

# WEST TEXAS Country Trader

The West Texas Country Trader is a supplement of:

Thursday, July 15, 1993

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

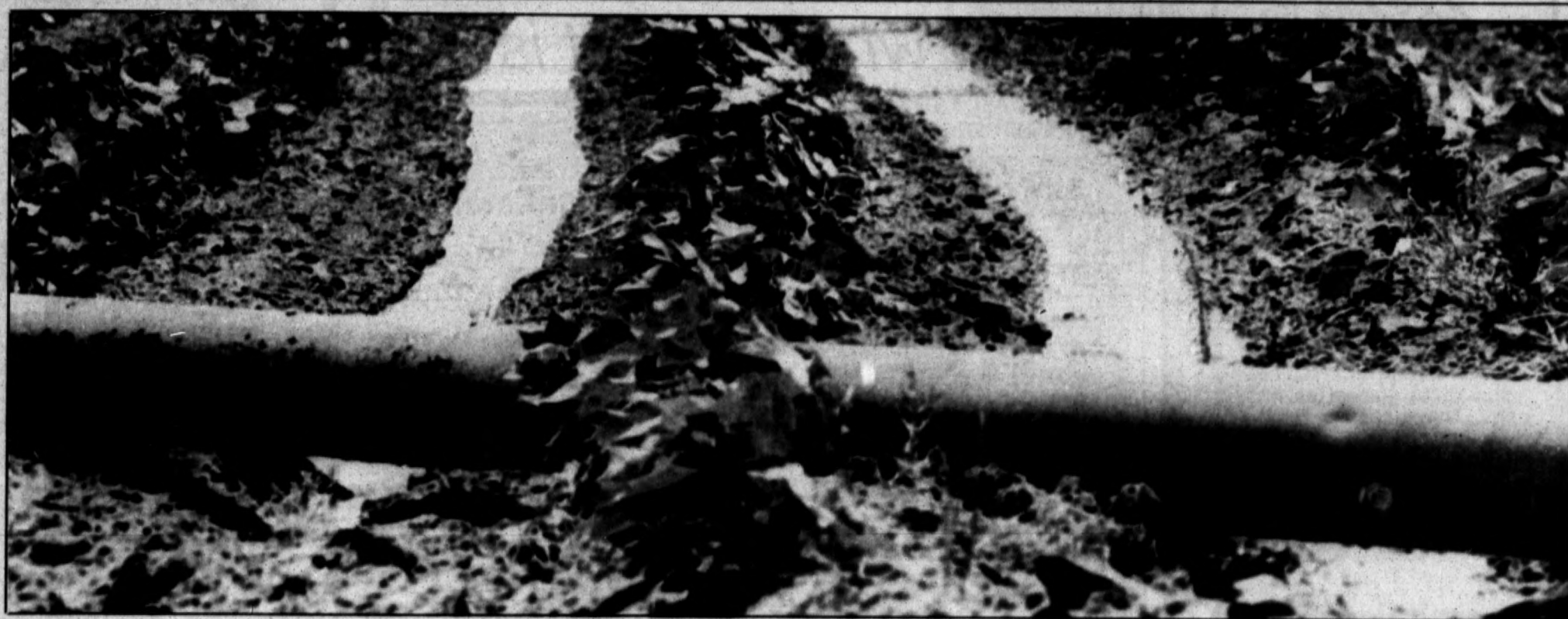
**CLARENDON NEWS**  
Clarendon, Tx - Donley County  
**CASTRO COUNTY NEWS**  
Dimmit, Tx - Castro County

**HEREFORD BRAND**  
Hereford, Tx - Deaf Smith County  
**HOCKLEY COUNTY NEWS**  
Levelland, Tx - Hockley County

**LAMB COUNTY LEADER**  
Littlefield, Tx - Lamb County  
**LORENZO EXAMINER**  
Lorenzo, Tx - Crosby County

**PLAINVIEW DAILY HERALD**  
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**ROLLS REPORTER-NEWS**  
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**SLATON SLATONITE**  
Slaton, Tx - Lubbock County  
**TULIA HERALD**  
Tulia, Tx - Swisher County



## Cool drink on a hot, windy day

South Plains farmers are fighting heat stress on cotton this month by applying irrigation at key times. Cotton is said to be in excellent shape.

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**FOR SALE:** 1990 white Dodge Caravan Cargo Van, 3.3 liter engine, automatic with air. \$7,450. Worley Welding Works. (806) 894-7701. Levelland.

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## AUCTION JULY 21, 1993

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

LOCATION: 1/4 Block North Past Railroad Tracks on Hwy 385 In Littlefield

### Consignment Sale

Tractors, Trucks, Pick-ups, Combines, Farm Equipment, Cattle Equipment, Antique Cars & Pick-ups, Etc

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# AgReview



## Calendar Ag News

July 17

**TRACTOR 'PEDAL PULLING'** — A new event, tractor pedal-pulling, will be on the card of activities slated for Swisher County Picnic Day on Saturday, July 17.

Pedal pulling pits youths age 6 to 13 against each other. They attempt to pedal a tractor, pulling a sled as far as they possibly can on a straightaway. It resembles tractor pulls featuring the full-size farm machines and is sponsored by Cargill Hybrid Seed Division.

Other Swisher Picnic activities include the parade. A kiddies parade begins at 10 a.m. followed by the general parade.

The picnic theme is "Hats Off to Swisher County."

Opening the nine days of festivities, July 10-17, will be roping competition at Cobb-Wheeler-Mote Arena on Saturday and Sunday, July 10-11.

