

# WEST TEXAS Country Trader



The West Texas Country Trader is a supplement of:

Thursday, July 22, 1993

**ABERNATHY WEEKLY REVIEW**  
Abernathy, Tx - Hale County  
**CANYON NEWS**  
Canyon, Tx - Randall County

**CLARENDON NEWS**  
Clarendon, Tx - Donley County  
**CASTRO COUNTY NEWS**  
Dimmit, Tx - Castro County

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**LAMB COUNTY LEADER**  
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**PLAINVIEW DAILY HERALD**  
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**FALLS REPORTER-NEWS**  
Ralls, Tx - Crosby County

**SLATON SLATONITE**  
Slaton, Tx - Lubbock County  
**TULIA HERALD**  
Tulia, Tx - Swisher County



### Still growing

Gordon Zeigler/Plainview Daily Herald

Recent rains have helped area crops. Farmers throughout the area have looked to the skies with pleasure recently as showers have brought welcome moisture to the area. The moisture has helped crops in the field continue to grow. And the outlook for rain continues to be good. Farmers have been pleased that damaging winds and hail have not accompanied the rains in the area.

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# AgReview



## Calendar Ag News

July 22

**SMALL GRAIN Strategy Meeting, Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center, McGregor**

July 23-25

**10TH ANNUAL Burleson Memorial Roping, which benefits the scholarship fund at Clarendon Junior College Ranch and Feedlot Operations. The weekend of horse activities will be held at Burleson Area, which is located off U.S. Highway 70 in Flomot on FM 2009 between Turkey and Matador.**

July 25-31

**TEXAS 4-H HORSE Show, Taylor County Exposition Center, Abilene.**

July 31-Aug. 1

**SHOOTING Sports 4-Star and 3-D Archery Match, Texas State Muzzleloading Rifle Association Range, Brady.**

Aug. 13-14

**THE DIMMITT Roping Club will sponsor its Fourth Annual Rodeo in conjunction with the annual Castro County Harvest Days celebration. Books on the entries will open from 10 a.m. on Aug. 9 to noon on Aug. 10. Entry may be made by calling 817-592-4202. Local events register will be from 2-6 p.m. on Aug. 8 by calling Scott or Suanne Bagley at 647-4780.**

## Women ride male-dominated range

By VIVIENNE HINES

Corpus Christi Caller Times

KINGSVILLE (AP) — Beverly "B.J." Myrick was 12 when she bought her first horse with \$100 she had saved from a summer hay-hauling job.

Today, she makes her living on a horse as the only full-time female ranch hand working with about 50 cowboys on the sprawling 825,000-acre King Ranch. She and two other part-time female ranch hands form a tight-knit group who make their home on the range in this male-dominated world.

At work, the women doctor and feed the cattle and wash water troughs. Mrs. Myrick, a 32-year-old mother of two, said she knows each calf and its mother as well as she does her own children.

"You've got to be there every day so you know who belongs to who," she said. "I wouldn't change this for nothing because I guess I kind of like it. I like to take care of the animals."

"This ain't a job for anybody. I don't think a lot of women would like it. You've got to be there all the time, and it's kind of far away from town," she explained.

Mrs. Myrick works seven days a week, from dawn to dusk. But her husband understands the demands of her job: He's the unit manager for two of the ranch's four sections.

Although women always have played a role in South Texas ranching history, few have ridden and roped alongside the cowboys, said cultural anthropologist Dr. Joe S. Graham of Texas A&I University at Kingsville.

Traditionally, ranch women took care of the home, children and health care and were in charge of the children's spiritual development and education. The Mexican-American ranching community is even more conservative, Graham said, with most women remaining in those roles today.

"Very, very seldom do you see any instances of deviation from those social roles," Graham said. "None of them was out riding and chasing critters."

Women more likely to be seen on horseback have been those from the upper-class ranching families — including prominent King Ranch women like Henrietta King — who have historically had more independence than the women of the working class, Graham said. Mrs. King, who died in 1925, co-founded the King Ranch with her husband and supervised its operation after his death.

"In most of the situations, the gender roles were very clearly defined," he added. "You may have a few tomboys who aspire to that (being a ranch hand), but this is training that goes back to early childhood."

Mrs. Myrick and her two part-time counterparts, 22-year-old Stefanie Haegelin and 25-year-old Donna Pakebusch, agreed with Graham.

The King Ranch's only female ranch hands, who live on the ranch with their families, said their friendship provides vital support in the mostly male environment.

"I feel like they (Mrs. Myrick and Mrs. Pakebusch) are some of the only ones who truly understand me ... understand the love I have for (ranching)," said Ms. Haegelin, a former high school cheerleader now studying agriculture at Texas A&I.

The three women said it is their love of animals and of the land that drives them to ride, rope and wrestle cattle with their male counterparts. They agree that there are constant tests to their physical and emotional endurance.

"As a woman, you have to truly love it more," Ms. Haegelin said. "It's so much more socially acceptable for a guy to walk around with his boots and his spurs all covered with cow mess."

"There's not too many women I know who think it's very

glamorous or who would want to trade places with me for any length of time," she added.

And all three said that balancing their femininity in the masculine environment is a challenge.

Mrs. Myrick and Mrs. Pakebusch don't wear dresses at all. In fact, they didn't wear dresses to their own weddings. Mrs. Myrick's wedding attire was white pants and shirt. And she scorns makeup. For formal occasions, she pulls her long, sunstreaked hair into two pigtailed instead of a single ponytail down her back.

Ms. Haegelin, however, said she likes to wear skirts and makeup when she goes out.

"There was a time when I was turning into a tomboy. My Dad told me, 'You have to know when it's time to get dirty, and you have to know when to be a lady,'" Ms. Haegelin said. "We're not a bunch of rough and tough tomboys. We all like to dress up and go out at night."

Added Mrs. Myrick, "You want to be respected for what you do."

"But also be recognized as a female," agreed Mrs. Pakebusch.

Stephen "Tio" Kleberg, ranch vice president, said Mrs. Myrick is one of a small number of women who have worked as ranch hands, although others have worked in the quarter horse training and breaking operation.

Mrs. Myrick, he said, regularly beats out fellow male competitors at the ranch's annual rodeo for employees: "I'd put her up against any of the men. And she can probably beat most of them. She's quick, she's smart, she knows her job. She's an excellent employee."

Kleberg said he hasn't had very many women ask to do the outdoor labor Mrs. Myrick does.

"In 20-plus years that I've been here, I don't have many requests. They do a lot of other things but not to do the outdoor cattle work that B.J.'s doing," he said. "It's

See WOMEN, Page 9

## 1993 cotton crop may be largest since 1937

The June acreage report confirmed that the stage is set for an 18 million bale U.S. crop, the largest since 18.9 million in 1937. Planted acreage for the 1993 crop was placed at 13.65 million, up 410,000 acres from a year earlier. Despite a 2 million acre loss last year, the U.S. crop totaled 16.2 million bales.

