

The

Borden Star

Borden ★ Dawson ★ Garza ★ Howard ★ Lynn ★ Scurry

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June 1st, 2016



USDA Unveils New Improvement to Streamline Crop Reporting

Update Lets Farmers and Ranchers Report Common acreage Information Once

WASHINGTON, May 31, 2016 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced that farmers and ranchers filing crop acreage reports with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and participating insurance providers approved by the Risk Management Agency (RMA) now can provide the common information from their acreage reports at one office and the information will be electronically shared with the other location.

This new process is part of the USDA Acreage Crop Reporting Streamlining Initiative (ACRSI). This interagency collaboration also includes participating private crop insurance agents and insurance companies, all working to streamline the information collected from farmers and ranchers who participate in USDA programs.

"If you file your report at one location, the data that's important to both FSA and RMA will be securely and electronically shared with the other location," said FSA Ad-

ministrator Val Dolcini. "This will avoid redundant and duplicative reporting, and we expect this to save farmers and ranchers time."

"Accuracy in crop reporting is a key component for crop insurance, because an error in this information can affect premiums or claims. This is going to greatly improve efficiencies and reduce mistakes," said RMA Administrator Brandon Willis.

Since 2009, USDA has been working to streamline the crop reporting process for agricultural producers, who have expressed concerns with providing the same basic common information for multiple locations. In 2013, USDA consolidated the deadlines to 15 dates for submitting these reports, down from the previous 54 dates at RMA and 17 dates for FSA. USDA representatives believe farmers and ranchers will experience a notable improvement in the coming weeks as they approach the peak season for crop reporting later this summer.

More than 93 percent of all annual reported acres to FSA and RMA now are eligible for the common data reporting, and USDA is exploring adding more crops. Producers must still visit both locations to validate and sign acreage reports, complete maps or provide program-specific information. The common data from the first-filed acreage report will now be available to pre-populate and accelerate completion of the second report. Plans are underway at USDA to continue building upon the framework with additional efficiencies at a future date.

Dolcini also reminded farmers and ranchers that they can now access their FSA farm information from the convenience of their home computer. "You can see your field boundaries, images of your farm, conservation status, operator and owner information and much more," said Dolcini.

The new customer self-service portal, known as

The Bankhead Highway is the first all-weather transcontinental highway in the United States. It stretches from Washington, D.C. to San Diego, California. It is named for US Representative John Hollis Bankhead of Georgia, a leader in the national road-building project. He was responsible for the Federal Aid Road Act of 1916, which created the Bankhead Highway along southern states.

In 2009, the Texas legislature designated the Bankhead a Texas Historic Highway because some lawmakers felt the highway was in danger of being forgotten. The highway covers 850 miles in Texas, all the way from Texarkana to El Paso. The State Historical Commission began a series of projects to promote the cultural and economic benefits of the highway to cities along its route.

To get things rolling to celebrate the Bankhead's 2016 centennial, Dennis Boots of Denton commanded a convoy of vintage military vehicles along the entire route, from DC to San Diego. It was a project of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association and took three years to plan. A total of 45 vehicles made the trip

along with half a dozen support vehicles. They stopped in several Texas cities to cheering crowds, flag-waving students and appreciative veterans.

Sisters on the Fly, a group of fun-loving women who travel around the country pulling tiny trailers, crossed Texas on the Bankhead in April.

That same month owners of antique vehicles took a 4-day Bankhead drive from Texarkana to Odessa. Fifty vehicles left Texarkana and half of them make it all the way. Members of the Antique American Independent Auto Association own the vehicles. Dale Truitt of Commerce organized the trip. "These drivers come from Louisiana, Oklahoma and all over Texas," he says. "The trip has been an action-packed riot. We've had high school bands, flag corps, refreshments, kids jumping up and down and all kinds of welcoming ceremonies in cities along the way. It's like the 4th of July every day. We've got cars from the teens through the fifties. Some of these cars people have never heard of. I drive a 55 Studebaker."