July 17

**SEAGRAVES DAYS** — The Texas Plains Chapter of the Two-Cylinder Club will bring the sounds of the Old Poppin Johnnie to Seagraves residents celebrating their annual community event.

July 17

**CHILDRESS PICNIC & REUNION** — Jim Parker will head up the event, which includes spotlighting old tractors.

July 17

**SWISHER COUNTY PICNIC** — A parade at 10 a.m. and the traditional noon barbecue will highlight this annual celebration. Old tractors will be part of the parade, which begins lining up at 9 a.m.

## Hard white wheat is in short supply

By MICHAEL BATES  
Associated Press Writer

**W**ICHITA, Kan — Hard white wheat is catching on so well there isn't enough to meet demand.

"It looks like our surplus has changed to a shortage until harvest of 1994," said Kent Symns, general manager of the Atchison-based American White Wheat Producers Association.

"There's been a surge of interest," he said. "We're having to be selective in what we promise people."

Flowers Baking Co. in Thomasville, Ga., is making whole wheat bread from hard white wheat and distributing it to grocery stores from El Paso, Texas, to Norfolk, Va.

Dillons Stores began selling such bread at its 61 outlets in Kansas in 1989. Recently, the chain debuted fresh never-refrigerated white wheat tortillas.

Tyson, a major food processor, is using white wheat tortillas in its "Mexican Originals" line of foods.

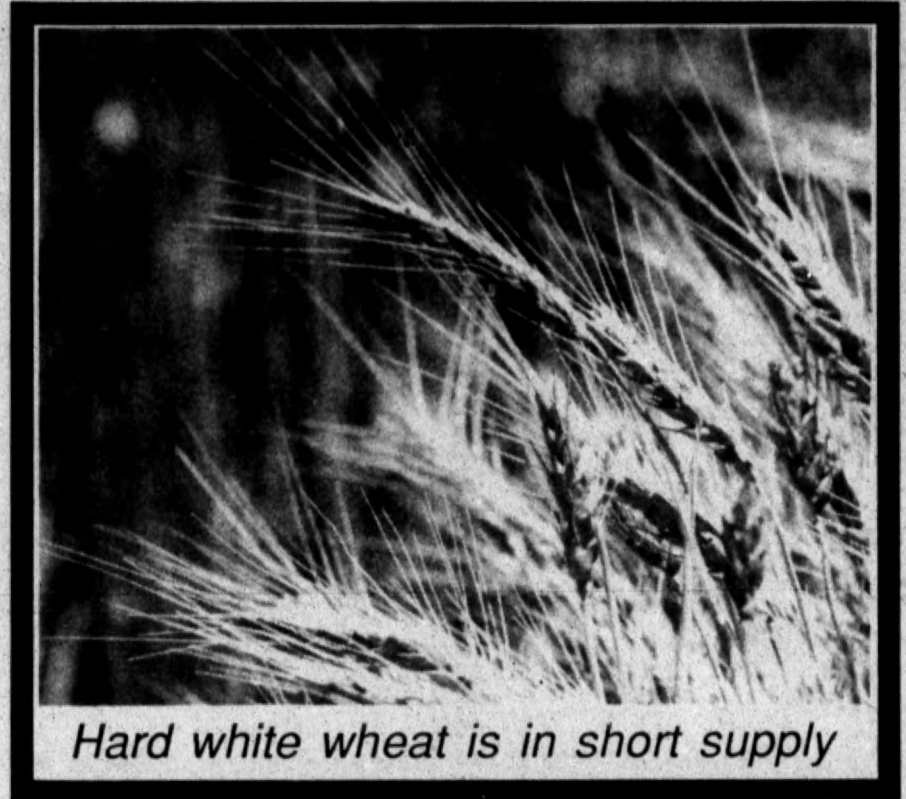
A Texas baking company, one of the big five nationally, plans to come out with a white wheat bread soon.

For almost 120 years, Kansas farmers have grown hard red winter wheat from seed first brought to the United States by Russian Mennonites. But the color of the wheat kernel was chance.

"If they had brought over Turkey white winter wheat — if there were such a thing — that's what we'd be growing today," said Gary Paulsen of Kansas State University.

Red wheats have a bitter bran coating, which means whole wheat products made from them require the addition of substantial amounts of sugar or other sweeteners.

Hard white wheat retains the desirable bread-baking properties of



Hard white wheat is in short supply

its red cousin but without the bitter bran. That means more bran containing more protein can be included in flour from white wheat, and less sweetening is needed. Leaving more bran in the milling mix also means higher volumes of flour.

And the leftover bran, since it doesn't have a bitter taste, can be used in cereals and other human foods. Red wheat bran mostly goes to livestock feed.

AWWPA began in 1988 and by the next year had about 150 members. The first large-scale Kansas hard white wheat plantings covered about 2,000 acres that produced less than 70,000 bushels.

The association now has 150 members, mostly in Kansas. About 200,000 bushels of hard white wheat were raised in Kansas last year. Harvest 1994 should yield at least 3 million bushels if AWWPA acreage recruitment efforts succeed, Symns said.

AWWPA also has producer-members in Oklahoma, Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming.

Producers are promised a 30-cent per bushel premium over local cash prices for their white wheat. They must join AWWPA and pay \$100 per 100 acres of production. Eventually, the AWWPA, which is a marketing cooperative, will drop the premium and instead pay back profits to its members based on sales of raw wheat, flour and possibly other products.

There are still some white wheat production and marketing problems to be worked out, however.

