

# WEST TEXAS Country Trader



The West Texas Country Trader is a section of:

Thursday April 29, 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**  
Lubbock, Tx - Hockley County

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

**PLAINVIEW DAILY HERALD**  
Plainview, Tx - Hale County  
**RALLS REPORTER-NEWS**  
Ralls, Tx - Crosby County

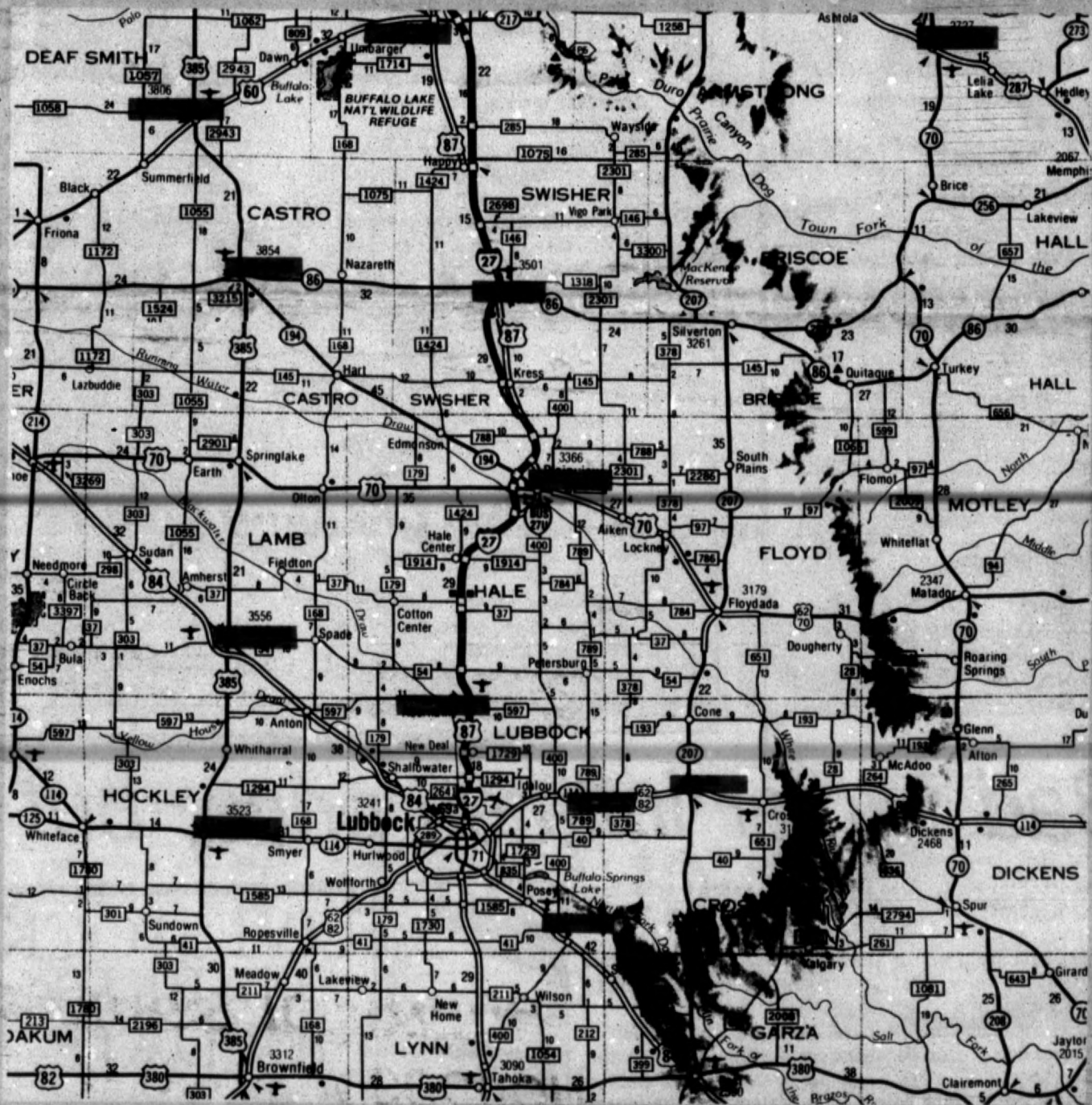
**SLATON SLATONITE**  
Slaton, Tx - Lubbock County  
**TULIA HERALD**  
Tulia, Tx - Swisher County

