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### **Texas Big Game Awards Announces the 2015 Landowner of the Year Awards, Presented by Capital Farm Credit**

**San Antonio, Texas** – For 24 years, the Texas Big Game Awards (TBGA), a partnership of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Texas Wildlife Association (TWA), has been the leader in recognizing the contributions that landowners, land managers and responsible hunters make to managing and conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat on Texas' private lands.

The Texas Big Game Awards is proud to announce the recipients of the 2015 "Landowner of the Year" (LOTY) Awards program, presented by Capital Farm Credit. The prestigious LOTY Awards recognizes the important contributions that Texas private landowners make to wildlife and habitat conservation, as well as recognize their perpetual commitment to our hunting heritage.

This year's statewide awardee is the MT7 Ranch located in Stephens County. The ranch was established in the fall of 2008 when TWA Members Mike and Mary Terry purchased the 8,200 acre ranch. Since then the ranch has purchased additional acreage and now totals 20,251 contiguous acres becoming a leader in the Breckenridge community. The ranch has a noteworthy history of cattle, rodeo, wildlife, and agriculture. The ranch is also one owner removed from the 100 year old Veale Ranch that was started in the late 1890's. The MT7 Ranch has completely rebuilt the ranch by placing land stewardship and wildlife management at the forefront of the ranch's goals.

Also recognized on the regional level is the Double A Ranch located in Uvalde, Texas. Owned by TWA Members Allyn and Susan Archer, the ranch was established in 2001 and totals over 7,200 acres. Wildlife management has been the core goal of the Archer's by providing such services as adequate water sources across the ranch, supplemental feed, habitat improvements, and much more. The ranch is also a supporter of the Texas Youth Hunting Program (TYHP) providing first-time hunting opportunities to Texas youth.

The objectives of the LOTY Awards are to recognize TBGA landowners for excellence in habitat management and wildlife conservation on their lands, recognize their encouragement of youth and adult education, promote the best stewardship practices in the TBGA's eight regions, and to illustrate the important role of Texas' private landowners in the future of our natural resources.

Nominations for the TBGA LOTY Awards come from natural resource agencies, conservation organizations, the general public, or from the ranches/landowners themselves. Nominees must have accepted entries in the TBGA program, as well as have their ranch listed as an awardee through the official TBGA entry forms. Consideration also includes the number of TBGA awards the ranch/landowner has produced, number of youth and first-timers experiencing the outdoors, habitat and wildlife management projects related to the property, and more.

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*The Texas Big Game Awards is proudly sponsored by: Statewide Sponsors: Hixon Land and Cattle Company, Carter's Country Outdoor Stores, and Budweiser. Texas Regional Sponsors: Academy Sports and Outdoors, Capital Farm Credit, Lee Hoffpauir Outdoor Superstores, Game Guard, Remington Arms, Leupold and Stevens, Skull Hooker, C. Young and Company, Smith's Abrasives, Hunter's Specialties, ThermaCell, Record Rack Premium Game Feeds, Prois Hunting and Field Apparel for Women, Wildleaf, Nikon, Daisy, Winchester Air Rifles, and Icehole Coolers.*

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