



Highlander
 **Ranch** McLennan
Community
College

Board Updates

June 25, 2024

MCC Ranch Strategic Four-Year Plan FY 2023-27 Completing Phase I – 2023-24

- **Proposal 1: Form a Ranch Advisory Committee (RAC)**
 - **Action taken:**
 - Convened Ranch Planning Team – July 27, 2023
 - Goals for the committee:
 - Prioritize programs and activities at the Ranch
 - Identify and prioritize infrastructure requirements
 - Develop and work towards a sustainable funding plan
 - Convened local and regional leaders in agriculture, food science, education and industry partners
 - Produced a list of recommendations in support of the Ranch Strategic Four-Year Plan

RAC Report: Educational Programs

Recommendations	Ongoing Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable Agriculture<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Composting for Commercial Organic Farming and Gardening• Organic Crop Planning and Production• Specialty Crop Production• Direct Farm Marketing• Integrated Pest Management• Soil Science and Conservation• Agricultural Hydrologic Systems• Environmental Monitoring• Advanced Agroecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• USDA proposal to develop sustainable Ag curriculum and programs• Adding an Ag/Business faculty to develop workforce & community programs in Agriculture
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equine and Bovine Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Under consideration
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vet Tech<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer accelerated certificate/credentialing options• Offer dual credit program options	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offering online curriculum options in the fall 2024• Exploring dual credit and accelerated options for 2025



RAC Report: Educational Programs

Recommendations

- Continuing Education
 - Horse driving and certification
 - Horse judging
 - Interscholastic equestrian association team to compete throughout our region
- University Partnerships
 - Build research and multiple use space
- ISD Partnerships
 - Dual credit program options
 - Allow students to complete community service hours at the facility
 - Provide space for high school FFA projects

Action

- Horse driving and certifications held in Spring 2024
- Not at this time
- Applications outstanding for a Western team, working on a Hunt Seat and Dressage team
- Working with Tarleton Ag Dean, considering opportunities (equine) in Fall 2025 or 2026
- Considering dual credit for 2025
- Working on service volunteer events and FFA support
- Connecting with local schools on Ag and Vet Tech



RAC Report: Marketing & Fund Raising

Recommendation

Ongoing Action

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase awareness of the Highlander Ranch (flyers, open houses, updated website) both on campus and the community | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active social media presence• Ranch Open House in Fall 2024 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek and engage community volunteers with fundraising and work projects on the Ranch | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Under consideration/an opportunity to collaborate with the RAC |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a Highlander Ambassadors Club that includes scheduled activities at the Ranch for members including special privileges. This Ambassadors Club can become a great source for volunteers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Under consideration/an opportunity to collaborate with the RAC |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inform potential donors of need equipment, labor, and materials relative to accomplishing the proposed improvements at the Highlander Ranch, which said donations should be made through the McLennan Community College Foundations in order to receive tax benefits | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MCC Foundation building a list of options for donors• Started a Ranch fund |

RAC Report: Facilities

Recommendation

Ongoing Action

- | Recommendation | Ongoing Action |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repairs and upgrades to the Vet Tech building | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete the existing outside arena fence that is located behind and west of the two barns serving as stables. This includes intermediate and top rails. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arena complete, awaiting paint and lights |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve Ranch roads including repair of existing chip and seal pavement and the repair of existing gravel roads which may include the placement of additional base and/or #3 washed igneous river rock. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contract released starting with Vet Tech |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate and facilitate the possibility of leasing, renting, or providing Highlander Ranch facilities to independent professional practitioners for the purpose of performing and exhibiting procedures for the educational benefit of students and/or course attendees | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing (Cattle Barons Ball, stall rentals for Arabians, AI for Equine partnership, etc.) |



RAC Report: Facilities

Recommendation	Ongoing Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construct a classroom facility for equestrian training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Researching a temporary classroom building
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Install a roof over an area that is currently void of a roof structure and is located between the two buildings that are serving as stables. This area currently traps stormwater and subsequently floods the adjacent barns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Priority to fund
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construct a steel framed canopy over the outside arena that is located behind and west of the stable barns OR Extend the roof on the main arena one structural bay to the east in order to cover the staging area for the main arena.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Priority to fund
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design and construct a minimum of 10 RV parking spaces with electrical hook- ups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Under study



RAC Report: Facilities

Recommendation

- Design and construct an enclosed and conditioned space for displaying projects and exhibits associated with student competition and/or education. This facility could be a part of the aforementioned working show barn.
- Design and construct a stand-alone building that would house a visitor center, offices, student union facility and cafe for students and public.
- Design and construct a new working show barn for high school and home school students FFA and similar organizations to develop and show projects.
- Install all weather, vertical curtains at the northwest façade of the main arena so as to block the adverse weather elements from the spectator seating area located inside the arena.
- Construct an outside or open arena within the eastern portion of the ranch in combination with a trail riding area.
- Establish a covered and weather protected seating area for the concession stand with a hard surface floor.

