



Hunting Texas

Advertising Supplement

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Annual 2008



INSIDE

- Smith & Wesson i-Bolt rifle – Page 4
- Sunrise/Sunset – Page 4
- GMC Acadia – Page 5
- Hunting Seasons – Page 5
- STIHL MS 180 C-BE – Page 6
- Farm Credit – Page 6
- SHE Safari – Page 8
- Nikon Sport Optics – Page 10
- Avery Outdoors/Greenhead Gear – Page 12
- Dove, teal forecasts – Page 12
- Texas Trophy Hunters Assn. – Page 14
- The Sportsman Channel – Page 16
- Deer forecast – Page 16
- Capital Farm Credit – Page 18



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And the lender who can get you there.

FindFarmCredit.com

*Visit us to find a Farm Credit lender, to locate property for sale,
and to learn what you need to know about buying rural real estate.*



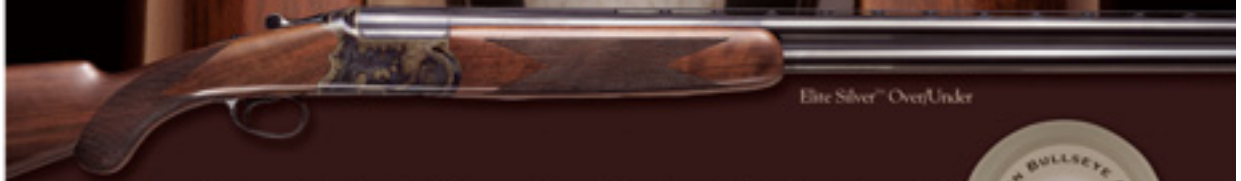
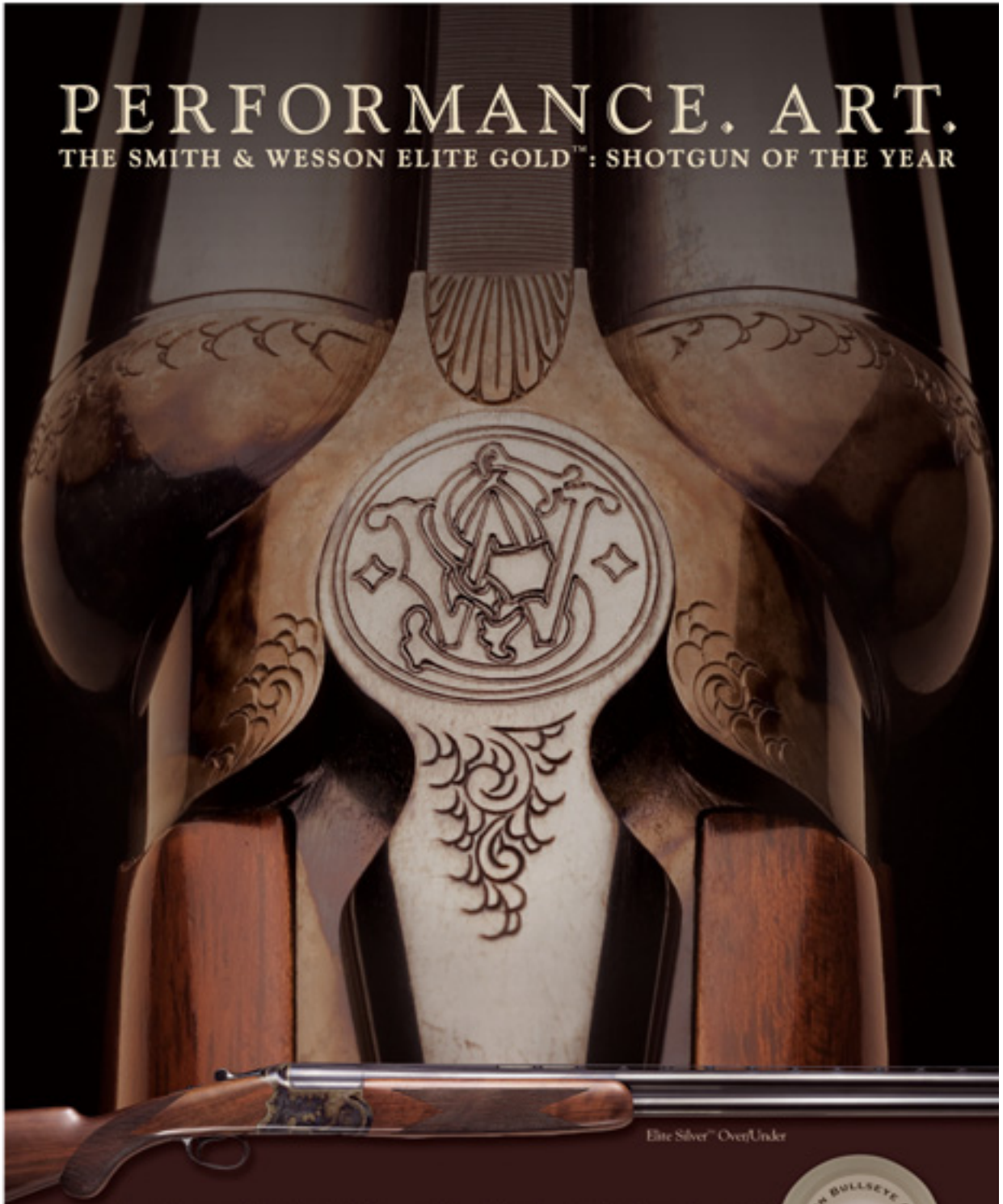
FARM CREDIT

Financing for: Country Homes • Recreational Property • Farms and Ranches • Agribusiness Loans



PERFORMANCE. ART.

THE SMITH & WESSON ELITE GOLD™: SHOTGUN OF THE YEAR



Elite Silver™ Over/Under

Beyond the awards, the pleasing balance and the obvious beauty of each expertly crafted Elite shotgun lies another powerful endorsement – the Smith & Wesson mark. A symbol of lasting precision honored by an Heirloom Warranty™ created to ensure generations of continued enjoyment.

Purchase an Elite Gold side-by-side or an Elite Silver over/under before January 2009 and Smith & Wesson will send you an Elite Series™ World-Class Case® for lasting protection.

Offer ends December 31, 2008. Some restrictions may apply. See smith-wesson.com for details.



Smith & Wesson®

Smith & Wesson: A history of success

For 156 years, Smith & Wesson has been making guns — and history. In 1888, when legendary sharpshooter Annie Oakley went shopping for a handgun, it was the Smith & Wesson Model 3 that caught her eye. The 1970s' "Dirty Harry" opted for pure power with the .44 Magnum.

Today, Smith & Wesson, who in 2001 was purchased by the Saf-T-Hammer Corp., is the largest manufacturer of handguns in the U.S. In June, the company announced net product sales of \$293.9 million for fiscal 2008, a 25.2 percent increase from 2007.

After a retreat in the 1970s to its core market of handguns, Smith & Wesson last year re-entered the long-gun market for rifles and shotguns, a sometimes challenging market that is estimated to be 60 percent larger than the handgun market.

