

WEST TEXAS Country Trader



The West Texas Country Trader is a Supplement of:

Abernathy
Weekly Review
The Canyon News

The Castro County News
The Clarendon News

The Lorenzo
HEREFORD BRAND

Plainview Daily Herald
Ralls Reporter-News

Thursday, May 12, 1994

The Slatonite
The Tulla Herald

Cattle industry Speaking Out!

Agribusiness Profile...

AMARILLO — In the musical play "Texas," cattlemen in the Panhandle of historical past mounted a delegation to go to Austin to lobby on behalf of the industry. That legacy continues in the cattle industry of historical present and for many of the same reasons.

Those reasons largely consist of working with government officials to develop laws and regulations that small businesses can live with. However, while the reasons remain the same, the issues have changed. "Without a doubt,

Texas cattle industry has long record of lobbying in cases of

AgReview

See Cattle, Page 3



Courtesy Photo/Frances Wood

Mare 'mothers' more calves

Molly, an "old maid" mare featured in the March issue of *AgReview* just keeps on mothering new calves on the L-7 Ranch near Crosbyton. She reportedly has adopted some new spring calves and continues nursing them as her own. Molly has drawn wide attention for her services as surrogate "cow" for orphaned calves — which she began mothering and nursing completely at her own will several years ago. Owned by L.W. Cook, Molly is an 8-year-old quarter horse and honorary ranch nursemaid.

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South Plains

Ag News

May 28

FLOYD COUNTY OLD SETTLERS — Day of celebrating and fun, plus a parade including antique tractors.

June 11

ARMSTRONG FARM TRACTOR PLAYDAY — Paul and Jackie Armstrong of Hart will host their annual tractor show on their farm 3 1/2 miles west of Hart on FM 145, then three miles south. A slow race, parade and plowing contest will be held.

July 9

LEVELLAND CELEBRATION AND TRACTOR PARADE — Parade and celebration including old tractors. For information contact Preston Reeves.

July 16

CHILDRESS REUNION — Day of celebrating and downtown parade.

SEAGRAVES REUNION — Day of fun and displays of old tractors as part of Seagraves Day events.

TULIA'S SWISHER COUNTY PICNIC — Traditional picnic celebration features noon barbecue meal.

July 28

OKLAHOMA STATE TWO-CYLINDER SHOW — One of the major tractor shows in the Southwest, to be held in Fairview, Okla.

Aug. 4-87

PLAINS ANNUAL CELEBRATION & RODEO

Paymaster/Lankart goes to DeltaPine

By GORDON ZEIGLER
Herald Staff Writer

AIKEN — The Paymaster logo, an old name in stripper cotton that appeared on the South Plains farming scene in the 1940s and helped bring short staple into its own here, will continue to grace a 50-acre facility at Aiken for years to come, it was revealed this week.

Paymaster Cottonseed is the name that Delta & Pine Land will most likely use to designate a 50-acre processing, shipping and storage site acquired from Cargill as of last Sunday, The Herald has learned from D&PL officials.

D&PL has announced it will maintain present operations, retain the Paymaster logo and maintain an employee force of about 10 persons virtually unchanged, Don Kimmel, the company's vice president for marketing said.

Kimmel also commented on D&PL's reasoning behind the purchase from Cargill, saying, "We looked at the Paymaster efforts there, and we felt it looked good," he said. "We felt like it was something we would like to merge with. It isn't a case where we looked at something we wanted to come in shake up, change this, change that."

Kimmel called Cargill's cottonseed division a "strong program and we felt like we wanted to be part of it in the future. And we wanted to keep the present personnel. At present, I don't see us sending anyone in there."

Sentimentality over the Paymaster name, combined

with the news it will live on, has created enthusiasm among many, not the least of which are the "Population of 31" listed on the facility water tower along U.S. 70.

"Our intent is to keep the program pretty much intact the way it is now, including all the 12 associates that handle the Paymaster Brand," Kimmel said of the production/distribution plans.

One of those associates, Gene McLain of Plainview Acid Delinting, discussed his own feelings about the changeover from Cargill to D&PL.

"Representatives from DeltaPine have assured us that for the time being things will be the same it has been with Cargill," he said. "It shouldn't affect the farmers at this point anywhere. It will business as usual. They will still go to associate growers or local seed dealers for Paymaster seed."

