

# THE BORDEN STAR

VOLUME XXVIII

July 22, 1998

Serving the Counties of Borden, Dawson, Garza, Howard, Lynn & Scurry

## Cotton Drought Losses Pegged at 1.8 Billion for Texas

by: Kathleen Phillips  
Contact: Dr. Carl Anderson

Unrelenting hot, dry weather across the state continues to take its toll on Texas crops, slashing an estimated \$500 million from cotton farmers and \$1.8 billion from the economy, according to a Texas Agricultural Extension Service economist.

The estimated losses, which will climb even higher if sufficient rain doesn't fall, have surpassed the 1996 levels when agriculture last felt the impact of severe drought.

Cotton farmers that year took a \$359 million loss that translated into a \$1.2 billion cut to the state's overall economy.

Expected cotton losses this year have more than tripled in the two weeks since the Extension Service released its first drought impact for 1998, estimating the loss to cotton farmers to be \$157 million.

There is still hope that if temperatures were to cool and the rain was to move into the West Texas

area, then cotton would have a chance, dryland in particular. But with another two weeks of the same hot, dry weather with high temperatures than the losses will be greater than are estimated today.

Last year, Texas cotton

Cont. to pg. 6

## Brandee Wells Receives State FFA Degree

Brandee Wells recently met the requirements which allowed her to receive her State Lone Star FFA degree. This honor was a culmination of 3 years of extra active membership in the Gail FFA, and Ag. Science Department. Her involvement in the swine and sheep area of the Supervised Agricultural

Experience Program and her record keeping ability was recognized at the State FFA Convention this past week as she received her degree from State FFA President Buddha Shipley.

Mr. Wallace stated that he was very proud of Brandee and her efforts to receive this honor.

## Gail FFA Members Ignite Their Ambition in Ft. Worth

Five members of the Gail FFA Chapter braved the heat in the Metroplex as they attended the 70th State FFA Convention in Ft. Worth this past week. Brandee Wells, Kaci Poole, Hailey Adcock, Fernando Baeza, and Ryan Grant joined some 6000 FFA students from across Texas to attend the event.

The students along with their advisor Mr. Buddy Wallace attended several sessions, workshops, and luncheons which focused on the convention theme: "Ignite Your Ambition" The students also took in Six Flags, Pappadue, Go cart racing, and an FFA fun night and dance. All in all, the Gail members spent a hot, fun four days and



FFA MEMBERS ATTEND STATE CONVENTION: (L. to R). Mr. Buddy Wallace, Kaci Poole, Ryan Grant, Fernando Baeza, Hailey Adcock and Brandee Wells

survived to tell their story. Also attending with the group were Kristen, Tyler and Kate Wallace.

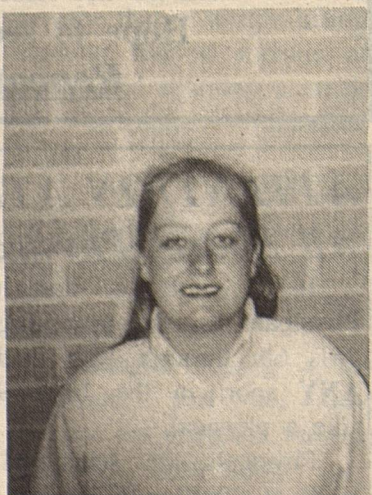
## Meet Your Borden County EMT

Out EMT for this week is Carrie Hart.

Carrie is the newest member of the Borden County EMS. She passed her EMT-Intermediate test at the beginning of the summer, and has already completed her education to become a CPR instructor and has received her Skills Examiner Certificate.

She is a 1997 graduate of Borden County High School and is working for the Texas Highway Department this summer.

She plans to attend the Paramedic Class that will



Carrie Hart

be given in the next few months.

Carrie is the daughter of Sid and Connie Hart and lives in Gail.

**BORDEN COUNTY 4-H NEWS**  
 Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

**BACK TO SCHOOL  
 Supply List**

**Results of District 2  
 Trap and Skeet Shoot**

The District 2 Trap and Skeet was held July 10 and 11 in Lubbock at the South Plains Gun Club. Six youth participated in the shoot.

