

WEST TEXAS Country Trader

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Abernathy
Weekly Review
The Canyon News

The Castro County News
The Clarendon News

The Lorenzo
EXAMINER
HEREFORD BRAND

Plainview Daily Herald
Ralls Reporter-News

Thursday, January 6, 1993

The Slatonite
The Tulla Herald

AgReview

Espy, Willie Nelson to attend AAM meet

LUBBOCK — The 1994 American Agriculture Movement convention will be held in Lubbock Jan. 13-16 and with featured speakers tentatively to include Ag Secretary Mike Espy and Farm Aid president Willie Nelson.

Along with discussions of the 1995 Farm Bill, the group will hold workshops on ag issues.

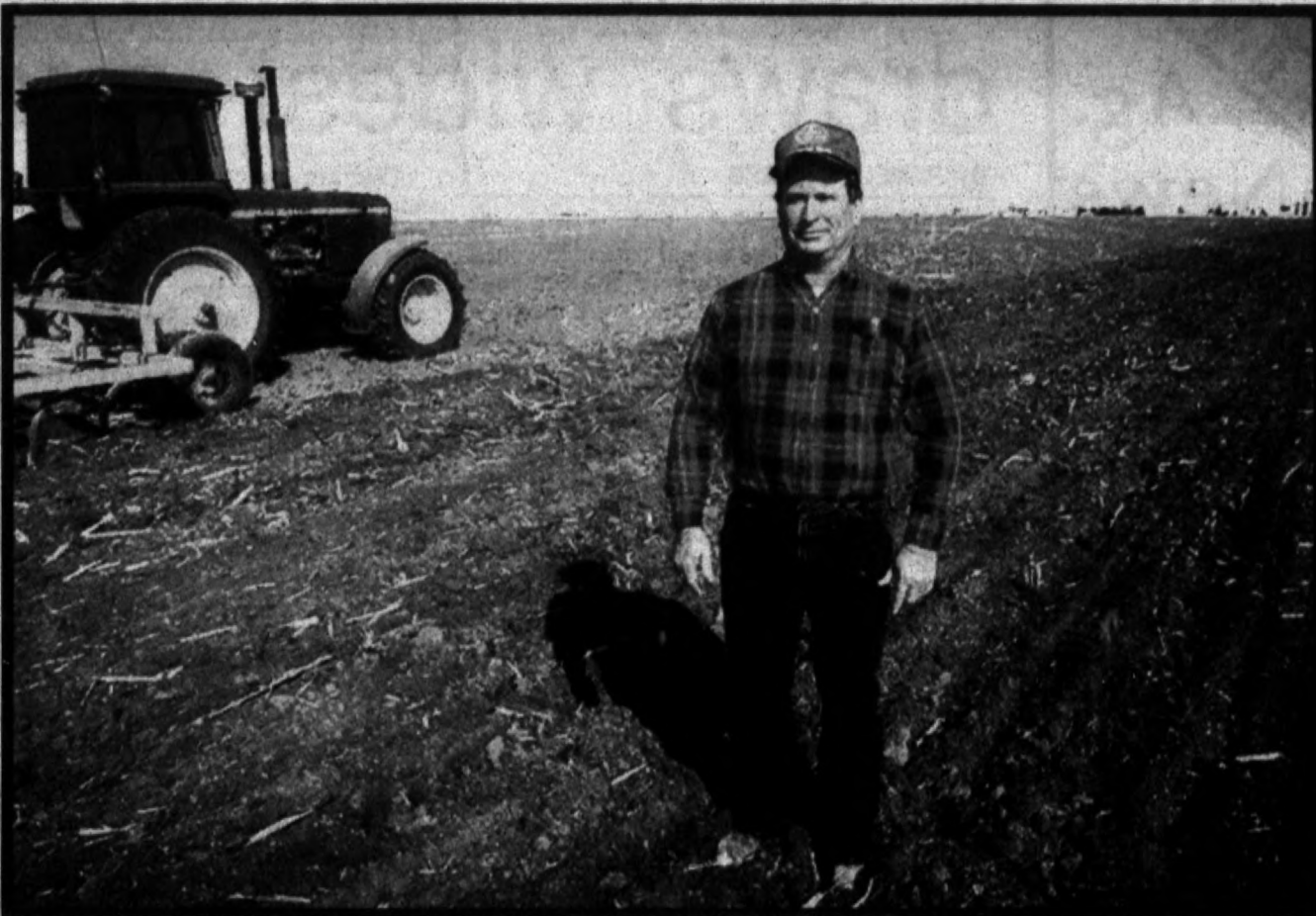
SPEAKERS AND workshops are scheduled for Friday, Jan. 14, and Saturday, Jan. 15, beginning at 9 a.m.

Joining Espy and Nelson on the program will be Texas Speaker of the House Pete Laney, FmHA State Director George Ellis and Harold Bob Bennett, Hart farmer and state director of ASCS.

Other speakers include: David Senter of Senter and Associates, Washington, D.C. He is a former national coordinator for AAM in Washington; Larry Mitchell, former director of state and federal regulations for AAM and recently named to direct the National Farmer's Union in Washington; and Gary Goldburg, national president of American Corn Growers.

WORKSHOPS WILL include subjects such as financial planning, ostrich breeding and a panel dis-

See AAM, Page 3



Gordon Zeigler/Country Trader & AgReview

New year, new crop ahead

Ray Gant, busy plowing corn ground for rotation into cotton this year, says his 1993 cotton was almost a career best. Cotton yield was 931 pounds, or nearly two bales per acre, slightly below the two-bale record he set on his farm near Aiken in 1991. Quality of his HS200 was also excellent.