McLain said he is optimistic about the future of Paymaster.

"They are probably the biggest cotton people in the world," he said. "They've got a strong research program and I think they're going to keep new varieties coming and probably better than what we have. If someone was going to buy it, I think DeltaPine was the most likely. They are strong, and they have a great staff, breeders and research program."

Kimmel said he sensed similar enthusiasm among associate growers met on a swing through the area about two weeks ago.

"I think that they felt

good that we were coming in and that we would be concentrating heavy on the cotton business," he said. "We also heard a lot of interest in our biotechnology efforts. They know we have been very aggressive in that area."

Tom Jagodinski, vice president for finance, was in Aiken Wednesday. He listed D&PL's recent announcement of a joint venture with Monsanto to develop Bt cotton as a milestone for the company. Another was a joint venture with the Peoples Republic of China to introduce its lines of picker cotton into Asia.

D&PL is also working behind the scenes on further technological advances, such as herbicide-resistant cotton lines, but these and other projects are still several years away, he said.

Prior to the purchase of Paymaster, D&PL had been exclusively involved in the picker cotton lines. The company introduced one variety of stripper cotton on the South Plains and owns others.

Paymaster's premier lines at present are HS26 and their newest, HS200, both of which boast high strength and quality fiber.

Other growers affected by the change of ownership include Bronco Seed, Stamford; Brownfield Seed & Delinting, Cen-Tex Seed & Delinting, Hillsboro; Holland Cottonseed, Big Spring; Jackson Delinting, Lubbock; Littlefield Delinting; Morton Delinting; Ralls Delinting; Seedco Corporation of Lubbock; Southwest Seed &

Delinting of Elmer, Okla.; and Von Roeder Seed Farms of Snyder.

Delta & Pine Land is not new to the Plainview area. They acquired a sorghum production and processing facility on north I-27 from Funk Seed Company several years ago.

That operation and its management will remain as is, along with a sorghum research facility and a regional sales office in Lubbock. Jagodinski said prior to the Aiken acquisition his company employed a total of 35 persons in Texas.

Headquartered in Scott, Miss, with offices in nine states and several foreign DeltaPine is the world's largest commercial breeder, producer and marketer of cotton planting seed. D&PL also markets sorghum, soybean and corn planting seed.

D&PL's common stock trades on the NASDAQ National Market System under COTN.

Richard Sheetz will continue to oversee cotton research. Byron Hannabas continues as operations manager. He has been in Aiken since 1990.

A native of Lubbock, Hannabas received undergraduate and master's degrees in Agricultural Engineering at Texas Tech. He and wife, Beth, have three children, Halley, 8; Greg, 6; and Tim, 3; and are members of First Methodist Church. He is a member of the Texas Seed Trade Association, the American Cottonseed Delinting Association and the Gideon Mens Bible Society.

Sale not to impact other Cargill seed work

■ Cargill chief sees clear future at LockView farm

By GORDON ZEIGLER
Herald Staff Writer

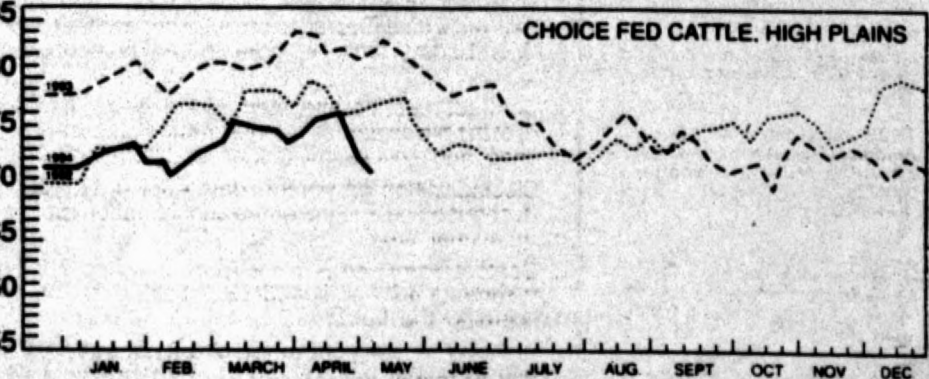
MINNEAPOLIS, Minn — Though its entire cottonseed operation on U.S. 70 in Aiken was transferred to new owner DeltaPine last week, Cargill, Inc., Seed Division intends to maintain a strong presence in seed production on its half-century-old LockView

Farms east of Plainview.