- What is the "West Texas Country Trader"?
- The COUNTRY TRADER is a weekly section produced and published by these following newspapers:

- **Abernathy Review, Hale County 298-2033**
- **Canyon News, Randall County 655-7121**
- **Castro Co. News, Castro County 647-3123**
- **Clarendon News, Donley County 874-2259**
- **Hereford Brand, Deaf Smith County 364-2030**
- **Hockley County News, Hockley County 894-3121**

- **Lamb County Leader, Lamb County 385-4481**
- **Lorenzo Examiner, Crosby County 634-5390**
- **Plainview Daily Herald, Hale County 296-1300**
- **Ralls Reporter News, Crosby County 634-5390**
- **Slaton Slatonite, Lubbock County 828-6201**
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# AgReview



## Calendar Ag News

April 29

**FLOYDADA** — The 54th Annual Membership Meeting of the Lighthouse Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be at 6 p.m. at the firm's headquarters, Highway 70 East.

Prior to the meeting, a health fair will be held from 2:30-5:30 p.m.

May 1-2

**SHOOTING SPORTS:** Extravaganza, Texas 4-H Center, Lake Brownwood. Contact Ron Howard, 409-8a5-1214.

May 5-7

**HORSE SHORT COURSE** Texas A&M University. Contact Dr. Doug Householder, 409-845-1562.

May 15-16

**OLD SOREHEAD TRADE DAYS:** Courthouse lawn, Stanton. Contact Kathryn Burch, 915-756-3316.

May 20

**LUBBOCK** — Farm and Ranch Estate Planning Seminar for farmers and ranchers, Holiday Inn Civic Center, contact Stanley Young, 767-1190.

May 20

**SMALL GRAINS FIELD DAY:** Chillicothe Extension Center. Contact David Worrall, 817-552-9941.

## Low grade cotton spun into filters

■ Off and going, plant is growing

By GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview Writer

**TULIA** — Low grade, and once-thought-useless cotton notes have become the proverbial sow's ear sewn into silk purses for a Tulia cotton spinner.

The secret is a successful cleaning and re-ginning process, plus the determination of Matt Murff, president of North Plains Textile, Inc., and his production chief Charles Keaton.

The firm is bullish on their product — made from dirty, substandard material that gins across the Texas Panhandle routinely reject. It is mixed with a quantity of higher grade cotton then spun into thread, then wound into filters.

**NORTH PLAINS** is carving out their own market niche, and the results have been impressive.

"I can say that in the last year our production of string-wound filters has increased by at least 500 percent," Keaton says.

With that in mind, he's making some bold predictions.

"We plan to make North Plains Textile, Inc., the third largest string-wound filter company in the world," Keaton said recently.

THEN, PAUSING a moment, he added: "Then we'll go for number one."

Since the firm's inception several years ago, things have been spinning nicely at a former gin yard east of Tulia.

Murff took an abandoned gin and added re-processing equipment and spinning equipment.

And, Tulia's source of raw cotton



**TULIA PRODUCT** — Brenda Colten, winding supervisor at North Plains textiles, holds spun thread (left) and an industrial filter — made from subgrade cotton notes.

made the choice to locate here a natural.

"We do have a surplus of raw material," Keaton said. "We felt like what we were doing made sense, taking a local product and developing it rather than bringing it in. We would just like to see our company continue to grow and prosper and become one of the leaders in the string-wound industry."

**BY LOCATING** in the southern Panhandle, Tulia becomes an additional player in the string-wound filter market. Amarillo has long been one of the nation's centers for the cotton filters — boasting two of the nation's largest companies.

North Plains has grown to a two-shift operation and employs 21 persons.

"We're strictly into filtration and filter yarn," explained Keaton. "We also produce four grades of gin notes in our re-spinning plant. We sell filter yarn and string-wound filters."

Keaton is a seasoned veteran of the textile and filter industry, having worked in it most of his life. The Carolina native grew up in textile country, then moved to Texas about

10 years ago.

**HE'S WORKED** with some of the largest companies, but likes the challenge offered at North Plains.

"Getting small companies up and going is what I enjoy," he said. He claims this is his last fling in the business world, and his sights are set high.

The market for filters is ripe. String-wound cotton filters are used in industrial processes ranging from the oil industry to chemicals to photographic applications to the mass media and food processing.