All the vehicles are in pristine condition. They're beau-

Texas Stories

A Showcase of the Texas Spirit
Tumbleweed Smith

Traffic on the Bankhead is Increasing

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Agriculture News
by Cody G. Hill
Borden County Extension Agent –
Agriculture

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

New AgriLife Extension Fact Sheet Gives Buzz on Indoor Flies

It's getting close to fly season again and a new Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service publication will help people identify different types of indoor flies, understand their biology and, most importantly, learn how to eliminate them.

"Next to ants, flies may be the most common household pest problem," said Dr. Mike Merchant, AgriLife Extension entomologist in Dallas. Merchant is the author of the new six-page fact sheet "Indoor Flies and Their Control," which provides pictures, descriptions and behavioral details on the most common indoor flies.

The fruit fly is one of the indoor flies discussed in the new publication. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Dr. Mike Merchant)

"While some flies come in when we open the door, many of the flies referred to in this publication live naturally in the home," Merchant said. "Fruit flies are small enough to get in through window screens. Other flies live in sewer lines. And others can find their way in by digging through the soil under our homes. Once indoors, if we give them the right conditions to live, these flies can become permanent residents."

Merchant said indoor flies are opportunists and control is most effective when breeding sites within a structure are identified and eliminated.

"Give flies a chance to get inside and a place to breed and they'll be all over the place just like, well, flies," he said.

Merchant said smaller house-infesting flies include drain flies, fruit flies, phorid flies and fungus gnats. Larger flies, such as blowflies and flesh flies, occasionally invade homes to lay eggs, but rarely infest homes for long.

"House flies and mosquitoes rarely breed inside structures; however, they readily

take advantage of open doors or unscreened windows to get indoors for food or shelter," he said.

Merchant said dealing with fly breeding sites is much easier when people know what kind of fly is driving them crazy.

"All flies are not alike," Merchant said. "Knowing what kind of fly you are dealing with is 90 percent of solving your fly problem."

He said the new publication explains fly types and biology, how to identify potential sources of infestations and shows how to control and prevent infestation. The publication, which is identified as ENTO-050, is free and available as an electronic download. It can be found at <http://bit.ly/1TABenx>.

"Indoor flies are common problem in homes and businesses and insecticides alone are rarely successful in eliminating them," he said. "Because each type of indoor fly prefers slightly different breeding sites, identifying the fly should be the first step in any control effort. By far the best way to rid your home or business of flies is to find and eliminate breeding hot spots."

Merchant said breeding hot spots include trash receptacles, especially the wet bottoms of trash cans when plastic liners have leaked; bags of vegetables, such as potatoes or onions, left in pantries; damaged or overripe fruits left out of the refrigerator; vegetable debris; open or loose lids on vinegar, wine, beer or cider containers; recycling bins with unrinsed drink containers; damp, dirty mops, brooms or cleaning rags; kitchen floor crevices; floor drains and areas around plumbing leaks; and moist rotting or fermenting organic matter.

"When it comes to flies, we've all been trained to reach for the spray can," Merchant

Thank You

The Borden County Class of 2016 would like to thank the following for donating to Project Graduation. We greatly appreciate your generosity.

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Trevor Thuett

said. "But insecticide fogs and sprays provide, at best, only temporary control of indoor flies."

He said there should be little or no need to use insecticides once fly-breeding areas are cleaned or eliminated, but they can still be helpful in ridding homes of existing adult flies and control flies entering from other locations.

Merchant said pyrethrin aerosol sprays or other "flying insect" sprays can provide temporary control of adult flies indoors.

"For outdoor fly problems, a residual insecticide labeled for outdoor fly control can be applied to fly resting sites," he said. "When mosquitoes or

house flies are common outdoors, spray door entryways with one of these insecticides to reduce the number of flies that are likely to enter the house along with human traffic."

He said those using insecticides should be sure to follow label directions carefully, as many insecticide labels now prohibit spraying pavement, surfaces exposed to rain or surfaces that drain onto pavement.

