

The Borden Star

Borden ★ Dawson ★ Garza ★ Howard ★ Lynn ★ Scurry

Volumn XXXVIII

March 11, 2015

USDA Reminds Garza-Borden County Producers of March 15 Sales Closing Date for Noninsurable Crops

March 9, 2015 –The Executive Director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Garza-Borden County, Victor Ashley, urges producers who want to purchase coverage through the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) to do so before the sales closing date of March 15, 2015.

NAP provides financial assistance to producers of noninsurable crops when low yields/grazing loss, loss of inventory or prevented planting occur due to natural disasters including drought, freeze, hail, excessive moisture, excessive wind or hurricanes.

In order to meet eligibility requirements for NAP, crops must be noninsurable, commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available.

According to Ashley, FSA policy has changed - for the 2015 crop year, producers in Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Texas who annually plant

crops used for mechanically harvested livestock feed, can purchase both NAP coverage at the catastrophic level or higher (“buy-up”) and Rainfall Index – Annual Forage Insurance plan coverage offered through Risk Management Agency (RMA); however if a NAP payment and indemnity benefit are payable, the producer must choose. The producer cannot receive benefits under both.

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (the 2014 Farm Bill) allows producers to choose higher levels of NAP coverage. Previously, the program offered coverage at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production. Producers can now choose higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price. It is important to note that the higher coverage is not available on grazing crops.

The following crops in Garza-Borden County have a NAP application closing date of March 15, 2015: Sudex.

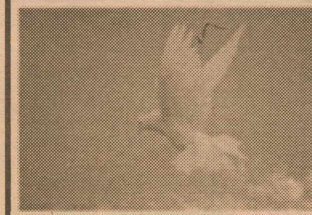
“NAP policies allow producers to protect their investment by purchasing coverage for noninsurable crops,” said Ashley. “Natural disasters are an unavoidable part of farming and ranching and FSA programs like NAP help producers to recover when they experience a loss.”

Eligible producers must file the application and pay a service fee by the March 15 deadline. Producers also pay a fixed premium for higher coverage. Beginning, limited resource and underserved farmers may request a waiver of the service fee and a 50 percent premium reduction when the application for coverage is filed.

For more information on NAP, service fees, premiums and sales closing dates, contact the Garza-Borden County FSA office at 806-495-2801 and visit the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

The Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program was made possible by the Farm Bill and builds on historic economic gains in rural America

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Dare to Live Without Limits

By Bryan Golden

Changing Direction

Suppose you are the captain of your own sailboat. You are planning a trip from the East Coast of the United States to England. You obtain the appropriate navigational charts and carefully plot the best course to your desired destination.

As carefully as you plan, you most likely will have to change direction in order to reach your port in England. You will have to alter your course in response to the wind direction. When you encounter storms, you will navigate around them. You will also

need to avoid other ships.

After you finally arrive at you destination, you may feel it's not what you expected. Or, you may decide you don't like it and would rather go somewhere else. You will then have to pick a new port, plot the appropriate course, and depart in a new direction.

Successfully navigating the oceans requires one to be ready, and able, to change direction as needed. Dealing with life's challenges requires the same adaptability. You will

(Continued to Page 2)

Come Meet the Collins Family!

Please join the Borden County ISD Faculty and Staff as we welcome our new superintendent, Billy Collins, and his family to the community.

**March 17th
4:00 – 5:00 p.m**

We will meet at the baseball field for ice cream, brownies and cookies. Please feel free to stay and cheer on the Coyote baseball team against the Post Antelopes.



Heart and Home...



Julie Mumme Smith

Borden County Extension Agent - Family & Consumer Sciences

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Bite Into A Healthy Lifestyle During National Nutrition Month

If you planned to start eating better at the start of 2015 but have gotten a bit off track, National Nutrition Month® is a good time to refocus. National Nutrition Month® is celebrated each March to focus attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. The theme for 2015 is "Bite into a Healthy Lifestyle." Here are 5 tips from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to help you do just that:

1. Eat Breakfast-There's no better way to start your morning than with a healthy breakfast. Include lean protein, whole grains, fruits, vegetables, and low-fat dairy.

