operation, includes irrigated farming, a feedlot for backgrounding its calves, guided hunting, and a new working ranch vacation enterprise.

King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management (KRIRM) has developed a strong working relationship with the Padlock Ranch, offering opportunities for our graduate students as well as the ranch itself. This relationship has led to the employment of Les Nunn, a KRIRM graduate, the hosting of KRIRM student Sean Kelly as an intern, a trip to King Ranch by the Padlock Ranch board of directors, and a meeting between Dr. Barry Dunn and the ranch’s board of directors. In addition, the ranch and several of its family members have made generous donations to KRIRM.

As a part of its innovative marketing plan, Padlock Ranch annually commits 85 percent of its calf crop to value-added programs. For example, half of its calf production is committed to Country Natural Beef (CNB). CNB is a rancher-owned cooperative that is certified by the Food Alliance for humane animal practices and environmentally sensitive land management. Participation with CNB has allowed Padlock Ranch to bridge the gap between ranchers and consumers. This relationship has also stabilized prices for the ranch during very volatile economic times.

Padlock's new working ranch enterprise helps the ranch meet business goals while providing the general public with a unique vacation experience. Guests can experience a week in the life of an American cowboy while enjoying time with friends and family, excellent food, and the scenic outdoors of Wyoming. Whether it is helping cowboys work cattle, going on nature walks, viewing wildlife, or unwinding after a hard day's work, guests of the ranch appreciate a sense of accomplishment, camaraderie, and self fulfillment. This new enterprise also allows Padlock Ranch to illustrate what ranching is really all about by showing the public the many ways it strives to be good stewards of its natural resources while conscientiously producing high quality food.

In keeping with King Ranch's original purpose in founding KRIRM, Padlock Ranch personnel know and understand the critical importance of cultivating the next generation of ranchers. Working with King Ranch Institute provides them the opportunity to meet and network with some of the finest people in the ranching industry.

Knowing and working with good people who possess extraordinary knowledge and skills is important for Padlock from a business perspective, but also allows activities at the Padlock Ranch to contribute to the overall future of agriculture by helping educate and train a new generation of ranchers.



*Wayne and Judy Fabsholtz
hosting a barbeque on the ranch*