Bruce Priebe, president of Cargill Seed 85 division, indicated in a telephone interview last week.... from corporate headquarters that its transfer of its cottonseed business and its 50 acres of storage/shipping facilities will allow a more focused effort at furthering the company's global effort at developing sorghum, sunflower, corn, alfalfa and canola seed products. "It's really a very

simple equation," assets having to do with cottonseed and "We have taken those transferred it to

Delta and Pine Land. See Seed, Page 5



Courtesy Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Amarillo

Choice fed cattle, High Plains
The above report reflects market activity through May 6.

Bullish news puts slight pressure on market

The cotton market received bullish reports on domestic and export demand during the week of April 25. Annualized U.S. Mill use in March increased to 10.671 million bales from 10.283 the month before. Sales commitments to China increased 307,300 upland bales, boosting their commitments to 720,700 bales from the 1993/94 U.S. However, shipments to China are lagging at only 71,700. Because cotton is in short supply, many Chinese mills are closed. Thus, their shipments are expected to be made over the next several months.

On the bearish side, crop prospects for 1994/95 are looking slightly better due to timely rain across West Texas that indicates dryland may have planting moisture. Of course, substantial rain will be needed to make a reasonable Texas crop. Cotton planting is ahead of schedule. By May 1, U.S. planting was 42 percent complete compared to 27 percent last year and the 5-year



COTTON MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Carl Anderson

average of 30 percent. The first projections for 1994/95 crop supply and demand will be made by USDA on May 10. Given current prospects, a 17.5 million bale U.S. crop with total offtake slightly less and expected carry-over about the same as this season appears likely. This suggests a fairly steady market. However, it

is subject to changes stemming from bearish forces of good weather and bullish responses from bad weather conditions. The market will likely remain sensitive to the adversities of weather, insects and disease both at home and overseas until harvest is well under way.

Therefore, marketing strategies may need to be customized to reduce risk of a large crop and lower prices but still be able to benefit from higher prices. Possible pricing procedures include forward contracts, minimum price contracts, put options and more complex strategies using combinations of puts, calls and futures hedging contracts. This should prove to be an interesting year to market cotton. The "A" index was 75.6 cents on April 29 and the weekly AWP was 71.11 cents.

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

Cattle, from Page 1
the environment has been the issue of the '90s," says TCFA President Les McNeill of Panhandle. "And environmental issues will continue for some time to come."

Today, the Texas Cattle Feeders Association (TCFA) carries the torch of legislative leadership by working with various regulatory agencies and legislative bodies to make sure government officials are aware of cattle feeders' concerns. "Through that effort, TCFA has formed a partnership between private enterprise and government that has yielded regulations that protect the environment, yet are reasonable to small businessmen," McNeill told news people attending the annual convention of the Panhandle Press Association, April 1 in Amarillo.

Cattlemen throughout Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico have always known their livelihood depended on healthy, renewable natural resources. And they've also known that while environmental protection is best accomplished by private land ownership, relationships with government agencies are necessary.

"That's why TCFA has made a priority of legislative leadership ever since the Association was formed in 1967," McNeill says. "And more and more, we're dealing with regulatory agencies as they implement rules that affect our industry."

Take, for example, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In 1992, EPA proposed that concentrated animal feeding operations in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Louisiana obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit.

TCFA played a key role in assuring that the proposed EPA regulations were based on sound science and rooted in common sense. "In addition, TCFA took the lead in developing a model Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) that meets EPA's requirements," McNeill says. "This model can be used by feedyards to develop their own PPP with their site-specific information."

In another instance, TCFA presented facts to clear up hazy dust control standards included in the EPA air pollution manual. Using data gathered from desert feedyards, EPA was

claiming that all feedyards had dust emissions far exceeding feedyards in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

TCFA questioned their numbers and worked with Texas A&M University scientists to obtain data that were applicable to feedyards in the TCFA area. TCFA is now working with EPA to incorporate the accurate data into their

manual.

On the state level, TCFA has worked with the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Committee (TNRCC), and its predecessor agencies the Texas Water Commission and the Texas Air Control Board, for many years to develop and implement air and water control permits that protect natural resources with common-sense regula-

tions.