Keaton, an ex-Marine gunnery sergeant and Korean War veteran, grew up in Greenville, S.C. and attended Greenville Technical College and Rutledge College.

**IN HIS EARLY** career, Keaton was involved in the weaving industry in South Carolina. He spent 10 to 15 years in textile machinery with John D. Hollingsworth, Leesona, Burlington and Cones Mills.

For the past 10 years he has been involved in the string-wound filter industry in Texas.

Keaton and wife, Scarlet, have six children and nine grandchildren.

## Bad winter inflates price, but for how long?

The 1992-93 winter was the worst in cattle feedlot history. At least the worst for today's modern feedlot industry.

There have been horror stories all over the country, but hardly any matching what happened in the Western Kansas cattle feeding area.

Stories include piles of dead cattle so large renderers still have not processed them; or feeding costs in the neighborhood of \$1.20 to \$1.40 per pound; or mud and ice being scraped out of feedlots to the extent that the fences are falling down.

**NONE OF THE STORIES** were very encouraging to cattle feeders, but as these things happen the market usually responds. And, in this case, it did!

The winter storms, i.e., prolonged wet and cold weather, increased death losses and prevented cattle from gaining weight. Supplies of market ready cattle declined and cattle prices went to record levels, reaching as high as \$86 per hundredweight (cwt).

The higher prices buffered cattle feeders from huge losses, and in some areas where the weather was milder, the higher prices yielded windfall profits to many cattle feeders.

In other areas, however, the higher prices were not enough to compensate for additional death losses and higher cost-weight gains.

**EXPECTING A MORE** moderate winter and with the large beginning-year supplies of cattle on feed, most anal-



## LIVESTOCK MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Ernie Davis

ysts were predicting fed cattle prices to average in the mid to high \$70 cwt during the first quarter of the year. Instead, fed cattle prices in the Texas Panhandle averaged \$81.13 cwt for the period with March highs of \$84 to \$86 cwt.

Both February and April live cattle futures contracts reached new highs of \$83.75 cwt and \$84.40 cwt, respectively. Consequently, this winter's market was not boring!

Now that most of the cold winter weather is behind us, the question is *how much longer can this market last?* Break-evens on fed cattle have increased from expected spring positions of \$74 to \$75 cwt to positions of over \$80 cwt. Cattle on feed numbers are relatively large at 8.786 million head.

**WITH THE** exception of 1991, this is the largest number of cattle on feed March 1, since 1974 and is 7 percent larger than the five year average.

Retailers have absorbed relatively high wholesale beef prices during the first quarter of the year. So consumers have been somewhat insulated from the high fed cattle and wholesale beef prices.

Also, it is estimated that beef packers have lost money for the past 35 weeks or more. With the Live Cattle April and June futures contracts trading as high as \$84 cwt and \$78 cwt, respectively, there is a good chance that a larger than usual number of fed cattle were hedged for delivery during those periods.

**THE POINT OF ALL THIS** narration is that there are a lot of factors that could contribute to a larger than usual price decline. Retailer and packer losses from beef and the lack of price bargaining from hedged cattle feeders could all contribute to lower prices this spring.

Just when the price decline comes and by now much of the questions of most concern to cattle feeders expecting to market cattle this spring and summer.

**ON FEED:** Cattle and calves on feed March 1 in the 7 monthly reporting states total 8.8 million head, up 8 percent from year ago counts but down 1 percent from 1991. Texas feedlots had 2.34 million head of cattle and calves on feed, 16 percent above year ago numbers.

(Dr. Ernie Davis, Livestock Marketing Specialist with the Texas A&M Extension Service, is an authority on the livestock markets.)

# Packers, consumers share 'safe meat' goal

## E-coli outbreak perks safety awareness

By DANNY ANDREWS

Herald Editor

**EXCEL BEEF NORTH OF PLAINVIEW** — "We're working for the same thing consumers are interested in — food safety — as well as a safe work place," says Sara Clarke, vice president for public affairs of the American Meat Institute after a recent visit to the Excel beefpacking plant in Plainview, a member of AMI.



CLARKE

"The cost of a non-safe workplace comes back in the cost of the product. So it makes good business sense to maintain a safe workplace," she said.

"One of the problems with people making rules for the meat industry is that most of them haven't seen inside a plant. They don't know what one looks like, so we take pictures and make presentations that help them understand," she explained. "We translate the concerns of the industry

into words and pictures. We also give testimony and do a lot of one-on-one presentations."