In addition to its 2007 acquisition of shotgun and rifle maker Thompson/Center Arms, Smith & Wesson also unveiled its Elite and 1000 series of shotguns during the 2007 SHOT Show. Later that year, it introduced its i-Bolt bolt-action centerfire rifle.

The i-Bolt rifle incorporates several patent-pending features, including an externally adjustable trigger, a new bolt release and a synthetic stock design engineered for stability, easy handling and comfort.

"The introduction of the i-Bolt signifies

a new chapter in the history of Smith & Wesson," said Leland Nichols, company president and COO.

"Now, hunters and shooters alike will have the opportunity to own what we believe is among the most innovative, reliable and accurate production bolt-action rifles available. Featuring an innovative design and patented technology,

gun nearly impervious to rust.

The i-Bolt sells for about \$550 to \$655.

The Smith & Wesson 1000 Series 20-gauge and 12-gauge shotguns are currently available in 12 models and multiple configurations.

The 1000 Series is among the lightest and most reliable self-loading shotguns on the market. At its core is a gas cylin-

Available in different finish options, they sell for about \$620 to \$880.

Since its introduction, the Elite has won several industry awards. Earlier this year, The Elite Gold was chosen as a Ducks Unlimited President's Top 100 Gun for 2008.

The Elite Gold is a side-by-side 20-gauge shotgun that combines traditional craftsmanship with modern technology in a classic field shotgun. Offering upland hunters and traditional shooters a perfect blend of form and function, each shotgun features a patent-pending trigger plate action; a gracefully rounded and sculpted receiver; hand-cut checkering and engraving; AAA Turkish walnut stocks; and a precise wood-to-metal fit.

The Elite Silver is an over-and-under 12-gauge shotgun that shares the same custom design features as the Gold model, with the addition of machined, monobloc barrels.

The Elites sell for about \$2,380.

With the launch of its Elite Series, Smith & Wesson also introduced its Heirloom Warranty program, which provides both the original buyer, as well as the buyer's chosen heir, with a lifetime warranty on all Elite Series shotguns.

For dealer information or to view more of these firearms' features, visit www.smith-wesson.com or call (800) 331-0852.



we believe the new i-Bolt will quickly change the expectations of consumers worldwide."

The i-Bolt is chambered in .25-06, .270 and .30-06, and features a 4+1 magazine capacity. It is available in black synthetic stock or Realtree AP HD synthetic stock with a blued receiver and barrel. Both models are now available with WeatherShield, a corrosion protection system that is applied to the barrel and other critical metal parts to make the

der mechanism that has been engineered to reduce powder residue buildup for top performance, even in the harshest of conditions. Lightweight, durable and capable of handling the hardest recoiling loads, the 1000 Series features chrome-lined barrels, five choke tubes and a four-piece shim kit for adjusting the stock to the shooter's preference.

These shotguns are available in barrel lengths ranging from 24 to 30 inches and feature TRUGLO fiber optic sights.

LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS Texas Premier Outdoor Newspaper			SUNRISE/SUNSET SEPT. 2008 - FEB. 2009														
SEPTEMBER '08			OCTOBER '08			NOVEMBER '08			DECEMBER '08			JANUARY '09			FEBRUARY '09		
DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET
01	7:08 AM	7:53 PM	01	7:25 AM	7:16 PM	01	7:46 AM	6:43 PM	01	7:10 AM	5:30 PM	01	7:28 AM	5:42 PM	01	7:21 AM	6:08 PM
02	7:09 AM	7:52 PM	02	7:25 AM	7:14 PM	02	6:46 AM	5:42 PM	02	7:11 AM	5:30 PM	02	7:28 AM	5:43 PM	02	7:21 AM	6:09 PM
03	7:09 AM	7:51 PM	03	7:26 AM	7:13 PM	03	6:47 AM	5:41 PM	03	7:12 AM	5:30 PM	03	7:28 AM	5:43 PM	03	7:20 AM	6:10 PM
04	7:10 AM	7:49 PM	04	7:26 AM	7:12 PM	04	6:48 AM	5:41 PM	04	7:13 AM	5:30 PM	04	7:28 AM	5:44 PM	04	7:20 AM	6:11 PM
05	7:10 AM	7:48 PM	05	7:27 AM	7:11 PM	05	6:49 AM	5:40 PM	05	7:13 AM	5:30 PM	05	7:28 AM	5:45 PM	05	7:19 AM	6:11 PM
06	7:11 AM	7:47 PM	06	7:28 AM	7:10 PM	06	6:50 AM	5:39 PM	06	7:14 AM	5:30 PM	06	7:28 AM	5:46 PM	06	7:18 AM	6:12 PM
07	7:11 AM	7:46 PM	07	7:28 AM	7:08 PM	07	6:50 AM	5:39 PM	07	7:15 AM	5:30 PM	07	7:28 AM	5:47 PM	07	7:17 AM	6:13 PM
08	7:12 AM	7:44 PM	08	7:29 AM	7:07 PM	08	6:51 AM	5:38 PM	08	7:16 AM	5:31 PM	08	7:29 AM	5:47 PM	08	7:17 AM	6:14 PM
09	7:12 AM	7:43 PM	09	7:30 AM	7:06 PM	09	6:52 AM	5:37 PM	09	7:16 AM	5:31 PM	09	7:29 AM	5:48 PM	09	7:16 AM	6:15 PM
10	7:13 AM	7:42 PM	10	7:30 AM	7:05 PM	10	6:53 AM	5:37 PM	10	7:17 AM	5:31 PM	10	7:29 AM	5:49 PM	10	7:15 AM	6:16 PM
11	7:13 AM	7:41 PM	11	7:31 AM	7:04 PM	11	6:54 AM	5:36 PM	11	7:18 AM	5:31 PM	11	7:29 AM	5:50 PM	11	7:14 AM	6:16 PM
12	7:14 AM	7:39 PM	12	7:31 AM	7:03 PM	12	6:54 AM	5:36 PM	12	7:18 AM	5:32 PM	12	7:28 AM	5:51 PM	12	7:13 AM	6:17 PM
13	7:15 AM	7:38 PM	13	7:32 AM	7:02 PM	13	6:55 AM	5:35 PM	13	7:19 AM	5:32 PM	13	7:28 AM	5:51 PM	13	7:13 AM	6:18 PM
14	7:15 AM	7:37 PM	14	7:33 AM	7:00 PM	14	6:56 AM	5:35 PM	14	7:20 AM	5:32 PM	14	7:28 AM	5:52 PM	14	7:12 AM	6:19 PM
15	7:16 AM	7:36 PM	15	7:33 AM	6:59 PM	15	6:57 AM	5:34 PM	15	7:20 AM	5:32 PM	15	7:28 AM	5:53 PM	15	7:11 AM	6:20 PM
16	7:16 AM	7:34 PM	16	7:34 AM	6:58 PM	16	6:58 AM	5:34 PM	16	7:21 AM	5:33 PM	16	7:28 AM	5:54 PM	16	7:10 AM	6:20 PM
17	7:17 AM	7:33 PM	17	7:35 AM	6:57 PM	17	6:59 AM	5:33 PM	17	7:21 AM	5:33 PM	17	7:28 AM	5:55 PM	17	7:09 AM	6:21 PM
18	7:17 AM	7:32 PM	18	7:35 AM	6:56 PM	18	6:59 AM	5:33 PM	18	7:22 AM	5:34 PM	18	7:28 AM	5:56 PM	18	7:08 AM	6:22 PM
19	7:18 AM	7:31 PM	19	7:36 AM	6:55 PM	19	7:00 AM	5:32 PM	19	7:23 AM	5:34 PM	19	7:27 AM	5:57 PM	19	7:07 AM	6:23 PM
20	7:18 AM	7:29 PM	20	7:37 AM	6:54 PM	20	7:01 AM	5:32 PM	20	7:23 AM	5:35 PM	20	7:27 AM	5:57 PM	20	7:06 AM	6:23 PM
21	7:19 AM	7:28 PM	21	7:37 AM	6:53 PM	21	7:02 AM	5:32 PM	21	7:24 AM	5:35 PM	21	7:27 AM	5:58 PM	21	7:05 AM	6:24 PM
22	7:19 AM	7:27 PM	22	7:38 AM	6:52 PM	22	7:03 AM	5:31 PM	22	7:24 AM	5:36 PM	22	7:26 AM	5:59 PM	22	7:04 AM	6:25 PM
23	7:20 AM	7:26 PM	23	7:39 AM	6:51 PM	23	7:04 AM	5:31 PM	23	7:25 AM	5:36 PM	23	7:26 AM	6:00 PM	23	7:03 AM	6:26 PM
24	7:21 AM	7:24 PM	24	7:40 AM	6:50 PM	24	7:04 AM	5:31 PM	24	7:25 AM	5:37 PM	24	7:26 AM	6:01 PM	24	7:02 AM	6:26 PM
25	7:21 AM	7:23 PM	25	7:40 AM	6:49 PM	25	7:05 AM	5:31 PM	25	7:25 AM	5:37 PM	25	7:25 AM	6:02 PM	25	7:01 AM	6:27 PM
26	7:22 AM	7:22 PM	26	7:41 AM	6:48 PM	26	7:06 AM	5:31 PM	26	7:26 AM	5:38 PM	26	7:25 AM	6:03 PM	26	7:00 AM	6:28 PM
27	7:22 AM	7:21 PM	27	7:42 AM	6:47 PM	27	7:07 AM	5:30 PM	27	7:26 AM	5:39 PM	27	7:24 AM	6:04 PM	27	6:59 AM	6:29 PM
28	7:23 AM	7:19 PM	28	7:43 AM	6:46 PM	28	7:08 AM	5:30 PM	28	7:26 AM	5:39 PM	28	7:24 AM	6:04 PM	28	6:58 AM	6:29 PM
29	7:23 AM	7:18 PM	29	7:43 AM	6:46 PM	29	7:09 AM	5:30 PM	29	7:27 AM	5:40 PM	29	7:23 AM	6:05 PM			
30	7:24 AM	7:17 PM	30	7:44 AM	6:45 PM	30	7:09 AM	5:30 PM	30	7:27 AM	5:41 PM	30	7:23 AM	6:06 PM			
31			31	7:45 AM	6:44 PM	31			31	7:27 AM	5:41 PM	31	7:22 AM	6:07 PM			