"In addition to working with government agencies, TCFA has taken a proactive stance on doing all it can to help feedyards operate in an environmentally-friendly way," McNeill says. TCFA will conduct an environmental audit to determine if the various state and federal permits are in order and that regulations are being met. This

environmental site assessment program helps feedyard operators better understand the complex rules and regulations required by the regulatory agencies.

Because of TCFA's outstanding environmental stewardship program, the Association was named a finalist for the Governor's Award in the Clean Texas 2000 program last year.

Playa basin meet is May 18-20

Playa basins have often been called "The High Plains area's most underutilized natural resource."

The more than 19,000 playas scattered over the area constitute a critical element in the water resources of the area and will be the topic of discussion May 18, 19, and 20, at the Playa Basin Symposium at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

Recharge to the Ogallala Aquifer, playa basin modification, infiltration rates, water quality, playas used in stormwater management, playas used in waste management systems, wildlife management, and agricultural production, are just a few of the topics that will be discussed at the symposium.

According to Dr. Lloyd Urban, director of the Texas Tech

University Water Resources Center and Co-chairman of the symposium, "The purpose of this symposium is to bring together as many individuals as possible to share their experiences with each other and with those in attendance - scientists, engineers, land owners, wildlife management specialists, and others who have an interest in and a concern for playas."

Some of the top researchers in their fields will present papers at the symposium. Senator Teel Bivins will present the keynote address on May 18, to open the symposium.

Sen. John T. Montford will speak during the luncheon on the same day; and Representative David Counts, Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, will

speaking at the luncheon on May 19.

May 20, the last day of the symposium, will feature a tour of the High Plains area, visiting playa basins that represent the different uses addressed during the sessions.

Event sponsors will also host a bar-b-que picnic the first night at the Ranching Heritage Center, located on the Texas Tech campus.

Registration cost for the symposium is \$45.00, which includes three meals and all sessions and tours. A copy of the proceedings can also be purchased for \$25.00.

Participants are encouraged to register by May 6, 1994 whereas adequate seating and food arrangements can be made for all participants.

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Contract must be executed and placed in escrow with 10% of the bid as earnest money immediately after bids are opened and successful bidder is determined.

Closing will be on Wednesday, August 31, 1994 at 10 A.M. at our office and the entire consideration is payable in cash at that time.

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Tells how she became Texas Poet Laureate

By LANA SWEETEN-SHULTS

The Victrol Advocate

VICTORIA — For a woman who was once nicknamed "Tex," Mildred Baass, Poet Laureate of Texas, finds it easy to represent the Lone Star State.

However, it wasn't always that way. She tells of a time when she served with the Red Cross in World War II, the only southerner in a "Yankee" unit, and had some trouble performing her Texan duties.

For some reason, everyone in her unit thought she "must have been missing a horse." So, a general got her a horse to ride, but little did he know that Tex's only contact with horses was seeing tourists ride them in San Antonio's Brackenridge Park.

"But I wasn't going to disgrace my state!" she says with conviction. So without an inkling of what she was doing, she hopped on the horse, held her head high, and showed her Texas pride, much like she does when meeting the challenges of her honorary title.

Mrs. Baass, who was appointed 1993-94 poet laureate by a joint committee of the Texas Legislature, has been relentlessly promoting poetry around the state since she was named to her post. It's an honor she hasn't taken lightly.

"I don't want to be a sit-at-home poet laureate," she says. "I want to be a visible, vocal poet laureate."

Since her appointment, she has attended monthly meetings of the Poetry Society of Texas and has judged myriad poetry contests.

She and her daughter, Nancy Baass, who has unofficially taken up the post of assistant to the poet laureate, have actively pursued opportunities in which to wave the poetry banner.

Their motto? "Have poem, will travel."

It's a challenging task, since Texas is known more for its rough-and-tumble cowboys than for its budding poets.

"I want to encourage and promote poetry in

Texas. We live in a great state that has great diversity. Although our state is known for cowboy poetry, we don't want people to think that's the only poetry in Texas. There are other kinds, too."

She makes her own way when it comes to her poet laureate duties, since the Legislature hasn't charged her with a specific agenda.

However, she is determined to make the poet laureateship uniquely her own.

"I want the Texas Legislature to know that I haven't taken this honor lightly."