**SUB-JUNIORS**

**Brionne Jackson:** 1st Place High Individual-Skeet (belt buckle), 3rd Place High Overall-Trap and Skeet (medallion)

**Dusty Gwinn:** 5th Place High Individual-Trap (medallion), 2nd Place High Individual-Skeet (medallions), District High Individual Overall (belt buckle)

**SUB-JUNIOR TWO-MAN TEAMS**

**Brionne Jackson & Kevin**

**Ellison:** 6th Place Team - Trap (medallions), 1st Place Team-Skeet (medallions), 1st Place Team Overall-Trap and Skeet (medallions)

**Dusty Gwinn & Dwain Wright:** 3rd Place Team-Trap (medallions), 3rd Place Team-Skeet (medallions), 2nd Place Team Overall-Trap and Skeet (medallions)

**JUNIORS**

**David Wright:** District Runner-up High Individual Overall (belt buckle)

**SENIORS**

**John Harding:** Competed with 36 other Senior 4-H'ers from across the district and are.

**County Clothing Camp**

Borden County 4-H Clothing Camp will be held Tuesday, July 28 through Thursday, July 30 from 9 to 12 each day. Junior and senior 4-H'ers will learn how to purchase quality and durable clothing, how to care for clothing, how to make wise consumer decisions when purchasing clothing, basic construction skills and many other valuable

skills. A minimal fee of \$10 (due on the Tuesday) will be charged for each youth (to cover the cost of supplies and materials). Interested youth or those planning to participate in clothing camp need to contact the extension office at 756-4336 as soon as possible in order for there to be enough materials and supplies for each participant.

**Horse Project Results**

Congratulations to each of you for working so hard this summer during the horse project. Also a big thanks to Roscoe Massingill and Jason Pelham, our horse project leaders, who performed a great job and dedicated many extra hours arranging for judges, preparing the arena, and for providing goats. Their knowledge and patience is appreciated greatly.

It was discussed by our

horse project grievance committee and decided to stop our point totals as of the July 8th point night (which included halter and western horsemanship---speed events were canceled due to lightning). Therefore, points from June 15, June 22, and July 7 will be our totals that placing will be based upon. This method is the fairest we could figure to be equally fair to all participants.

**Kindergarten:** round edged scissors, box of 16 primary color crayons, supply box, Elmer's School Glue (NO paste), 2-#2 pencils, big eraser, gym shoes, towel for naps, large box of baby wipes or wet ones.

**First Grade:** 2 boxes of 16 primary color crayons, 4 or 5 - #2 pencils, supply box, scissors, hard rubber eraser, 2 medium sized Elmer's School Glue, 1-1 subject spiral notebook, (wide rule), gym shoes, large box of baby wipes or wet ones.

**Second Grade:** 2 - #2 pencils, crayons, Elmer's

Awards buckles for these will be presented at our July 30th 4-H Achievement Supper.

Once again, thanks to project leaders, parents, and supporters of these 4-H Horse Project members!

**PEE WEE LEAD**

1. Chance Taylor 77pts.
2. Riley Smith 69
3. Lacey Roberts 46
4. Kalyn Massingill 39
5. Katy Pelham 29

**PEE WEE**

1. Garrett Pool 103pts.
2. Chance Pool 96
3. Tyrell Massingill 64
4. Bailey Anderson 62
5. Shelby Roberts 55
6. Jessica Pelham 38
7. Miller Valentine 27
8. Miles Valentine 18

**JUNIOR**

1. Tanner Poole 89pts.
2. Kyla Culp 83
3. Clay John Anderson 67
4. Whitney Anderson 60
5. Shiloh Poole 51
6. Kalli Poole 38
7. Lacey Newton 35
8. Ashley Allen 34
9. Rowdy Clary 31
10. Will Hutto 36
11. Symeron Rinehart 25

**SENIOR**

1. Tanner Miller 96pts.

School Glue, red grading pencil, notebook paper (wide ruled), scissors, eraser, gym shoes, ruler, large box of baby wipes or wet ones.

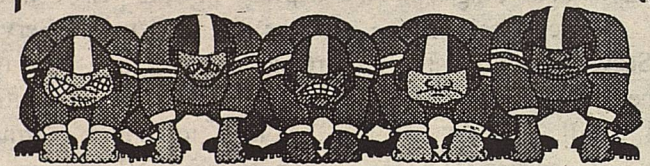
**Third Grade:** loose-leaf notebook, note-book paper (wide ruled), spiral (wide ruled), 4-#2 pencils, 2-red pens or 4-red pencils, 12 inch ruler (metric & standard), small bottle of glue, crayons, 2 folders, gym shoes, large box of baby wipes or wet ones.

**Fourth Grade:** map colors, crayons, scissors, glue, notebook paper (Wide rule), solar powered calculator, 4-#2 pencils, 2-red pens, 8 folders w/pockets, ruler (metric & standard), gym shoes, large box of baby wipes or wet ones.