Austin, Texas times shown. Determine the actual sunrise/sunset in your area at www.usno.navy.mil

2008 - 2009 HUNTING SEASONS

DOVE

North Zone: Sept. 1-Oct. 30

Daily Bag Limit: 15 mourning, white-winged or white-tipped doves, to include not more than two whitetips

Central Zone: Sept. 1-Oct. 30 & Dec. 26-Jan. 4

Daily Bag Limit: 12 mourning, white-winged or white-tipped doves, to include not more than two whitetips

South Zone: Sept. 20-Nov. 9 & Dec. 26-Jan. 13

Daily Bag Limit: 12 mourning, white-winged or white-tipped doves, to include not more than two whitetips

Special South Texas Zone: Sept. 6-7, 13-14 (noon to sunset)

Daily Bag Limit: 12 mourning, white-winged or white-tipped doves, to include not more than 4 mourning and two whitetips

Sept. 20-Nov. 9, Dec. 26-Jan. 9

Daily Bag Limit: 12 mourning, white-winged or white-tipped doves, to include not more than two whitetips

Possession Limit: (All Zones): Twice the daily bag limit

EARLY TEAL

Statewide: Sept. 13-28

Daily Bag Limit: 4: Possession Limit: 8

ALLIGATOR

22 core counties (by permit only) Sept. 10-30

Remainder of the state Apr. 1- June 30

PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

By permit only Oct. 4-12

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Archery: Sept. 27-Oct. 31

General:

*Special Youth Season: Oct. 25-26, Jan. 17-18

North Texas: Nov. 1-Jan. 4

Panhandle: Nov. 22-Dec. 7

South Texas: Nov. 1-Jan. 18

Edwards Plateau Late Antlerless and Spike: Jan. 5-18

South Texas Late Antlerless and Spike: Jan. 19-Feb. 1

Muzzleloader Late Antlerless and Spike: Jan. 10-18

MULE DEER

Archery: Sept. 27-Oct. 31

Gun:

Panhandle Nov. 22-Dec. 7

Southwestern Panhandle Nov. 22-30

Trans-Pecos Nov. 29-Dec. 15

JAVELINA

Oct. 1-Feb. 28 (approx. 43 counties)

Sept. 1-Aug 31 (approx. 50 counties)

SQUIRREL

Special Youth Season: Sept. 27-28

East Texas Oct. 1-Feb. 1, May 1-31

LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN

Panhandle (by permit only): Oct. 18-19

PHEASANT

Panhandle Dec. 6-Jan. 4

Coastal (Chambers, Jefferson, Liberty) Nov. 1-Feb. 28

Daily Bag Limit: 3 cocks Possession Limit: 6 cocks

QUAIL

Statewide (all counties) Oct. 25-Feb. 28

Daily Bag Limit: 15 Possession Limit: 45

RIO GRANDE TURKEY

Archery: Sept. 27-Oct. 31

Fall Season:

Special Youth Season Oct. 25-26, Jan. 17-18

North Texas Nov. 1-Jan. 4

South Texas Nov. 1-Jan. 18

Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg & Willacy Nov. 1-Feb. 28

Spring Season:

North Texas Apr. 4-May 17

South Texas Mar. 21-May 3

Special Spring Youth Mar. 28-29, May 23-24

EASTERN TURKEY

Spring Season Only

East Texas Apr. 1-30

RABBITS AND HARES

No closed season.

GMC's Acadia a joy to drive

It's the sleek crossover the whole family will enjoy. The GMC Acadia combines the capability of an SUV with a smooth ride and responsive handling.