Symns said AWWPA is moving cautiously from mostly western Kansas growers to producers in the wetter eastern half of the state. But the same compounds that give red wheat kernels their color help prevent sprouting in wet conditions. Most white wheats don't have much

See WHEAT, Page 5

## Farmers turn wells into 'dry' fire hydrants

By CARMON McCAIN

High Plains Underground Water District No. 1

**LUBBOCK** — An easily-accessible, reliable water source can make the difference between success and failure for volunteer fire departments battling grass and/or structural fires in rural areas.

Several Lynn County organizations, with the assistance of the Texas Forest Service and the Wes-Tex Resource Conservation and Development Board (WT RC&D), are working to make rural water sources more accessible to firefighters in their county.

A **DRY FIRE HYDRANT** installation in Lynn County was demonstrated to news media and other interested parties on December 17, 1992. The hydrant is adjacent to U.S. 87, just south of the Lubbock/Lynn County line. It is located on land owned by Nell Church and farmed by D.J., Doug and Lance Hlavaty (4-H Farms).

Dry fire hydrants are non-pressurized pipe systems that can be installed in permanent water bodies such as ponds, lakes or perennial streams. Pumpers from volunteer fire departments can use water directly from a dry hydrant.

Area rural firefighters have had only limited capabilities to draw off runoff water collected in playa basins during wet years.

"In the 16-county Wes-Tex RC&D area, we do not have many reliable natural bodies of surface water that can be used for the traditional dry hydrant," said Dan Henson, WT RC&D Coordinator.

**IN THE PAST**, agricultural producers have graciously allowed firemen to tap into their irrigation wells for water, but there were still problems getting water to the tanker trucks.

"Then, the Wes-Tex sponsors came up with the idea of adapting an electric irrigation well for use as a rural fire hydrant," said Henson.

John Edwards of New Home adapted the pump discharge equipment at the Lynn County site by adding a two and a half foot long pipe, two gate valves and an in-line standard fire hose connection. Firefighters simply attach a hose to the connection and turn the valves to allow water to flow into the tanker truck.

**IT IS PAINTED** red for easy identification by firefighters. A small area next to the hydrant has been paved to

allow access to the site in wet weather.

"The demonstration showed that the new system is going to work beautifully," said Greg Henley, a volunteer firefighter with the Tahoka Fire Department. Farmers have been very cooperative when asked if this type of hydrant can be installed on their property.

Future hydrants are to be located in areas of Lynn County where locating water supplies for firefighting have proven to be a problem for firefighters.

"I hope we never have to use this hydrant -- but I'm sure glad it's there," said one bystander at the news conference.

**THE LYNN COUNTY** installation is the first for the Resource Conservation and Development Board. The organization received a grant from the Texas Forest Service to fund four dry hydrants in select areas of Lynn County. The Texas Forest Service has expressed interest in developing similar sites throughout the Panhandle area. The dry hydrant installation is cosponsored by 4-H Farms, Lynn County churches, and the Lynn County Commissioners' Court, as well as the Texas Forest Service and Wes-Tex RC&D.

South Plains

Ag  
News

July 24 &amp; 25

**SECOND ANNUAL AMARILLO TRUCK & TRACTOR SHOW** — The event will be centered at the Travelodge East, 3205 I-40 East.

July 24 &amp; 25

**WESTERNWHEATLAND GREEN & YELLOW EXPO** — Old tractor buffs from Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma will gather for a salute to the old tractor. Featured model this year is the John Deere Model D. Machines from 1923, 24 still needed. Jim Cole, Rt. 2, Selling, OK, 73663, is show coordinator.

Narrow row  
cotton guide  
is available

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A special guide is now available from the National Cotton Council to help cotton producers who are making or considering making the transition from 40-inch rows to a narrow row production system.

The "Narrow Row Cotton Handbook," a component of the Council's Cotton Physiology Education Program (CPEP), can be obtained at no charge by contacting Pat Yearwood, National Cotton Council, P.O. Box 12285, Memphis, TN 38182 (901) 274-9030.

The handbook was authored by former Council staffer Kater Hake, now a Texas A&M cotton specialist based in Lubbock, and published by BASF Corporation, which sponsors CPEP with a grant to The Cotton Foundation.

"The manual was designed to serve two purposes," says Denny O'Neal, BASF's market manager for cotton. "For farmers already planting narrow row, the information may help them further optimize the system. For growers still considering going to narrow row, this book discusses making the transition and what to expect."

The chapters in the 23-page booklet include soil and tillage operations, stand establishment, early season management and end of season management. Practices ranging from bed height to harvest aid timing are covered.

According to the handbook, narrow row cotton, which involves reducing the row spacing from 38 to 40 inches to about 30 inches, offers two potential increases in efficiency: 1) it can capture more sunlight and 2) it allows for a more compact plant that places greater energy in the production of bolls, not stalk.

## Elephant lives on farm with the cows

By PAULA BARR  
C. 1993 Kansas City Star

**S**PRINGFIELD, Mo. — Just off the interstate, past the big red and white barn, Hattie the 7,000-pound elephant browses through knee-deep Missouri grass.

Now in her 50s, Hattie is the first, and so far only, aging circus performer to claim her share of the good life at Murray Hill's retirement home for elephants.

Each day Hill, about 65, rises at about 6 a.m. in a broken-down, silver house trailer near the pasture. He tugs on high rubber boots, adjusts a trademark slouch hat and heads out to clean Hattie's stall.

Hill pointed to his dream in progress: a concrete, earth-sheltered barn in the woods, where he hopes to house unmanageable elephants.