2. Fix Healthy Snacks-Healthy snacks help sustain your energy levels between meals and prevent overeating at mealtime. Make your snacks combination snacks by choosing from two or more of the MyPlate food groups.

3. Get Cooking-Cooking at home is usually healthier because you get to decide how much fat, salt, and sugar to add to your foods. Check out our Texas A&M AgriLife

Extension's Dinner Tonight web site for great tips and recipes - <http://dinnertonight.tamu.edu/>

4. Explore New Foods and Flavors- When shopping, set a goal to select a fruit, vegetable, or whole grain that's new to you or your family. Visit www.fruitsandvegsmatter.org to learn about a variety of fruits and vegetables.

5. Eat Meals Together- Research shows that family meals promote healthier eating. Plan to eat as a family at least a few times each week. Turn off the TV, phones or other electronic devices to encourage talking at mealtimes.

For more tips on how to 'Bite into a Healthy Lifestyle' visit the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics website (<http://www.eatright.org/>). National Nutrition Month® is a nutrition education and information campaign sponsored annually by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Source: Iowa State University Extension blog Spend Smart Eat Smart

USDA Closing Date...

(Continued from Page 1)

over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-

private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.



Thought for the Day

Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

I Timothy 6:12

The Revised Standard Version

Dare to Live...

(Continued from Page 1)

have to alter direction in response to a change in circumstances or a change in your desires.

What do you think would happen in the following scenario? A sailor steers his boat so that is headed in the desired direction. He then locks the rudder in position. Next he goes into his cabin, closes the drapes, and goes to sleep, waiting to reach his destination.

You don't need any nautical expertise to recognize that any sailor who would be foolish enough to take such irresponsible action, would fail to reach to his desired destination, if not sink. Yet, as ridiculous as the above example is, this is exactly how many people run their lives.

People will pick a direction for their life, sometimes when they are very young. They will then set out on their chosen course and make few, if any, adjustments as they progress on their journey. The results can be just as disastrous as the boat with a locked rudder and no one at the wheel.

Over time, your circumstances are bound to change. You will encounter events you never planned for. Obstacles will arise without warning. You have to be ready to change direction. You may lose interest in your occupation. It may have interested you at some point, but now you are tired of it, or bored. Again, in order to not suffer, you have to change direction.

Making the Grade!

4th Six-Weeks

Beta Achievement

Seniors: McKenna Campbell, Mason Coor, Bessie Rhodes and Sean Tucker; **Juniors:** Tatum Richey, Nathan Souder and Merik Valentine; **Sophomore:** Hayley Gray, Savannah Herridge and Sydnee Jordan; **Freshmen:** Carley Bell, Easton Edwards, Preslea Hall, Harley Merrill, Ashlyn Tucker and M.J. van der Bank; **Eighth Grade:** Myka Blissard, Madison Cole, Katie Gray, Paige Holbrooks and Emily Todd; **Seventh Grade:** Kaitlyn Cribbs and Kaylee Walker; **Sixth Grade:** Mason Cole, Connor

Etheredge, Haddie Flanigan, Kaci Hudson, Maggie Miller, Erin Nix, Maddye Sumners, Kennedy Tucker and Leandre van der Bank.