"The goal of these precautions is to prevent insecticides from being washed into streams or storm drains," he said. "In some cases, commercial baits are available for controlling house flies. Bait formulations include products

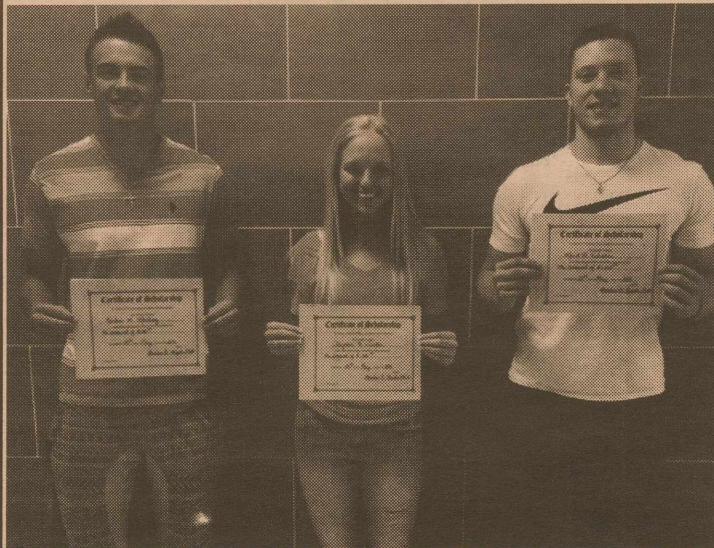
that can be used in bait stations or applied as a liquid or slurry to areas where flies land."

Merchant said some baits can be toxic to pets or livestock, so following label safety instructions is imperative.

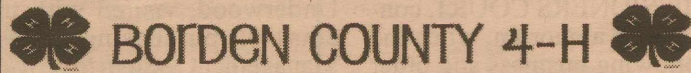
"Flies sometimes carry disease and can be a real nuisance, so anyone trying to achieve a fly-free indoors should check out this new publication," Merchant said. "With summer coming, fly problems will be increasing, so I think this publication is coming out at just the right time."

For more information or questions on this topic feel free to contact Borden County Extension Agent Cody G. Hill at 806-756-4336.

Booster Club Announces Scholarship Recipients



The Borden County Booster Club is proud to announce the Seniors who received the Booster Club Scholarship of \$1,000 each. They are (l to r) Korbin Martinez, Cheyenne Tucker & Merik Valentine. We are proud to help these young people further their education.



BORDEN COUNTY 4-H
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service—Borden County
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 julie.smith@agmet.tamu.edu CR.cody.HR@agmet.tamu.edu
 http://borden.agrilife.org Facebook: Borden County Extension and 4-H



District 2 4-H Wool and Mohair Judging



District 2 4-H is comprised of twenty counties that range from Tulia to Colorado City, Texas. Borden County placed third in the Junior and Intermediate Wool Division. Ashlyn Tucker Qualified for State Competition in Mohair Judging.

Judging Wool and Mohair 4-Hers are asked to place classes and answer questions based on each class. Also in the competition, youth evaluate fleeces on a rail to determine grade, staple length and yield. Congratulations to all Borden County 4-Hers on a great job!!! Members were front row Brooklyn Gray, Jenna Holbrooks, Laney Stansell, Ben Nix. Back row Tres Spencer, Ashlyn Tucker, Erin Nix, Kennedy Tucker.



Got News?

Mail to:
 P.O. Box 137
 Gail, Tx. 79738
 Call: 806/756-4313

Ext: 275

Email:

kdean@bcisd.net



TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Texas Stories

A Showcase of the Texas Spirit
 Tumbleweed Smith

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tiful. Kelly Sullivan of owner. The oldest and largest Texarkana was in a 1940 Oldsmobile coupe with 53,000 actual miles. "I'll never forget this experience," she says. "When I talk about my fondest memories, this is going to be one of them. The receptions we have had in small towns have been phenomenal." Perhaps the most unusual car making the journey was a 1932 Graham. "Drives like a brand new car," says the

vehicle was a 1915 Packard, a 7-passenger touring car. "Before the Bankhead, we were driving on dirt and dust," says Dale. "After the highway was established, we were seeing roads made of brick and concrete. The Bankhead Highway was a tremendous boon to cities along the highway." Contact Tumbleweed at ts@tumbleweedsmith.com.