Hill, a former stand-up comic, exotic-animal importer, circus performer and chimp and elephant trainer, was born Arlan Seidon in Brooklyn, N.Y. He retired in 1980 after his bull elephant, Onyx, nearly killed him.

But the attack did not extinguish his love for the giant beasts. With an initial \$1,500, Hill's daughter, Nada Seidon, formed a nonprofit organization, the Animal Education, Protection and Information Foundation, to provide a home for unwanted elephants.

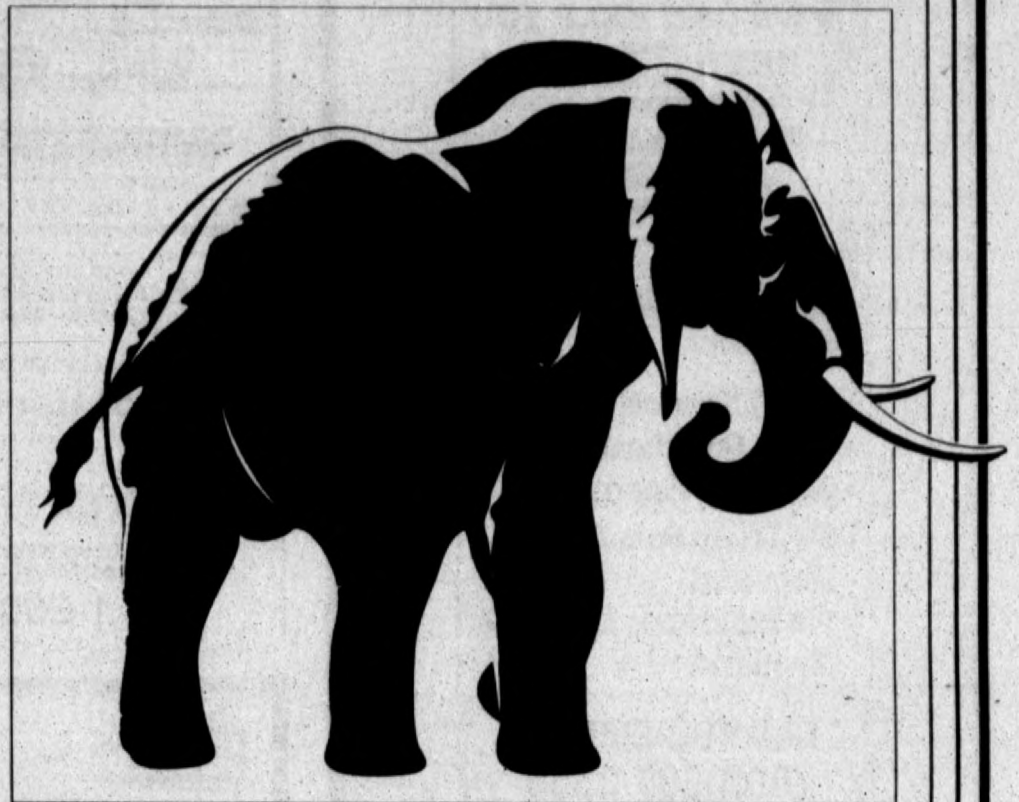
Half the profits from a 1992 book about Hill's exploits and a Hollywood option on the movie rights — \$167,199 — also went to the foundation.

Now on his 100-acre farm about 20 miles southeast of Springfield, Hill and the foundation are creating a haven where exotic animals — even unruly ones — can retire.

As Hill headed down a dirt road in the pasture, he spoke affectionately of elephants he has worked with for 30 years. He considers them part of his family.

Even the belt that holds up his baggy jeans features an elephant on the large silver-and-gold buckle.

Motorists pass by the farm unaware. Neighbors are used to Hill, who has kept animals there since



1976.

"(The elephant) is just like one of our cows," said Michael Manegold, who lives about 200 yards west of Hill's house. "We've never had any problem with her."

LaFaun Lea, who lives at the end of Hill's driveway, said she's never been concerned about the elephants next door.

"They don't bother me at all," she said.

Ahead, Hattie grazed in the warm sunshine, ripping off clumps of grass with her trunk and stuffing them dexterously into her pointed mouth.

The pasture is fenced only with barbed wire, which she easily could snap. But Hill said he thought Hattie assumed all wire was electrified, like the strand separating her stall from the rest of the barn.

After a 50-year career as a circus elephant, Hattie arrived at the farm in August last year. Circus Vargas retired her because she limped from arthritis and was developing cataracts, Hill said.

"She could have been worked another five years on medication," he said. "They had more compassion for the animal than consideration for their bank account."

Freed from performing, Hattie hasn't limped since two weeks after

she arrived, Hill said.

Despite his affection, Hill said elephants are the most dangerous animals humans work with.

"Because of its size, no one expects speed," he said. "But it strikes like lightning and plans every move."

Hattie is a small elephant, just under 7 feet tall. Even so, she looks like a handful for Hill, whose head barely reaches the bottom of her eye.

Hill and a trio of elephants — Onyx, Dutchess and Tory — once toured the country as the Mitie-Mites. Each elephant had a distinct personality, and Hill had distinct problems in dealing with each one.

"Dutchess would sucker you in until you were close enough for her to knock you over," Hill said.

Onyx, who now resides in Springfield's Dickerson Park Zoo, would blow air from his trunk under women's dresses and make them jump, Hill said. The elephant's eyes would light up playfully each time, he said.

But Onyx wasn't playing when he attacked Hill in 1980. The elephant was in musth, a hormonal state in which bull elephants become hostile.