**Fifth Grade:** Wide ruled notebook paper, scissors, ruler (metric & standard), 4-red pens, blue or black pens (no rolling balls), 12 pencils (Not Mechanical), 3-77oz. glue sticks, map colors (24 count), set of 12 crayola washable formula BROAD line markers, set of 12 crayola washable formula FINE line markers, assignment book, spirals 179 count WIDE rule, a). 5 different colors, b). 5 matching colored folders with pockets, 24 county crayons, set of divers, 1 highlighter, large box of baby wipes or wet ones.



**Football Workouts**



**ATTENTION:  
 High School Football Players!**

Football practice is just around the corner.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5TH**  
 will be the first day of practice.

Hope to see you there!

**Repeat in '98**

**ATTENTION ATHLETES!**

**All Sports Physicals Scheduled**

It is time to start thinking about All Sports Physicals for the upcoming school year. All boys and girls 6th through 12th grade planning to participate in ANY sport in the 1998-99 school year, will need to take a physical.

Physicals are scheduled for Saturday, August 1st, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. at the Health Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Clinic located on 50th and University in Lubbock. The buss will leave Gail at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning from the school.

Further information and physical forms will be mailed to you in the next few days by your coach.

## Children are at high risk of exposure to high levels of ozone

Children are more at risk of being exposed to high levels of ground-level ozone during the summer than adults.

Children have a growing respiratory tract, and breathe in more air per pound of body weight than adults, so we tend to see a drop in lung function more in children. Children are outside more than most adults during the summer and therefore are more susceptible to ground-level ozone exposure.

There are two types of ozone, one good, one bad. Ground-level ozone, or bad ozone, is an oxidant formed by either exhaust from petrochemical plants or automobiles and can damage body tissue. Stratospheric ozone, or good ozone, is 10 to 15 miles away from the earth's surface and prevents ultraviolet light from penetrating the earth.

The sunlight, heat, and humidity, all factors for high ground-level ozone

levels, are highest during the midday period. It is best to change playtime to either the early morning or late afternoon, and keep children in an air conditioned facility as much as possible.

Asthmatics, 40 percent of whom are children, and the elderly are also at high risk of becoming ill from too much exposure to ozone. Those affected may suffer from chest tightness, a cough, and breathing problems. This is why it is important for everyone to take ozone watches and warnings seriously.

Healthy individuals, especially those who exercise or work outside on a daily basis, should not think they are immune to the effects of ozone exposure.

Researchers do not yet know what effect exposure to high levels of ground-level ozone will have on long-term health. The best thing we can do right now is educate people on the health risks.

## Sports Medicine Briefs

### Experts weigh in with new weight-training guidelines

Houston-More isn't necessarily better when it comes to lifting weights. Recently released guidelines from the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) outline new recommendations for the quantity and quality of exercise for development and maintenance of muscular fitness in healthy adults.

The recommendations state that for many people, working a muscle group with one set of eight to 10 repetitions two to three times a week is beneficial.

It was previously thought that a weight-lifting regimen had to include at least three sessions a week to produce noticeable results.

Additional recommendations emphasize that multiple-set workouts may result in greater muscle benefits.

Strength training is an important part of an exercise program. It targets muscle, something we begin to lose after age 25. By regularly lifting weights, the body retains more lean muscle mass, which can keep you fit as you age.

### Nagging muscle strain

## Historic Texas Courthouses Among 11 Most Endangered U.S. Sites

Last month, the National Trust for Historic Preservation added 225 historic Texas courthouses to its 1998 list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places." The National Trust concluded that historic Texas courthouses are national treasures threatened by neglect, deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy.

Governor George W. Bush, citing the need to preserve historic county courthouses, unveiled his

Texas Courthouse Preservation Project initiative during the National Trust announcement. As part of this initiative, a newly created Courthouse Preservation Working Group was named. The group, along with the Texas Historical Commission (THC), will be seeking broad statewide input on ways to assist and support communities in restoring and renovating their county courthouses.

Texas has more historic county courthouses than any other state, with 225 that are 50 years old or

older. More than 200 still serve as the hub of county government, despite the fact that many of the buildings are in various stages of disrepair. Comprehensive information about historic Texas courthouses, including a detailed listing of all historic courthouses in the state, can be found on the THD's web site: [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us).

For more information, contact Stan Graves, Division of Architecture, Texas Historical Commission, (512)463-6099.

## Summer Enrollment Soars at All TSTC West Texas Locations

Summer Quarter enrollment figures have been released by the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) Admissions and Records Office, revealing the highest Summer Quarter enrollment in over 10 years for the four TSTC West Texas locations.