"THE 'INFOMERCIAL' format Ross Perot is using carries a lot of weight in Washington because it's simple and makes things easier to understand."

Agencies the AMI works with include the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service; Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), which is a part of the Department of Labor; the Environmental Protection Agency, and Congress.

Ms. Clarke noted that "meat and poultry are the most heavily inspected of all food products with eight times more money and eight times the inspectors in relation to all other products in the food supply. We think that's phenomenally out of balance.

"On top of that, one of the biggest problems expressed by our members is that 8,000 individuals are trying to enforce USDA rules and there is an inconsistency in the interpretation of those rules."

**REGARDING RECENT** deaths and illnesses involving tainted meat in restaurants in several parts of the country, Ms. Clarke said, "The problem was that the restaurants didn't follow state regulation for cooking temperatures.

"The way meat is produced and inspected, micro-organisms are expected to be present in meat and poultry. Some ask 'Should we not expect to have fewer or no micro-organisms?' But scientists say you shouldn't produce a 'sterile' food supply but a safe one.

"We think consumers are seeing products in the marketplace with much lower pathogen contamination and will continue to do so as the industry finds innovation to reduce it.

"Refrigeration, chilling, and water used in rinsing carcasses,

and packaging keep beef clean, plants are cleaned and sanitized at least once a day and there is routine testing of the product and surfaces on which it is processed."

A NEW INNOVATION is "organic acid (water and lemon juice) which is mild and retards germ growth on carcasses. It works on beef and pork and is catching on like wildfire around the country."

Another process being looked at but not yet approved is 'dips,' a harmless anti-bacterial solution in which the meat would be dipped.

Another not yet approved because of safety factors is irradiation in which the meat is exposed to low levels of radiation. It doesn't cook the meat but kills germs. This would make sure the meat is cooked properly before it gets to the consumer. Right now, if they eat out, consumers have to rely on the restaurant to be that checkpoint.

Tainted meat at a Jack-In-The-Box restaurant was blamed earlier this year with causing an outbreak of illnesses related to the E-Coli bacteria. Lack of thorough cooking is believed to have led to infection of the restaurant patrons.

"FOR A SAFER food supply from farm to table, there has to be a continuum. We have to look at everything from start to finish."

Ms. Clarke maintains that "the big lie is that food-borne illness on the rise. In fact, it is on the decline, according to facts from the Centers for Disease Control. The largest source of food-borne pathogens involved in outbreaks is seafood, not beef. That doesn't mean seafood is bad, but people tend to get beef out of perspective."

She says nutrition labeling is about to boom. "A year from now, thousands of products will have nutrition labels on them that tell you what the nutrition value is. That will help people plan their diet more easily."

## District encourages use of furrow dikes

Installing furrow dikes to capture spring rainfall this year will be important to producers, since the 1993 pre-plant soil moisture survey conducted by the USDA-Soil Conservation Service and the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 showed only average soil moisture conditions.

"With the middle portion of the five-foot root zone soil profile as dry as it is, producers really need to maximize the use of rainfall this year," says Ken Carver, Water District Assistant Manager. "Furrow dikes are a cost-effective means of doing just that."

Furrow dikes are small earthen dams mechanically constructed in the furrow. During a precipitation event, the small basins between the earthen dams collect rainfall and hold it in place until it can soak into the soil.

Annual precipitation totals range from 18 to 20 inches across the Texas High Plains. Most of this precipitation occurs just prior to and during the summer growing season.

Most of the average annual rainfall is provided by showers with precipitation totals of less than an inch, which the soil can easily absorb. However the remaining precipitation is the result of short, powerful thunderstorms. In this case, the downpour is greater than the soil infiltration rate, and runoff occurs.

During a three-year study, researchers at the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Lubbock noted an average annual precipitation runoff of 2.73 inches per acre.

For more furrow dike information, contact the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock, 79405-1499 or call 762-0181.



Catching rainfall

Installing furrow dikes can help area producers maximize the use of rainfall that occurs prior to planting, as shown in a photograph by the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1.

Courtesy Photo/HPUCD No. 1

# Financial planning is key to success

By LANA ROBINSON

Texas Agriculture

At a recent Texas A&M Financial Management Workshop, county Extension agents reported producers in much of the state are experiencing financial problems.

Dr. Wayne Hayenga, professor and Extension economist, advised those attending the financial workshop of ways to identify an operator headed for trouble and what to do about it.