4th Six-Weeks Honor Roll

Seniors: Eva Banman, Hurrikane Richter and Ricky Torres; **Juniors:** Karly Etheredge, Samuel Raborn, Flinto Roberts and Caelan Thuett; **Sophomore:** Madison Benavidez, Braxton Coor, Jamyaleigh Gray, and Avery Price; **Freshman:** Joshua Murphy, Thomas Nix, Trace Richey, Caytlynn Summers and Braylee Walker; **Eighth Grade:** Kaile Hernandez, Rayme Jones and Emma Key;

Seventh Grade: Lindsay Brantley, Hailey Lowery, Olivia Reyes, and Tatum Treadwell; **Sixth Grade:** Kylie Barnes, Trey Edwards, Tommy Kingston, Klancey Kleck, Trent Lewis and Justin Willborn; **Fifth Grade:** Brooklyn Gray, Jadeyn Merrill, Paige Parker, Ryann Philips, Macee Rathbun, Ethan Stephens and Rachel Thomas; **Fourth Grade:** Haley Carpenter, Callie Edwards, Rebekah Kiefer, Dallie Miller, Isaiah Mitton, Michael Morris, Allie Murphy, Hayden Neill, J. Tom Price, Oliver Skelton, Tres Spencer, Shane Todd and George Wagner; **Third Grade:** Aubree Blissard, Hanna Brady, Luke Carpenter, Kodi Jo Hargrove, Jenna Holbrooks, Rhett Kingston, Kadence Lowery, Ben Nix, Kasen Oaks, Bailey Pennell, Jorden Ramos, Ishmael Rodriguez, Rexie Sanders, Agatha Skelton, Laney Stansell, Kendall Swaffar, Bella Taylor and Kenzie White; **Second Grade:** Carolyn Andrade, Marlynn Bermea, Logan Briley, Tyler Cole, Hannah Criswell, Kenlei Curtis, Kenlei Estes, Datch Flanigan Tia Frankl, Braden Hardman, Haven Hill, Tynslee Horton, Zak Lewis, Maddox

Goals can also change with time. What you used to want, may no longer appeal to you. This is normal. As you grow and acquire more experience, your desires will probably change as well. As your goals shift, you have to change direction if you are going to attain them.

Your life is your ship and you are the captain. You have the ability to pick your course. You alone are responsible for your well being. Should you happen to pick a direction that proves to be faulty, make a change. It's foolish to maintain a course that isn't taking you to where you want to go. Changing direction is not something that only needs to occur once. You must do it as often as necessary. You may have been on the same course for a long time. If so, changing direction can require a lot of effort and commitment. When a change in direction is called for, you are free to pick any new direction you feel would be most appropriate. You are at the helm. Where your life goes is up to you.

Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columnist.com. © 2007 Bryan Golden

Merket, Pace Parker Evalynn Rodriguez and Tagan Treadwell.

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Property Owners Can Protest Property Appraisal Values

Property owners who disagree with the Borden County Appraisal District's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them may protest their property value to the appraisal district's Appraisal Review Board (ARB).

A property owner must file a written notice of protest before June 1, 2015 or within 30 days after the appraisal district mails the taxpayer a notice of appraised value, whichever is later. The ARB will begin hearing taxpayer protests on (DATE).

After the ARB completes its hearings and approves final property tax appraisals, taxing units will use these appraisals to set 2015 property tax rates.

The ARB is a group of citizens who live in the appraisal district. In counties with 120,000 or more population, the local administrative judge appoints ARB members. Otherwise, the appraisal district's board of directors appoints them. Property owners may protest any of the following issues to the ARB:

- the appraised or market value of the property;
- unequal appraisal of the owner's property;
- inclusion of the property on the appraisal records;
- denial of a partial exemption, such as a homestead exemption;
- denial of special appraisal, such as agricultural or timber productivity appraisal;
- determination that agricultural or timber land has had a change of use and is subject to a rollback tax;
- identification of the taxing unit or taxing units in which the property is located;
- determination that the taxpayer is the owner of the property; or
- any other action of the appraisal district office that adversely affects the owner.

The ARB schedules a hearing and sends the protesting property owner written notice of the date, time and place of the hearing. The law contains specific timelines and

procedures for both the owner and the ARB throughout the appraisal protest process. These are detailed in the Comptroller's publication, *Property Taxpayer Remedies*.