Ending Stocks will likely exceed 6 million, up from 3.7 million two years ago, and push the stocks-to-use to over 35 percent. As a result, expect loan rate and below prices, and a big fuss over government costs being too high. This will likely lead to a much larger set-aside in 1994-95.

Domestic textile operators and foreign importers of U.S. cotton will have plenty of low priced quality cotton to use that should compete well price-wise with man-made fibers. Foreign consumption hopefully will start increasing to make room for more U.S. exports.

The loan program is the main marketing alternative left. However, there are several ways to use the loan. Of course, placing cotton in loan and redeeming it at the adjusted world price (AWP) is common practice. Storage costs are waived to producers when AWP is below loan during the first 10 months only. Or, producers can have their cotton declared not eligible for loan by ASCS and a "POP" payment (marketing loan deficiency payment) accepted. Then,



### COTTON MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Carl Anderson

cotton can be sold or held depending upon market conditions and cash flow needs.

This calls for watching the AWP closely. Remember, the "A" Index is calculated from the lowest five prices quoted from some 11 to 13 growths around the world. At this time, little cotton is being sold in the world market so the quotes have followed U.S. futures prices downward. The AWP is already lower than many expected. It could over-react on the downside early before the main harvest and movement of the crop gets underway.

Foreign acreage reports are unclear; but, it appears

U.S. COTTON					
Crop Year	Acres Million	Bales Million	Price Cents/Lb.	ARP %	Govt. Cost* Mil. \$
1987	10.40	14.76	64.3	25.0	1.786
1988	12.52	15.41	56.6	12.5	0.666
1989	10.59	12.20	66.2	25.0	1.461
1990	12.35	15.50	68.2	12.5	-0.079
1991	14.05	17.61	56.8	5.0	0.382
1992	13.24	16.22	54.6	10.0	1.443
1993**	13.65	??	??	7.5	2.436
1994**	—	—	—	—	2.317

\*Fiscal Year \*\*Estimated  
Source: USDA

acreage will be down and production should be much lower than last year. While these reports are slow to be released, they could turn the world market around on short notice. Be ready to hedge the potential upturn in AWP with

See COTTON, Page 9

## South Plains Ag News

### Free catalogue listing available

ADMORE, Okla. — Cattle producers in Oklahoma, Texas, and adjoining areas are invited to list cattle (available for sale or contract grazing) and/or pasture (available for contract grazing) in an annual catalogue free of charge.

The Admore-based Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, a non-profit organization which has been involved in agricultural consultation and research since 1945, will compile information submitted by producers. The information will be printed in the 1993 "CattleLog," which will be mailed to more than 3,000 agriculture producers, feedlots, commission companies, and auction services later this summer. Individuals listing cattle or pasture in the publication will also receive a copy by mail.

Producers interested in listing cattle or available pastures should contact Roberta Palmer or Sammie Herriott at (405) 223-5810 as soon as possible to obtain the necessary forms.

Individuals or companies wishing to receive the sales list can contact the above personnel at the same number, or write: The Noble Foundation, Attn: Roberta Palmer, P.O. Box 2180, Ardmore, OK 73402.

### Book on calves

A veteran newsman and former managing editor of four daily newspapers, has written and published a book involving millions of dollars and thousands of orphans.

The orphans are baby dairy calves and the book deals with how to buy, raise, medicate and sell the calves, which are raised by thousands of people nationwide and represent a multi-million-dollar enterprise.

The book by Dave Hillsamer is titled, "The Calf Raiser's Handbook." The fourth edition has just rolled off the presses in Sulphur Springs, where the author has resided since 1982.

He served as managing editor of the Sulphur Springs News-Telegram for more than eight years before he became "hooked on calves."

Hillsamer won more than 40 awards for his writing, editorials, photography and layouts during his 28-year journalism career, including a first place award from the Associated Press in 1988 through statewide competition in Texas.

Hillsamer, who has been buying, selling and raising calves, for several years, has a ranch in Hopkins County, which is the second largest dairy producing county in Texas and the fifth largest in the United States.

## Some Texas ranchers raising gators

By CINDY HORSWELL

© 1993 Houston Chronicle

CROSBY — Without any protection, Robert Campbell wades into a darkened silo teeming with alligators. A low hiss sounds from their toothy snouts as the reptiles swarm around his ankles.

Survivors of the dinosaur age, alligators occasionally will bite the hand that feeds them, admits Campbell, president of the Texas Alligator Farmers Association.

He points to a red gouge in one finger where he received 10 stitches after "one recently caught a piece of me."

In a state where cattle operations are legendary, this Texan makes his living raising alligators. He's not the only one doing so.

With 41 people licensed to raise alligators commercially this year in the state, Texas now ranks third behind Louisiana and Florida in the number of gator ranchers.

In his rubber boots, Campbell stomps daily among the alligators to feed them pellets of food and flush and refill each silo with 8 inches of fresh water. Later he will wrestle each one to tape its mouth shut before removing it for processing.

"They like to be bathed, the big babies," he says, hosing down a five-foot reptile at his farm in Crosby, a community of about 16,000 people about 25 miles northeast of Houston.