As a rule of thumb, Hayenga said three factors make a farm operator a prime candidate for financial failure.

"When your lender owns more of your business than you do, it is the first indication of possible financial problems," he pointed out.

The other two trouble indicators cited by Hayenga

were: Short-term loans and accounts payable that have increased each year for the past three years; and interest on farm debt that exceeds 20 percent of farm sales.

"When the interest bill is up to 20 percent of sales, it's almost certain," he emphasized.

When interest charges are that high, the business doesn't make enough money to pay off expenses, so losses occur. To continue in business, the farmer must finance the previous year's loss and may lose even more in the second year. This cycle is repeated until the business is unable to be refinanced, he explained.

The economist said a producer can easily determine if his or her lender owns more than half the business by comparing the

net worth statement entries of total assets with the liabilities. This factor is critical, Hayenga said, because of earnings on the assets used in the business.

A problem can develop due to the disparity between earning rates on agricultural assets, which are traditionally 4 to 6 percent on all assets, and the interest paid to finance them.

"A farmer earning the high rate of 6 percent on all assets, but paying 12 percent interest on half of his assets, has nothing left. If earnings fall below 6 percent or asset values decline, but interest rates stay at 12 percent, the owner's equity declines to the point he is unable to finance the business," the Extension economist stated.

Attempts to discuss the realities of these problems

and what may need to be done to correct them, if they can be corrected, can be emotional.

"When farmers are financially distressed, they become very sensitive," Hayenga noted. But the financial adviser stressed the need to recognize a problem before it is full-blown.

### Review Situation Early

According to the Extension economist, producers should review their last three years' net worth statements. Without a major increase in business size, if short-term loans and accounts payable consistently increase, Hayenga said sooner or later loans and accounts cannot be kept current without increasing income or refinancing land or long-term assets. When this happens, short-term debt will not be

renewed and suppliers will demand cash before delivery.

"That's when you face some serious decisions. Number one, do you want to stay in business? If the answer is yes, you need more assets, to increase earnings, or get an off-farm job," he advised. Depending on the type of operation, off-farm jobs can work, but the adjustment may not be easy. "Farmers and ranchers are proud of being independent," he added.

A common problem for those who run their business and family together, the economist pointed out, is the business doesn't always generate enough money to support the family's desired standard of living.

"I see more young farmers — I'm concerned about those under 40 — with social

needs to live like their high school and college classmates that work for other firms and businesses. Generally, agriculture can't sustain that," he said.

Consequently, many of today's younger producers have incurred debt to "keep up with the Joneses," he reported.

Hayenga offered this advice for farmer operators: "I'd suggest making long-term financial plans — three to five years, plus one year of a projected cash flow statement. Do business on paper before out in the field. Then if you see you are not going in the right direction, take a real hard look and ask why."

(Reprinted from the Texas Farm Bureau's regular publication Texas Agriculture)

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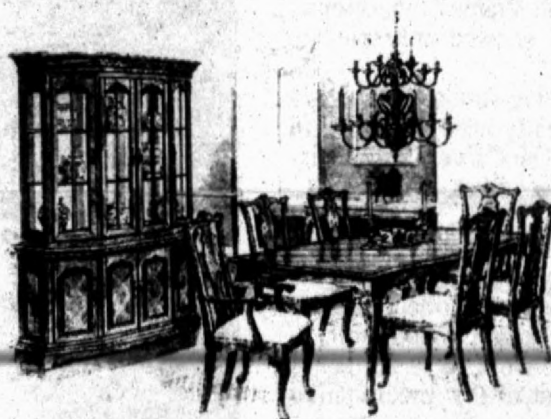


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# High Plains cotton acres to top 1992 intentions

By SHAWN WADE

Plains Cotton Growers

Estimating the number of acres planted to cotton on the High Plains usually

is a fairly straight-forward procedure, according to experts at Lubbock-based Plains Cotton Growers.

PCG officials note that a good way to estimate

1993 cotton acres in the 25-county High Plains area is to take the number of cotton base acres and subtract the acreage set-aside percentage.

This calculation indicates 1993 planted acres will be close to 3.24 million acres on the High Plains. This is roughly 90,000 acres more than were initially expected in 1992 and reflects the 7.5 percent Acreage Reduction Program (ARP). The 1992 ARP was set at 10 percent.