Overall, the four TSTC West Texas locations grew

by 14% over last year's figures, up from 768 to 878. Enrollment by individual TSTC location shows the Sweetwater Campus Summer Quarter enrollment stands at 481, an increase from 435. At the Abilene Center, the Summer Quarter enrollment is 201, up from last year. This is a 12% or 22 student increase over last

year's Summer enrollment. Summer enrollment at the Breckenridge Center increased by three students or 4% over last Summer enrollment. Eighty-one students are currently enrolled at the Breckenridge Center. The largest percentage increase was experienced at the Brownwood Center, up 51% or 39 students over last Summer's enrollment. Brownwood Center's Summer Quarter enrollment currently stands at 115.

TSTC West Texas experienced enrollment growth in both new and returning student enrollment. This year's Summer Quarter enrollment as compared to last Summer Quarter reflects a 9% increase in returning students (62 more students) and a 49% increase in new students (48 more students). These numbers reflect positively on the quality of education provided by TSTC instructors, both in the classroom and labs and in the student support system of our campus community. With the kind of growth we have experienced during the past two years, our Fall Quarter 1998 may be one of the largest enrollment periods ever.

### could be a "tough break"

Houston-A Muscle strain or shinsplints that won't go away could actually be a stress fracture. Pain around the shin should respond to ice and a reduction in activity. If the pain lingers for more than a couple of weeks, the problem could be a stress fracture, a slight break in the bone.

Too much activity, particularly in high-impact sports such as running or basketball, a sudden increase in training and biomechanical deficiencies in the feet are potential

causes of a stress fracture.

Symptoms can be similar to shinsplints or a pulled muscle, but a key stress-fracture indicator is the inability to put weight on the leg without experiencing pain. It is likely a sports-medicine specialist can diagnose the problem without an X-ray.

Active rest and training modification are necessary to heal a stress fracture. This usually takes about three to eight weeks.

During that time stationary cycling, swimming and strength training are good ways to stay fit.



## Texas Stories

*A showcase of the Texas Spirit*

**Tumbleweed Smith**

*Part owner of Texas*



### One Moment of Glory

Jackson Lewis is seven. He lives in The Colony, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. He is already an accomplished author. A story he wrote is included in a Lewisville School District publication containing students' work. One afternoon at a book signing he gave a hundred autographs to people acquiring the book.

He is an honor student.

Jackson is also familiar with the stage. He has played his nose flute the last three years as a featured attraction at my one man shows in Fort Davis.

Did I mention Jackson is my grandson?

Jackson spends a few weeks with us every June during rodeo season. Last year, our rodeo started a new event called Mutton Bustin.' Kids between the ages of 5 and 8 try to ride a sheep for 8 seconds. The winner a pair of Justin and a belt buckle with the word champion on it. Jackson

wanted to enter last year, but there were too many contestants when he signed up and he didn't get to ride.

This year was another matter. He was the first to enter. The rodeo started on Wednesday. He was to ride on Thursday. On opening night, he observed the mutton busters closely, studying their techniques. Some held on to the fleece, others locked their arms around the sheep's neck. Jackson had already decided he would try the locking arms method.

Last year, in preparation for the event, I got on all fours and he crawled on my back and locked his arms around my neck. I pitched, bucked, twister and turned, but he never fell off. This year, the practice sessions were longer and more intense. Again, he stayed on.

Thursday came, Jackson went swimming, read a book, practiced on my back a little and rested. At supper, he said he was not

nervous at all. Jackson was confident he would win. The thought of losing never entered his mind. He kept telling us he would win a pair of boots. We were a lot more apprehensive than he was.

At the rodeo, the young contestants were checked in, fitted for protective vests and helmets and hauled out to the rodeo arena in the back of a

pickup truck. Jackson was the first rider.

He crawled on the back of that sheep, locked his arms around it neck and the sheep took off. Jackson and the sheep headed for the middle of the arena, then the sheep veered to the right and headed right for the wall. Jackson's helmet fell off and his hair flapped in the breeze. But he stayed on. The crowd

cheered. Jackson made a score of 80.

Most of the other 8 contestants fell off. One made 75 points. While they rode, Jackson was thrilled, even though he expected to win.

For us, it was a big relief. We have photos and videos of his ride. Our grandson is a champion and has the belt buckle to prove it.

#### LEGAL NOTICE

Borden County Commissioners' Court will consider bids for the purchase of one (1) new, 1999 pickup to be used by the County Extension Service. Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m., August 10, 1998 in the Commissioners' Courtroom at the Borden County Courthouse in Gail, Texas.

