



TTHA FIELD PRO STAFF NOTEBOOK

1. Hunting conditions in the field (what you're seeing and hearing on water, nutrition, the rut, weather conditions, survival rates, hunter success, etc.):

Rains beginning early in September and continuing through the season have made hunting conditions tough in S TX. An abundance of forbs has produced a lack of interest in corn, making locating deer extremely difficult. The majority of the action appears to be occurring during the first and last 30 minutes of the morning and evening hunts, respectively.

Fawn production appears to be very low across the board for much of S TX.

Horn growth is down across the region from the drought, however well managed properties continue to produce outstanding headgear. Some great bucks have been taken early under the MLD permits in S TX.

It is early to be looking ahead to next season, but current conditions are great going into next year. In light of the recent rains, there is an abundance of forbs and this will be one of the first years we have actually had cool season forbs in quite some time. Deer should recover quickly from post rut conditions and have an excellent start going into next year.

2. Hunting Tips (any tricks of the trade that others may or may not consider)

Patterning deer has been extremely difficult and we have had to spend a lot of time in stands this year. Aside from the help of trail cameras, there is just no substitute for plenty of time spent in the field.

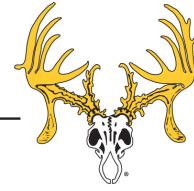
3. Any new gear that caught your eye and why:

The Cuddeback Capture IR is a great value. It is an excellent camera with a fast trigger speed. IR no flash technology appears to spook game less. More pictures were taken of individual bucks with no flash cameras than with traditional flash cameras.

Rhino XP1 Ground Blinds provided great concealment for close up archery opportunities.

4. Stories from the field (a hunter's first experience, news of the weird, etc.):

After winning the TTHA Texas Size Give Away, Eddie Graf from Eagle Pass, TX, took an outstanding deer on film with us. Although our management goals focus on trophy production, we continue to encourage and promote youth hunting. As in years past, several young hunters have taken their first bucks at the Charco Marrano Ranch this year.



5. Trends, news or legislation –the good, the bad and the ugly:

A lot can be learned from the drought we are now recovering from. With most of the region having received little or no rain in the previous 18-month period, many ranches in S TX found out exactly how long their surface water would last. Some of these ranches were caught reacting to the circumstances and had to scramble to find the means to supply water for their wildlife and livestock operations.