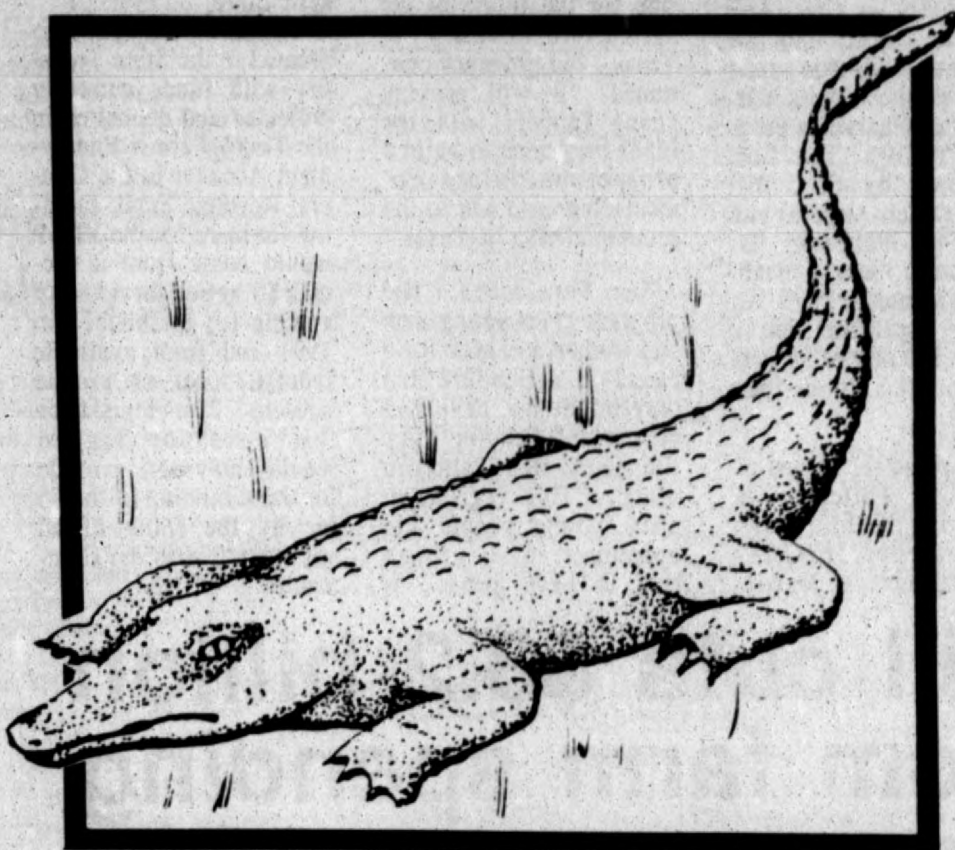
The nocturnal beasts are kept in the dark at a steamy 89 degrees to prevent hibernation. With little sleep, they continuously feed and grow to a marketable 4- to 5-foot length within a year. In the wild, alligators hibernate during the winter and grow more slowly.

At least 10,000 skins — tanned into leather prized for its tough, bumpy texture — are processed annually on Texas alligator farms. The white tail meat is also sold as a delicacy.

Listed as an endangered species in 1973, alligators were upgraded to "threatened" 10 years later. In between, the gator population had multiplied, and reports of alligators invading highways, swimming pools and golf courses had become more frequent. Texas gator farming, as well as a September hunt for those in the wild, was authorized in 1984.

Alligator hides provided a lucrative alternative to cattle ranching or row crops until prices plummeted this year, farmers say.

Today, some farmers are



diversifying or streamlining their operations by processing and even manufacturing leather products themselves. Others are eyeing alligators as tourist attractions.

Farmers miss the prosperity of three years ago, when the hides sold for as much as \$35 a linear foot. Today, they sell for as little as \$12 a foot.

That's barely enough to break even, say two retired longshoremen who began raising 150 alligator hatchlings 18 months ago.

"We're holding onto them until the price goes up, or else we'll eat them ourselves," says Don Dick, one of the partners. "It's frustrating because we paid \$25 a piece for the hatchlings."

Don Ashley, an alligator marketing consultant from Tallahassee, Fla., blames the price drop on a global recession, overproduction and illegal trade in cayman, a smaller crocodilian species from South and Central America.

As for the recession, he says, "Normally, luxury products like this are not affected, but this time we are seeing white-collar layoffs around the world. It has had a chilling effect on our key markets in Europe and Asia."

Experts expect the market to rebound.

"Just like real estate, profits are cyclical, but things will improve," says Ashley.

Texas officials are closely

watching Campbell's operation as a model for others who want to cut costs by taking their skins all the way to a manufactured product.

Campbell raises the hatchlings in heated barns and silos in Crosby and in Louisiana. He has trained employees to skin the alligators without blemishing their valuable hides. The workers also cube, tenderize and vacuum-pack the tail meat, which is sold for \$5 a pound.

He sends his skins to a tannery in Florida.

"Tanning is a secret art handed down through generations, just like the recipe for Coca-Cola. Nobody will reveal the unique formula," he says.

Campbell also owns part of a facility in El Paso, Texas, that dyes the leather and transforms it into products ranging from boots to key chains. The products can be pricey — \$200 wallets and \$600 boots. Some alligator farmers are looking for other ways to capitalize on the novelty of their "crop."

Herbert Oreschnigg and his partners have just opened Gators Galore Ltd. Farm & Park in Texas' Chambers County.

"We want to take advantage of the 30,000 people that attend the annual Gator Fest in September — which celebrates the fact that more wild gators live in this county than people," says Oreschnigg, who charges an entry fee of \$4 a person.

## Management coordinating committee formed

Special to AgReview

USDA Soil Conservation Service

TEMPLE — Gary Westmoreland, assistant state conservationist for water quality and water resources with the USDA-Soil Conservation Service, has announced the recent formation of the Texas Water Management Coordinating Committee.

"This will have far reaching benefits for the people of Texas," Westmoreland said. "It represents the first time in our state's history that all the state and federal agencies, together with input from the private sector, have agreed to work together voluntarily to coordinate the technical aspects of our various water management programs for Texas. This is also the first committee of its kind in the nation."

Westmoreland emphasized this group will not involve itself in policy making to improve the efficiency and the effectiveness

of all our efforts by coordinating our activities," he said.

To illustrate, he mentioned that most of the state and federal agencies dealing with water resources have been developing geographic information systems (GIS) for various watersheds in Texas. "This is a new computer technology," he said. "It involves digitizing the watershed boundaries or hydrologic unit boundaries for watershed-based planning and management. We discovered, for example, that several agencies are doing this, but they're using different techniques. Many times we digitize the same boundary, but with different results. We intend to coordinate our efforts on items like this to make more effective use of the dollars the public has entrusted us with."

More than 30 federal and state agencies joined the committee. "We found that the agencies were eager to share information

and ideas," Westmoreland said. "This represents a new spirit and dedication of both state and federal agencies to try to make the best use of the public dollar."

"We expect that additional state and federal agencies will want to become members of this committee," Westmoreland said. "We extend an open invitation to them to join and work with the group. This represents a great day in Texas history. It will help ensure that we will have agencies that are responsive to the public for the public good about water resources and water resources management in our great state."

Officers for the newly-formed committee, who will serve three year terms, are Gary Westmoreland, chairperson; George Fore, vice chairperson, chairperson of Southwest Range and Wildlife Foundation; and Cheryl A. Hinckley, director-at-large, executive director of the Texas Rural Development Council.

# Richards signs Young Farmer loan guarantee program bill

AUSTIN — Gov. Ann Richards signed into law last week a bill that would establish the Young Farmer Loan Guarantee Program (YFGP). The bill, sponsored by Sen. Bill Sims (D-San Angelo) and Rep. Pete Patterson (D-Brookston), would establish guaranteed loans for eligible applicants not to exceed \$50,000 or 90 percent of the total loan amount.

"I applaud the efforts of Sims and Patterson in sponsoring this bill," Gov. Richards stated. "HB 1287 is a vital piece of legisla-

tion for the future of the agriculture industry in Texas," the governor continued. "It will provide young farmers with the funds they need to build a prosperous future for themselves and add to the economic base of Texas."