Planting is expected to begin picking up across the area in the next week to ten days. Dr. John Gannaway, a plant breeder at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES) in Lubbock says he expects the majority of producers in the area to wait until the first week or two of May to begin.

Several counties in the southern end of the High Plains report planting activity starting in the last week.

Dawson County Extension Agent John Farris reports that some irrigated producers in his county are well underway and others will get started in

the next few days. Many producers are waiting for soil temperatures to stabilize further, or rain, to get into field.

"We're starting to see a few planters running in the southern areas, mostly in Dawson and Gaines counties," notes PCG Executive Vice President Donald Johnson.

Johnson adds that most people expect planting activity to increase in the next week or ten days, and be well underway by the second week of May.

Statewide planting estimates for 1993 are put at 5.7 million acres.

Producers are anxiously waiting to see the new schedule which has been totally reworked to accommodate the separation of Color and Leaf grades in the USDA classification system. Also being announced will be premium and discount schedules for micronaire.

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strength, bark and other factors.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy is now in the

process of reviewing recommendations concerning the 1993 loan schedule.

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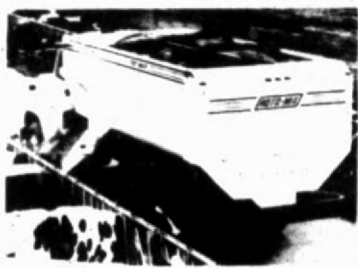
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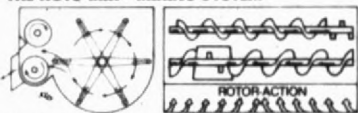
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# Pharoah to bio-tech ag lab, bug killing Bt still doing job

By SABRA CHARTRAND

C. New York Times

WASHINGTON — Bacteria that kill insects have been found in tombs of mummies in ancient Egypt. Their presence in the soil has killed mosquitoes in the Middle East, beetles in northern Europe and silkworms in Asia. And for the last decade, scientists have engineered them to kill specific bugs that threaten food crops and agricultural products like cotton.

A naturally occurring bacteria gene called *Bacillus thuringiensis*, or Bt, has helped revolutionize insecticide manufacturing by replacing chemicals with biological insect-slayers. Now a Pennsylvania company hopes a new biopesticide patent based on Bt's will help eradicate this country's corn rootworm menace.

The rootworm that attacks corn roots costs growers \$140

**'We as humans don't have these receptor sites,' Davies said. 'Birds, fish and other mammals don't have them. So the Bt's are only toxic to certain insects . . .'**

million to \$150 million a year to control, the Department of Agriculture estimates. Today, most farmers use chemical pesticides, which can be environmentally hazardous. The rootworm can also adapt to chemicals, making more potent pesticides necessary.

Ecogen Inc., an agricultural biotechnology company in Langhorne, Pa., already holds several bioinsecticide patents.

Now the company has manipulated Bt genes to create a new strain that targets the corn rootworm.

Ecogen's chairman, Jack Davies, explained that the bacteria have the ability to create a protein near the end of their life cycle. When bugs eat the bacteria, he said, "that protein appears to attach itself to certain receptor sites in certain insects," setting into motion a process that basically starves the insect to death.

Ecogen still has to conduct field tests of its new product, in part to determine its most efficient potency. But the company already believes the bioinsecticide is safe for people.

"We as humans don't have these receptor sites," Davies said. "Birds, fish and other mammals don't have them. So the Bt's are only toxic to certain insects."

Ecogen's patent is 5,187,091.

# Ends hunger strike with veggie cocktail

By TOM PRICE

C. Cox News Service

WASHINGTON — So, how did Rep. Tony Hall end his three-week fast on Monday?

He had a V-8. "That is good!" the Ohio Democrat said as he sipped the thick, red vegetable juice from a plastic cup in his Capitol Hill office. "Nice and salty. Nice and thick. 'It's food.'"

Hall ended the fast shortly after Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy announced that the Clinton administration would sponsor a national conference on hunger in America, followed by a series of regional hearings around the country.

Friday, the World Bank announced that it would sponsor a conference on world hunger that could lead to a worldwide series of meetings on the issue.

Later this week, Hall is scheduled to argue for establishment of a congressional panel to focus on the issue at a Wednesday meeting of the House Democratic Caucus on Wednesday and a Thursday hearing of a House-Senate reform committee.