When Onyx grabbed Tory's hay that day, Hill kicked the hay pile back.

## Feedyard is state environmental winner

Special to AgReview

Texas Cattle Feeders

**WHEELER** — Heritage Beef Cattle Co., a Wheeler feedyard with a long history of protecting and improving environment, has won Texas Cattle Women's Environmental Stewardship Award for 1993. The award recognizes Texas beef producers whose natural resource stewardship practices contribute to a better environment.

The feeding company won this year's award based on its 25-year record for introducing environmental innovations to its operation. Among the many ecological programs pioneered by the company have been eliminating the use of chemicals, recycling all waste products that are generated by finishing beef cattle and introducing parasitic wasps for fly control.

The 30,000-head capacity feedyard company is owned by Joe R. Weatherly of Wheeler, who also serves as its president, and Heinz Prechter of Detroit, Mich. Rodney Weatherly is the feedyard manager.

"We started this feedyard back when environmentalism wasn't talked about," Joe R.

Weatherly says. "But when we started it we were determined not to pollute anyone's land and to make the soil better than it was when we started. It was just our way of doing business, and we found it profitable to do it that way."

Weatherly says the land around Wheeler is made up of poor soil that needs fertilization to generate plant growth. As is required of all feedyards by state and federal regulations, Heritage Beef Cattle Co. must dispose of its manure and wastewater. Also like other feedyards, Heritage does this by having its employees collect the manure from the feedlot pens and spread it in measured amounts on nearby cropland to grow grasses. A gravity flow system takes wastewater from a central pond to circle irrigation systems. It too is applied to the land in order to increase the soil's productivity.

The primary purpose of applying the manure to soil is to make the land more fertile. However, Weatherly found that besides improving the virtually sterile soil around his feedyard, application of manure also controls soil erosion caused by wind or water. The manure particles retain water more efficiently

than the sandy soil. In addition, the weight of the manure protects soil from high winds that are common in the Texas Panhandle at various times of the year.

Weatherly said the system has made the feedyard virtually chemical-free.

"When we can use organic material (like manure) on the land, we don't have to use artificial fertilizers," he said. "We don't have to use weed killers either, because the more fertile the land is, the less weeds we have. What weeds do grow are controlled through grazing and mechanical means."

Through this process, Heritage Beef Cattle Co. has turned 5,000 acres of unproductive land into fertile cropland for grazing, hay production and wildlife. The grasses that grow on this converted land allow the feedyard to put 150 to 300 pounds of additional weight on cattle before they enter the feeding pens. This advantage lowers the breakeven costs of feeding for the company's customers.

Like other feedyards, Heritage Beef Cattle Co. has to deal with flies that multiply in cattle feeding sites.

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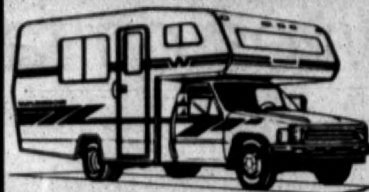
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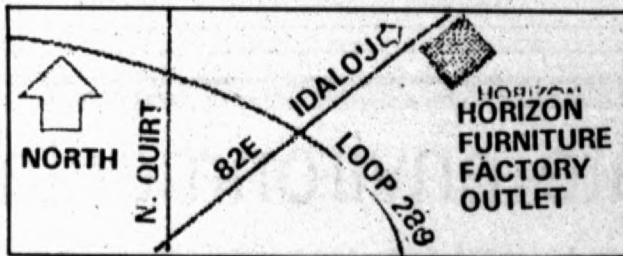
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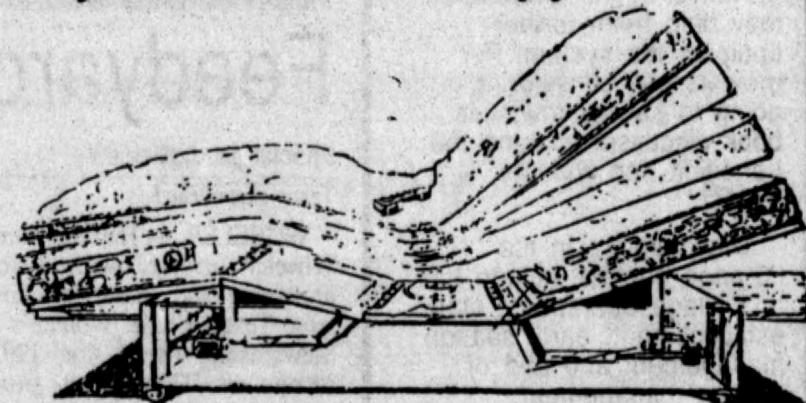
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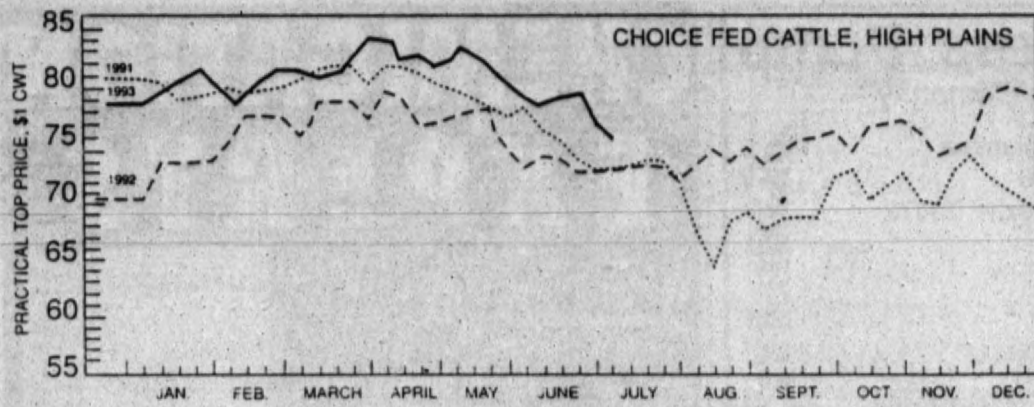
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NEW HOME ATLAS



Courtesy Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Amarillo

### Choice fed cattle, High Plains

The above report reflects market activity through July 3.