A native of San Antonio, she wrote her first poem when she was 10 years old. It was about her mother, and she can still recite it.

"I was proud of that poem," she says.

It's that pride that fuels her energy, especially her pride in Texas, love of country and family, and appreciation of nature.

Her first poem was printed in the publication, "The Rectangle." She submitted it while she was attending our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, with encouragement from a teacher she remembers only as Sister Angelica. She also contributed poems regularly to the college quarterly, on which she served as editor.

Although she earned

a teaching certificate, she found herself without a teaching position after graduation and took a summer job proofreading a novel for a doctor at the downtown Medical Arts Building.

The doctor eventually joined the Army, and she filled a civil service position at Fort Sam Houston. However, like many young people during World War II, she found herself searching for a purpose. She ended up "patriotically resigning" her post and joined the Red Cross.

She was assigned to the 81st Station Hospital in Italy, where she was given her nickname. Soldiers from her home state sought out — and managed to find — this girl called "Tex," and she wrote home so her mother would be sure to send her anything Texan.

One of her most vivid World War II memories was made during a stop in Rome, where she was part of a mostly male audience gathered to hear Pope Pius XII.

She must have stood out like a sore thumb, because the pope stopped to ask about her Red Cross uniform and also inquired where she was from.

A confirmed "big Catholic," she was awed. With trembling hands, she lifted her dog tags and said, "Please bless these."

She met her husband, Alfred C. Baass, in college. He attended St. Mary's University, and she'd met him at various social events. He became a lawyer. She served as her husband's legal secretary throughout his career. He was the county's only justice of the peace for many years.

As she raised daughters Carol and Nancy, she continued writing poetry. She read Mother Goose rhymes to her daughters but eventually had to write her own children's poems to keep up with her children's voracious appetite for stories.

Although she continued writing poetry when she was raising her family, she didn't pursue it as vigorously as she would later in life. Her husband was the one who later encouraged her to focus on her art.

She's involved with the Poetry Society of Texas, a member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, and serves on the board of directors for A Galaxy

of Verse Literary Foundation. She has received numerous awards in contests sponsored by these organizations.

Her work has been published in numerous anthologies, magazines and books. In addition to her book, "Mythology in Verse," she is co-author of "Poetry Keys to the Open Door" and "Listen to Texas."

Her poetry spawned a three-year drive to attain her the poet laureateship, an honor

ary title which was established in Texas in 1932 but which hadn't been filled in five years.

Her poetry isn't just a hobby, it's a passion. Not only does she have yellow writing pads placed in strategic areas of her house, but says daughter Nancy, "She keeps a clipboard by the bed and will write down things that come to her."

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Seed, from Page 2
"Everything else stays the same."

Priebe said the nature of the transfer agreement will be of great benefit to Cargill's former, and

DeltaPine's future customers.

"The cottonseed business in Aiken, is a few miles away from our LockView location," he said. "And, although there is some cotton-

seed research that goes on at that northerly location, even that stays the same and continues."

Priebe went on to shed some light on the significance to Cargill of its LockView farm, whose name implies its location about midway between Lockney and Plainview.

LockView remains Cargill's international sorghum production headquarters, directing far flung activities in 20 countries around the world.

It is also a strategic site, Priebe said, for production of seed sunflowers (Cargill is the world's leading supplier of sunflower seed, with an established predominance in oil yielding sunflowers grown in Europe). LockView is considered by Cargill a major center for production and research in corn and alfalfa.

"We get a lot of good product out of there," Priebe said of Cargill's annual efforts to produce quantities of sorghum and other seed on the irrigated High Plains.

At one point, Priebe seemed to shed some light on Cargill's thinking when it decided to drop its cotton line and he hinted that he believes the former Cargill cottonseed products will be in good hands with DeltaPine.

Cargill is engaged in "worldwide strategic efforts" with its other

products, a quality lacking in its more limited work in stripper cotton varieties.

"We liked our cottonseed business," Priebe said. "But, cottonseed, to us, never was a worldwide strategic effort. The crops we are in today are. Not only are we committed to them in North America, but they have a worldwide strategic emphasis."

Of the new owner of its cotton lines, Priebe said that "DeltaPine's people are recognized experts in the cottonseed business and do, in fact, have a quite productive strategy. They got our interest because of the kind of company they are. We have always respected how they have gone about their business."