Ongoing Action

- Future Consideration, Potential donor option
- Future Consideration, Potential donor option
- Future Consideration, Potential donor option
- Future Consideration, Potential donor option
- Future Consideration, Potential donor option
- Future Consideration, Potential donor option



MCC Ranch Strategic Four-Year Plan FY 2023-27

Completing Phase I – 2023-24

- **Proposal 2: Increase Visibility of the Ranch**
 - Action Taken:
 - June 20 - Texas Farm Bureau Early Ag Teacher Professional Development
 - June 20 - Veterinary Technician Association of Texas (VTAT)
 - June 26 – Mounted Police Training
 - Fall 2024 - Highlander Open House planned
 - Oct 2024 – International Friesian Inspection
 - Oct 2024 - Cattle Baron’s Ball scheduled
 - Fall 2025 - CHA Regional Conference
 - Fall 2027 - CHA International Convention
- **Proposal 3: Expand the Vet Tech Program**
 - Action Taken
 - Online courses approved for Fall 2024



MCC Ranch Strategic Four-Year Plan FY 2023-27

Completing Phase I – 2023-24

- **Proposal 4:** Increase Ranch usage by academic/workforce/CE programs to include Biology and Environmental Sciences
 - Action Taken:
 - Bee Keeping (Fall 2023)
 - Pond management for landowners class (Sept 2024)
 - Added CHA driving certification & driving clinic (Spring 2024)
 - Added Ag meteorology and Ag water resources classes (Fall 2024)
 - Bringing back hunter safety classes (Fall 2024)
 - Held a HOT Garden and Pond Society meeting at the ranch (Spring 2024) & working on adding classes that came out of that meeting for spring 2025



Highlander Ranch Activities

Class/Event	2022-23	2023-24*
Riding Lessons	2761	2515
C.H.A. Certification	15	46
C.E. Courses	456	422
Ranch Shows & Events	11	12
Horse Boarding	36 (income/ mo. +\$12,537)	58 (income/ mo. +\$24,340)
Ag Students	20	20
Vet Tech Students	22	21



* 2023/24 still in progress

MCC Ranch Strategic Four-Year Plan FY 2023-27

Completing Phase I – 2023-24

- **Proposal 5:** Build staffing capacity and new community programs
 - Action Taken:
 - Hired two part-time barn attendants and one full-time riding specialist instructor
 - Expanded boarding capacity with 10 new stalls and an additional pasture
 - Created a position for an Agriculture faculty to build workforce and community Ag/Business programs
- **Proposal 6:** Raise additional funds to support Ranch operations
 - Action Taken:
 - Increase boarding (\$50 to \$60 a month per horse/added \$650 stall boarding)
 - MCC Foundation compiling a list of donors and organizations
 - Started a Ranch fund
 - Compiling a menu of options for donors



Budget Comparison for 2023 and 2024 - Instruction

Revenue	2024*	2023	2022
Continuing Education	\$234,472	\$225,735	\$221,527
Expenses	2024*	2023	2022
Continuing Education	\$255,691	\$225,242	\$241,448
Net CE	(\$21,219)	\$493	(\$19,921)
Revenue	2024*	2023	2022
Veterinary Technology	\$94,759	\$148,158	\$185,806
Expenses	2024*	2023	2022
Veterinary Technology	\$207,487	\$372,415	\$381,603
Net Vet Tech	(\$112,728)	(\$224,257)	(\$195,797)
Revenue	2024*	2023	2022
Agriculture	\$86,112	\$68,903	\$77,068
Expenses	2024*	2023	2022
Agriculture	\$25,259	\$245,474	\$268,424
Net Ag.	\$60,853	(\$176,571)	(\$191,356)
Net Instruction	(\$73,094)	(\$400,335)	(\$407,074)

* As of June 25, 2024

Budget Comparison for 2023 and 2024 - Operation

Revenue	2024*	2023	2022
Horse Boarding	\$175,419	\$163,163	\$138,337
Operational	\$16,350	\$17,425	\$21,050
Expenses	2024*	2023	2022
Horse Boarding	\$129,295	\$139,587	\$123,538
Operational	\$172,738	\$190,271	\$158,661
Insurance Costs (Estimated)	\$15,529	\$14,117	\$12,834
Unrelated Business Income Tax (UBIT)	\$11,132	\$11,022	\$10,913
Net Operations.	(\$136,925)	(\$174,409)	(\$146,559)
Net w/o Capital Improvements	(\$210,019)	(\$574,744)	(\$553,633)
Capital Improvement Fund	\$64,715	\$13,799	\$30,028
Net (with Capital Improvement Fund)	(\$274,734)	(\$588,543)	(\$583,661)

* As of June 25, 2024

What's Next:

- Implementing Phase II of MCC Ranch Strategic Plan – 2024-25
 - Build on workforce Agriculture and Vet Tech educational programs
 - Expand both credit and non-credit credentials and certificates to include sustainable agriculture, equine management, and natural resource management
 - Move Vet Tech program to a hybrid/online model, offering students more options (dual credit)
 - Expand equine activities and create an added equine event venue
 - Explore alternate usage of open acreage in collaboration with AgriLife, the state and federal programs (subsidies or USDA grants)
- Annual review





Questions?