Copies are available from Borden County Appraisal District at PO Box 298, Gail, TX 79738 or 806-756-4484. The publication is also available on the Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's website at www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/.

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AMS DEPLOYMENT, AMS SURCHARGE, AND NON-STANDARD METERING SERVICE FEES FILED WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

On January 23, 2015, Sharyland Utilities, L.P. (Sharyland), a regulated electric transmission and distribution company, filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC or Commission) a Request for Approval of an Advanced Metering System (AMS) Deployment, AMS Surcharge, and Non-Standard Metering Service Fees. The docket number and style of this application are Docket No. 44361, Sharyland Utilities, L.P.'s Request for Approval of an Advanced Metering System (AMS) Deployment, AMS Surcharge, and Non-Standard Metering Service Fees.

Sharyland is seeking approval from the Commission for its AMS deployment plan pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.130 and the Commission's order in Application of Sharyland Utilities, L.P. to Establish Retail Delivery Rates, Approve Tariff for Retail Delivery Service, and Adjust Wholesale Transmission Rate, Docket No. 41474 (Jan. 23, 2014). Sharyland is also seeking approval of non-standard metering fees pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.133. Sharyland also requests approval of the AMS surcharges for recovery of the reasonable and necessary costs which Sharyland will incur under its deployment plan pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.130(k).

If approved, Sharyland's AMS surcharges will go into effect on July 1, 2015. The AMS surcharges will apply to electric service to residential customers and non-residential customers, other than those who have interval data recorder (IDR) meters or take unmetered service. The AMS surcharges will be billed to the retail electric providers (REPs) providing retail electric service to such customers in Sharyland's service areas. The costs recovered through the AMS surcharges will be reviewed by the Commission in a reconciliation proceeding to be held in the future on a schedule to be determined by the Commission. Sharyland has proposed the following AMS surcharges:

Residential	\$3.17
Secondary Small	\$3.25
Secondary Large	\$4.60
Primary	\$3.52

Furthermore, P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.133 allows a customer to choose to receive electric service through a non-standard (non-advanced) meter and authorizes Sharyland to assess fees to recover the costs associated with providing the non-standard metering service from a customer who elects to have a non-standard meter. The following fees will only affect those customers that refuse installation of an advanced meter or any other retail customer who requests non-standard metering service:

Non-refundable, one-time up-front fees

Advanced meter with disabled communication:	\$114.95
Existing meter that meets applicable accuracy standards:	\$167.04
If commercially available, an analog meter that meets applicable meter accuracy standards:	\$190.12
Digital, non-communicating meter:	\$190.12

Recurring monthly fee

During amortization period:	\$39.91 per month
After amortization period:	\$23.24 per month

If you have questions about PUC Docket No. 44361, please contact Bridget Headrick at Sharyland at (512) 721-2668.

A copy of the application is kept at Sharyland's office at 1807 Ross Avenue, Suite 460, Dallas, Texas 75201 and at the office of Sharyland's legal representative, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, at 600 Congress Ave., Suite 2000, Austin, Texas 78701, (512) 721-2700 (Telephone), (512) 721-2656 (Facsimile).

Persons who wish to intervene in the proceeding or comment upon the action sought, should mail their requests to intervene or their comments (along with 10 copies of your letter) to: Public Utility Commission of Texas, Central Records, Attn: Filing Clerk, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. The deadline for intervention in this proceeding is March 9, 2015, and the Commission should receive a letter requesting intervention no later than that date. Further information may also be obtained by contacting the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.