## Good eye, not the camera, is secret of summer photos

By **BILL SCHULZ**  
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — It only takes a few little tricks to make your outdoor pictures a whole lot better.

Use equipment equal to your interest and ability, take a lot of pictures, try different angles and make pictures of your friends doing something, "not standing up looking like they're embalmed," says C. Boyd Pfeiffer, award-winning outdoor photographer.

Pfeiffer is the author of "The Orvis Guide To Outdoor Photography" and other books, as well as a prolific freelance photographer and former president of the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

You don't need the type of equipment he carries to make good pictures of your time outdoors, he says.

Pick your camera according to your level of interest.

"If you just want the pictures as a footnote to hunting and fishing, then there are many point-and-shoot cameras that are excellent," he says.

Some are waterproof or water resistant. There is a difference. Water resistant cameras aren't designed to be dropped into the water.

Some have two built-in lenses or a zoom lens. The more serious photographer should have a 35-millimeter, single-lens reflex camera with interchangeable lenses.

For closeups, buy a lens with "normal" focal length — 50 millimeter or 55 millimeter for a 35-millimeter camera — with macro focus capability, so you get very sharp pictures.

If you plan a lot of boating, get a wide-angle lens — a 28 millimeter or 35 millimeter — so you can get all that's happening in the boat.

"You can only back up so far in a boat without getting into trouble," Pfeiffer says.

Most people take color pictures today and Pfeiffer recommends either Fuji or Kodak 200 or 400 speed, fast enough to stop any action.

Then comes making the pictures.

"I think the big difference today between a casual photographer and the serious or professional photographer is the number of shots they take and the fact the serious professional, even if he has just one lens, will utilize a variety of different viewpoints," Pfeiffer says.

"He might lay on the ground to make a picture of a bird dog on point. He might hold the camera over his head and shoot down on somebody landing a fish. It gives a totally different viewpoint."

Pfeiffer recommends making lots of pictures. Film is relatively cheap, and a wide variety of pictures can include scenics and landscapes, closeups of lures or flies, shotguns, heads of dogs, hero shots of people holding fish and game.

"Use a variety of different angles and distances, as opposed to shooting everything from eye level and 10 feet away," Pfeiffer says.

Look through your viewfinder and decide what you want in your picture — and what you don't want.

"We've all seen pictures of guys holding fish, that also have half a car, half a boat trailer and two garbage cans in the picture," Pfeiffer says. "Look at the borders of the picture area and decide what you want. Then use a different lens, or just move closer to the subject, to get exactly that and no more or no less in the picture."

Particularly with a point-and-shoot camera, get close enough to people so someone who doesn't know Uncle George all that well will recognize him in your pictures.

Photograph people doing something, "not just standing there like they've got a number on their chest," Pfeiffer says.

They can be handling a fish, loading a shotgun, hammering a tent peg, sharpening a knife, pulling on a pair of waders or looking at a flower.

"Some sort of activity is always going to make for a more natural and more interesting shot," he says. "A picture of a person doing his natural thing is much better than one looking like it's going to go on the wall of a post office."

Finally, he says, remember eyes.

If you have a camera you focus, or an automatic camera, focus on your subject's eyes, even if it means a part of your subject, such as an alligator's tail, may be a bit out of focus.

Shoot most portrait-type shots of people or animals at eye level. Don't bend over and shoot down at them. When making pictures of children or animals, get down on one knee and look them straight in the eye and make your picture.

## WHEAT

Continued From Page 2

sprouting resistance, and sprouted wheat isn't good for milling and baking. That's an impediment in eastern Kansas and other more moist locales.

Also, the Federal Grain Inspection Service still hasn't set up a grading standard for hard white wheat, Symns said. The federal agency could misidentify the grain as soft white or mixed wheat, resulting in price discounts, he said.

That's why AWWPA keeps its wheat separate from traditional hard red winter wheat in farm and grain elevator storage, he said.

But the obstacles aren't slowing the growth in popularity of the wheat so far.

"We have had conversations with or made sales to all five of the top U.S. baking companies and a lot of other individuals and companies," Symns said. "We're real encouraged."

## Combine sales up

HOUSTON (AP) — After a 10 year sales famine, combine retailers are selling more farm equipment than ever.

Industrywide sales of combines for May were up 104 percent compared with a year earlier, according to the Equipment Manufacturers Institute in Chicago, the trade group that monitors the tractor climate.

The long absence from the sales floor, combined with the fact that the secondhand farm equipment supply — fueled by farm foreclosures — are responsible for the resurgence in new buyers.

Manufacturers such as JI Case, owned by Houston-based Tenneco, report May sales of high-horsepower tractors more than doubled what they were for same month last year. Case is already sold out of combines until 1994. Those already in the hands of retailers, at more than \$100,000 per machine, are the last the company has until 1994.