Those developments — plus an outpouring of support from private organizations and individuals from around the country — caused Hall to conclude that the fast had served its purpose, he said.

Hall stopped eating on April 5 to protest the death of the House Select Committee on Hunger, which he chaired, and to call national attention to the problem of hunger.

"It is clear to me that our people will gladly respond to the problem of hunger if public officials enlist their help and provide leadership," Hall said Monday at a

news conference with Espy at Agriculture Department headquarters.

Espy — who chaired the Hunger Committee's domestic task force when he was a Democratic representative from Mississippi — said that Hall's fast "brought home to me in a very real way that we must all join together to take action on this issue."

Espy said he had been planning a series of forums about Agriculture Department issues. He said Hall's fast led him to "push (hunger) to the premier position."

"Today, I hope Tony Hall and I are sending a clear, unmistakable, unequivocal message about the importance of not letting the hunger issue fade off our radar screens," Espy said.

Hall said that he lost about 23 pounds during the fast

and that "I'm going to enjoy putting back every pound."

He said he will have to resume eating gradually, perhaps not having a full meal till near the end of the week.

Asked what he'll eat at that meal, Hall grinned and replied: "Fried chicken, maybe a nice steak, maybe some blackberry pie, mashed potatoes and gravy, shoofly pie, some pasta."

"The wonderful thing about me," he said, "is I knew I could end my fast, and I was going to end it, and I had hope of some day looking forward to good food."

"There are so many people in the world who don't have that hope — who don't have any idea where the next meal is going to come from — and that was what the fast was all about."

STAMPEDE

By Jerry Palen

Distributed by Extra Newspaper Features



"Yeah, yeah, take a number and get in line."

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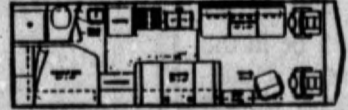
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### Japanese study food-grade corn

This Japanese delegation studied food-grade corn grown in the Texas Panhandle during a visit to Dimmitt and Hereford last week. The group met with representatives from Dimmitt Agri Industries, the Texas Corn Growers Association in Dimmitt; and Frito-Lay and Hereford Grain, both in Hereford. The Japanese were representing Koikeya Co., Ltd. of Japan, which is considering a purchase of Texas' food-grade corn for use in its snack food manufacturing operations. Carl King, president of Texas Corn Growers Association, one of the men who met with the Japanese, said if the Japanese can be convinced to purchase their corn locally, it would be a big plus for area farmers, opening up new market possibilities.

## Cargill helping sponsor 'Farm Safety 4 Just Kids'

Cargill Grain Division, Hart, is joining in corporate sponsorship of a community service program "Farm Safety 4 Just Kids."

Laura Hart, an employee of the Hart office, has presented programs to local school children, encourag-

ing them to think about farm safety from a kid's point of view.

The Farm Safety 4 Just Kids program was developed by an Iowa woman, Marilyn Adams, who lost her son, Keith, in a farm accident. One emphasis of the program is the danger of gravity flow grain wagons. Adams developed a clear model wagon to show children what can happen to a child who gets sucked into the grain flow.

Hart said the program includes getting children to take a Farm Safety Oath, pledging to:

\*Talk about safety with family-members.

\*Play only in safe play areas.

\*Ask grown ups to fix any dangerous things found by the child.

\*Practice what to do in an emergency.

\*Always let family members know the child's whereabouts.

\*Not do anything the child knows to be dangerous.

\*Ask family members to attend safety programs.

\*Ask family members to stop dangerous practices.

\*Never be an extra rider on farm equipment.

\*Remind family members every day that they are loved and to please be careful on the farm.

For more information or to arrange for a safety program for groups or organizations, call Hart at 938-2178.

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### Singles dance set in Portales

The Portales Singles will host a dance Saturday, May 15.

The dance will be in the Portales Memorial Building, 7th & Abilene, from 8 p.m. to midnight (MST), and is open to all single adults.

Music will be provided by Mike Porter of Lubbock, and tables of delicious pick-up foods will be available. (Alcohol is not served at Portales Singles events).

Admission price is \$5 per person.