Specifications may be obtained at the offices of the County Judge or County Extension Agent, 806/756-4391 or 806/756-4336.

#### In Case of Emergency Call:

**Borden County EMS**

**806/759-5111**

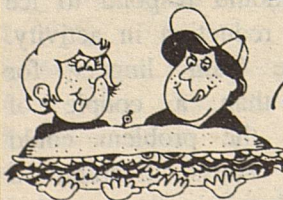
## Hey Youth!



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GAIL  
YOUTH GROUP  
WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU  
EVERY SUNDAY EVENING AT  
6:00 P.M. TO OUR  
"SUMMER YOUTH FELLOWSHIPS".



THERE WILL BE LOTS OF FOOD AND  
GAMES SUCH AS  
WATERBALLOON VOLLYBALL,  
WATERGUN BATTLES,  
AND LOTS OF OTHER  
CARZY ACTIVITIES!



ALL AREA YOUTH FROM  
6TH-12TH GRADE IS INVITED  
TO COME JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

## Branon Funeral Home

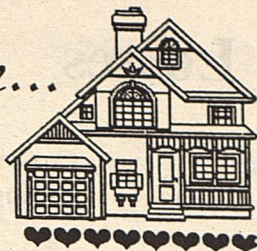
*Serving in this area since 1922*

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403 N. Austin  
Lamesa, Texas

## Heart and home...

By Julie D. Mumme  
Borden County Extension Agent -  
Family and Consumer Sciences



Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. the Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

### Ways to Save Money on Banking and Credit Services - Part 3

When it comes to saving money on banking or credit card services, these tips from the Consumer Literacy Consortium may be helpful. {Note: This is part of 3 of a 3-part series.}

#### First Mortgage Loans:

1. You may save tens of thousands of dollars in interest charge by shopping for the shortest-term mortgage you can afford. On a \$100,000 fixed-rate loan at 8% APR, for example, you will pay \$90,000 less in interest on a 15-year mortgage than on a 30-year mortgage.

2. You can save thousands of dollars in interest charges by shopping for the lowest-rate mortgage with the fewest points. On a 15-year, \$100,000 fixed-rate mortgage, just lowering the APR from 8.5% to 8.0% can save more than \$5,000 in interest charges. On this mortgage, paying two points instead of three would save you an additional \$1,000.

3. If your local

newspaper does not periodically run mortgage rate surveys, call at least six lenders for information about their APRs, points, and fees. Then ask an accountant to compute precisely how much each mortgage option will cost and its tax implications.

4. Be aware that the interest rate on most adjustable rate mortgage loans (ARMs) can vary a great deal over the lifetime of the mortgage. An increase of several percentage points might raise payment hundreds of dollars per month.

#### Mortgage Refinancing

5. Consider refinancing your mortgage if you can get a rate that is at least one percentage point lower than your existing mortgage rate and plan to keep the new mortgage for several years or more. Ask an accountant to calculate precisely how much your new mortgage (including up front fees) will cost and whether, in the long run, it will cost less than your current mortgage.

### Food Preservation Program and Pressure Canner Testing

The next FCE meeting is Monday, July 27 at 6:30 P.M. in the community building. We will be having a program on food preservation and opportunity to have your pressure canner tested (free of charge). Everyone is welcome to attend! Bring a friend and your favorite dish and recipe to share! Hope to see you there!!!

#### SUMMER COOKBOOKS

They're finally here! The Summer Cookbooks are ready for purchase in the extension for \$5, call or come by to get yours!

The Borden Star (USPS or PUBLICATION NO. 895-520) is published weekly except Christmas and New Year's week for \$12.00 per year by the Borden Star, P.O. Box 137, Gail, Borden County, Texas 79738. Second-class Postage paid at Gail, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send Change of Address to the Borden Star, P.O. Box 137, Gail, Texas 79738.

## Brad Smith former BHS graduate received award

Brad Smith, former resident of Borden County and a 1979 graduate of Borden High School, recently received the "Rookie of the Year" award in recognition of his performance and achievements as a Service Route Specialist with ECOTEMP, a division of Ecolab, a Fortune 500 Company.

Brad started working for Ecolab, March 1, 1997, as a service manager in Wichita Falls, relocated to Oklahoma City for 3 months, then was promoted to Service Route Specialist with ECOTEMP, where he now works and has a large territory around Plainview, Lubbock and Amarillo.

Brad deals with low temp warehousing, service, sells, and installation, sells ancillary products used by the industry from the Spot Pac and Rayburn line of products.