'Farm Survival' is topic of corn meeting

Special to AgReview

DIMMITT — The future of production agriculture and ongoing USDA structuring will be key topics of discussion at the 21st annual meeting of the Texas Corn Growers Association Wednesday.

The meeting will be highlighted by panel discussions and begins at 8

a.m. in the Castro County Exposition Building in Dimmitt.

Carl King, TCGA president and Texas Corn Producers Board executive director, discussed the theme of the meeting, "Can Farmers Survive Now?"

With the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and more recently the signing of the Gen-

eral Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), corn farmers will undoubtedly face some confusing marketing situations," King said.

"And with questions about the future use of irrigation, the environment and farm management issues, corn production itself will likely be altered in the future. This meeting should help give growers a better understanding of how the future will affect them."

Guest speaker will be Texas House Speaker Pete Laney of Hale Center. Gary

Goldberg, president of the American Corn Growers Association, will be another key speaker.

The first of two panel discussions will include Lois Wales, a TCPB director, who will serve as moderator.

David Senter, a private agricultural consultant from Washington will join Corky Jones, a Nebraska corn farmer; Harvey Joe Sanner, Arkansas farmer and executive vice president of the American Agri-

See CORN, Page 8



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AgReview



South Plains
Ag News

Jan. 5-8

BELTWISE COTTON CONFERENCE

— Annual cotton meet to discuss the state of the industry will be held in the San Diego, Calif., Marriott Hotel and Marina.

Jan. 11

HALE COUNTY SOIL FERTILITY MEET

— Morning meeting at Ollie Liner Center concludes with a noon meal.

Jan. 12

LUBBOCK COTTON AND CONSERVATION TILLAGE MEET

— Annual gathering of Lubbock County farmers to discuss conservation efforts.

Jan. 10-11

IRRIGATION CONFERENCE

— A two-day conference and trade show sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association and the A&M Extension Service will include discussion of critical issues impacting irrigated agriculture.

Monday begins with a session on energy regulations.

Tuesday highlights a program on ag commodities with a morning session devoted to peanuts, corn and sugar beets and afternoon program on cotton, wheat and grain sorghum.

Information is available from Leon New at 359-5401.

Irrigation conference Monday draws widest audience ever

By PAMELA DILLARD
A&M Extension Journalist

AMARILLO -- The annual irrigation conference for High Plains growers and equipment dealers has been around for more than two decades according to Leon New, Extension Service irrigation specialist and conference chairman.

But this year the conference takes on a new look.

"The-1994 conference will be quite different because we're encompassing all of Texas and going out to other states as well," said New.

THE IRRIGATION Conference and Trade Show, sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, will be held at the Amarillo Civic Center on Monday and Tuesday.

The expanded program includes two full days of seminars and workshops and a much larger trade show, according to Mike Stephens, TAIA president from Lubbock.

"We are targeting a much wider audience ranging from the Texas agricultural producer and equipment dealer to their counterparts in five neighboring states with some dealers coming from as far away as Minnesota and North Dakota," said Stephens.

REP. PETE LANEY, Texas House speaker, will deliver the keynote address at Tuesday's noon luncheon. Bob Givens, KGNC agribusiness news director and popular host of "Agribusiness News at Noon", will broadcast his show live during both days of the conference. More than 75 industry equipment and service vendors will be on hand for the trade show.

New said the concurrent sessions will run both days and provide in-depth programs on innovations in chemigation, business management, marketing, and state and federal regulations -- all of which have application for producers and dealers.

"On Tuesday, we are placing a heavy emphasis on six major commodities, including corn, grain sorghum, wheat, peanuts, sugar beets and cotton. All six commodities are further repre-

sented by individual grower associations which co-sponsor this year's conference", New said.

RESEARCH SCIENTISTS will brief producers on current research in short season and dryland corn production, breeding programs, crop physiology, managing production, and marketing. Three CEUs may be earned by participants on Monday and four on Tuesday.

Other supporting hosts, including KGNC-Radio, are the Texas Corn Producers Board, Texas Peanut Producers Board, Texas Wheat Producers, Texas Sugar Beet Growers Association, Texas Grain Sorghum Producers, and Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

All conference sessions including the annual TAL awards banquet are open to everyone. There is no charge to attend and participants will pay only for meals. Cost of the noon meal is \$10 on Monday and \$15 on Tuesday. TAIA banquet meal ticket price is \$15 per person.

For more information, contact Leon New at (806) 359-5401 or your local irrigation dealer and county extension agent.

Cattle prices in '93 a pleasant surprise

A year ago, expectations were for lower cattle prices in 1993. 1992 had been a year of lower prices as cattle numbers had begun to slowly increase.

A that time, 1992 prices for 700-800 pound feeder steers had dropped \$5.97 per hundredweight (cwt.) from the record prices received in 1991. Feeder calf prices also dropped substantially from 1991 to 1992. For example, 400-500 pound feeder steer calf prices fell from an all time annual average high of \$106.29 cwt. in 1991 to an average of \$97.72 in 1992.

Cattle herds had continued to expand during 1992. U.S. cattlemen would be facing larger supplies of feeder cattle and calves in 1993. Consequently, most people were expecting lower prices in 1993. That did not happen, in fact cattlemen experienced a "wind-fall" year in 1993.

The severe winter of 1993 disrupted marketings and lowered feedlot cattle weight gains and total U.S.

beef production. Those impacts affected the 1993 market at least through June.