It's the full-size SUV that offers the fuel economy of a mid-size SUV. Boasting the "GMC Fuel Advantage," the 2008 Acadia (SLE FWD) gets an estimated 24 miles per gallon on the highway, says GMC, which is better highway fuel economy than any other eight-passenger SUV.

Offered in a variety of trim and equipment packages, all models are available in front-wheel-drive and all-wheel-drive configurations. Its safety system includes six standard air bags and standard StabiliTrak electronic stability control system for mitigating rollovers.

With seating for up to eight, there's ample room for family and friends. And, despite the vehicle's SUV-like front-end height, the body-frame integral structure allows for a lower entry and exit height. Wide rear doors also allow easier entry to the second- and third-row seats, as does its exclusive Smart Slide second-row seat

feature.

The vehicle's responsive performance is courtesy of GM's high-feature engine, the 3.6L V-6 VVT, which offers variable valve timing designed for good fuel economy, low emissions and exceptional smoothness. It is rated at 275 horsepower and offers enough power to tow up to 4,500 pounds when properly equipped.

And, GM's electronically controlled six-speed automatic transmission delivers both performance and fuel economy, enabling up to 8 percent improved performance and up to 4 percent improved fuel economy when compared with current front-wheel-drive four-speed automatics.

But, what makes this a dream vehicle for those who live on the road are those wonderful little luxuries that GMC has added to its 2008 models. We're talking about such features as XM Satellite Radio; a rear back-up camera available on the navigation system that issues an audible warning when the driver gets too close to objects directly behind the vehicle; heated outside mirrors and heated windshield washer fluid; a power liftgate that



2008 GMC Acadia

opens at the touch of a button to access the crossover's generous cargo space; extended range remote vehicle start; a dual sunroof; plus, a flip-down DVD to keep rear-seat passengers entertained.

Also new for 2008 are:

- The Panic Brake Assist feature. When panic braking is detected, the system automatically develops additional brake pressure to more quickly engage ABS, potentially reducing overall stopping distance by eliminating the delay caused by not braking hard enough and/or soon enough.

- The Intelligent AWD system. It delivers enhanced driv-

ing dynamics and a more refined driving experience. The system takes AWD performance to the next level by incorporating dynamic yaw control and fully integrating it with the StabiliTrak electronic stability control system. A target vehicle yaw rate is established based on driver inputs and driving conditions. Intelligent AWD manages the torque distribution to maintain the vehicle's target yaw rate and optimize yaw stability. For the driver, this translates into better control and more traction on snow and gravel.

The 2008 Acadia comes standard with OnStar Generation 7

(with a one-year Safe & Sound plan). Its MSRP, depending on trim package and options, starts at about \$30,875.

The Acadia is available in 10 exterior colors: Summit White, Gold Mist Metallic, Liquid Silver Metallic, Red Jewel Tint, Deep Blue Metallic, Platinum Ice, Blue-Gold Crystal Metallic, Dark Crimson, Carbon Flash Metallic and Medium Brown Metallic.

To test drive the 2008 Acadia, visit your nearest GMC dealer. For more information on the vehicle's specs and numerous features or to locate a dealer, long onto www.gmc.com.

Rely on STIHL for tough outdoor job

STIHL, the maker of high-quality power tools and accessories, is best known for its first and most famous creation: the chain saw.

The STIHL chain saw continues to be the No. 1 selling brand worldwide, with the company offering more models of chain saws than any other brand.

One of its many models is the MS 180 C-BE chain saw. Like all of STIHL's chain saws, this one is tough, durable, lightweight and ergonomically designed.

The STIHL MS 180 C-BE features the Easy2Start system, making it virtually effortless to start. Perfect for cutting firewood or felling trees to 12 inches in diameter, it is a practical chain saw with such features as a tool-less Quick Chain Adjuster and IntelliCarb compensating carburetor.

Currently, STIHL dealers are offering a special promotion on this model (MSRP, \$259.99). With the purchase of the chain saw, you also will receive a free carrying case and an extra chain, a \$56 value.

Synonymous with STIHL's long-lasting, high quality chain saws and other power tools are the reliable sales and service

offered by its dealers.

You won't find the STIHL brand at the Big Box down the road. That's because STIHL products are sold only through a network of more 8,000 servicing dealers throughout the U.S.

Customer service and education is a cornerstone of every servicing STIHL dealer, who

to being outdoor power equipment specialists and receive ongoing training and support to ensure they can always service what they sell. They also provide their customers with operating and safety demonstrations as well as protective apparel.

When America has a tough

earned quality awards throughout the years.

Early on, STIHL made a commitment to offer only the best products and service. Local servicing STIHL dealers maintain a stocked parts department while product and application professionals assist customers in keeping their STIHL products

to chase down assistance, submit endless forms or wait for hours on hold. In fact, the odds are good that you'll be remembered by name.

Finally, STIHL prides itself on a commitment to the global environment and the local communities it serves. Globally and across the country, STIHL partners with agencies and organizations that encourage the responsible use of natural resources, promote sustainable growth woodlands and support the continuing education of our future farmers and agribusiness professionals.

Locally, servicing STIHL dealers are sensitive to the environment you share and committed to its improvement. When you have a tough outdoor chore to complete, you're going to get advice from someone who understands the task because as your neighbor, the dealer understands the challenges you face.

To find your local servicing STIHL dealer, call (800) 467-8445 (GO-STIHL) or visit www.stihlusa.com and go to "Dealer Locator."



STIHL MS 180 C-BE

offers every product fully assembled. When you purchase a STIHL product, the dealer will explain every product detail to you and demonstrate proper use and care. Before you walk out the door with your new STIHL tool, you will be fully trained and confident.

STIHL dealers are committed

job to do outdoors — whether it's hurricane recovery efforts in Louisiana or clearing land on your Texas hunting ranch, you can rely on STIHL. It's an attitude, a dedication to quality that has made STIHL power tools the most dependable on the market and one of the reasons STIHL products have

in top shape. And if a STIHL requires professional attention, STIHL service departments are staffed with trained technicians who guarantee their work.

More importantly, each servicing STIHL dealer is there to support the customer. You can speak to the owner and get the help you need without having

Farm Credit close to rural community

Improvements for Wildlife Can Increase the Value of Your Property

More and more of today's rural landowners are purchasing land for non-production purposes, and they aren't in the market for just any piece of property. This new breed of buyer is looking for property that they can enjoy with family and friends, and that offers a reasonable return on their investment — all with an abundance of wildlife.

In recent years, recreational activities such as hunting and bird-watching have started to drive land purchases. As a result, when it comes to demand and prices, untouched native land often lags behind properties that have been improved to enhance the wildlife population. Land that is well-managed for wildlife could command higher prices.

Improvements include game-proof fencing, plants or food plots, and better genetics. These can be good options for enhancing a property's value. But rural appraisers say the two improvements that often provide the biggest return are developing additional water and enhancing habitat.

Farm Credit Finances Property Improvements

Farm Credit, the nation's oldest and largest rural lending network, is helping farmers, ranchers and other rural landowners make the most of their investment.