Brad sells accounts, chemicals services and sup-

plies to restaurants, prisons, nursing homes, etc. for all their warehousing, cleaning and sanitation needs.

Brad grew up in Gail and in the Mesquite Community and is the son of the late Jerry R. Smith and Dot Smith of Vernon, Texas.



Brad Smith



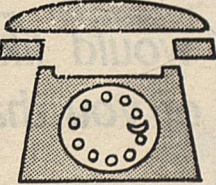
## THANK YOU!

**To the people of Borden County and surrounding areas, we would like to thank you for fighting the fire on our ranch that was started by lightning on July 14th.**

**Without your help the results of the fire could have been tragic, and we wanted you to know how much we appreciate all the help.**

**Thanks again to everyone who helped.**

**Sincerely**  
**Bob and Sue Beal**



**Your Local PASTOR  
Is as near as your PHONE!**

*Bro. Clifton Igo, Pastor*  
*Gail Baptist Church*  
806/872-7469 - Mobil #: 759-8420

**NEED HELP - -**

Mowing lawn, cleaning garage, washing car or any odd job?

Call 1-806-497-6717 ask for D.J. Smith anytime.

**REMINGTON 870 Rifle**

The Borden County EMS is selling chances for a REMINGTON 8770 - 12 gauge Mag Pump rifle, donated by Leroy Shaffer.

Chances are \$1.00 each and may be purchased at Fiddlers Trading Post or the Coyote Store in Gail.

Drawing will be Friday, August 28th at 4:00 p.m. at the D & J Store on the east side of Lake Thomas.

**Slaton Monument**

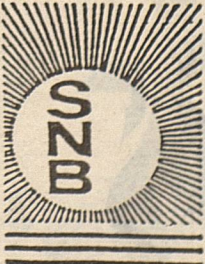
*"Caring for the Needs of Your Loved Ones"*

Marble - Granite - Bronze




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Sales Rep.  
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## Snyder National Bank

*We take Snyder to Heart!*



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573-2681



## Let Me Get My Hat!

By Dennis Poole,  
Borden County CEA-Ag.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Court of Texas Cooperating.

### Emergency Drought Management Program Set for Short Course

A special session on drought management for cattle producers has been added to this year's Beef Cattle Short Course at Texas A&M University. It will be held from 6 until 10 p.m. on Aug. 3.

"The Extension beef cattle specialists held an emergency meeting in College Station to discuss the extent of drought conditions to Texas beef producers," said Dr. Larry Boleman, beef cattle specialist, and they were so concerned about problems related to the present drought and beef producers that they developed a special session for the short course."

During the session, a climatologist will discuss the chances for drought conditions to persist. Other topics will include forage inventory planning and use, small grains and planting methods, rangeland allocation, introduced pastures, cattle sorting, culling, shipping, feeds and feed resources, composition, utilization costs, feeding management, and health relating to diseases, parasites and toxic and poisonous plants.

Audience participation will be much higher than in past year throughout the entire short course, Boleman said. After the information and issue-related discussions on the morning of Aug. 4, the audience will be able to take part in visual judging and evaluations of videotaped feedlot cattle.

The participants will live with cattle for carcass characteristics (yield and quality grade) and performance characteristics (average daily gain, feed conversion, death loss). Management strategies will be taught in response to the practical evaluation exercise.

The program on Aug. 5 is devoted to marketing training with a special live animal emphasis. Livestock auction owners, including Ken and Donald Jordan, San Saba and Brownwood; Roland Davey, Decatur; Ronnie and Steven Lastivica, Milano; Pete Scamardo, Bryan; Joe Don Pogue, Sulphur Springs; Jim Sartwelle, Sealy and Brenham; John Brown, Luling; and Burt Richards, Buffalo, will bring three to five head purchased from their auction.

The cattle will represent, "the good, bad and ugly," from their area, Boleman said. These cattle will be thoroughly discussed after the audience grades, judges and evaluates each head. Sixteen calves will be selected by Extension service specialists and fed at the Mc Gregor Extension and Research Center by the Texas Beef Council. The feeding and carcass data will be given to participants during and after the feeding period.

Further information about the short course is available from Boleman, Allyson Butler or Shannon Treichel at (409)845-3579.

## Cotton Drought Losses

Cont. from pg. 1

farmers harvested some 5.3 million bales valued at \$1.8 billion at the farm and generating \$6 billion in economic activity across the state. But, it is estimated, the number of bales expected to be harvested at this point may total only 3.3 million, with the reduction of 2 million bales being severe hitting the rural regions the hardest.