Fed cattle prices averaged \$80.68 cwt. in the Texas Panhandle through the first half of 1993. This price strength boosted 500-600 pound feeder steer prices to a \$94.66 cwt. average, nearly \$5 cwt. over the same period in 1992. The greatest price strength came in the heavier weight feeder cattle as the demand for feeding cattle increased. Through the first half of 1993, 700-800 pound feeder steer prices averaged \$85.35 cwt., \$6 cwt. above 1992's



LIVESTOCK MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Ernie Davis

prices. Amarillo fed cattle prices averaged \$77.43 cwt. through the first week in December, up from an average of \$75.72 cwt. in 1992. This was a 2.3 percent increase over last year's average, and a 3.2 percent increase over the 5-year average from 1988-1992.

Amarillo 700-800 pound feeder steer prices averaged \$84.94 cwt. during 1993, up \$4.33 cwt. from 1992. 1993 prices were \$2.50 cwt. above the 5-year average (1988-1992) of \$82.44 cwt.

Amarillo 400-500 pound feeder steer calf prices

averaged \$103.04 cwt. during 1993, a 5.2 percent increase above the average price of \$97.97 cwt. received in 1992. Again, these higher prices were stimulated by the increased demand to feed cattle, driven by the higher prices received for fed cattle during the first half of 1993. 1993 calf prices were \$3.21 cwt. above the 5-year average of \$99.83 cwt.

Unlike the feeder cattle and calf markets, slaughter cow markets saw prices erode during 1993. Utility 2-3 cows averaged \$48.39 cwt. at the San Angelo market. This was \$0.78 cwt. less than the 1992

average price of \$49.17 cwt. The lower slaughter cow prices were caused by the increased marketings of slaughter cows, both dairy and beef, during 1993. Through October of 1993, cow slaughter was 5 percent greater for the same period in 1992.

The 1993 cattle prices were welcomed by cattlemen, but unfortunately probably sent wrong signals to the industry. For this particular cattle cycle of inventory numbers that began in 1989, cattle and calf prices probably reached their peaks in 1991.

Should 1994 experience a more normal winter, fed and feeder cattle prices are not expected to be as high as those received in 1993. In fact the price adjustments could push fed and feeder cattle averages below those received in 1992.

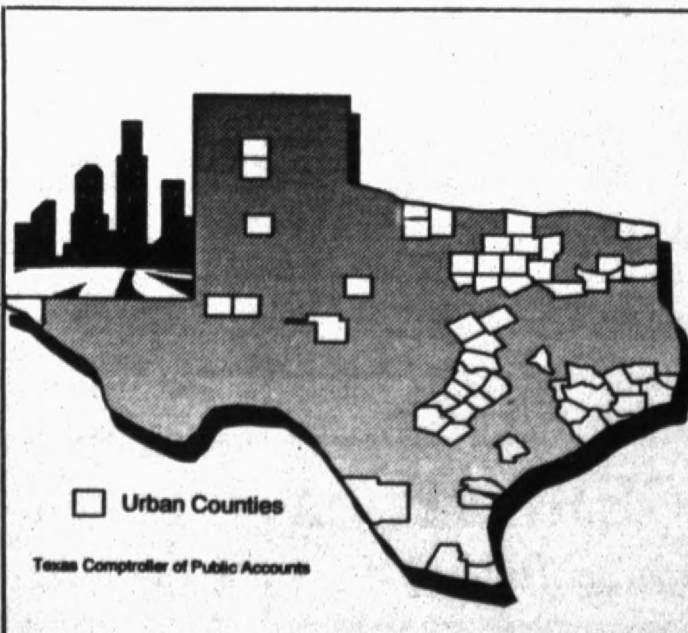
There are two primary reasons for this outlook. One, beef supplies should be higher in 1994 even with

smaller corn supplies. Two, the expected higher corn prices should put pressure on feeder cattle prices, especially the lighter weight feeder cattle and calves that would require more grain to reach finished weights and conditions.

Texas Panhandle fed cattle prices averaged just over \$77 cwt. in 1993. Fed cattle prices for 1994 could average closer to \$74.50 cwt. Feeder steer prices for those in the 500 600 pound weight group averaged \$93 cwt. in 1993 and could drop off to an \$86 cwt. average in 1994.

During 1993, total commercial red meat production was 40.5 billion pounds, down slightly from 1992. Commercial poultry production increased from 26.4 billion pounds in 1992 to 27.5 billion in 1993.

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



More Urban, Still Rural

- ◆ Eighty-two percent of Texans (13.9 million) now live in metropolitan areas.
- ◆ In 1993, nine Texas counties were added to the state's 27 metropolitan areas.
- ◆ Texas has more metro areas than any other state but is also the second most rural state in total rural population.
- ◆ Twenty percent of the Texas population is rural, but they live on 80 percent of the land.

Texas pecan crop sees bumper year

By BEVERLY BUNDY

© '93 Star Telegram

FORT WORTH — Jerry Nance is itching to get cracking.

As general manager of Ellis Pecan Co., Nance can't wait to have a go at the nut crop, particularly since early predictions are that this year's yield may be the largest in history.

Ellis has been shelling pecans for more than 50 years on Fort Worth's north side.

THE COMPANY buys whole nuts in the shell ("from growers, harvesters and families who've picked up 50 pounds while they're out on a picnic"), and then cracks, peels and packages the meat for supermarkets. Ellis markets its nuts, always under its own name, in the 48 contiguous states with the bulk of its sales in Texas and bordering neighbors.

The problem is that Mother Nature isn't cooperating. Earlier this year, she gave pecan trees ideal weather for a stellar crop — a wet spring and cool, dry winds in mid-September. But pecans need a mid-November frost to enable the green hulls to turn black and release the nut inside.

THIS YEAR THAT freeze came in late October, probably damaging 10 to 15 percent of the crop by

"gluing" the hull to the shell. But because the crop is so large, that loss shouldn't take much of a toll. Now shellers are waiting for the trees to release their mature crop.

