

ABI Agriculture, Business & Industry



Farmer-Stockman Show scheduled for Oct. 12-14

The seventh annual Farmer-Stockman Show is scheduled for Oct. 12-14 in Lubbock. The largest outdoor working farm and ranch show in the southwestern US, it boasts 800 acres of show site with crops for field demonstrations.

The three-day schedule will include a variety of activities for the entire family. For producers, field demonstrations exhibit modern machinery in harvesting, tillage, and hay handling. Livestock demonstrations include live cattle handling demonstrations, horse training sessions, cutting horse demonstrations,

and current topic seminars. The Wildlife Tent will address issues relating to wildlife agriculture and the popular Family Living area has expanded programs on food preparation, heart-healthy lifestyles, diabetes care, quilting and fashion shows, as well as square dancing and music performances. Crafters are available for a unique shopping opportunity.

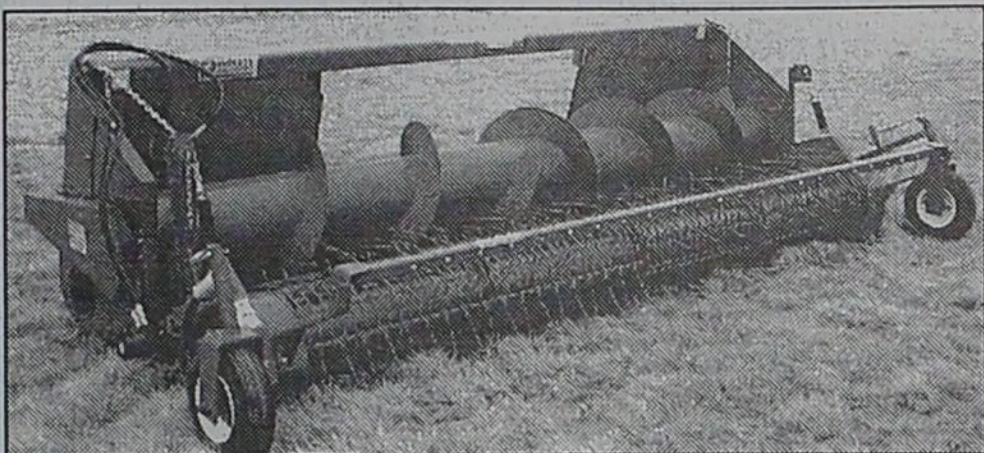
The Farmer-Stockman Show is 1.5 miles east of Loop 289 on East 50th Street (FM835). Show hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, Oct. 12-14.

Call the show office for more details at (806) 747-7134.



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Call Randy Bills or Tommy Gregory for information. 806-272-4296 or come by 2800 W. Am. Blvd. in Muleshoe, Texas.



NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK—Castro County Judge Irene Miller signs a proclamation declaring Sept. 19-25 as Farm Safety and Health Week. Looking on are Norman Gerber (left), vice president of the Castro County Farm Bureau, and Malcolm Sager, agency manager for the local office of the Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Co. Photo by Linda Maxwell

FQPA conference set in Lubbock

A meeting has been set for Oct. 14-15 in Lubbock at the Holiday Inn Plaza concerning the Food Quality Protection Act, and farmers and others involved in agriculture are encouraged to attend.

Sponsored by the Texas Farm Bureau and other agricultural organization, the conference will feature information on the act and its potential effects on agriculture. The meeting is an attempt to get agricultural producers involved in an effort to hold the Environmental Protection Agency to a common-sense approach in implementing the food safety law.

Under the FQPA, the EPA is mandated to assess and reassess all risks for all crop protection products. EPA evaluations are scheduled to be completed soon on the organophosphate and carbamate groups of products, both of which are widely used in Texas.

According to information from the Farm Bureau, the EPA has threatened to ban all organophosphates and carbamates.

Lonnie Robb, president of the Castro County Farm Bureau, said the EPA is taking shortcuts to implement the FQPA, and several groups have filed suit to require the agency to follow statutory requirements in making its assessments.

Robb is encouraging all farmers and particularly Castro County Farm Bureau members to attend the conference.