Local Farm Credit financing institutions have existed for 90 years, since

shortly after Congress established the Farm Credit System in 1916. For all these years, they have provided a reliable source of credit to farmers, ranchers and other rural landowners. As experts in rural financing, Farm Credit institutions offer loans for rural real estate, country homes and property improvements.

"Farm Credit is well established as a lender that is close to the rural community," says Larry Doyle, Farm Credit Bank of Texas chief executive officer. "We recognize that landowners play a big role in sustaining the rural economy and environment. That's why we have a variety of loan programs that can help them improve their land."

Cooperative Structure Offers Additional Benefits

Farm Credit institutions differ from most other lenders because they are cooperatives. The people who borrow from a Farm Credit co-op are owners of the co-op, and as such can vote on business matters, elect the board of directors and share in the co-op's earnings through patronage payments.

"Last year, every association in the Tenth District paid a patronage. Together, they returned \$133.7 million in patronage to their borrowers," Doyle said. "In other words, more than half of the income generated by our local Farm Credit cooperatives was returned to their borrower-stockholders. That is a tremendous benefit of doing business with a Farm Credit lender."

There are 20 local financing co-ops in



the Tenth Farm Credit District, doing business in a five-state territory that includes Alabama, Louisiana,

Mississippi, New Mexico and Texas. To find a Farm Credit lender near you, visit www.findfarmcredit.com.

Bring on the Season

STIHL®

HT 101 Telescoping Pole Pruner

\$599.99

Shaft adjusts from 7'6" to 11'6", allowing the user to reach branches up to 16' above ground



KM 55 R KombiMotor

\$189.99

Powerhead Only

Upgrade to: **FOR \$219.99**

Change the easy-to-switch attachments with a turn of the knob



One powerhead. Multiple attachments.

Easily converts to other useful tools with these optional attachments (sold separately):

Edge, Hedge Trimmer, Pole Pruner, Cultivator, Trimmer, STIHL Power-Sweep®



SH 55 Shredder Vac

\$189.99

For vacuuming and shredding yard debris around the home
Reduces yard waste (14:1 ratio for dry leaves)



FREE!

Carrying Case and Extra STIHL Chain*

\$56.99 VALUE!

With purchase of a STIHL MS 180 C-BE chain saw.



Coupon available at stihldealers.com

* Offer good through 11/29/09 while supplies last. See dealer for details.



MS 180 C-BE

\$259.99

One of our most popular homeowner saws
STIHL Easy2Start system makes starting almost effortless
Exclusive toolless Quick Chain Adjuster for fast, easy chain adjustment

Please wear protective apparel as recommended in your instruction manual.



Find a dealer near you

stihldealers.com

SHE Safari apparel has you covered

SHE Safari is the company that bagged that most elusive of prey: great-fitting and rugged hunting clothing for women.

The outdoor apparel company, founded by Pam and Brian Zaitz of Conroe in 2005, focuses on designing and providing attractive and functional apparel for women's expeditions. The company's goal is to provide customers with the best-fitting, best-wearing and best-looking outdoor apparel they have experienced.

"Whether you are the hunter or an observer, SHE Safari has you covered," promises the company.

SHE Safari offers a full line of safari, upland, field, camouflage and shooting wear.

The company recently debuted its latest in camouflage additions for 2008. Their new Soft Silence material available in Realtree® patterns will bring women a whole new level of comfort, style and fit than they have been accustomed to in camouflage clothing. SHE Safari's Soft

Silence was designed to be soft, durable and silent while providing flexibility with moisture management.

The Pro Series Shirts in Soft Silence have flat felled hour glass seams, SHE signature snaps, double chest pockets and blaze accents just to name a few of the features. The matching Elite Hunter Pants are also constructed from the new Soft Silence material. They feature functional belt loops, angled cargo pockets, two deep front hand pockets, two rear pockets, recessed bow holder loop and expanding knee bellows all fitting just below the waist matching the contour of the female hunter.

In their Upland Line, SHE Safari introduced several new items all with blaze orange accents. The line's newest flagship product is their Upland Vest. Featuring construction of their tightly woven waxed cotton and 10 mile cloth with upper and lower metal d-rings, extra large front and rear-loaded game bag with zip sides, large lower bel-



HUNTING IN STYLE: SHE Safari's new Soft Silence camouflage clothing offers comfort, style and a fit matching the contour of the female hunter. The new material is soft, silent and provides moisture management.

lows pockets with flip-out shell holders, internal pockets and a zip front closure, SHE Safari has broken the mold on women's upland vests. Add their new matching shirts and pants and you will not only look your best but also be ready for the field.

Also available are several accessories.

The long-awaited Safari Rover Belt, which was tested extensively throughout Africa and North America, is a perfectly sized, soft

tanned, genuine deer skin pouch. Its elastic shell holders keep contents organized. The pouch is embossed with the official SHE Safari Lioness trademark for a classic finishing touch.

Long- and short-sleeved SHE Safari Lioness Logo-Tee-Shirts worn by the professional outdoorswomen on Team SHE Safari are offered in black, white and olive.

The SHE Logo distressed look and non-distressed hats are

available in Realtree Advantage Max-1 HD and Realtree AP HD camouflage as well as khaki, olive and brown. Safari boot gaiters, scarves and neck gaiters round out the accessory collection.

SHE Safari apparel is available online or at retailers. To browse or order the SHE Safari apparel, visit www.shesafari.com, where you will also find dealer locations across the state. Or, call SHE Safari (281) 448-4860.

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The advertisement is set against a background of an antique-style map. In the top left, a grey rectangular box contains the text "SHE Safari" in a stylized font, with "SHE" in yellow and "Safari" in orange. Below it, in a smaller font, is "clothing for HER expedition". To the right of this box is a pair of vintage-style binoculars. In the center, a photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a tan safari jacket and a brown belt bag, is shown looking through binoculars mounted on a tripod. In the bottom left corner, there is a vintage-style pocket watch. At the bottom center, a white banner contains the website "www.shesafari.com" and the phone number "281-448-4860".

Nikon Sport Optics: razor-sharp technology

Since 1921, when Nikon marketed its first ultra-small prism binoculars, the Japanese manufacturer has steadily grown its product line and upheld its well-regarded reputation for producing quality optics.

Today, aided by computer design, Nikon engineers optics that achieve the ideal balance of maximized light transmission and razor sharp high-resolution images. Its rugged products are manufactured for maximum performance out in the field.

Nikon Sport Optics' comprehensive line of products for the outdoorsman include riflescopes, spotting scopes, rangefinders and, of course, binoculars.

Among its newest binocular is the EDG (pronounced edge). Nikon, who describes the EDG as the most dynamic and advanced binocular in its history, employs cutting-edge technology. Its ED (extra-low dispersion) glass, for example, was developed to eliminate the chromatic aberration that occurs when light rays of varying wavelengths pass through optical glass and is used in its Nikkor lenses coveted by photographers.

The binoculars' optical system incorporates phase-correction coated roof prisms to enhance resolution as well as dielectric coated sub-prisms to maximize light transmission. Interacting with fully multi-coated lenses

and ED glass, the prisms deliver bright, clear, vivid images across the periphery of the viewing field.