Nance predicts that there may be as many of 400 million pounds of pecans harvested this year, compared to 166 million last year — the worst crop in 25 years.

"Consumers will probably start seeing prices go down in the supermarket around the first or the middle of December," Nance said.

The pecans shoppers are seeing on supermarket shelves now are from the 1992-93 crop. Nance says that is one of the marvels of pecans.

"PECANS (WHOLE OR SHELLED) will keep in the freezer for two years and in the refrigerator for six to seven months," Nance said. "We store our nuts in a cooler and ship them to stores with a six-months expiration date."

Expired nuts are picked up from stores, recleaned and sold to food manufacturers who will roast and salt the nuts for their products. The nuts aren't bad at this point, but are considered only "choice," one step below the best grade of "fancy" or "select."

At this time of the year, though, pecans move off

the shelves so fast that dates don't have time to expire. Nance says that 65 percent to 75 percent of his sales are during the last three months of the year, when home baking heats up. About 40 percent of Ellis' sales is pecan halves, 60 percent is pieces.

THE PECAN BELT stretches southwest from South Carolina to new groves in California, with Texas the second-largest grower behind Georgia. There are about 500 varieties of pecans, but all evolve from the native or "seedling" pecan, the nuts Native Americans so treasured they were used for trade with European settlers.

The native nut is thick-shelled, but over the years

Graddy Tunnell is 'Friend of Extension'

Plainview attorney Graddy Tunnell received the "State Friend of Extension" award in special ceremonies at Texas A&M University recently.

THE AWARD was presented by the Texas Alpha Zeta Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi, the national honorary fraternity of Extension Service professionals.

The award is presented annually to outstanding professionals with the Tex-

horticulturists have developed thin-shelled nuts with a higher proportion of meat. Many of these thin-shelled nuts have Indian-inspired names like Wichita, Cheyenne, Choctaw and Shawnee.

Ellis Pecan Co. is almost as historic as the nut it shells. Established in 1935 by the Ellis family of Fort Worth, the company was sold two years ago to the Hammons Products Co. of Missouri, the world's largest sheller of Eastern black walnuts.

The following recipes are from the Ellis Pecan Co:

SIMPLY SUPERB PECAN PIE

(Serves 6-8)
3 eggs, beaten

1 cup sugar
1/2 cup dark corn syrup
1 teaspoon vanilla
6 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
1 1/4 cups chopped pecans or halves
1 unbaked 9-inch pie crust
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Beat eggs thoroughly with sugar, corn syrup, vanilla and melted butter or margarine. Add pecans.

Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour, or until knife inserted halfway between outer crust and center comes out clean.

CANTALOUPE BASKET

(With honey pecan dressing)

(Serves 4)

1 cantaloupe, quartered and seeded
1 cup cut-up fresh fruit (strawberries, bananas or blueberries or a combination)
1/2 cup large-curd cottage cheese
1 tablespoon honey
1 tablespoon fresh orange juice
1 teaspoon grated orange peel
1/2 cup chopped pecans

Place cantaloupe quarters on a platter; spoon 1/4 cup of fresh fruit in center of each piece of cantaloupe. Place remaining ingredients, except pecans, in blender or food processor and blend until smooth. Stir in pecans and spoon over cantaloupe and fruit.

as Agricultural Extension Service who have provided exemplary leadership to educational programs and

who have used innovative techniques in delivering those programs to various audiences.

Tunnell was honored in 1993 by the Plainview Chamber of Commerce as Man of the Year.

AAM

From Page 3

cussion dealing with improving agency and producer relations.

AAM is a grass roots organization representing farmers. Texas AAM will

have a state meeting at 7 p.m. on Jan. 13.

On Friday at 5 p.m. AAM will host a Texas barbecue. Saturday night's entertainment includes a West Texas Oprey performance.

Clifford Hamilton is coordinator for this year's convention.

AAM Texas President

Don Kimbrell of Happy commented on issues to be discussed.

"The same problem that has destroyed many family farms and deteriorated communities continues to plague America," Kimbrell said. "Farm prices are out of Balance with the cost of production. They buying power of agriculture is not what it should be."

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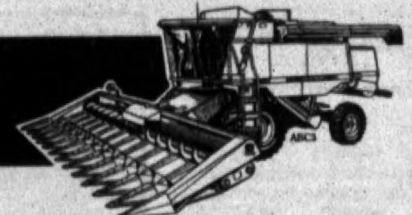


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ASCS veteran likes working for second busiest U.S. ag office

By GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview

As anyone who's watched the nation's farm programs over three and a half decades can tell you, there have been plenty of changes.

Ramona Mallow, for one, has been able to watch many of those from a close perspective.

Mrs. Mallow, honored recently for 35 years service to the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, made some observations recently about the natural cycle of things she has witnessed.

"I've seen a lot of farms where grass was planted three different times," she observed.

TWO TIMES, she has seen county grassland acres plowed back up and put back into crops.

"I saw the last of the soil bank. Now, we've been all the way through a second program, the Cropland Adjustment Program or CAP," she explained. "Now, since 1986, we've put it back in CRP."

The programs she helped administer were all aimed at taking land out of production and, by putting grass on it, attempting to raise the price of what farmers grow rather than having excess commodities.

She first joined the office, then known only as ASC, in 1956. Manager at that time was John Martin. ASC was located at 6th and Ash Streets. From there, the office was moved to 5th and Quincy in 1962.

SHE SAID IT DIDN'T take her long to realize that Hale County had one of the busiest ASCS offices in the state — due to the diversity of crops in the region.