"Many farmers are not aware of the urgency of this issue," Robb said. "They aren't considering this a real problem. They will, however, when they wake up one morning and find they can no longer use these valuable crop protectants. Then they'll panic. Hopefully, this meeting will help them realize the importance of the issue before it is too late."

National Farm Safety Week is proclaimed for Sept. 19-25

The National Safety Council has set the theme of "Protecting Agriculture into the Next Century" for National Farm Safety and Health Week, Sept. 19-25.

The NSC encourages all Americans to be more aware of the role that agriculture plays in our lives and the importance of safety equipment and systems, proper maintenance, and preventing injuries and illness on farms and ranches. Safe work prac-

tices must be emphasized not only during this 56th anniversary of the observance, but also year-round.

"The National Safety Council's 1999 Edition of Injury Facts reports that agriculture is the second most hazardous industry in the nation, with a rate of over 22 deaths per 100,000 workers compared to mining with a death rate of 24.3 per 10,000 workers. The all-industry average is 3.8 deaths per 100,000 workers," said Lonnie Robb, president of the Castro County Farm Bureau. "These statistics also show an estimated 780 deaths and 140,000 disabling injuries in agriculture during 1998. Agriculture has long been one of the most hazardous American industries."

Through the decades of the special observance, progress has been made in reducing injuries and illness to those involved in agricultural activities. Yet there are still other areas that are a growing concern to the oldest industry in the US.

Tractor overturns remain the greatest source of fatal injury on the farm, according to information from the Farm Bureau. Each year, hundreds of fatal injuries from tractor

overturns occur with tractors that are not equipped with a rollover protective structure (ROPS).

"Farmers need to understand the importance of having an ROPS on their tractors and wearing seat belts," Robb said. He noted that rigid and/or foldable ROPS are available for almost all tractors built since 1970 and for many tractors older than that.

Another area receiving increased attention in recent years are the risks associated with different age groups on the farm and ranch.

"Young farmers under the age of 25 and farm workers over the age of 55 show a high risk of injury on the farm," Robb said.

Other areas of major injury and health concern on the farm include extra riders on tractors and equipment, equipment entanglement, crop and manure storage facility hazards, exposure to toxic gases, chemicals, dusts and mold, sun exposure, stress, livestock handling, motor vehicle collisions with equipment on the highway, farm truck-related injuries, first aid training response, and care of injuries and illnesses in rural America.

Dimmitt FFA members will exhibit livestock

Several Dimmitt, FFA members will be exhibiting their livestock in upcoming junior shows at the South Plains Fair and the State Fair of Texas.

At the South Plains Fair in Lubbock this week, Dennis Underwood and Tanner Self will show their heifers while Jeremy Simpson is planning to exhibit market swine.

At the State Fair of Texas, Taylor Matthews will show a market steer while Jeremy Simpson will enter market barrows in the show.

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.

-John Dewey

Since all have the same needs and the same faculties, let there be one education for all, one food for all.