This figure comes on the heels of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's cotton planting figures report released. That report indicated that all cotton acreage planted in Texas totaled 5.4 million, about 125,000 acres less than was planted last year. This is noted that the reduced acreage mostly was in the

Blacklands, Upper Coastal and Central growing regions.

However, the greatest economic losses will be across the Texas South Plains and Rolling Plains regions. These regions include around 4 million acres -- a little more than 1.5 million have some irrigation and 2.5 million are dryland.

The current estimate is that 1.65 million of the dryland acres will not be harvested because of the extreme dry weather and high temperatures in May and June.

Much of the lost acreage failed to even germinate, and some acreage that did was unable to survive.

The value of the drought loss to farmers

across the South and Rolling Plains is estimated at \$343 million, and the mostly local economic losses to businesses are placed at \$929 million, for a total economic impact of \$1.27 billion.

Central and southern cotton regions already have reached losses of \$157 million to producers, or about 475,000 bales. The producers' loss of income impacts total business activity by some \$529 million.

According to the Texas Water Development Board, practically the entire state is experiencing a severe to extreme drought, with crop moisture deficits of at least 4 inches, and conditions are expected to continue at least through August.

**THANK YOU!**

**THANK YOU!**

**THANK YOU!**

*We would like to take the opportunity to thank those of you that help fight the fire on the ranch last week.*

*There were so many of our friends and neighbors, plus the fire departments, EMS service and many, many others that came out to help us. We appreciate it so much.*

*It's times like this when we really appreciate our community and all the help and support given to each other in time of need.*



Thanks again,  
Rocker Ranch  
Tim & Carol Wilson



# HIGH PLAINS FIRE DANGER

Amarillo-- Drought has pushed the High Plains into extreme fire danger testing fire fighters and making fire prevention more important than ever.

Dry fuels and the terrain caused the rapid spread of the Harrell Ranch Fire and Flomot Fires.

It's vital that people take special precautions to prevent fire and report any smoke they see immediately to fire departments. Once a fire gains ground firefighters efforts are tougher. they're behind the eight-ball before they get out of the loading chute.

The grass just crunches, it doesn't take anything to ignite it. Both the grasses on the flats and the juniper and mesquite in the canyon pose special problems for firefighters.

Up on the flats where there's a major grass component you get a fairly rapid rate of spread. It's estimated that a fire on the flats could spread at from one-half a mile per hour to two miles per hour depending on fuels and winds.

In Palo Duro Canyon the heavy mixed junipers have a slower rate of spread but are an oily fuel

with "some incredible flame lengths for this time of year."

Heat from the Harrell Ranch Fire has caused junipers to burst into flames with a 30-foot flame height. Deeper in the canyon, where winds die down, the rate of spread is slower but the oily trees are difficult to extinguish.

The juniper is a problem for firefighters. It's quite difficult to douse. It's like burning tires. Mesquite also is oily and burns very hot.

The problems firefighters are facing are caused by the drought on the High Plains. It's definitely drought-related. It's burring now like it would in late summer.

That means that all people have to be extremely careful with any type of fire to prevent more wildfires from occurring. Any source of ignition could really start a pretty good fire... the grasses are cured out.

Rancher Todd Cagle of the Ransom Ranch is also worried about the dry fuels as he watches the Harrell Ranch Fire burns about 3 miles from his ranch. On July 1 a fire started on the Ransom Ranch that ultimately consumed 1,600

acres. "I just know, from our experience that flareups are the thing that'll burn you out."

He praised the Single Engine Air Tankers "The planes are doing a wonderful job," But Cagle said the dry fuels are hard

to put out and he's ready to bulldoze a firebreak if need be. "I've got my Cat on standby.