In fact, at a recent statewide meeting, Hale County was publicly recognized as having been rated the second busiest office in the United States.

"We have all the crops — wheat, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, sugar beets," she said. "We have a little bit of everything, we even have wool and honey programs."

Mrs. Mallow is one of 17 employees at the Hale County ASCS. If you add her

experience and that of some fellow veterans, there is more than 100 years combined experience in the office.

Other longtime employees include Eva Seely, 37 years; and Susie Wyatt, Debbie Balk, Marilyn Gary, Tory Gilliland and Minnie Cerda, each 10 years.

IN ALL HER YEARS, she says she has enjoyed her association with the farming public — the ASCS here has about 1,800 farm clients at present.

"There is not anyone more cooperative to work for than our farmers," she said.

One of the most memorable experiences in her career so far was a near-disaster when the ASCS office, then located at 5th and Quincy, burned along with an adjoining grocery store in 1970.

"All the maps were burned," she recalls. "But all the farmers were very cooperative in bringing us their own maps so we could recover the records."

THE ASC was later located in the Haynes Building, and later in Winchester Plaza before new offices were built in 1992 near Ennis and Southwest Third.

Three have served as County Executive Directors since she started — Martin, Pat Guy (who came on board from 1972 until he became a district director in 1986) and now Jack London.

She has worked in all departments of ASCS, spending a considerable amount of time in compliance and loans.

"There have been so many changes in the past 35 years it has been unbelievable," she said. "We used to use chains to measure the land."

Now we fly the county twice a year, taking aerial photos.

ASCS EMPLOYEES NOW use a viewing machine which utilizes the color slides to compute, almost instantaneously, the crop acreages of field plots.

"These new methods save us 50 percent of the time or more," she says.

Born and raised in Kress (she grew up in Center Plains west of Kress), she graduated from Kress High School. She is the daughter of the late George and Edna Rousser.

She has two sons. Gary, a surgical nurse at St. Mary's Hospital in Lubbock and wife Zandra have two sons, Chad, a pharmacy student in Weatherford, Okla., and Neil, a sophomore at Texas Tech. Greg, an employee at the USDA Agricultural Research lab in Lubbock and wife, Brenda, have two daughters, Amanda and Ashley, both students in Lubbock schools.



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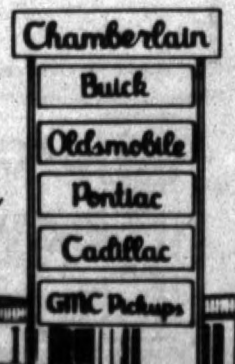
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Fort Worth hopes to land Cowgirl Hall of Fame

FORT WORTH (AP) — Already billed as "Cowtown" and the point "where the West begins," Fort Worth officials say their city is the perfect home for yet another Western attraction — the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center.

"It's a natural," said Hub Baker, general manager of the Cowtown Coliseum and the organizer of a

team group trying to woo the museum to the city's Stockyards historic district.

The 19-year-old museum, which keeps alive the spirit of western women such as Annie Oakley and pioneer Mary Ann Goodnight, is looking for a new home because it has outgrown its site in Hereford, 50 miles southwest of Amarillo.

Fort Worth is among about a dozen Texas towns

and cities in four other states vying for the facility.

Anne W. Marion, owner of the 6666 Ranch about 75 miles east of Lubbock, and billionaire Ed Bass are among the leaders of the Fort Worth bid.

The Chamber of Commerce's economic development department has joined the hunt by putting together a packaged sales pitch and letters from the mayor and

City Council.

One possible site is an 81-year-old, red-brick horse and mule barn in the Stockyards national historic district just north of downtown, which is an increasingly visible tourist attraction with its historic atmosphere, shops and attractions that include Billy Bob's, the world's largest honky tonk.

Another enticement is the chance to expand the

annual Cowtown Cowgirl Classic Rodeo from a three-day event to a weeklong festival capped by induction ceremonies into the Cowgirl Hall of Fame, Baker said.

"I don't know any city or site that's going to compare with what the Stockyards has to offer — not only with its 1.3 million visitors a year but with the authenticity of the surrounding western life-

style," said rodeo broadcaster Shelly Burmeister, a Cowgirl Hall of Fame member.

Margaret Formby, the hall's founder and director, has asked for written proposals by the middle of next month.

Cities in Kansas, Oklahoma, Wyoming and New Mexico have expressed interest in attracting the heritage center.

'Ogallala' shows why water went underground, how much is left

Special to AgReview

"Irrigation is as old as civilization; it is one of humanity's great historical innovations," writes John Opie in "Ogallala: Water for a Dry Land." But today the future of irrigation farming is under scrutiny.

The Ogallala aquifer, a vast store of underground water reserves extending

from South Dakota through Texas, is the product of eons of accumulated glacial melts, ancient Rocky Mountain snow melts, and rainfall. Irrigation of the aquifer has allowed the former Dust Bowl to prosper, but recent concern about the depletion of the aquifer has thrown the region's continued prosperity into

BOOK REVIEW

Title: *Ogallala: Water for a Dry Land*
Author: John Opie
Publisher: University of Nebraska Press

question.

In his new book, "Ogallala: Water for a Dry Land," John Opie uses history as a foundation for

plotting the area's future. Focusing on the aquifer, he vividly portrays the south-central plains — its natural resources, its history, and the remarkable irrigation technologies that revolutionized its farming.

Opie then describes the operations, insights, and fragile hopes of several irrigation-farming families who have lived and worked successfully on the High Plains since the 1950s — two in southwest Kansas, and another in Texas County, Okla. He also recounts state and local efforts in groundwater management, using as examples the Texas High Plains District #1, the Southwest and Northwest Kansas Districts #3 and #4, and the Oklahoma Water Resource Board. In doing so, he illustrates that the aquifer is not merely a local resource, nor simply a regional treasure: its influence is felt in farming, food and trade at the national and international levels and its careful management should be undertaken accordingly.

