



# News Release

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## Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Texas Longhorn Cattle Auction

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge will start its 71<sup>st</sup> annual public auction of Texas Longhorns at noon on September 18, 2014. The auction will be located at the Refuge corrals immediately north of the Refuge headquarters, 12 miles northwest of Cache, Oklahoma off Highway 49. The Refuge will be selling approximately 105 animals for the auction, including mature bulls, mature cows, cow/calf pairs and calves.

All sale animals may be viewed at the Refuge corrals between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on September 17, 2014. Refuge staff will be available to answer any questions concerning sale animals. All longhorns being sold are registered with or subject for registration with the Texas Longhorn Breeders Association of America (TLBAA), International Texas Longhorn Association (ITLA), and the Cattleman's Texas Longhorn Registry (CTLR).

All adult cows and bulls have been tested negative for brucellosis. Heifer calves have been vaccinated against brucellosis with RB-51 vaccine. All bull and heifer calves have been vaccinated against blackleg disease. Health certificates required for interstate shipment of cows and calves will be provided by a veterinarian following the auction. Breeding age bulls will require a negative Trichomoniasis test within thirty days unless going to slaughter. Prospective buyers should be familiar with their state's requirements for importing cattle from Oklahoma.

Buyers or their agents must attend the auction in order to bid on animals. Personal checks, cashier's check, traveler's check or cash will be accepted for payment following the auction.

Loading of cattle will begin immediately following the auction and will continue until 6:00 p.m. All remaining cattle will be loaded between 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on the following day. Cattle will not be held or loaded out over the weekend. The Refuge assumes no responsibility or liability for animals held over beyond auction day.

In order to reduce the possibility of transmitting infectious animal diseases and introducing invasive plants to the Refuge, all vehicles and trailers which have previously hauled livestock must be thoroughly cleaned of all manure and used hay prior to entering the Refuge. Failure to comply will result in denial of entry to the sale until the vehicle or trailer is removed from the Refuge and cleaned.

Complimentary coffee and donuts will be provided by the Refuge Friends group, and a burger plate lunch will be provided for a nominal fee, by the Lawton Chamber of Commerce and Industry on sale day. Prospective buyers and visitors alike are invited to come and enjoy this popular Refuge event.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).