6666 Ranch

Fast Facts
• The ranch moved cattle on cattle drives through Texas in the late 1800’s.
• Today the ranch is thriving as a working ranch that brands cattle and horses.
• The Four Sixes ranch bred Thoroughbreds stallions to Steel Dust mares in order to produce horses for the U.S. Cavalry.
The Four Sixes (6666) brand was established by Samuel Burk Burnett in the early 1870s. Although legend persists that Burnett's brand was devised to honor a winning poker hand of four sixes, sources indicate that Burnett, after successfully completing his first drive to Kansas as trail boss for his father's herd in 1867, saved his earnings and in 1871 used them to buy 100 cattle bearing the Four Sixes brand from Frank Crowley in Denton County.
In 1874 Burnett moved his cattle to the region of the Wichita River, bought land, and established his ranch headquarters near the site of present day Wichita Falls. Due to the drought of 1881, Burnett was forced to drive his cattle to the Red River to survive. He subsequently leased 300,000 acres of Comanche-Kiowa reservation land. In 1893 he began the process of purchasing the Old Eight Ranch, 140,000 acres and 1,500 head of stock, from the Louisville Land and Cattle Company of Kentucky. The purchase was finalized in 1900, and Burnett moved his 6666 Ranch headquarters to King County.
In 1902 Burnett bought 107,520 acres in Carson and Hutchinson counties from the British-owned White Deer Lands for $2.65 per acre. This choice Panhandle range was located along Dixon Creek and contained abundant water. It became known as the Burnett-Dixon Creek-6666 Ranch. Over the next few years, Burnett acquired sufficient adjoining range land to constitute an operation totaling almost a third of a million acres.
Raising good ranch horses was always a goal with Samuel “Burk” Burnett, legendary founder of the 6666 Ranch.

To get enough horses, they breed approximately 100 broodmares each year. Many go back to stallions for which the ranch is famous, such as Joe Hancock and Hollywood Gold, and some even go back to Army Remount horses that were used in the ‘30s and ‘40s. However, they have all proven their worth. Quality in horses is important to the ranch.

6666 Ranch

What was the Remount Service Program and what was its impact on the horse industry?
Webster’s Dictionary defines “Remount” as a fresh horse to take the place of one lost or disabled. This definition was the basis of the U.S. Remount Service and the U.S. Army’s Horse Breeding Program.

The United States Remount Service operated from 1908 to 1948 and produced quality horses. They were constantly searching for a better mount, one that could do the job under saddle more efficiently, stay sound in spite of hard use and have sufficient speed when needed. The search for athletic and mental ability led to a study of practical conformation and an understanding of bloodlines.
• During the peak years, the Remount Service placed 700 stallions on ranches and farms throughout the country.

• The United States Remount Department gave ranchers an economic reason to raise better horses. There were over 1 million horses used in World War I. They were used as cavalry mounts on the front line and transportation. They also pulled heavy wagons with food and ammunition and carried individual packs holding large artillery shells. The war would not have been won without them.

• During World War II, tanks and aircraft were seen more regularly than in earlier wars. However, horses were still used in difficult terrain in areas of Oahu, Hawaii, and were used in large scale operations with the 10th Mountain Division in Italy and Operation Mars in Burma.

• Countless well-known American Quarter Horses trace their ancestry back to one or more Remount stallions.
The Four Sixes brand was used on the Burnett properties in Wichita County, headquartered at Iowa Park, until 1910, when Burnett leased them to his son Thomas L. Burnett, who subsequently adopted Colonel Lloyd's Triangle brand as his own.

After Burnett's death in 1922, his granddaughter Anne Burnett Tandy inherited the Four Sixes. Known affectionately among the ranch people as "Miss Anne," she became nationally famous as a judge and breeder of American Quarter Horses. Among the well-known champion racers and show horses acquired by or bred on the Four Sixes were Grey Badger II and Hollywood Gold. The ranch and its overseers were prime movers in the organization of the American Quarter Horse Association. After Miss Anne's death in 1980, the Four Sixes was passed on to her daughter Anne V. "Little Anne" Windfohr Marion.
The shut down of the Remount Service Program didn’t stop the Four Sixes success. The ranch has continued its cattle operation and horse breeding program.

The ranch continues to use the old horse-drawn chuck wagon, where cowboys and visitors are welcome to enjoy a Western-style meal out on the range at roundup time. The Dixon Creek Division in Carson and Hutchinson counties contains several producing oil and gas wells and a spacious stone headquarters house. Champion American Quarter Horses continue to reap profits for the Four Sixes.