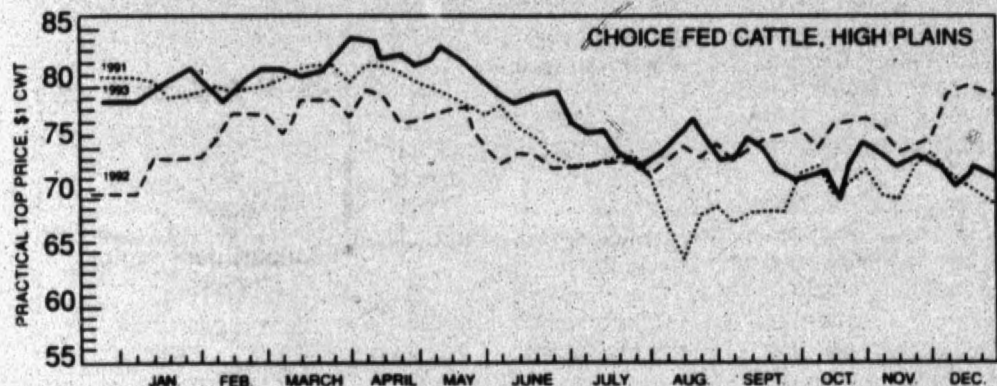
Opie concludes by describing an alternative-crop, reduced-irrigation farm in Haskell County, Kan., and by examining how sustainable agriculture could work to preserve the Ogallala aquifer for future generations.

John Opie is founding editor of "Environmental History Review." His other books include "The Law of the Land: Two Hundred Years of American Farm-

land Policy" (University of Nebraska Press, 1987).

Published earlier this year, "Ogallala" is the first book in the series "Our

Sustainable Future," an interdisciplinary forum on the development of sustainable communities locally and globally.