He called DeltaPine a "worldclass competitor" with worldwide genetics specializing in worldwide operations.

Cargill's thrust on the South Plains, then, will continue unaltered.

"We think we are very competitive in sunflowers," Priebe

said. "We are a player in the sorghum business, not the largest. And, our corn business is having a good time.

With a growing market share, we are one of the few companies, in fact, improving the market share in corn."

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Corn contest winners named

DALHART — Two Dalhart farmers have captured top honors in the National Corn Grower Association's 1993 no-till irrigated competition.

Milfred Nichols captured first place in the no-till irrigated category with a yield of 261.4773 bushels on his contest acres.

That was actually lower than the 270-bushel yield he accomplished in winning the same competition in 1990.

Charles W. Abbe, a fellow Dalhart producer, took second place in the competition with a contest yield of 258.559 bushels per acre. Abbe captured first place in the same competition in 1991 when his contest acreage posted a 249 bushel yield.

Nichols planted his 1993 corn in standing wheat, using Pioneer 3162 at a seeding rate of 33,000 per acre. He grew the same variety in winning in 1990, but with a seeding rate of 32,000 per acre. He planted his winning crop on 30-inch rows, putting down 235 pounds 5-34-0 fertilizer application before the corn emerged.

Nichols took a big wheel applicator and came back in with 50 units of nitrogen along with a pound and a half of atrazine to knock out the wheat.

In a slight change from his previous cultural practices, Nichols started the sprinkler to incorporate the chemicals, thus combining his trips the made separately in 1990.

Nichols sidedressed 200 units of nitrogen when the corn reached a height of three to four inches. Unlike previous years when he had added as much as 20 units of 28 percent nitrogen,

Nichols refrained from that additional application, thus cutting back on some of his input casts.

Nature was benevolent in 1993, with about 17 inches falling in mid and late spring. Abbe and his son, Genco, changed their fertility program last year and also implemented the LEPA (low energy precision application) system of irrigation for their contest acreage.

They reduced their fertilizer application and used 300 pounds of 7-21-7 starter fertilizer, augmented by three pounds of zinc per acre. They periodically added 20 to 30 pounds of nitrogen through the chemigation process until the total fertilizer application reached 300 pounds per acre. The mixture also contained 60 pounds of sulphur. They credit LEPA with both providing sufficient moisture while cutting, back on water usage by 25 percent.

The Abbes boosted their seeding rate by 2,000 per acre up to 34,000. The contest plots fared well, although the stepped-up seeding rate caused some problems elsewhere in the field, Charles Abbe recalls. Rainfall was nearly double the usual 8-9 inches for the area providing ample moisture.

Had 1993 been a drier year, Abbe says the larger seeding rate would not have fared as well. Class A non-irrigated

Three Central Texas farmers captured top honors in the state Class A-non-irrigated category. Charles Hansen of Chilton took first-place honors with a dryland yield of 165.4227 bushels on his contest acreage. Martinka Farms of Bartlett was second with a

yield of 163.1589 bushels. Dean Mikeska of Rogers took third place with a yield of 161.2682 bushels. Hansen, head of Hansen & Sons Farms, planted Pioneer 3245 at a seeding rate of 23,500 per acre on Feb. 24, 1993. Martinka planted Asgrow 892 on Feb. 27, 1993 at a seeding rate of 22,000.

Mikeska planted DeKalb DK 715 on March 12, 1993, at a seeding rate of 22,500 per acre. No-till non-irrigated

Dennis Markert of Dime Box top honors in the Texas no-till, nonirrigated class with a yield of 98.9147 bushels per acre.

He planted Cargill 7877 on Feb. 23, 1993, at a seeding rate of 21,300 per acre. Ridge-till non-irrigated

Roebuck Farms of Waxahachie took top honors in the ridge-till, nonirrigated class with a yield 139.2741 bushels. DeKalb DK 711 was planted March 20, at a seeding rate of 23,000.

Terry Coufal of Temple took second place, while Ed Coufal of Temple claimed third place in the competition. Terry Coufal had a yield of 128.98 bushels, while Ed Coufal posted a yield of 125.4348 bushels. Both Coufals planted DeKalb DK 689.