For the last 10 years, makers of new equipment had to compete with the mass sales of foreclosed equipment. Until recently, an abundance of good used equipment at discount prices slowed sales of new tractors and combines.

## REAL ESTATE

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## Land prices may increase

According to a recent report on rural land values in the Southwest for the last half of 1992, the median sales price for an acre of average quality irrigated cropland was \$500.

The price for an acre of Texas irrigated cropland ranged from \$130 in the Trans-Pecos area to \$1,500 in Central Texas, according to a report from the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University and Charles E. Gilliland, an associate research economist there.

"Ninety percent of observers polled statewide forecast no change or a slight increase in land prices for 1993," said Gilliland. The median price for non-irrigated cropland was higher—\$513 per acre—than irrigated land. Gilliland attributes this to the fact that non-irrigated cropland is more likely to be near urban areas where

land demands a higher price.

Native Texas rangeland sold for a median price of \$425 per acre, down from \$450 a year earlier. The experts were divided on the 1993 outlook for rangeland. Sixty-five percent see no change in value, 11% predict a decline and 24% forecast an increase.

Nearly 60% of 119 observers said "financial stress" was the major motivation behind Texas land sales in the second half of 1992.



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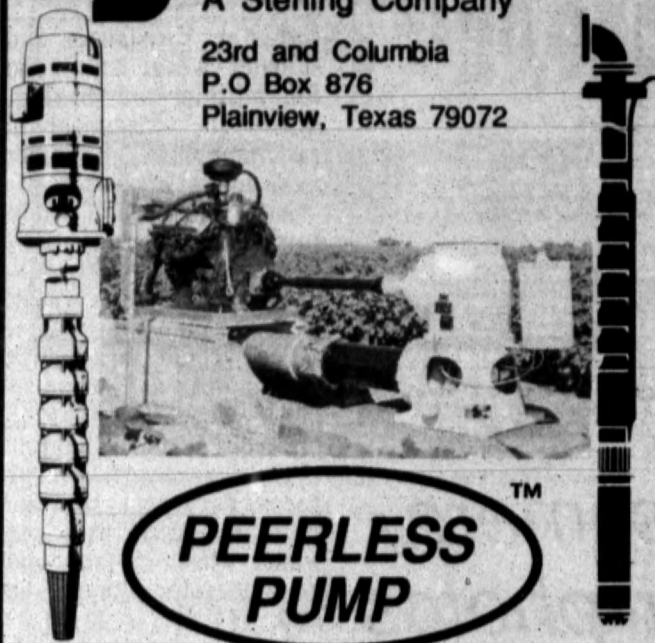
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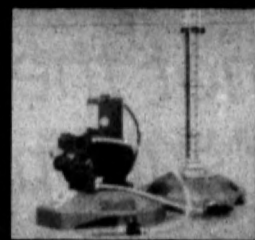
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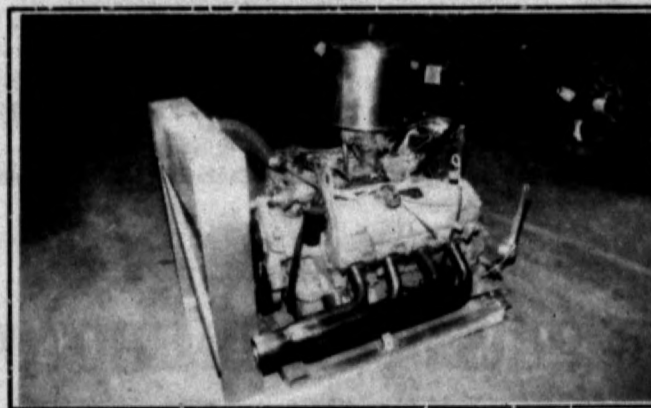
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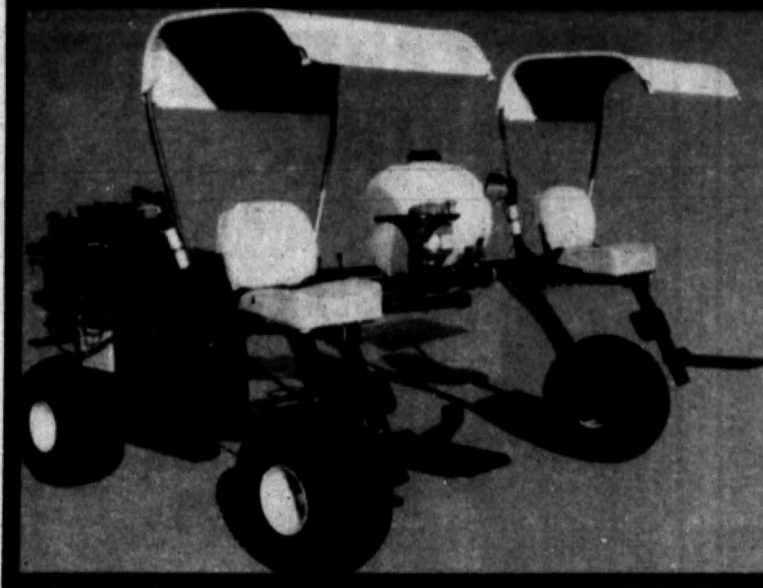
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The  Square

**America's wildlife havens offer recreation to millions**

By **BILL SCHULZ**  
Associated Press Writer

Stretched like a string of pearls across the continent, the 487 pieces of land which make up the National Wildlife Refuge System provide havens for wildlife and recreation for millions of Americans.

"We've been adding about 200,000 acres a year to the system over the last decade, but more than half of that comes as additions to existing refuges," says Robert J. Shallenberger, chief of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Refuges. "The average is about 10 new refuges a year."