The open bridge binocular features a magnesium alloy body that is durable and ergonomically designed, with thumb-indexing contours on the underside of its 42 mm body for easier handling plus a convenient dual-phase central focusing knob.

The EDG is waterproof, fog-proof, O-ring sealed and dry nitrogen-filled to handle the toughest outdoor conditions.

Available in two distinct models, the 42 mm and 32 mm, the EDG is offered in several magnifications. It ranges in price from about \$1,800 to \$2,000.

Two new laser rangefinders include one for rifle hunters and one for bow hunters.

The RifleHunter 550 Laser Rangefinder was engineered for hunters who pursue big game with a rifle or other firearm. As well as combining speed, accuracy and simplicity, the rangefinder also utilizes Nikon's ID technology. This technology compensates for various incline or decline shooting angles. A hunter shooting up a mountain-side or down into a canyon can aim, push the button and plan his or her shot according to the displayed distance.

This rangefinder displays distances in .2-yard increments under 100 yards in ID mode or

.5-yard increments in standard mode. Beyond 100 yards, it displays in one-yard increments.

"We engineered this rangefinder to do the things that rifle hunters, in particular, need it to do. It's fast, accurate, compact, ergonomic, waterproof/fogproof and, above all, it helps take the guesswork out of long-distance shooting," said Jon LaCorte, senior product marketing manager for Nikon.

The rangefinder, which operates on a CR2 lithium battery, features 18mm eye relief, an adjustable diopter and 6x bright, multi-coated optics. It is available in brown or Realtree Max 1 camo and costs about \$280 to \$300.

The Archer's Choice Laser Rangefinder — designed with the input of Ralph and Vicki Cianciarulo of Archer's Choice TV fame — is for real-world bowhunting situations. It, too, contains Nikon's ID Technology so that archers can range their targets from a treestand or in steep terrain.

This fast, accurate and ergonomic rangefinder also features 18 mm eye relief, multi-coated optics, waterproof/fog-proof ruggedness and pocket-sized portability. It sells for about \$250.

For additional information or retailers, visit Nikon Sport Optics' Web site at www.nikon-sportoptics.com.



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Avery, Greenhead Gear: Top team for waterfowlers

It was about a decade-and-a-half ago that Tom Matthews began tinkering in his garage with a boat blind. His goal? To make a blind that could be quickly and easily set up in virtually any boat.

In 1994, he and partner Allen Hughes founded Avery Outdoors, Inc., to manufacture the innovative Quick-Set Waterfowl Blind. Since then, the company, based in Memphis, has grown to become the nation's leading manufacturer of waterfowl hunting accessories.

In 2000, the folks at Avery launched a sister company, Greenhead Gear.

"When we got into the decoy business in 2002, we put the decoys in Greenhead Gear," says Bill Cooksey, director of Media Relations for the two companies. "The idea of a decoy that really looked like a duck just took off."

Talented artists are commissioned to carve a lifelike wooden decoy, which is used to make the mold for the polyethylene decoys. Those plastic decoys are then hand-painted per the artist's specs. The Mallard Drake decoy, for example, requires nine paint processes.

"We have more different species, styles and paint schemes by far than anyone in the country," says Cooksey of Greenhead Gear's 189 (at last count) styles of decoys offered.

As for Avery Outdoors, they may not make decoys, but they do manufacture pretty much everything else that a waterfowl hunter might need, including blinds, bags, vests and more.

In Texas, says Cooksey, one of Avery's more popular items is the Ground Force Blind, a light ground blind that folds compactly and can be carried like a backpack.

The design of that blind, like most of Avery's products, was the result of a collaborative effort by its employees and Pro-Staffers, who offer suggestions based on what they need in the field.

Some new developments that are creating a buzz in the industry include the company's camouflage patterns.

Cooksey describes them as situation-specific camo patterns created specifically for waterfowl hunters.

Avery KW1, designed for hunting in stubble fields such as wheat, barley and corn, was introduced last fall on its ground blinds. It is now

licensed out to select outerwear companies.

Coming this fall is the Avery MarshGrass pattern, which will be available on any company accessory where camo plays a role. The MarshGrass camo is patterned after the narrow leaf cattail that is found across a wide geographic area. Designed primarily for hiding hunters and boat blinds in marshes, it features a light magenta tan coloration, blurred background and contrasting shadows.

Also being introduced this fall is the Avery BuckBrush camo pattern, which is designed for hunting in areas rich in timber, buck brush and willows.

Another exciting development, says Cooksey, is the new Avery Sporting Dog line, which is the company's fastest growing division.

Products offered in this line cater to the hunting dog owner and include such items as the Avery True Birds (ATBs) and the Hexabumper, which are used to train retrievers. Also offered are products designed for the field, such as the Ground Force Dog Blind and the Ruff Stand, a light, strong, durable stand.

Sharing their expertise on all of Avery's products are the



company's 200 member Pro-Staffers. Because they've field-tested the company's many products, they are able to talk to customers across the country about what will best work in different hunting situations. Avery Outdoors products are sold at numerous retailers,

including Cabela's and Sportsman's Warehouse. For additional Texas retailers or for information about Avery Outdoors, visit www.averyoutdoors.com or call (800) 333-5119. To learn about Greenhead Gear, visit www.greenheadgear.com.

Opening soon: Dove, teal hunters get ready

Last year's dove opener is a distant memory for many Texas dove hunters, when cool fronts and rains scattered the birds just before opening day in many areas, and some reliable hot spots provided few shots. Dove populations are high again this summer, and hunters are hoping the birds go back to their normal patterns on opening day.

Near Abilene, Rob Hailey of the Hailey Ranch hopes last year's opener is a thing of the past. "Last year, the remnants of a hurricane sat right over our area and scattered all the birds for the opener," Hailey said. "It took several weeks for the hunting to return to normal."

Hailey said things are looking real good leading up to Sept. 1, and he hopes for the normal opening day patterns. "We started shredding sunflowers and we're very encouraged," he said. "The birds are coming out real late because it's so hot, but there's lots of them."

In South Texas near Hebbronville, Hurricane Dolly brought much needed moisture, and hunters are hoping for a dry spell leading up to the opener.

"I've been trapping dove for the past month and there are birds everywhere — nearly all mourning doves," said Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist Eric Garza. "As long as there are no more huge rains, we should have a good population and hunters should do well."

In the Pleasanton area, hunters are hoping the birds stick around for the South Texas opener Sept. 20. "There are dove all over the place," said hunter Jim Wheeler. "It's like Mexico down here right now." Wheeler has learned from experience, though. "It probably won't

be like this come September 20," he said. "Lately, come the middle of September, the birds disappear."

Near Hondo, drought conditions left fields void of food. "If you don't have irrigated fields, you don't have much," said Sammy Nooner of The Nooner Ranch. "There are a few dry land milo fields, but that's about it."

Nooner said the bird numbers are good in the area. "And the Hill Country is loaded," he said.