Sen. Sims added, "The program gives young men and women a chance for a career in agriculture that they might not have had otherwise." Echoing Sims comments, Rep. Patterson stated, "This legislation gives young people the opportunity to buy enough land to have a base in

agriculture."

The program will be created in the State Treasury with funds currently collected and deposited in the Young Farmer Endowment Account in the General Revenue Fund. Funding for loans for the YFGP would come from a special \$5 agricultural motor vehicle fee established in 1991 and from available federal, local or private sources. The legislation the governor signed would, however, provide for the refunding of the \$5 fee by the filing of an application with the Comptroller's Office.

# Bill cuts \$3.2 billion from farm spending

By ROBERT GREENE

AP Farm Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Agriculture would do its part for deficit reduction under a bill approved by a Senate panel that would cut \$3.2 billion from farm spending over the next five years.

The measure goes beyond cost-cutting — placing restrictions on imported tobacco in cigarettes and taking aim at Canadian wheat and barley imports.

Sen. Richard Lugar tagged the restrictions protectionist, but the agriculture committee approved the bill on a voice vote. Republicans said beforehand they would oppose it. Lugar, R-Ind., is the panel's ranking minority member and also a member of the Foreign Relations committee.

The tobacco provisions, aimed at satisfying domestic growers, would require domestic makers of cigarettes to certify the percentage of imported tobacco in their product. Importers would also have to pay fees to sup-

port the domestic tobacco program.

Cigarette makers have been using more imported tobacco, especially in the budget and generic brands.

AND "END-USE certificates" would be required for Canadian wheat and barley coming into this country to prevent it from being used in food aid programs overseas. Those foreign aid programs are also supposed to boost domestic sales.

Another provision would impose a one-year prohibition on the sale of milk from cows treated with a hormone that increased milk production.

A synthetic version of the hormone awaits approval by the Food and Drug Administration. Dairy state lawmakers oppose the drug largely because they believe it will lead to overproduction, driving smaller operators out of business.

The single-largest savings in the bill would be \$586 million in one year

from changes in the voluntary acreage reduction program, aimed at reducing the supply of corn, other feed grains and wheat.

The bill stops the Agriculture Secretary from using the lack of an international trade agreement as a reason to take land out of the program and put it into production.

OTHER large savings would be gained by overhauling the federal crop insurance program; putting fewer erodible acres in a conservation program; limiting the acreage and extending the time for putting land into a wetlands conservation program.

Spending would be further curtailed for the highly criticized Market Promotion Program. The program gives private companies and commodity groups money to promote U.S. goods overseas.

States would have to pay more to administer the food stamp program, and recreation fees would be charged at national forests.

# Cargill facilities to donate \$2,500 to Hale County Literacy Program

Area Cargill facilities will donate a total of \$2,500 to the Hale County Literacy Council to further encourage literacy in the area. The facilities include the Cargill Grain Division, Cargill Hybrid Seeds and Excel Corporation. Organized in 1986, the Hale County Literacy Program provides one-on-one instruction to adults seeking to improve their reading and writing skills.

Plainview was one of 20 Cargill sites chosen from 98 nominees to receive a \$1,000 Cargill Cares Award for developing an outstanding program as part of the Cargill/American Library Association (ALA) Partnership for Family Literacy. The Plainview-area employees jointly sponsored a Family Literacy Fair and helped build new office space for the Literacy Council.

"Our plant is to let this

be only a starting point in a long-term commitment to supporting literacy in the Plainview area," said John Zietz, Cargill Grain Division manager. Richard Larsen, Cargill Hybrid Seeds manager, added that "Cargill employees from all divisions have been pulling together on community involvement and the results of their efforts are showing up with awards like this."

ANOTHER \$1,500 was awarded to the Plainview Excel by the Cargill Meat Sector in recognition for the facility's excellent volunteer efforts and commitment to local literacy efforts. "This additional money will go a long way to support literacy in our community," said Steve Mellinger, excel general manager.

Cargill Grain and Cargill Hybrid Seeds are divi-

sions of Minneapolis, Minn.-based Cargill. Excel is a subsidiary of Cargill and is headquartered in Wichita, Kan.

## Weed is now a salad item

WASHINGTON (AP) — Today's weed could become tomorrow's "designer green" if the newly discovered nutritional value of a plant called purslane catches the fancy of health-conscious Americans.

The crop-crowding plant grows all over the United States, even in poor soils with little water, and its seeds have been found to survive for 40 years.

Although it has been the bane of farmers everywhere for years, the Department of Agriculture said recently that new research has proved purslane to be richer than spinach.

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Come by and have free Barbecue during our next sale.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 29th**  
Sale begins at 11 a.m.

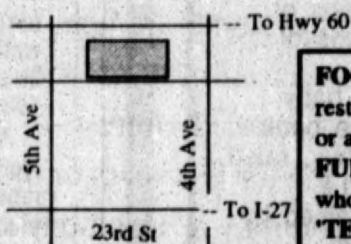
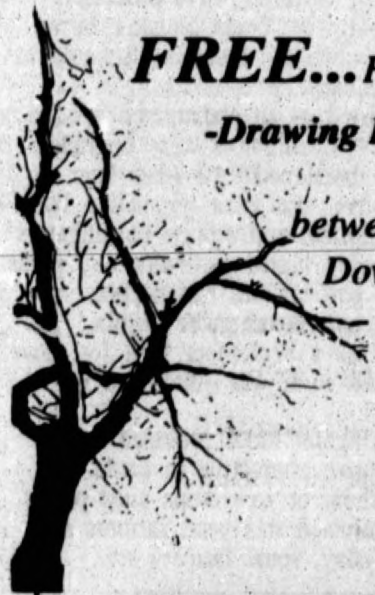
Live from the Clovis Livestock Auction  
Register to win a pair of boots or a \$300 hat

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**-Drawing Held Weekly- Register at Participating Merchants each Thursday Evening**

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The  Square

**STEVENS FLOWERS AND COUNTRY ROOM** - Since 1937 ... Flowers for all occasions, unique gift items, push-balloons and collectibles. "Around The Square" in Canyon - 509 16th St, 655-3451.

**GAMBLES FRAME AND ART** - Prints, paintings, Danny Gamble originals and prints, custom framing and hand thrown pottery. "Around The Square" in Canyon - 414 15th St, 655-7323.

**TWEEDLEDEE** - Unique and distinctive apparel and gifts: Newborn girls to 24 months, girls toddler, 4 - 6x, 7 - 14, preteen, and ladies sizes. "Around The Square" in Canyon - 1601 4th Ave, 655-4771.