The smallest is Mille Lacs, an island in a Minnesota lake, which is an important bird nesting area. The largest are the Yukon Delta and Arctic refuges in Alaska, at 20 million acres apiece.

Between the two they make up 88 percent of the 91 million acres of land in the entire system.

The first refuge was Pelican Island, established in 1903 by President Teddy Roosevelt, who added 50 more by executive order.

With the dedication of the Ohio River National Wildlife Refuge in West Virginia on May 28, 1992, the refuge system reached all 50 states. The system receives 30 million visitors a year. Twenty percent are hunters, the rest are there for wildlife watching or other "non-consumptive" use of wildlife.

Some refuges offer fishing and a very few, such as Chincoteague, offer recreation such as swimming, which is not related to wildlife.

But for wildlife, "we've got refuges established for everything from butterflies to eagles," Shallenberger says.

None of the first 51 refuges were for hunting. Later in the evolution of the system refuges were created to allow places for hunting.

When the duck stamp

program was created in the late 1930s, it brought more money for refuges. Every hunter pursuing migratory waterfowl must buy and carry a federal duck stamp. Those license fees have bought 4 million of the 14 million acres of refuge lands in the lower 48 states.

Nearly 270 of the 487 refuges now are open for some hunting.

The recent trend is to set up refuges to help endangered species.

Crystal River is a haven for Florida manatees. Ash Meadow was set up to protect pup fish, an endangered species.

Other refuges, such as the John Heinz in Pittsburgh and the San Francisco Bay refuge were set up primarily for environmental education.

While there will be no effort to attract swimmers and picnickers to the refuges, there is "quite a concerted effort to increase the use for bird watching and wildlife photography," Shallenberger says.

**Conservation districts win awards**

**PLAINVIEW** — Region I Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Texas recently honored its conservation winners for 1993 within an area including most of the Texas Panhandle region.

Lynn County SWCD was honored as Outstanding Conservation District and Hale County SWCD was named runner-up.

Resident Conservation Farmer honors went to Dean Cluck, owner of Cluck Cattle Feeders, within the Sherman County SWCD in Gruver. Tom, Doug and Lance Hlavaty of Hlavaty Brothers Partnership in Lubbock County SWCD was second.

Resident Conservation Rancher is W.C. Hart of Snyder, Upper Colorado SWCD. Canadian Feedyards in Hemphill SWCD was runner-up.

Absentee Conservation Farmer/Rancher

honors are shared by Don Bagwell and Luther Brown, of Staked Plains SWCD. A. Gale Adams of Amarillo, of Running Water SWCD, was second.

Business/Professional Individual honoree is Judge Bob Gober, Hemphill County Judge and nominated by Hemphill SWCD. Runner up is Will Bain, president and chief executive officer, First National Bank of Claude, Staked Plains SWCD.

Conservation Teacher honors went to Patricia Daughterty, fifth grade educator in Crosbyton, Rio Blanco SWCD. Runner up is Carolyn Waters, history teacher at Hereford Junior High School, Tierra Blanca SWCD.

Wildlife Conservationist is Ed Wesner of Reydon, Okla., Hemphill SWCD. G.E. "Doug" Douglass of Plainview, Floyd SWCD, was runner-up.

Conservation Homemak-er of the year is Anita Hancock of Brownfield, Terry SWCD. Runner up is Dorothy Schoenhals, Perryton, Ochiltree SWCD.

Winners of the annual youth Poster Contest are Bethany Jo Johnson, Canyon Junior High School, first; Becca Matthews, Claude Junior High, second; and Tamy Hoang, Cal Farley Family Program in Borger, third.

Essay Contest winners are Luke Steelman, Bovina High School, first; Stephen Romero, Levelland Middle School, second; and Candace Rothwell, Childress High School, third.

At a business meeting prior to the awards banquet, Paul Robertson, a Hale Center farmer, was elected to his second term representing Region I on the Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board.

**Average Changes in Depth to Water in Feet For Observation Wells — 1993**

Number of Observation Wells Maintained	Average Annual Change-1983 to 1993	Average Annual Change-1988 to 1993	Average Annual Change-1992 to 1993	
Armstrong	9	+0.13	+0.00	+0.46
Bailey	80	-0.31	-0.53	-0.32
Castro	89	-1.29	-1.68	-1.62
Cochran	69	+0.41	+0.26	+0.66
Crosby	72	+0.49	-0.18	+1.66
Deaf Smith	88	-0.72	-1.15	-1.03
Floyd	98	-0.42	-0.72	+0.10
Hale	27	-0.12	-0.93	+0.42
Hockley	88	+0.36	+0.12	+0.88
Lamb	99	-1.02	-1.11	-0.17
Lubbock	128	+0.33	-0.19	+1.72
Lynn	75	+1.10	+0.34	+2.76
Parmer	97	-1.26	-1.71	-1.47
Potter	6	-0.49	-0.88	-1.43
Randall	51	-0.14	-0.26	-0.03
<b>District</b>	<b>1076</b>	<b>-0.31</b>	<b>-0.69</b>	<b>+0.14</b>

Courtesy/High Plains Water Conservation District No. 1

**Aquifer depth increases**

Water levels increased in the Ogallala aquifer during 1992, according to the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District, based in Lubbock. "Ground water levels increased an average of .14 foot last year," reported Wayne Wyatt, district manager. The increase is being aided by maximum utilization of precipitatin and water conservatin efforts reducing demands on underground water formations, Wyatt indicated.

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