



Tips & Trends from
Ruth Story

History of the Fort Worth Stock Show

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Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo.

The nation's oldest continually running rodeo continues to draw from all across the country after over 100 years. 1

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The Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo is the oldest continually running stock show and rodeo in the country, occurring annually since 1896, except for 1943 when all available facilities were dedicated to the World War II effort. The first stock show in 1896 was the result of a chance conversation between Charles McFarland, a local rancher, and Charles French, marketing manager for the Fort Worth Stock Yards, which were incorporated in 1883.

That first show was held along Marine Creek, with no buildings or enclosures. It was such a success that organizers gathered again in the fall of that same year for a two-day event in October to coincide with the National Livestock Exchange Convention meeting. A parade opened that show.

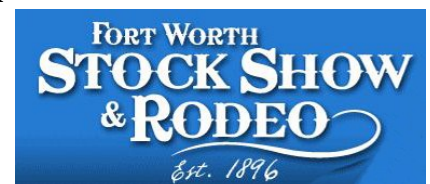
A rodeo was added in 1918. Held at the only arena with the capacity to accommodate the production and crowds expected, North Side Coliseum, it became the world's first indoor rodeo. The 1918 event consisted of two performances per day for six days, with contests including ladies bronc riding, junior steer riding, men's steer riding, men's bucking bronco, and a wild horse race. Contestants, male and female, vied for a \$3000 prize, and the event brought in an estimated 23,000 attendees during its six day run.



Gene Autry made an appearance during World War II, introducing the world to "half-time" entertainment that is standard at rodeos all across the country. In 1958, the Fort Worth Stock Show was the first to have live television coverage of a rodeo. Eight million viewers tuned in to see stars including Roy Rogers and Dale Evans.

In 1978 the name changed to the current Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show. It now lasts 23 days and includes a carnival/midway, live music and entertainment with over 22,000 head of livestock and over four acres of commercial exhibits. It generates an estimated \$1.5 million annually for the local economy, with an average attendance of over 900,000.

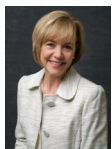
The Stock Show is incorporated as a non-profit organization, with the goal of creating "an educational showcase for the great livestock industry." Millions of dollars have been awarded as educational grants during the Stock Show's tenure and the event was honored a few years ago by the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce with its "Spirit of Enterprise Award".



For more information, visit their website: www.fwssr.com

Happy Valentine's Day

Don't forget to warm this cold month with kindness—most of all, remember to be kind to yourself!



Ruth Story
Residential
askruthstory@gmail.com
(817)992-9232



Rick Story
Farm & Ranch
rickstoryland@gmail.com
(817)992-9218

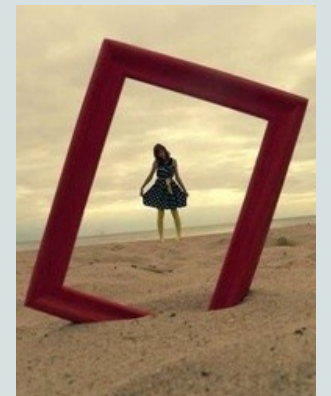


An empty picture frame can add a lot to what might otherwise be “just another picture”. Have 2 family members hold one for a fun family shot - Hang one from a tree with a pretty background and have people pose behind it—the possibilities are endless! Have you used an empty picture frame for a fun picture? We would love to feature it in our next newsletter! Send to:

askruthstory@gmail.com



**IDEA
CORNER**



It's February—Let's Plant!

February is the beginning of the cool-weather planting season in North Texas. Vegetable gardens in the area can support quite a nice variety of foods and flavors. Soil preparation followed by the planting of seeds or small plants can provide a steady supply of greens and cool weather favorites throughout the spring.



A backyard salad bar can be created in the ground. Several varieties of lettuces and greens can be planted during February and into the first half of March. Lettuces and greens can be eaten young, as baby leaves, which are less bitter and more tender.