**MEMBER
2015**

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Commissioners Meeting

WHEREAS, on this the 24th day of February, 2015, the Commissioners' Court of Borden County, Texas, convened in Special Session in the commissioners courtroom at the courthouse in Gail, Texas the following members of the court being present to-wit:

ROSS D. SHARP, County Judge, Presiding; MONTE SMITH, Commissioner Precinct No. 1; RANDY ADCOCK, Commissioner Precinct No. 2; ERNEST REYES, Commissioner Precinct No. 3; JOE BELEW, Commissioner Precinct No. 4 constituting a quorum, when the following proceedings were had, in accordance with the posted agenda. Other officers present: Marlo Holbrooks, County Attorney, Benny Allison, Sheriff and Tax Assessor and Shawna Gass, County Treasurer.

CALL TO ORDER

Judge Sharp called the February 24, 2015, special session of the Commissioners Court to order at 9:30 A.M.

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

MINUTES APPROVED

Minutes of the Commissioners Court meeting of February 10, 2015 were presented. Commissioner Adcock made a motion to approve said minutes as presented. Commissioner Reyes seconded the motion.

Voting For: Commissioners Smith, Adcock, Reyes, Belew and Judge Sharp

Voting Against: None

DEPUTY SHERIFF

Sheriff Benny Allison introduced his new deputy Brian Fullbright to the court.

APPOINTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR FOR BORDEN COUNTY

Commissioner Belew made a motion to appoint Brian Fullbright as Emergency Management Coordinator for Borden County. Commissioner Reyes seconded the motion.

Voting For: Commissioners Smith, Adcock, Reyes, Belew and Judge Sharp

Voting Against: None

INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT

Commissioner Adcock made a motion to enter into the inter-local agreement with Parkerhill, Smith and Cooper

for the 2015 Seal Coat Program. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.

Voting For: Commissioners Smith, Adcock, Reyes, Belew and Judge Sharp

Voting Against: None

2014 BUDGET AMENDMENTS

No action

UTILITY CABLE CROSSINGS APPLICATIONS

No Applications

PRIVATE ROAD CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE

No Applications

SOIL

CONSERVATION

WORK

Commissioner Reyes made a motion to approve the following applications:

Precinct 3 – John Anderson
Commissioner Adcock seconded the motion.

Voting For: Commissioners Smith, Adcock, Reyes, Belew and Judge Sharp

Voting Against: None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Remodel Borden county building that houses the appraisal district for use by County/District Clerk

CURRENT ACCOUNTS
Commissioner Smith made a motion to pay said accounts. Commissioner Adcock seconded the motion.

Voting For: Commissioners Smith, Adcock, Reyes, Belew and Judge Sharp

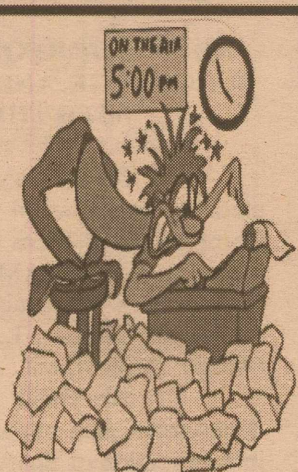
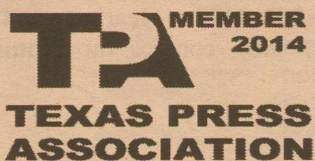
Voting Against: None

ADJOURN

Commissioner Reyes made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Belew seconded the motion and approved unanimously.

Voting For: Commissioners Smith, Adcock, Reyes, Belew and Judge Sharp

Voting Against: None



Got News?

Mail to:

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Email:

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or call

806/756-4313

ext. 275

www.edwardjones.com

When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.

Decisions made in the past may no longer be what's best for the future. To help keep everything up to date, Edward Jones offers a complimentary financial review.

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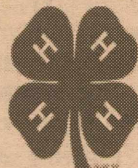


Jamie K Crnkovic
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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC



Borden County 4-H

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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 Cody Hill, CEA-AG/NR
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 EC - Event Center
 ED - Extension Office
 CH - Courthouse
 AF - Ag Farm
 S - School

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Spring Break

Houston Livestock Show: March 19-21