-Francois Noel Babeuf

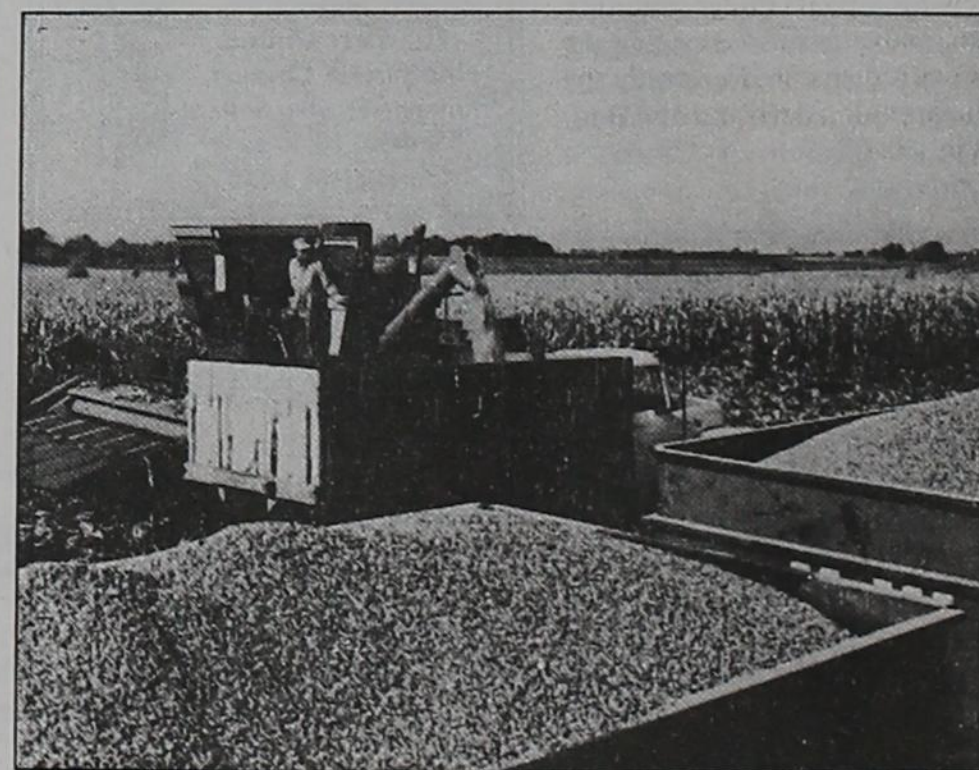
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<p>OTHER JONES-BLAIR PRODUCTS</p> <p>Wash'n Wear Interior Latex Satin Wall & Trim Paint 16⁹⁹</p> <p>Polyflex Exterior Latex Semi-Gloss House & Trim Paint 17⁹⁹</p> <p>Decorator Exterior Latex Semi-Gloss House & Trim Paint 15⁹⁹</p> <p>Decorator Exterior Latex Primer 16⁹⁹</p> <p>Multi-Grip Exterior Acrylic Latex Primer 19⁹⁹</p> <p>Decorator Interior Latex Semi-Gloss Wall & Trim Paint 14⁹⁹</p>	<p>16⁹⁹</p> <p>Polyflex Exterior Latex Flat House Paint Super Premium Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acrylic • Mildew resistant • Easy application 	<p>JONES-BLAIR MADE IN AMERICA</p> <p>Higginbotham-Bartlett Co. 109 N. Broadway, Dimmitt 647-3161</p>	

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STATE MERIT AWARD—Panhandle Community Services has been awarded the state's largest merit award for the sixth straight year. Receiving recognition for the award at the local PCS office are (from left) Ricardo Quiroz, Lorena Corrales, Stella Devers, and Maricela Flores. Making the presentation is (right) Johnny Raymond, executive director of PCS. *Courtesy Photo*

PCS receives merit award for 'transitioning' 346 families

The Panhandle Community Services Agency has been given the state's largest merit award for the sixth year in a row by the Texas Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs.

PCS serves the largest geographic area of the state, covering the 26 counties of the Panhandle. The agency led the state in its role of transitioning welfare families out of poverty, with the 15 local centers

Carothers graduates from Tech

Michael Scott Carothers of Nazareth graduated from Texas Tech University this summer with a bachelor's degree in general studies.

Carothers is the son of Tiffanie Carothers.

He and more than 870 other Texas Tech University students received their diplomas during recent summer commencement exercises at the university.

Kuntzes, Goodpasture honored by West Texas Ag Chemical Institute

Fred and Helen Kuntz of Dimmitt and Goodpasture, Inc., were among those honored by the West Texas Agriculture Chemicals Institute at its 47th annual educational conference Wednesday in Lubbock.

The Kuntzes and Gaylon Goddard received the institute's commercial awards.

The Kuntzes operate Flagg Fertilizer, a family-owned cooperative with two outlets serving producers in Castro, Lamb and Bailey Counties.

A West Virginia native whose military service brought him to eastern New Mexico in 1945, Kuntz has been an innovator of sound agricultural technologies since he first started custom applying fertilizer in West Texas in 1954.

Goodpasture, Inc., received the

helping 346 families get out of welfare during the past year. Those helped by PCS accounted for over half of the 600 families transitioned out of poverty in the entire state.

Other selection criteria for the merit award included successful case management and operational efficiency.