**CANYON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** - Maps and Information: Stop By ... "Around The Square" in Canyon, 1600 4th Ave, 655-1183

**TEXAS OUTBACK** - Frame House and Gallery: Custom Framing, Needle work Framing, shadowboxes... Prints and Limited Editions. "Around The Square in Canyon" 1610 4th Ave, 655-1021.

**DOWN HOME** - "Creating Tomorrow's Memories Today" A Unique Offering of Antiques and Collectibles. "Around The Square in Canyon" 1517 4th Ave, 655-1021.

**THEN N NOW ANTIQUE MALL** - Furniture, Glassware, Country Collectibles, Primitives... Buy, Sell, Trade. And, **THE GREENHOUSE** - Complete Garden Center. "Around The Square in Canyon" 1707 5th Ave, 655-2525.

**BRAND NEW 1993 MODEL** 6'x16' gooseneck trailer, slant nose. \$3,150.00. 655-3341.

**FOOD** - Some of the best restaurants in Canyon are on or around the square.  
**FUN** - Regular events for the whole family.  
**TEXAS' Box Office** - Tickets & reservations.  
**ACCOMODATIONS** - Bed & Breakfast Inns  
**STUDIOS & GALLERYS** - Both Artists-In-Residence and Galleries representing the best of local and area artists: sculpture, painting, pottery, wood carving, weaving, saddle making.  
**FARMERS MARKET** - Local produce starting July 6.  
**PULSE & BANKING SERVICES** • BUS SERVICE



# Few gifts actually improve with age. Your bank sells one of them.



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## Car show entries needed

The Dimmitt Alumni Technology Association (DATA) will sponsor its annual Car Show and Swap Meet Aug. 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. as a part of the annual Harvest Days activities in Dimmitt.

Three trophies are given in each of the 16 classes of competition, and a People's

Choice Award is given show-wide. Entry deadline is Aug. 1 and the fee is \$10 per entry. Late entries must pay an additional \$10 each.

The entry fee includes two gate passes. Dash plaques are provided for each entry, and a meal is provided for drivers. Entries are encouraged to enter the Harvest Days Parade, with line-up time set at 9 a.m.

Car classifications for judging will include street rod, early antique (up to 1932), late antique (1933-1949), classics from the '50s, classics from the '60s, classics from the '70s, muscle cars, Mustangs, Camaros, late truck (stock up to '73), early truck (stock), early truck modified, late truck modified, mini-trucks, special interest, and motorcycles.

Admission for viewing the show will be \$3 for adults, \$1 for children ages 7-12, and free for ages 6 and under. All attending may vote for the People's Choice Award winner. The show will be held in the parking lot of the First State Bank of Dimmitt.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Gary Bruegel Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The show also will feature a swap meet. Swap meet booths and vendor booths will be available for \$15 each if registered by Aug. 1. The late fee is an additional \$10.

Also, DATA will hold a model car contest with two divisions of competition. For a \$2 fee per entry, model-makers can enter the youth division for those up to age 12 or the adult division for ages 13 and up.

## Arts, crafts show set

The annual Harvest Days celebration set for Castro County Aug. 13-14 in Dimmitt will include a display of arts, crafts and commercial booths at the Expo building.

Exhibitors may reserve a 10' by 12' space with a table and two chairs for only \$35. A refund of \$5 will be given upon cleanup of the booth after the show. Booth holders are asked to clear the booth area of trash and place the table and chairs back on the racks.

A limited number of electrical outlets are available, but exhibitors must provide their own extension cords.

Booths may be set up from 1 to 5 p.m. Aug. 12 or at 8 a.m. Aug. 13. A watchman will be on duty the evening of Aug. 13. Booths should be cleared from 5 to 6 p.m. Aug. 14.

Food booths must be approved by the Fair Committee. Also, no silly string or stink bombs are allowed to be sold.

Spaces will be available in the main Expo building, in a quonset barn, and outdoors, with each space priced at \$35. Large outdoor spaces will have a negotiable price.

Exhibit hours will be 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Aug. 13 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 14.

## Rodeo slated

The Dimmitt Roping Club will sponsor its fourth annual Rodeo Aug. 13-14 in conjunction with the annual Castro County Harvest Days celebration.

Books on the rodeo entries will open Aug. 9 at 10 a.m., continuing through Aug. 10 at noon. Entry may be made by calling 817-592-4202. The Local Events Register will be Aug. 8 from 2 to 6 p.m. by calling Scott and Suanne Bagley at 647-4780.

Events with a \$50 entry fee will include bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, calf roping, bull riding, steer wrestling, and girls' breakaway roping. The entry fee for barrel racing will be \$45; and team roping will be \$100 per team.

Local events will include county team roping (open to

county residents only) with an entry fee of \$24 per team; and steer riding for age 14 and under. On Aug. 12, a team roping will be held with no pre-registration required, and with three for \$24 progressive on one.

Stock producer for the event will be Blackwell Rodeo Co., which is TRCA approved.

Rodeo Queen and Princess candidates will be selling admission tickets in advance for \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12. Tickets at the gate will cost \$5 for adults and \$3 for those under 12.

### VEHICLES

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**MUST SELL!** '93 Mercury Sable GS, 4-door, automatic transmission, air conditioning, power mirrors, power windows, power door locks, power seat, AM/FM stereo cassette. No old contract to assume, no back payments to make. Just need responsible party to make reasonable monthly payments. Call Doug Bolt in the Credit Dept., Friona Motors, 806/247-2701. 14-1tc/ccn

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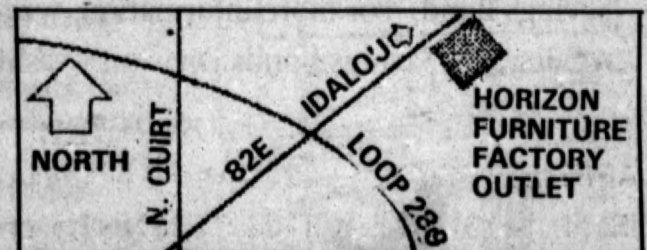
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# Farm Bureau: Agriculture comes out of session OK

## Special to AgReview

Texas Farm Bureau

AUSTIN — While Texas Farm Bureau fared well in the 73rd session of the Texas Legislature, there remains a lot of unfinished business, TFB State Director Bill Powers said.

"It is rewarding to look back on the just completed session and review the important legislative accomplishments that Farm Bureau influenced," Powers stated. "But it's already time to begin looking at needed changes in the next session and the political races (1994) that will be here sooner than we realize."

Joe Maley, TFB public affairs director, agreed.

"We did a lot, but there's a lot still to be done," he said.

Maley called the Edwards

Aquifer dispute "a major, controversial and complex issue that the legislature was forced to deal with, and a very big issue for agriculture."