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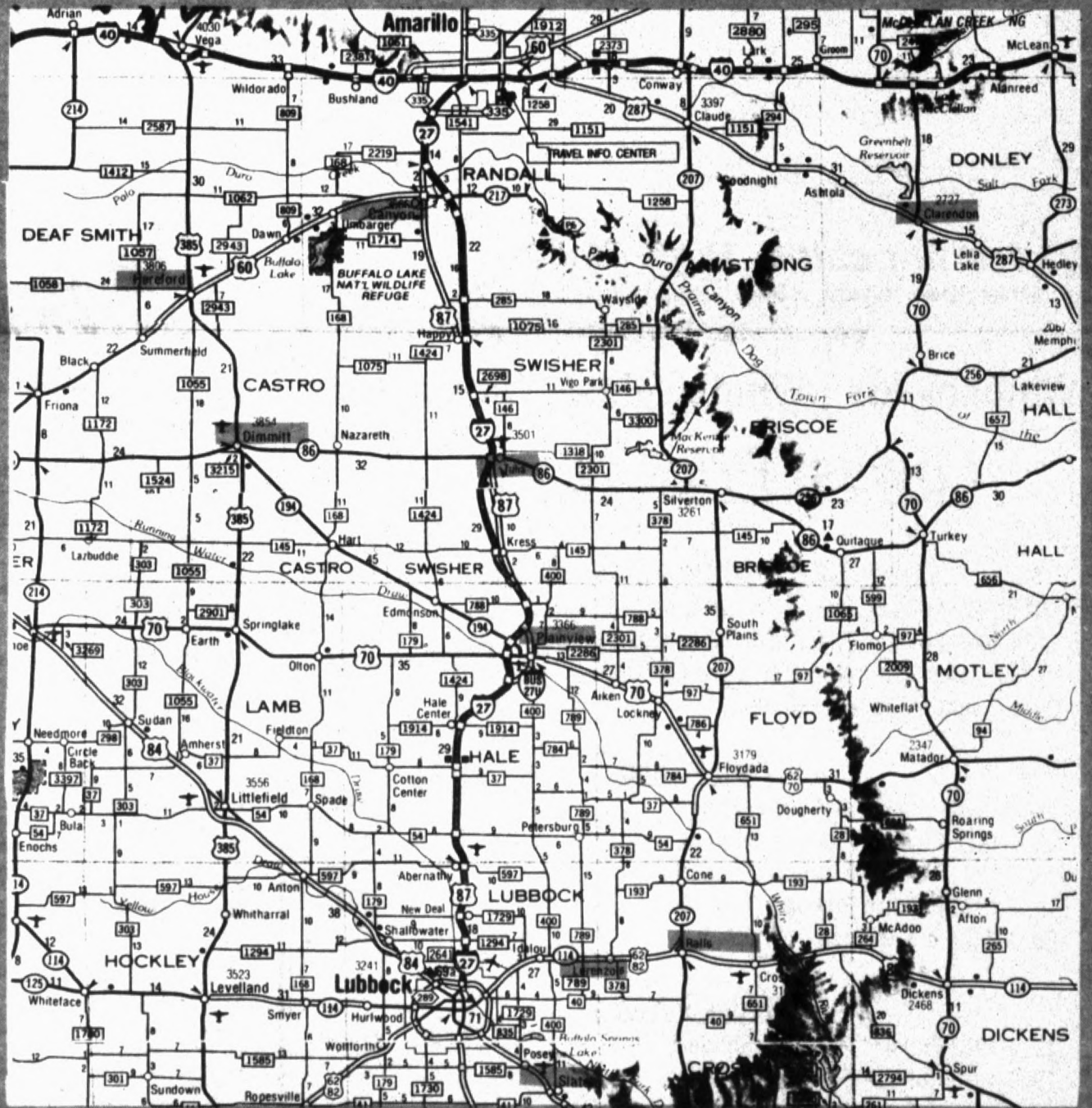
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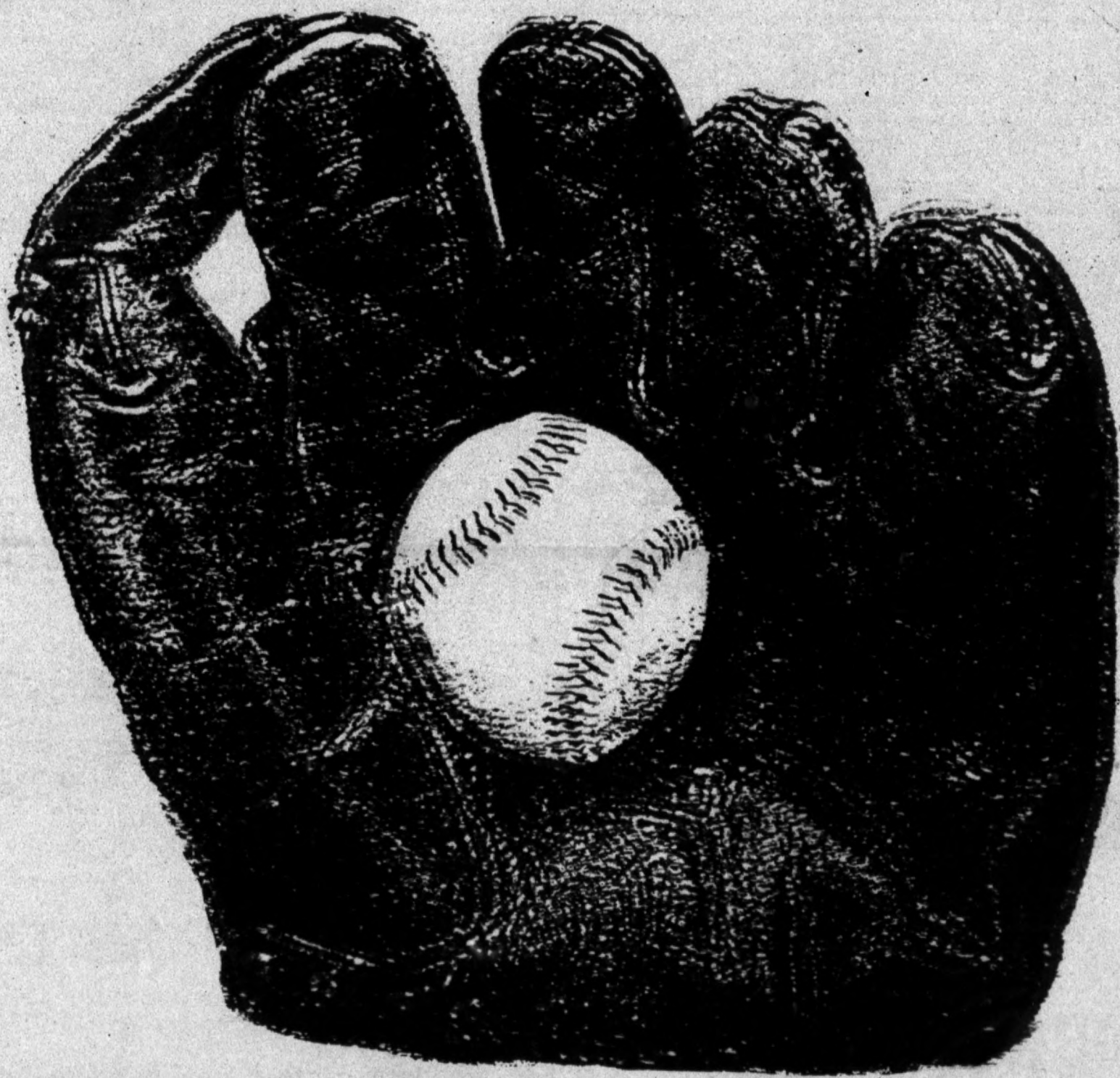
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Corn sweeteners play widened role in food industry

By JENNIFER LOVEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The use of corn sweetener in food and beverages is on the rise, exceeding the use of cane and beet sugar for the eighth consecutive year, the Agriculture Department reported.

U.S. corn sweetener pro-

duction uses between 7 and 10 percent of annual corn crops — and is expected to increase. As a sign of the industry's growing significance, the report is the first published by USDA to compile all data on corn sweetener trends in one place.

The 10 U.S. companies that manufacture the sweeteners use well over 600

million bushels of corn each year — producing more than 10 million tons of the sugary flavoring — at 21 facilities in 11 states, according to the "U.S. Corn Sweetener Statistical Compendium."

Corn is abundantly available in the United States at relatively low costs. And the wet-milling process used to turn the corn into a flavoring

bears corn gluten feed and meal and corn oil, which can be resold by the manufacturer.

Because of this, it is much cheaper to produce sweetener in the United States than cane or beet sugar, the department said.

Use of corn sweetener in fiscal 1993 was up more than three percent from the year

before, to about 10.1 million tons. Two-thirds of that is high fructose corn syrup, used primarily in drinks. Glucose and dextrose — used in commercially prepared foods — account for the rest.

The report said an expansion in trade could take advantage of increased pro-

duction. Because of high sugar prices in Canada, the United States' major sweetener trading partner, imports still exceed exports, the report found.