Terry Coufal planted his on April 10, 1993, at a seeding rate of 22,800, while Ed Coufal planted on March 19, 1993, at a seeding rate of 23,500. MWH Farms, Inc. of Farwell won the irrigated class with a yield of 259.28 bushels. Pioneer 3162 was planted on April 12, 1993 at a seeding rate of 36,000.

Donny Carpenter of Dimmitt was second in the class with a yield of 250.75 bushels. He also planted Pioneer 3162 on April 12, at a seeding rate of 36,000. H Bar H Farms, Inc. of Farwell was third with a yield of 249.90 bushels per acre. Pioneer 3162 was planted April 21 at a seeding rate of 35,000.



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Video produced by Texas land banks pushes the cause of property rights

By GORDON ZEIGLER
AgReview Writer

The Federal Land Bank Association of Texas has taken on the cause of its land-owning customers in protection against encroachment from environmental laws.

The thrust of its efforts will be future advertising and informational campaigns to tell the public just how environmentalism is affecting land owners, according to Mike Howell, president of the Caprock Plains Federal Land Bank Association.

"The land bank system has taken on this cause," Howell explained. "We're putting a lot of effort into promoting private property rights."

Howell said it is his own personal belief that environmental-

ism actually began with the farmer.

"To me, farmers are the original environmentalists," he said. "A man doesn't own property and not utilize good practices."

Howell said the Land Bank is responding to a widespread concern among farmers that future environmental legislation will put restrictions on use, and result in loss of control over private property.

"This new emphasis on private property rights is becoming a great concern to productive landowners," Howell added.

To present its beliefs on the issue, Farm Credit Bank of Texas, at the request of its associations and stockholders, has produced a video entitled "Who Owns The Land? When the Environment Collides With the

Constitution."

The film furthers the notion that today's environmental laws and regulations are beginning to place additional burdens on landowners that have the potential of threatening their ability to use and produce off their land. When the landowner loses the ability to produce, a certain amount of control is lost, the video claims.

Restrictions on use and loss of control affect the productive capacity of property and decreases the value of the property itself, Howell said.

The 20-minute video will be made available through various FLB associations according to Howell. In addition, FLB staff members will be traveling the state making presentations to farm and civic groups.

STAMPEDE

By Jerry Palen



"Not you, too!"

Book on wind energy published

CANYON — Dr. Vaughn Nelson, director of the West Texas A&M University Alternative Energy Institute (AEI), and Dr. Janardan Rohatgi, from the Wind Energy Group of the Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil, have co-authored a book about the wind.

It is entitled "Wind Characteristics: An Analysis for the Generation of Wind Power." The book has been accepted for publication by Burgess Publishing and will be available in June.

The book contains an overview of wind characteristics, atmospheric motions, applications of potential flow over hills and examples of

conversions of wind energy.

Nelson and Rohatgi also detail the use of various wind turbines. Nelson and Rohatgi collaborated on the project when Rohatgi came to AEI to get more information of wind energy. Rohatgi is on a professional sabbatical from the Federal University.

Nelson is also head of the WTAMU Department of Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Engineering Technology. The book contains approximately 220 pages and 180 illustrations. The cost of the book will be \$35. Order forms for the book are available at AEI.

FCIC makes crop insurance available to bean producers

AUSTIN — The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation has determined farmers who grow pinto beans in Castro, Crosby, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Floyd, Hartley, Lubbock, Ochiltree, Oldham, Moore and Swisher counties meet the agency's requirements to qualify for crop insurance.

Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry said. "Without crop insurance, farmers find it difficult to obtain loans, so we are pleased that the FCIC has worked with our producers in these counties who wished to qualify for crop insurance," Perry said. "These farmers have found

new markets for pinto beans, and they want to diversify to meet this growing demand. However, many banks will not make loans to them unless they have crop insurance, and they can't expand their production without loans so they have been caught in a type of Catch 22 situation."

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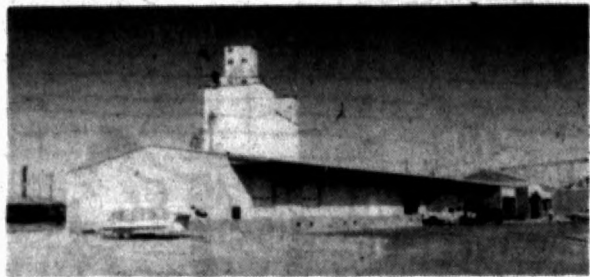
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