For a varied supply at different stages of growth, greens and lettuces can be planted at different times throughout the recommended planting period. Some types of greens include spinach, collards, Swiss chard, kale, and mustard. Some types of lettuce include green leaf, red leaf, red velvet, butterhead and romaine. Once growing, any leaves can be snipped as needed for fresh salads or to be steamed, sautéed or added to soups.

The planting period for root crops is in February. Some of these include radish, carrot, beet, and turnip, all of which can be harvested for the greens and the root. The recommended planting dates for potatoes are also during this month. All of these root crops will continue to grow underground and are harvested in the late spring and early summer.

There are a number of great resources online to help get your planting season off to a good start. Some good ones are:

<http://northtexasvegetablegardeners.com>

<http://www.dallascountymastergardeners.org/index.php/gardening-in-north-texas>

<http://www.gardeningchannel.com/gardening-in-dallas-fort-worth-arlington-north-texas/>

Story Group Market Watch

November, 2012—January, 2013

	76107	76109	76116	76132
Homes for Sale	67	34	38	38
Avg. List Price/ Square Foot	\$203.45	\$209.18	\$157.56	\$171.37
# Homes Sold	11	23	16	14
Avg. Sale Price/ Square Foot	\$148.86	\$160.35	\$130.74	\$155.00
Days on Market	166	109	111	227

Tips & Trends
from *Ruth*



76107: With 67 homes for sale and only 11 sold since November, 2012, a supply of approximately six months' inventory is indicated. The ratio of homes for sale to homes sold indicates a **Buyer's Market**. Of the homes sold, 91% were listed between \$300,000—\$600,000.



76109: There is currently a **SHORTAGE** of homes for sale, which is pushing prices higher. **Great time to SELL!** Of the homes sold, 78% were listed between \$300,000—\$700,000.



76116: The ratio of homes for sale to homes sold in this zip code is healthy and balanced, and homes sold cover a variety of price ranges. **Great time to SELL OR BUY!**



76132: Like zip code 76116, the ratio of homes for sale to homes sold in this zip code is healthy and balanced, and homes sold cover a variety of price ranges. Great time to **SELL OR BUY!**

Thank you for calling, emailing and responding to our survey! For your requests, we have expanded our "Market Watch", and moved it to page three inside!

www.RuthStoryOnline.com
AskRuthStory@gmail.com
(817)992-9232

- 1/4 teaspoon gluten-free vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon milk (substitute almond milk if you're lactose-intolerant!)
- 1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 6 eggs
- 1 1/4 cup unbleached cane sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) plus 3 tablespoons butter, cut into chunks
- 12 ounces bittersweet chocolate chips or bittersweet chocolate, roughly chopped

While it might be a bit of a stretch to call this gluten-free recipe "healthy", it is all natural, with the addition of real butter, unbleached cane sugar and honey.

Preheat oven to 375° F. Spray a 9-inch spring form pan with nonstick cooking spray and line the bottom with a circle of parchment paper. Spray the paper with cooking spray and set pan aside.



Place 2/3 (8oz.) of the chocolate and 1 cup of the butter in a medium saucepan over medium low heat. Stirring often, melt chocolate with butter until completely blended. Remove from heat and transfer to a large bowl. Add sugar and mix well. Add eggs one at a time, whisking well after each addition. Sift cocoa into bowl and still until just blended.

Pour batter into prepared pan and bake 35—40 minutes, or until cake has risen and top has formed a thin crust. Cake should be just firm in the center. Cool for 10 minutes, then invert onto a plate, removing sides of spring form pan. Discard parchment paper.

Meanwhile, make the chocolate glaze. Melt remaining 4 oz. chocolate and 3 tbsp. butter in a small saucepan over medium low heat, stirring until smooth. Remove from heat, then stir in milk, honey and vanilla. Set aside to cool. When cake has cooled, pour glaze onto the center. Using a spatula or the back of a spoon, very gently smooth glaze along the top and sides of the cake. Chill cake, uncovered, for 30—60 minutes before serving to set the glaze and make the cake easier to slice.

Flourless Chocolate Cake with Dark Chocolate Glaze



Ruth & Rick Story
2813 S. Hulen St., Suite 150
Fort Worth, TX 76109

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