In North Texas, spring rains were sufficient to get the crops started, and bird numbers are good. "Some of our sunflower fields were stunted, but they're still going to produce seed," said Dale Bestwina, who guides hunters south of Wichita Falls. "It's looking good right now."

TPW Dove Program Coordinator Jay Roberson anticipates an above average hunting season for doves this fall, based on habitat conditions. But after his predictions for last year missed, he's not stepping out on a limb. "I'm guardedly optimistic this year," he said.

Teal

Last year's teal season was one for the record books, especially along the Texas coast and in the coastal prairies. Teal numbers are about the same as last year, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2008 Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey. An estimated 6.64 million blue-winged teal will head south, 45 percent above the long-term average. A repeat performance of last year's banner season may not be a sure thing according to biologists, though.

Declines in breeding habitat in the



prairies resulted in poor production, meaning fewer young birds will make the trip this fall.

Green-winged teal usually make their appearance later, and should show in good numbers. The small birds' numbers are up 3 percent to 3 millions birds, 57 percent above the long-term average.

Rains from Hurricane Dolly brought much-needed moisture to the coast, improving habitat conditions.

The most recent U.S. Drought Monitor indicated areas from Corpus Christi to Galveston to Austin/San Antonio and west to Laredo were in extreme drought. But at least two to five inches

associated with Dolly fell across portions of Texas south of a line from Laredo to Corpus Christi, ending drought conditions. Corpus Christi, for example, added 5.47 inches during two days of Dolly after receiving only 7.83 inches of precipitation during the first six months of the year.

The Katy prairies still need rain, though. "We're still in drought conditions," said Susan Caesar of the Double R Hunting Club, which offers memberships and guided hunts. "Most of the outfitters up here pump water, so we'll still have teal," she said. "I don't remember the last time we had a bad teal season."

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TTHA shares the excitement of hunting

It is an invaluable resource for passionate deer hunters in the state of Texas and beyond. For more than three decades, the Texas Trophy Hunters Association has provided a community for like-minded hunters.

As with all successful concepts, it began with a dream. Jerry Johnston founded the membership-based organization in 1975, originally working from an office in a mobile home in San Antonio, where the group is still based.

Johnston's dream was to bring together the most serious and passionate whitetail deer hunters so that they might learn from each other by sharing hunting stories and skills. That unity, he believed, would spur the improvement of wildlife and habitat and promote and protect the hunting heritage for future generations.

Thanks to Johnston's persistence and passion (plus the enthusiastic help of a growing member base), he today sits at the helm of a prestigious and widely respected deer hunting organization.

Among the group's accomplishments, says its Chief Operating Officer Joe Betar, are:

- A membership of tens of thousands composed of the most passionate and dedicated hunters from all over the world.
- Working in conjunction



with other organizations to share the joy of hunting with military, youth, the handicapped and disadvantaged persons. The group recently awarded a scholarship to youngster Walker Jackson so that he can attend the Christian Outdoor Alliance's Texas Safari Camp this summer.

- The popular Hunters Extravaganzas, which draw thousands of attendees and exhibitors each year. The San Antonio 2008 Hunters Extravaganza took place in July and the Houston event took place Aug. 1-3. This year's final Extravaganza will take place at Fort Worth's Will Roger's

Center from Aug. 15-17.

- The association's publication, *The Journal of the Texas Trophy Hunters*, which is distributed six times per year by mail and on newsstands across the United States.

- The nationally syndicated TV show "The Journal of the American Trophy Hunters," which is narrated by Johnston. An episode features more than just the pursuit of game, it also tells the story behind the hunt.

- But, perhaps, the group's most vital achievement has been to help revive the sport of hunting itself by helping to restore the quality of the deer herd in Texas and by securing

and advancing the rights of hunters in Texas.

"Second- and even third-generation members consider TTHA critical to the preservation of our hunting legacy," Betar says.

But the group would like to see its membership grow even stronger. More members translate into "The Voice of Texas Hunting" becoming an even louder voice in strengthening the legacy that hunters will leave to the next generation. And, it means becoming more of a force to be reckoned with when monitoring upcoming legislation in Texas and around the nation.

How to join

To better serve its members, the group recently redesigned its Web site. As well as boasting comprehensive outdoor-related resources, the site also includes information on hunting regulations from Texas and across the nation, weather reports, topographical maps and moon phases.

Plus a new "Members Only" section has been developed that includes forums where members can post videos, photos and hunting reports. They can also post or search for guides, outfitters, hunting leases and land for sale.

TTHA offers memberships for 1 year (\$34.95), 3 years (\$69.95) or 5 years (\$114.95), with military discounts offered. Lifetime memberships also are available.

Member benefits include complementary issues of *The Journal of the Texas Trophy Hunters*, free admission on Fridays to the group's Extravaganzas, discounts on merchandise, plus member premiums such as caps and knives.

For additional information, visit www.ttha.com (go to "Join TTHA"); or, call (877) 261-2541.

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Sportsman Channel lands big names on new slate of shows

The Sportsman Channel has announced its slate of new hunting and fishing shows. Among the big names it has landed are Craig Boddington, Cabela's, Nosler and Christensen Arms.

They aren't just big names, according to Michelle Scheuermann, director of communications for the network: Together they deliver larger-than-life adventures you can only find at the home of the best in hunting, shooting and fishing programming: The Sportsman Channel.

The Wisconsin-based outdoor network has built its viewership by offering 100 percent hunting and fishing programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Currently it is available in more than 20 million cable households nationwide on a full- and part-time basis, including Dallas, Corpus Christi, El Paso, San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley.

The following shows debuted in July:

Africa with Craig Boddington (Thursday 7 p.m.; Tuesday 9:30 a.m.; Sunday 12:30 a.m.)

Join host Boddington, a recognized expert on the modern day safari, as he shares his experi-

ences in hunting major African game. In addition to safari hunting action, each weekly episode offers information on history and habitats, guns and loads, shot placement and trophy judgment. African professional hunter Ivan Carter lends his expertise to each show with a segment on hunting techniques.

Cabela's Ultimate Adventures (Sunday 8 p.m.; Wednesday 10:30 p.m.; Saturday 6 a.m.)

Escape to the exciting world of the great outdoors as each episode travels to the most amazing destinations across the globe for over-the-shoulder hunting or fishing action.

Nosler's Magnum TV (Friday 8 a.m.; Saturday 4:30 p.m.; Thursday 7:30 p.m.)

Experience the big game hunting world with award-winning videography. Team Magnum's videographers and "Magnum Hunters" travel to such places as North America, Tanzania, New Zealand and Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula. (The show tells you how you can be a "Magnum Hunter" and appear on Nosler's Magnum TV.)

Christensen Arms Outdoors (Thursday 9:30 p.m.; Saturday 1:30 p.m.)

The show's team leads viewers



HEADED TO AFRICA: Craig Boddington hosts "Africa with Craig Boddington," one of many new hunting and fishing shows offered by The Sportsman Channel.

around the world into the serene wilderness and action-packed adventures hunting enthusiasts have come to love. The show specializes in, but is not limited to, western big game.