WHILE THE outcome of SB 1477 was not totally acceptable to agriculture, Maley acknowledged that the Texas Legislature had no choice but to address it because of a pending federal lawsuit.

Also of major importance to cotton producers was the boll weevil eradication legislation, Maley noted.

"The boll weevil eradication program, a big ticket item for cotton producers over a period of several years, should greatly decrease their dependency on chemicals, therefore, lowering their input costs," the TFB public

affairs director pointed out. "There will be a fall producer vote on the issue," he added.

Governor Richards responded to cotton industry leaders, TFB among them, by signing the bill midway in the session.

Another piece of legislation scoring a victory for agriculture, according to Maley, was a new law which raises the weight limits for farm trailers.

"INCREASED weight limits for farm trailers and farm semi-trailers will represent considerable savings to agriculture producers," he advised.

The TFB-backed Product Disparagement Bill, however, which would have challenged unscientific claims about the safety of foods and other agricultural products, didn't

make it. The issue, Maley believes, should remain a high priority.

"It will be addressed in future legislation," he said.

Several other key bills adopted were as follows:

- HB 288: Sets penalties for criminal trespass on land where crops are grown. Farmers with edible crops do not have to give oral or written communication, fence the property, or post signs for the property to be legally posted before the owner can file trespass charges against those entering the property without permission.

- HB 334: Known as the "nursery stock weather protection unit" bill, the law sets guidelines for certain devices used to protect nursery stock, the registration and inspec-

tion of these devices for commercial purposes.

- HB 461: Creates the Blanco County Underground Water Conservation District.

- HB 644: Annual registration of certain farm trailers and farm semi-trailers.

- HB 1216: Validates the creation of the Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District.

- HB 1269: Established a young farmer loan guarantee program and sets the guidelines for its funding.

- S 609: Provides for a uniform statewide pesticide regulatory program by specifying the types of activities that local governments can and cannot engage in. The law counteracted U.S. Supreme Court action which said local entities could set their pesticide standards unless states adopt a general

statute.

AN IMPORTANT victory for Farm Bureau was an amendment to the Insurance Code whereby TFB can again solicit voluntary contributions with membership renewals.

"We need the voluntary AGFUND contributions to help elect conservatives from both political parties," Powers said.

The state affairs director had special thanks for the county Farm Bureau leaders who were involved in the legislative process.

"No matter how hard working the Austin legislative team, our efforts could not be successful without the support from TFB's members, officers and directors, and the help and support from other TFB departments and divisions," Powers said.

## Officials say emu industry exploding

By SUSAN HIGHTOWER

AP Business Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Emu ranchers meeting at the American Emu Association convention in Dallas say prices for the flightless birds have gone through the roof as the bird's breeding market has grown.

Some of the 2,000 enthusiasts at the convention said recently they are optimistic the breeder's market will make the transition to a commercial industry, and do it within the next decade or less. But they admit they have a long way to go.

Emu meat is not now sold in grocery stores and can only be found in a very few restaurants, mostly expensive ones. Other emu products are equally rare.

Those in the industry estimate there are perhaps 50,000 emus nationwide. But Pierce Allman, the association's executive director, and others calculate that about 3 million of the birds would be required to support a commercial industry if each American eats only a quarter-pound of emu meat per year.

Taking even 1 percent of the American meat market, not considering exports, would

require 30 million emus, Allman said.

"RIGHT NOW, it's the breeder market that's driving the industry, and the desire of the breeders is a long-term commitment," Allman said. "Obviously, the returns in the breeder market and the escalating prices of the birds sooner or later have to hit some sort of acknowledged plateau."

"The industry has simply exploded in the last year. And I think we're trying to begin getting an idea of what the industry can be, what we need to do to have the necessary infrastructure, to reinvest for the long haul," he said.

The ostrich-like brownish birds, native to Australia, stand 5 to 6 feet tall and weigh up to 150 pounds as adults. They are particularly valued for their meat, oil, hide and feathers.

Emu ranchers hope a market will grow for the red meat, which tastes similar to roast beef but is lower in cholesterol and fat, and the rich, penetrating oil, for use in cosmetics and pharmaceutical products.

Today, emu chicks 3 to 4 months old sell for around \$3,000-\$4,500 each, while a proven breeding pair goes for some \$25,000-\$40,000, All-

man said. That's up about a third in the past year alone, he said.

WITH EACH pair producing an average of around 20 chicks each year, emu ranchers say the dollars can add up rapidly.

Barbara Powell said her 3-year-old Chuck-Bar Emu Ranch in West Point, Ga., made enough money during the first laying season to recoup an initial \$20,000 investment. Within two years, the ranch was supporting Mrs. Powell and her husband.

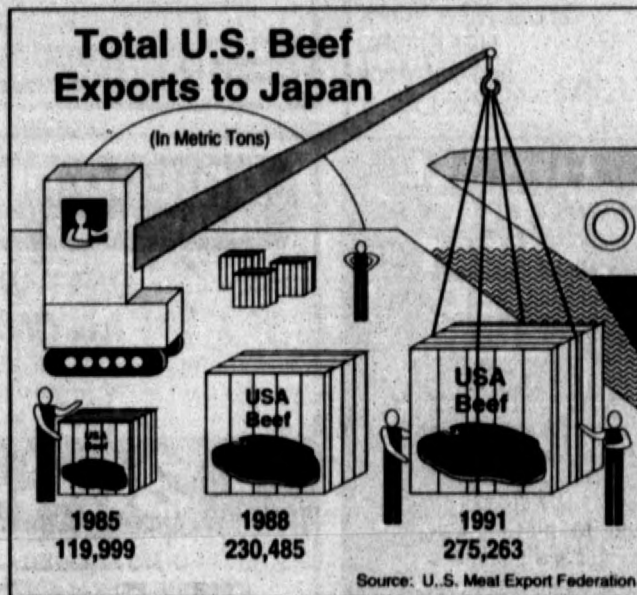
"It's very easy," she said. "It's really growing faster than we can produce birds."

Small farmers and ranchers say the birds are appealing because they require only about 2,000 square feet per breeding pair.

"The potential for the emu is so great in comparison to raising cattle. You take a few acres and you're going to do barley or beef or cotton — it's just no comparison as to what you can produce because of the amount of reproduction of the emu," said Joan Taylor, who was elected president of the American Emu Association on Thursday.

MRS. TAYLOR plans to have about 50 laying pairs of emus this year on her exotic species Taylor Saddle Mountain Ranch in Campwell, Texas.