The award was announced at the Annual Executive Directors' Conference held in San Antonio recently. Accepting the award for PCS was PCS Executive Director Johnny Raymond and Deputy Director Phyllis Cook.

In accepting the award, Raymond said, "Welfare reform is the new push from the federal and state governments. Our agency has been addressing welfare problems for 33 years—long before the federal mandate. Our Families In Training program has over 150 single parents in colleges throughout the Panhandle right now, and we're seeing an average salary of \$22,108 a year as they complete their training."

Raymond also was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award for over 25 years of service to the people of the Texas Panhandle.

Organized in 1966, PCS provided

assistance to 7,581 families during the past year. Programs offered by the agency include rural transportation, weatherization, housing rental assistance, emergency food assistance, vocational assessment/counseling retired senior volunteers, home-buyer assistance, and information/referral services.

Plateau names boat winner

Aaron Scheller of Muleshoe won a 1999 Tracker Bass Boat being given away by Plateau Wireless and Nokia, in honor of Father's Day.

Scheller's name was drawn from over 12,000 entries received from the Plateau service area. In addition to the boat, 10 gas grills and 100 cordless screwdrivers were awarded.

The cellular company provides service to customers in eastern New Mexico and western Texas.

Springlake plans arts, crafts show

A holiday arts and crafts bazaar is being planned for Nov. 13 in Springlake and those interested in reserving a booth space should contact the Springlake City Hall.

The show will be held in the old church building at Springlake. Booth prices are \$20 and \$25.

To reserve a spot, call the city hall at 986-4211, Betty McMurry at 257-2101 or Mary Clayton at 986-4385.

Winter Grazing

TRT 2000—Winter grazing blend—extends winter grazing time until late spring. Produces more beef per acre than wheat.

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Lubbock co-op distributes dividends

A record cash distribution and the achievement of a major milestone were among many successes and challenges that characterized fiscal 1999 for Plains Cotton Cooperative Association (PCCA), according to reports delivered during the company's 46th Annual Stockholders Meeting at its Lubbock headquarters Sept. 15.

The cash distribution, totaling almost \$40.4 million, consists of \$14.5 million in cash dividends, \$18 million in stock retirements and \$7.8 million in retirement of per-unit capital retains. The record payments to PCCA members were made possible by near-record total net margins of \$33.2 million.

PCCA also reached a major milestone on June 30 when the cooperative paid the final installment on the \$82.5 million long-term debt incurred when it purchased American Cotton Growers (ACG) in 1987. Since its acquisition by PCCA, the ACG Denim Mill's net margins have totaled approximately \$186 million.

During the annual meeting, PCCA members also re-elected the following directors to three-year terms on the cooperative's board: Raymond Althof, District 8; Wendell Jones, District 9; Curtis Jensen, District 10; and, Steve Bauer, District 11.

PCCA's Textile Division led the way with combined net margins of \$26.6 million from the cooperative's American Cotton Growers (ACG) and Mission Valley Fabrics (MVF) operations, eclipsing the previous record by more than \$3 million. The division's margins equate to more than \$18 per bale for participating PCCA members and were achieved despite an inordinate amount of downtime at the two manufacturing facilities during the fiscal year.

A dramatic decline in demand for basic denim forced ACG to shut down production 51 days during the fiscal year to manage inventory—the most downtime since the plant began production near Littlefield in 1976. However, lower input costs and production of value-added denim fabrics that commanded a much higher price enabled ACG to more than offset slack demand. Likewise, MVF in New Braunfels halted production of its yam-dyed woven fabrics a total of 58 days due primarily to intense competition from imports.