Jarrett Edwards Outdoors (Monday 2 p.m.; Friday 9 p.m.)

Join former Bassmaster Elite Series professional Jarrett Edwards as he travels the West Coast in search of the finest freshwater multi-species angling. Accompanying him will be some of the industry's most recognized anglers, who offer tips, tactics and fresh techniques.

Innerloc's Out There (Friday 6 a.m.; Wednesday 6:30 p.m.)

Follow host Corey Brossman on action-packed adventure as he embarks on a new hunt each week. Viewers will share his preparation, journey, anticipa-

tion and heartfelt results.

Own the Zone TV (Saturday 6:30 a.m.; Friday 2:30 p.m.; Monday 8:30 p.m.)

This takes traditional hunting shows to an all-new level of high octane entertainment. The first of its kind as an interactive program takes members from its own MyOutdoorZone.com on world-class hunts and challenges them to keep up.

The American Huntress (Wednesday 10 p.m.; Tuesday 3:30 p.m.)

See some of the best footage from hunts in Africa, North America, Canada and other destinations around the world as women hunters go after such game as Cape Buffalo, whitetail deer and elk. This show is sure to excite and encourage women and their families to get out-

doors, experience the thrill and adventure of the hunt and enjoy all that nature has to offer.

For additional programming information, visit The Sportsman Channel's Web site at www.thesportsmanchannel.com. Launched in 2003, The Sportsman Channel was acquired by InterMedia Outdoors Holdings in 2006, and is now a part of the nation's largest multimedia company targeted exclusively to serving the information and entertainment needs of outdoors enthusiasts. In Texas, The Sportsman Channel is available through Time Warner Cable and AT&T U-verse. To request that The Sportsman Channel be offered by satellite providers, call Dish Network at 1 (800) 333-3474 or DIRECTV at 1 (800) 531-5000.

White-tailed deer hunters expecting good things

White-tailed deer hunters are expecting good numbers of bucks this season as a result of last year's excellent range conditions and fawn production. The carryover from last year may not translate to bigger antlers, though.

"It comes back to what life stage you're affecting," said Randy DeYoung of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute. "There's going to be a great crop of yearling bucks, and there will be good carryover of older bucks."

The spring rains are the key for antler development, DeYoung said. "You need the rain in March and April for antler development," he said. "In the Kingsville area, the recent rains will put the deer in good condition going into the rut, but they came too late for good antler development."

But in South Texas, ranchers don't believe a dry spring means smaller antlers. "In drier years, we have a great mesquite bean crop," said Russ Ruhmann, who owns a ranch in LaSalle County. "We're seeing some real big deer on our night cameras."

Ruhmann said the mesquite beans are about 17 percent protein and high in sugar. "Even the cattle get fat on them," he said.

Deer numbers are fine in the Panhandle, said Chad Hassell of Buck Creek Outfitters in Childress. "We've been real dry, though. We've had a little rain lately which should help, but I'm not sure if the dry spring affected horn growth; the deer are still growing out antlers now."

Hassell attributes much of the success of the deer in his area to solid management and supplemental feeding practices on the area's ranches. "We have good genetics up here," he said. "But it's the management that has made the difference, and the

weather doesn't affect the deer as much."

Hassell doesn't expect to match last year's incredible season. "You're not going to have many years in the Panhandle like last year," he said.

Last year, 578,864 Texas deer hunters harvested 512,852 deer, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife. During the 2006-2007 season, 604,800 deer were harvested. An abundance of food and habitat created conditions that made hunting more difficult for some hunters, leaving more mature bucks to be pursued this season.

Mule deer

Panhandle hunters have a positive attitude going into the fall season. "I've seen some real nice mule deer this year," said Ken Mayer of All American Outfitter in Clarendon. "Last year our best scored a 167."

Mayer said the mule deer population in the area is growing. "You'll see 40 to 50 does and young bucks in a wheat field," he said. "And we had a fairly easy winter, we've had moisture recently, and there's lots and lots of food."

Mayer said last season was as good as ever. "It looks like this year is shaping up to be real good, too," he said.

In the Trans-Pecos region, things are returning to normal after a wet 2007. "We're holding our numbers," said Black Gap WMA biologist Dewey Stockbridge. "Our last spotlight survey showed 9 mule deer for every 1,000 acres."

Stockbridge said the area has received 6 inches of rain this year. "Last year it was close to 20," he said. "We're back to the average."

In the area, good cover and food developed last year has helped the muleys hold their numbers. "They've got to be hearty to survive out here," Stockbridge said.





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Land still the best investment, recreation big draw

Even in the present state of the U.S. economy — with soaring fuel prices, record exports and high commodity prices — current research shows that land is still a viable investment option. This is especially true in Texas, where land prices are arguably low in comparison to those in other states.

This news comes as no surprise to the staff at Capital Farm Credit, the state's largest rural lender. They have witnessed a growing trend of land-buying by investors, as well as by people looking for recreational property in Texas.

Many people want a place where they can enjoy hunting, fishing, water sports or weekend ranching. Others simply want to experience the countryside through hiking, bird-watching or observing and photographing wildlife.

"We've seen a huge increase in the number of people buying land for recreation, whether it is for hunting, fishing or a weekend getaway," said Ben Novosad, Capital Farm Credit chief executive officer.

The Best of Both Worlds

The lending cooperative also reports an increase in the number of city-dwellers owning land in the country.

"We have customers who are planning to leave the city behind and live in the country full time," said Novosad, "and we also help many who just want a piece of land to call their own, where they can enjoy their favorite pastime. We're glad to serve all of these customers."

One very happy customer is David Gray, who pursued a longtime desire to own land when he purchased a ranch and established a cattle operation in Mason County, Texas, with financing from Capital Farm Credit. Gray and his family live and work in Austin four days a week, and they go out to the ranch on weekends, where they enjoy the lifestyle and friendly people.

"We love being out at the ranch," Gray said. "It was not only a great investment financially, but it was an investment in my family's well-being."

Rural Financing Experts

Capital Farm Credit specializes in rural financing, including loans for rural land, country homes, agriculture and agribusiness. The lender also can provide



operating capital or loans for equipment and property improvements.

The Capital Farm Credit staff — many of whom live and work in the areas they serve — have extensive knowledge of the local area and expertise in rural lending that can be a huge help to people looking to buy rural land.

"If it's in the country, we can finance it," Novosad said. "We've been making rural loans for 90 years, so we have a depth of experience that most other lenders can't offer."

Customers Share in Earnings

"Because we are a cooperative, our customers receive

another benefit: They share in our earnings," Novosad said. "We've returned over \$125 million to our customers through our patronage program over the last decade."

The program is exceptional, said Gray, who was unaware of the patronage advantage when he first became a customer.

"I already enjoyed doing business with Capital," he said. "They have given me a high level of personalized service, much better than other financial institutions I've done business with. The patronage payment is an added bonus to working with the association."

For more information about Capital Farm Credit, visit www.CapitalFarmCredit.com.

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