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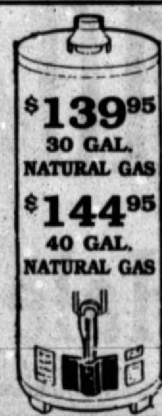
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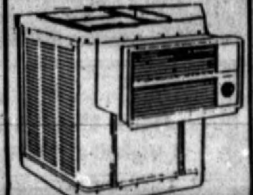
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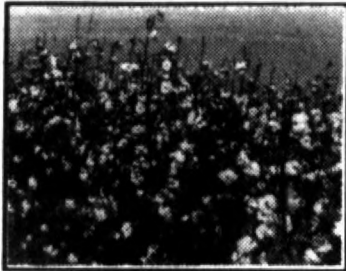
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# Young girls get view of workaday world

By PATRICIA RODRIGUEZ  
c.1993 Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — On Wednesday, while her classmates at Nichols Junior High in adjacent Arlington go about their studies as usual, Joanna Hutchins will be going to work.

Joanna, 14, will spend the day at the Fort Worth Girl Scout Council, where her mother, Christi, oversees desktop publishing. The teenager, who is considering a career in retail management or fashion merchandising, will spend the day shadowing the manager of the Scouts' retail shop, seeing firsthand what it takes to run a business.

"I like organizing things, I like working with people, and I like shopping — that helps," said Joanna. "I just thought doing this would be interesting."

That's what the organizers of national Take Our Daughters to Work day would like to hear. Hutchins is one of several hundred Fort Worth girls — including more than 500 from one Fort Worth middle school — who will spend a day in the office thanks to that project.

Conceived as a way to give girls ages 9 to 15 realistic views of the workplace, Take Our Daughters to Work was planned in response to recent studies showing that self-esteem in girls dropped drastically after about age 10. The Ms. Foundation for Women, which is sponsoring the event, wants girls to see the contributions that women — and men — make at work, and recognize career options they may not have considered.

"Our goal at the foundation was to make girls more visible and valued in a way that I don't think girls have traditionally been," said Nell Merlino, consultant to the New York-based foundation. "We want them to concentrate more on what they think and what they want to do with their future than what they look like."

The project was intended to take place only in New York, but organizers received so many inquiries after it was first publicized that they now expect 500,000 people nationwide to participate, Merlino said.

In Texas Gov. Ann Richards' office in Austin, for instance, 75 girls will see how her staff spends its day, said Leticia Vasquez, spokeswoman for the governor. In small groups, the girls will attend meetings and hearings; later, they'll hear from speakers including representatives from the governor's press office and the Texas Film Commission. The gov-

'93 Dodge Caravan. Hunter Green/Beige Int. Only 2900 Miles. One Owner, V-6 Auto, Air, Tilt, Cruise, #3443-1, \$16,995. Midway Chevrolet, Canyon, 655-7774.

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ernor will address the group if her schedule permits, Vasquez said.

In Fort Worth, the biggest organized project is the Girls' Day Out/Boys' Day In program at William James Middle School in east Fort Worth. All 542 girls at the school had the opportunity to be matched with a Fort Worth employer; each girl will spend about five hours with employees, observing the workday and even helping out when possible.

Some girls will accompany their parents to work, but many will be matched with businesses lined up by the project committee. Girls will be spending the day at

see a variety of the jobs that make the telephone company operate.

Eighth-graders Nedra Boozer and Takiasha Casey, both 15, will be going to banks, hospitals, doctors' and lawyers' offices, schools, accounting firms, retail shops and social service agencies. Linda Bourland, the PTA's Adopt-A-School coordinator who helped plan the project, said that she was inspired by media accounts of the New York project and her knowledge that many girls still lack positive female role models in the work world.

"They need to see the positive side of women in the workplace," said Bourland.

"They may see their mom come home tired at the end of the day, but they don't know what she did all day."

The William James project is intended to give girls a look at a variety of possible future careers, in big and small businesses and in pro-

fessional and technical fields.

At the Educational Employees Credit Union, about 35 girls from William James will see how the largely female staff handles transactions and runs the office. At Southwestern Bell, one of the school's Partners in Edu-

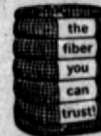
cation, at least 12 girls will work with Casey's mother, who works in food services at Handley Middle School. Nedra and Takiasha, who both want to become lawyers, say it will be fun to see the commercial kitchen in operation.

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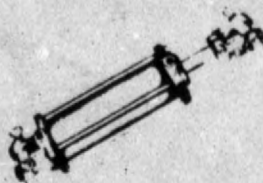
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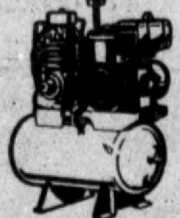
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