The Blue Paw



will be open on Heritage Day, June 11th
 from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Lunch Special:
Enchilada Plate with all the fixins'

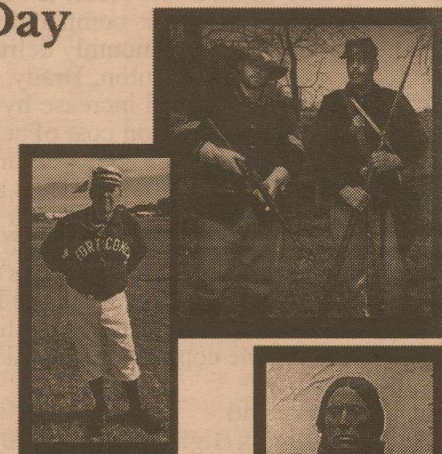
We will have free bottled water
 on our front porch

Borden County Heritage Day

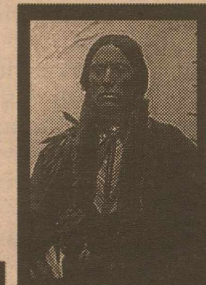
Saturday
 June 11, 2016
 Downtown Gail and the BC Event Center
 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fort Concho Cavalry
 Texas Longhorn Herd
 Sam Howell's Cacklebur Camp
 Traylor Livery of Sonora
 Texas Parks and Wildlife's Buffalo Soldiers Heritage
 Pioneer games for kids
 Blacksmith skills by Taylor County Forge
 South Plains Antique Tractor Association
 Storytellers
 Historical Presentations
 Area museum booths
 Texas Plains Trail
 Vendors
 Borden County Museum
 will be open.

Dance at the BC Event Center
 8 p.m. to midnight
 Jody Nix & the Texas Cowboys



Friday night
 baseball game at the
 High School Baseball Field
 1880s rules
 Peanuts, popcorn
 & lemonade



9:00 a.m. Saturday
 Quanah Parker Arrow
 blessing by
 Bruce Parker
 Great-Grandson
 of Quanah

USDA Unveils New Improvement to Streamline Crop Reporting...

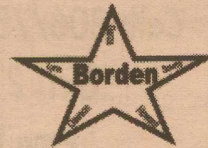
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FSAFarm+, gives farmers and ranchers online access to securely view, print or export their personal farm data. To enroll in the online service, producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office for details. To find a local FSA office in your area, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

Since 2009, USDA has worked to strengthen and support American agriculture, an industry that supports one in 11 American jobs, provides American consumers with more than 80 percent of the food we consume, ensures that Americans spend less of their

paychecks at the grocery store than most people in other countries, and supports markets for homegrown renewable energy and materials. USDA has also provided \$5.6 billion of disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; expanded risk management tools with products like Whole Farm Revenue Protection; and helped farm businesses grow with \$36 billion in farm credit. The Department has engaged its resources to support a strong next generation of farmers and ranchers by improving access to land and capital; building new markets and market opportunities; and extending new conser-

vation opportunities. USDA has developed new markets for rural-made products, including more than 2,500 biobased products through USDA's BioPreferred program; and invested \$64 billion in infrastructure and community facilities to help improve the quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/results.



NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

On April 29, 2016, as required by order of the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUCT" or "Commission") in Docket No. 45414, Sharyland Utilities, L.P. ("Sharyland"), a regulated electric utility company, filed an application with the PUCT titled *Rate Filing Package of Sharyland Utilities, L.P. and Statement of Intent to Change Rates* ("Application").