Production for fiscal year 1994 are expected to rise an additional 1.7 percent, with prices remaining steady or a little higher.

More women, less men are leasing out land

By ROBERT GREEN
AP Farm Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Farmers today are more likely to rent land than they once were, and the odds are greater that the landlord may be a woman.

A recent study by the Agriculture Department found a growing trend among farmers to lease land, combining owned and rented land in a farming operation. In the past, leasing was seen as a step toward full ownership. By leasing, farmers can

quickly expand or contract their operations. Cash from the rent can be used to pay for operations.

Forty-five percent of all agricultural land was leased in 1988. And 41 percent of farmers operated some leased land.

Tenant farmers, those who leased all the land they operated, accounted for only 12 percent of all operators in 1988, compared with 39 percent in 1940.

The farm population has been steadily aging as well. Fewer people have taken up

agriculture, with newcomers unable to replace the steady number of farmers who have abandoned the land.

Because women often outlive men, the number of

women owning and leasing out farmland has been increasing, USDA researchers said. Women control 40 percent of the privately held farmland being rented out.

CORN

From Page 1

culture Movement; Larry Mitchell, a Washington ag consultant; and Dr. Steve Amosson, area economist for the A&M Extension Service in Amarillo.

The group will discuss the main facets of corn production and production agriculture in general. They will also take ample time to answer questions from anyone attending the meeting.

Restructuring of USDA will be another topic of discussion, since there is confusion about the shift of responsibilities within the

ASCS, FmHA and other USDA branches.

Panel members on that topic will include King, moderator; Grant Buntrock, national ASCS administrator in Washington; Ray Joe Riley, chairman of the Texas State ASCS Committee; Harold Bob Bennett, State ASCS executive director; and George Ellis, Texas State FmHA director.

The afternoon session will be highlighted by reports on corn research results, and two CEU credits will be available. Dr. Brent Bean, Amarillo area A&M agronomist, will discuss new short season corns. Eddie Bynum, a

TAEX research assistant, will discuss the potential for mite resistant corn hybrids. Dr. Pat Morrison, TAEX Lubbock area entomologist, will provide an update on additional insect research results, including the potential for receiving a conditional clearance for use of Capture miticide.

High frequency deficit irrigation for corn will be examined by Dr. Leon New, A&M extension

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The status of the TCPB and report on its 1994 budget will be discussed by TCPB Chairman Bert Williams.

More information is available by calling the TCPB office 1-800-647-CCRN.

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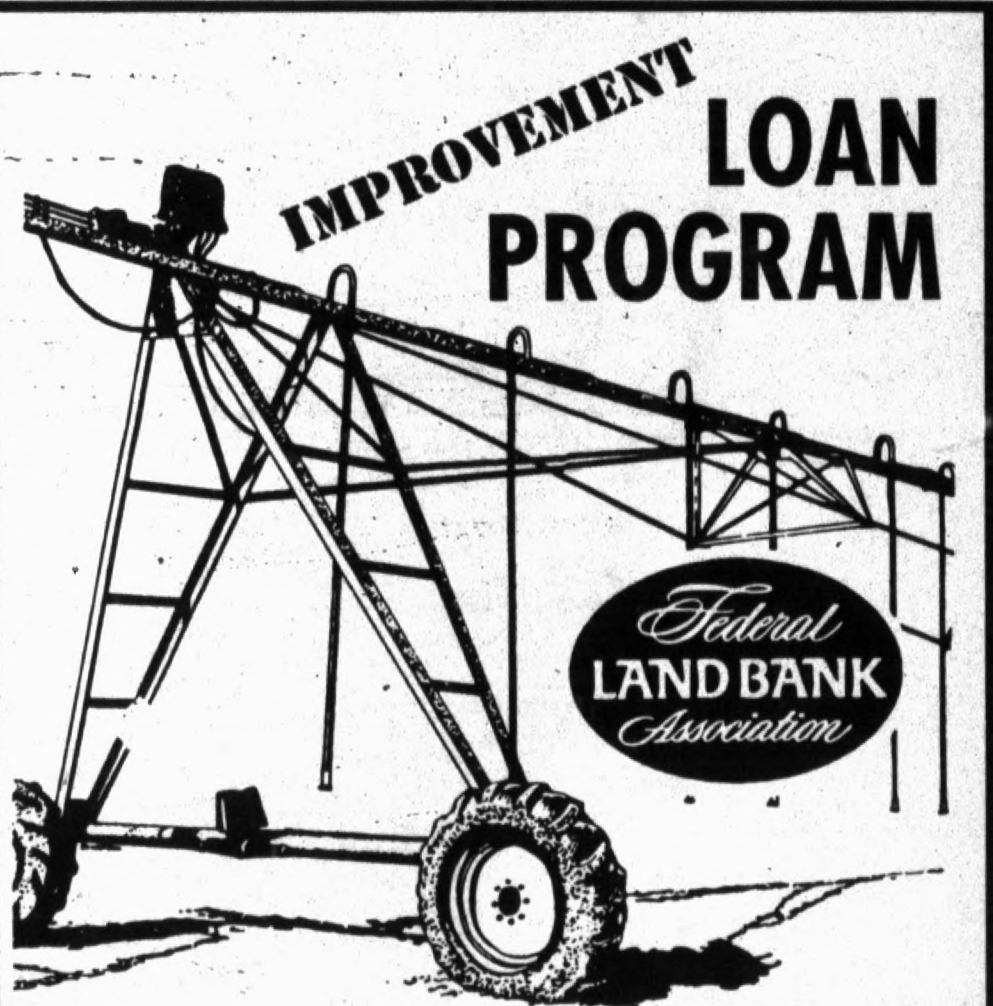
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