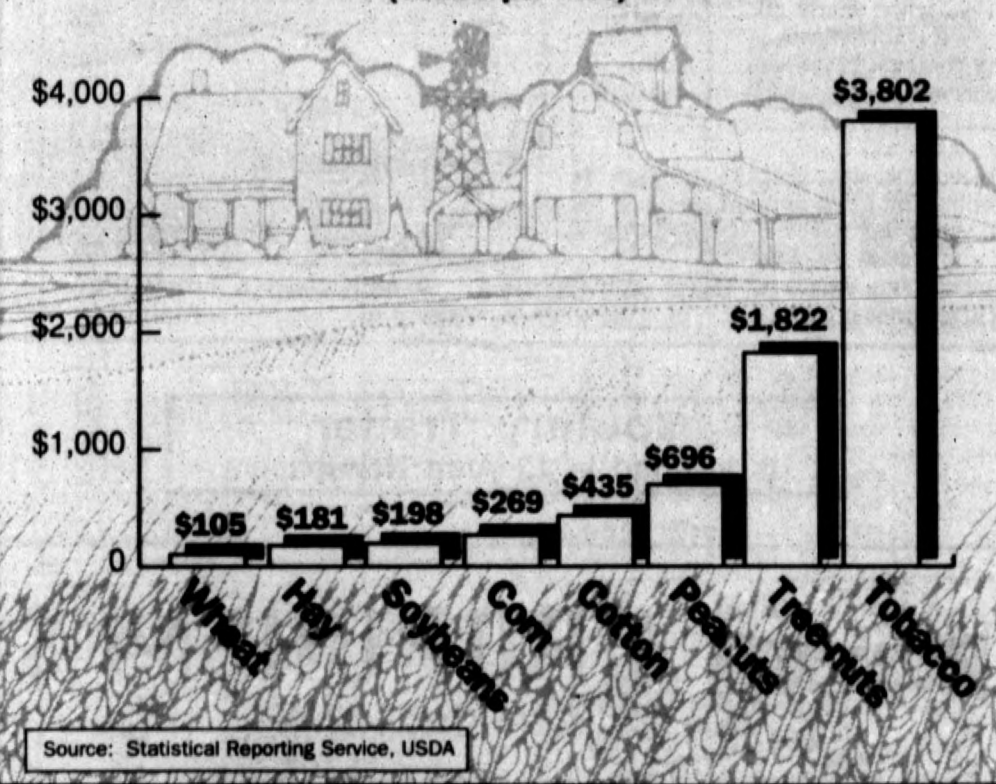
"The breeder market is here now. The slaughter market will come, and that's when the prices will come down because the supply has met the demand," she said. "Even when that slaughter market (comes) is when people can still make a good living out of the bird if they can work in numbers."



Graphic: Agricultural Communications, The Texas A&M System

## Farm Value per Acre for Selected Crops 1991

(dollars per acre)



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## Cotton export growing in Mexico

Although Mexico hasn't grown much cotton in the past few years, it is rapidly becoming a big export market for U.S. cotton producers.

"Mexico currently produces about 150,000 bales a year," says Dean Turner, vice president of international marketing for Cotton Incorporated. "It is a market that has proven it can consume one million bales per year."

TURNER SAID U.S. cotton exports to Mexico this year should hit a record 600,000 bales, or about 10 percent of total U.S. cotton exports. Cotton Incorporated is keeping a close eye on the Mexican market and recently named Michael Rodriguez as director of Latin American markets.

"In Mexico right now, we are roughly talking about one million bales of

fiber consumption for about 80 million people," says Turner. "Here in the U.S., it's about 10 million bales for 255 million people. Our job is to maintain our share of the export market there, while helping their textile industry grow."

## Excel honored for literacy work

Excel-Plainview's Community Literacy Partnership Program was among 15 Meat Sector literacy efforts recently recognized by Cargill for their significant volunteer efforts encouraging solutions to illiteracy.

Excel-Plainview's literacy committee joined with Cargill Seed and Cargill Grain to initiate community literacy through Hale County Literacy Council.

Two literacy fairs have been held with over 1,000 people participating.

The committee also spearheaded the construction of a new literacy room at the Unger Memorial Library. Members of the committee are: Chairman Rose Madrid, Lisa Byers, David Mojica, David Cerda, Mary Rayner, Joe Ruffatto, Larry Shackelford, Luther Morales and Regina Tihfon.

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# COTTON

From Page 2

call options. If the market appears to be moving up early this fall, teh calls may be based on March, May or July futures depending on premiums and outlook. History shows that a big crop brings the lowest prices early in the harvest season.

The 18.9 million bale crop in 1937 was grown on 34 million acres. The price averaged 8.7 cents per pound, down from 12.3 cents the year before. Interestingly, inflation since the depression era makes today's loan rate prices, adjusted for inflation, to have less than half the buying power that the 1937 cotton price had. However, improved technology has increased productivity. Yields then averaged 270 pounds per acre versus today's 700 pounds.

Producers face a major challenge to plant only enough acreage to meet demand at home and abroad. When they miss and produce an abundance of cotton, as they have for the past two years, the penalty is a price below production

costs. This causes severe financial hardships for most growers and government costs escalate. A workable system that annually adjusts acreage sufficiently to meet demand and still not overproduce continues to evade producers.

With U.S. stocks-to-use well above the 30 percent target, ARP for the 1994-95 crop should aim for about 12.0-12.5 million acres planted. Considering the huge stockpile of cotton and the flex program that allows up to 25 percent of acreage into cotton, the ARP announced by Nov. 1 may be 15 percent or more.

Following the 1990 Farm Bill, cotton acreage was 14.0 million in 1991, 13.24 in 1992 and 13.65 this season. The ARPs were 5 percent, 10 percent and 7.5 percent. Meanwhile, government costs have increased from \$382 million in fiscal 1991 to \$1.443 billion in 1992, 2.44 billion in 1993 and an estimated cost of \$2.32 billion in 1994. Low ARPs are associated with more cotton acreage, lower prices and higher government costs.

*(Dr. Carl Anderson, Cotton Marketing Specialist with the Texas A&M Extension, is a noted authority on the cotton markets)*

# Hopper wins scholarship

PETERSBURG — Courtney Hopper, daughter of Ronnie and Melinda Hopper of Petersburg, has won a \$10,000, four-year Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo 4-H scholarship. Courtney was valedictorian of her senior class, a member of 4-H for three

years and was active in foods and nutrition and clothing programs.

She plans to major in nutritional sciences at Texas A&M university and was one of 50 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo 4-H scholarship recipients.

# WOMEN

From Page 2

long hours — it's seven days a week; it's not a pleasant environment. It's a tough job."

Nevertheless, Kleberg said he would never discourage women from working as ranch hands.

"They do a much better job than men with the horses. They're gentle.

# Corn plantings may increase

Texas farmers are expected to plant about 2 million acres of corn this year, a 14 percent increase over the 1.75 million acres planted in 1992, according to the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service.