"Our biggest challenge, or opportunity, became apparent in February when our major customer, Levi Strauss & Co. (LS&CO.), informed us and their other denim suppliers that they would no longer be able to support us with the amount of business we enjoyed in the past," May

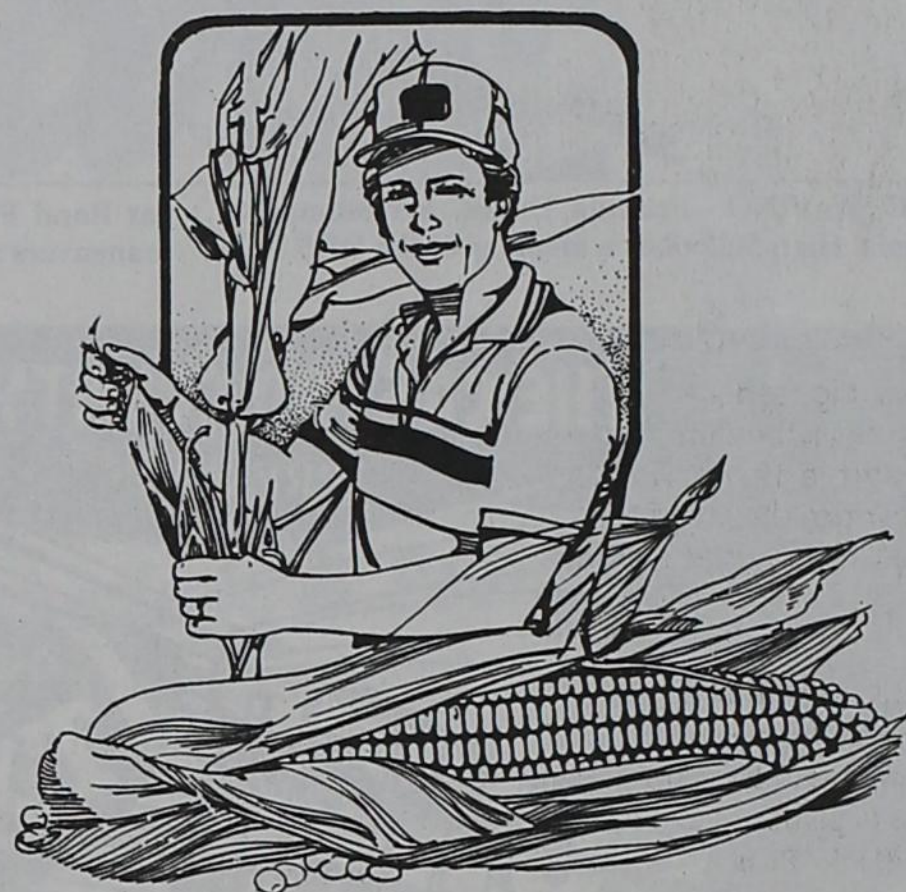
noted. "Their business simply had reached the point where having volume commitments with their suppliers no longer were practical. In short, we agreed that we would not renew our contractual relationship with them and would begin to compete heads up in the marketplace for their business as well as for other customers' business."

This development provided a catalyst for PCCA to change its focus on fabric development and the marketplace. First, the cooperative consolidated MVF's lightweight and mid-weight denim fabrics with heavyweight denims from ACG into a single denim product line. Second, PCCA reorganized its fabric sales and design functions into a regional structure to seek new customers for both ACG and MVF. However, the top priority will be to maintain LS&CO. as a major denim customer.

PCCA's Marketing Division, cotton pools and warehouses all posted favorable results as well despite lower volume, intense competition from foreign growers, and difficult domestic and world markets.

"We have continued to move our TELCOT marketing products toward Internet browser-based technologies," May announced, "and we will continue that trend as we must drive down our costs."

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Castro Co-op Gin, Inc.

will hold its

47th Annual

Stockholder's Meeting

Monday, Oct. 4, 1999

at 7 p.m. in the

Richardson Elementary Cafeteria

The meal will be catered by Danny's Hens and Fins of Lubbock, followed by a brief business meeting. Door prizes will be given away.

\$205,905.07 CASH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PRODUCERS:

\$150,461.00 Cash (\$9.59 Per Bale on 1998 Cotton)

\$28,283.00 Cash (\$5.50 Per Ton on Cottonseed, 1998)

\$27,161.07 (60% of 1989 Book Credits)

As a co-op member you've also received dividends from Plains Cotton Cooperative Association, Farmers Co-op Compress and the Denim Plant, **IN ADDITION TO THE GIN DIVIDEND.**

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Misses' Casual Separates
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By Specialty Collection, Victoria Jones, Anna Gray
and more. Reg. 20.00-34.00, SALE 14.00-23.80.

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