The above-referenced proceeding is the first in which Sharyland's rates will be set on a system-wide basis. The Application is based on a twelve-month test year ending December 31, 2015, and supports an increase over adjusted test-year retail base rate revenues of approximately \$107 thousand or 0.11 percent, exclusive of riders. Sharyland's system-wide cost-based retail base rate revenue requirement is \$100.7 million, plus an additional \$1.95 million that Sharyland is seeking to recover on an annual basis through certain riders. This includes a proposal to recover \$30 million for deferred costs associated with construction of the electric system in the McAllen division during its initial years of operation. In addition, Sharyland is proposing a \$3 million rate credit to all of its residential customers, which would result in an overall revenue decrease as compared to adjusted test year base rate revenues for residential customers. As proposed, monthly delivery rates for an average residential customer consuming 1,333 kWh in the Stanton, Brady, and Celeste divisions will remain unchanged, but in McAllen and Mission will increase by approximately \$55. The Application also supports a total wholesale transmission cost of service of \$145 million, plus an additional \$3.4 million that Sharyland is seeking to recover on an annual basis through certain riders.

The Application potentially affects all customers and classes of customers in Sharyland's Stanton, Brady, Celeste, and McAllen divisions. The Application also affects all customers taking service under Sharyland's Tariff for Wholesale Transmission Service. In addition, the result could be a change in Sharyland's transmission cost of service rates, which would impact all load serving entities in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. Sharyland has proposed that the requested rates be made effective June 18, 2016.

A complete copy of Sharyland's Application is available for inspection at the following locations:

Sharyland
1031 Andrews Highway, Suite 400
Midland, Texas 79701

-or-

1807 Ross Avenue, Suite 460
Dallas, Texas 75201
Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP
600 Congress Avenue, Suite 2000
Austin, Texas 78701

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission through Relay Texas by dialing 7-1-1. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is June 28, 2016.

Commissioners Court

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF BORDEN
WHEREAS, on this the 10th day of May, 2016, the Commissioners' Court of Borden County, Texas, convened in Regular Session in the Commissioners Courtroom at the Courthouse in Gail, Texas the following members of the Court being present to-wit: ROSS D. SHARP, COUNTY JUDGE, PRESIDING; MONTE SMITH, COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 1; RANDY ADCOCK, COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 2; ERNEST REYES, COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3; JOE BELEW, COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4; JANA UNDERWOOD, COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO OF THE COMMISSIONERS COURT, constituting a quorum, when the following business and other proceedings were had, in accordance with the posted agenda:

Other officers present: Marlo Holbrooks, County Attorney and Shawna Gass, County Treasurer.

CALL TO ORDER

Judge Sharp called the May 10, 2016, Regular Session of the Commissioners Court to order at 8:35 A.M.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Reyes made a motion to approve the minutes of April 26, 2016 as presented. Commissioner Adcock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COUNTY OFFICER MONTHLY REPORTS

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve officer reports as presented. Commissioner Reyes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PERMIAN BASIN REGIONAL HOUSING CORPORATION RESOLUTION

Commissioner Belew made a motion to appoint Ross Sharp to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Permian Basin Regional Housing Finance Corporation for a period of two (2) years or until his successor is appointed as provided in the By-laws of said Corporation. Commissioner Smith

seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

UTILITY CABLE/ PIPELINE CROSSINGS No Applications PRIVATE ROAD CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the following application for road maintenance:

John S. Stephens Jr. Precinct 1/ work as need

Commissioner Adcock seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

SOIL CONSERVATION WORK

No Applications

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Budget work session held County/District Clerk, Jana Underwood, visited with the court on purchasing a Case Management System to be used in the County and District Clerk's office.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Restructuring Borden County Appraisal Board

CURRENT ACCOUNTS

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve and pay said accounts. Commissioner Reyes seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Adcock made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Reyes seconded the motion and approved unanimously.



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