Nationwide, corn acres are projected at 76.5 million acres, a 4 percent drop from 1992 when nearly 80 million acres were planted.

Grain sorghum plantings are expected to be down heavily in Texas. About 3.3 million acres of sorghum are projected, compared to 4.75 million in 1992.

Last year's huge Texas milo crop resulted after large numbers of cotton acres failed due to cool, wet weather.

This year's crop is similar to 1991, when about 3.2 million milo acres were planted. Nationally, milo acres should top 11.2 million, down from 13.2 million last year.

Typically, a man will try and use strength to overcome where a woman will use finesse," Kleberg added.

Mrs. Myrick, who has worked at King Ranch four years, grew up on a dairy farm in Jouranton. Before she came to Kingsville, she worked on a ranch in Gonzalez.

"Here, you just do what everybody does. There's no discrimination here," Mrs. Myrick said. "People aren't looking at you if you're a boy or a girl. You've got to be able to do the job."

It was Mrs. Myrick who inspired Ms. Haegelin to work as a ranch hand. The

two met in Gonzalez, where Ms. Haegelin's father worked. He now is a unit manager at the King Ranch.


"I'm around 10 guys all day long, and I have to put up with a lot of stuff — the talking dirty and the cussing," Ms. Haegelin said. "They don't open doors for you out here. You can't really expect to be treated as a woman as long as you're doing this. You're doing a man's job and you have to expect to be treated as one."

Mrs. Pakebusch said seeing her husband ride the horses all day, then watching Ms. Haegelin enter the cowboy's world spurred her to begin riding on the

weekends with the ranch hands.

Now she works full time in the feed yard office during the week and rides on the weekends. Her husband is feed yard foreman at the King Ranch.

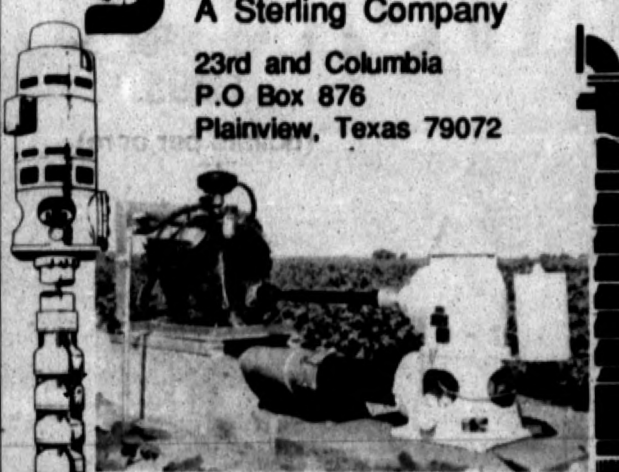
"I was raised in the country. I've always had a love of horses and that's how I got started," Mrs. Pakebusch said. "I saw Stefanie out there riding and I thought if she could do it, I could do it."



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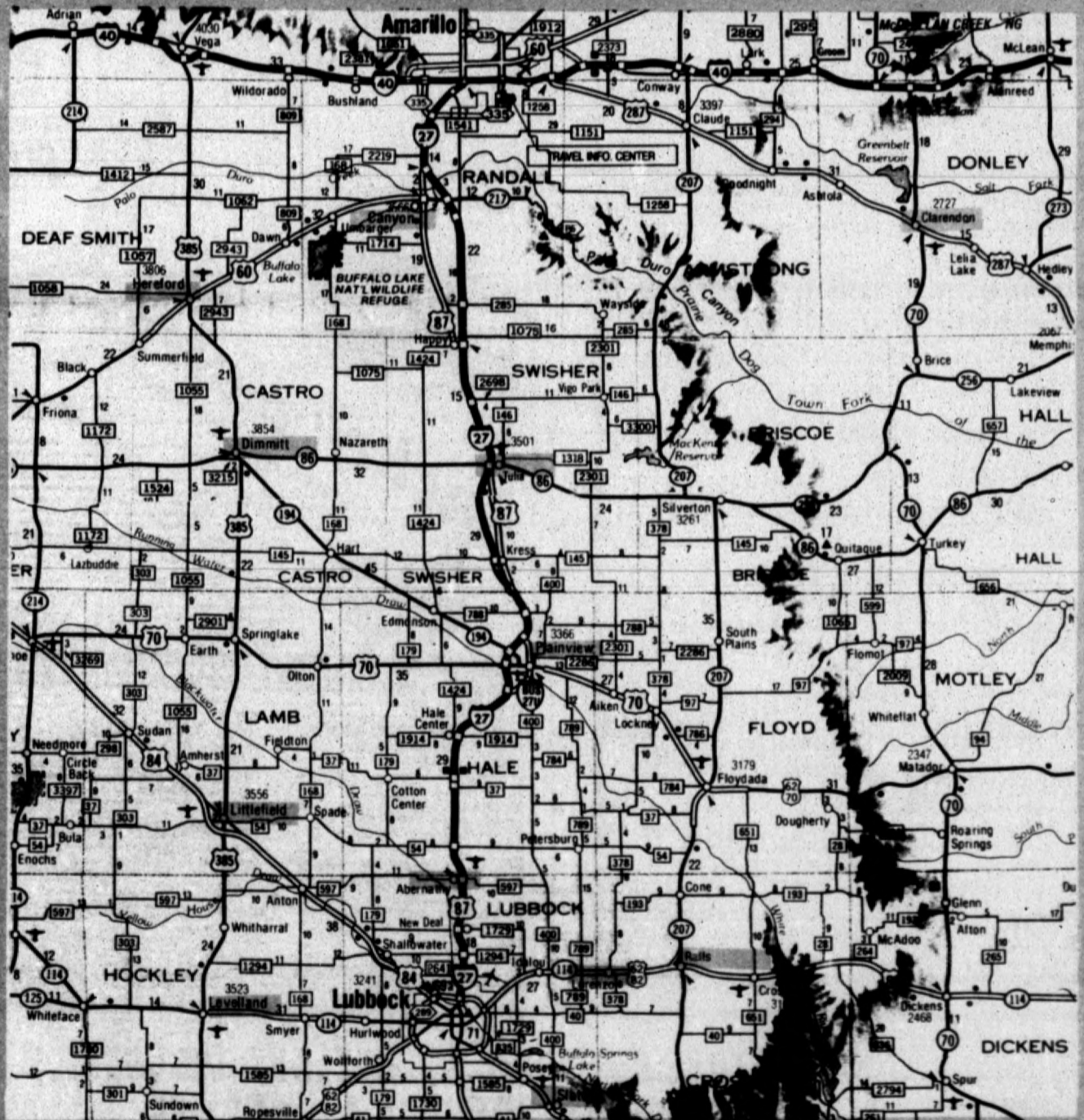
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