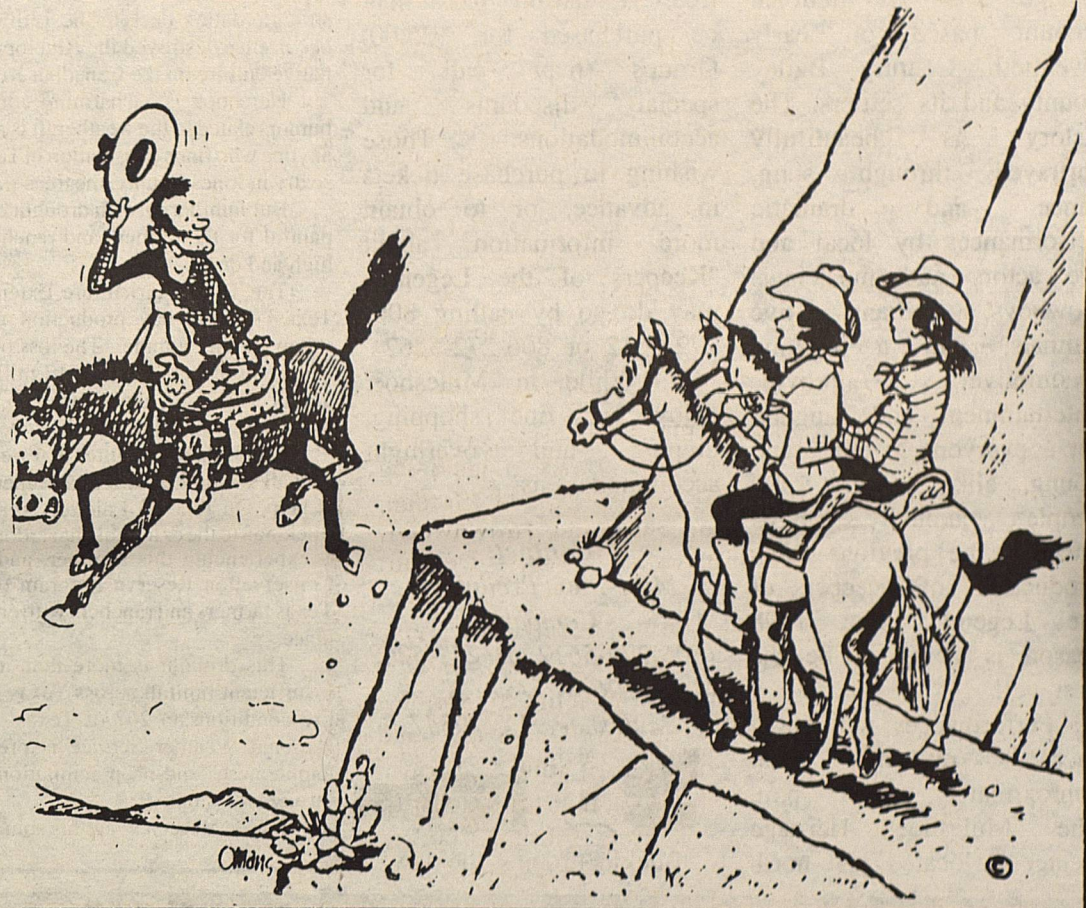
He's also postponed outdoor burning. "We aren't even burning our trash barrels these days.

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Muleshoe Production of Highway 84 on the Company is pleased to announce the fourth annual production of "Keepers of the Legend" will be performed August 7th-August 10th at the scenic and historical Muleshoe Heritage Center.

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Performances will begin each evening at approximately 8:30 p.m. The Muleshoe Heritage Center is located just north

west edge of Muleshoe. Parking is provided next door at the Bailey County Coliseum. Tickets to "Keepers of the Legend" are \$10.00 for adults at the gate, \$8.00 in advance. Children 12 and under are \$5.00. Lap children are free. A season pass may be purchased for \$25.00. Groups may call for special discounts and accommodations. Those wishing to purchase tickets in advance, or to obtain more information about "Keepers of the Legend", may do so by calling 806-272-5612 or 806-272-5262

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## CAPITOL COMMENT



U.S. SENATOR  
**KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**

### DROUGHT LEAVES TEXAS HIGH AND DRY

**D**rought is nothing new to Texans. As Junction native Rana Williamson points out in her wry little book, *When the Catfish Had Ticks*, this summer's dry conditions are part of a "cyclical, meteorological struggle dating back to the 15th century, when an early occurrence destroyed the Antelope Creek (community), a native culture on the Canadian River."

Her book is a charming compilation of homespun humor related to the weather. It is a recommended read for anyone who finds consolation in Texas wit, such as: "It was so dry in Jones County, the trees started chasing the dogs."

But familiarity with drought doesn't make it any less painful for the farmers and ranchers who have been left high and dry.

The Texas Agriculture Extension Service estimates Texas' loss in hay production will cost \$175 million statewide this summer. The loss of direct income to agriculture producers totals \$517 million so far, with cotton producers having experienced an estimated loss of \$157 million. People all across the state are hurting.

This situation requires that we immediately bring into play all existing federal government resources that can be of help. On June 23 I alerted Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman to the extremely hazardous conditions that Texas is experiencing this summer, and asked that he release Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to provide Texas farmers and ranchers with emergency drought assistance.

This drought is more than an agricultural disaster. Insufficient rainfall across Texas has resulted in extreme fire conditions in 207 of Texas' 254 counties. And the National Weather Service is predicting above-average temperatures and no precipitation for much of the state through the summer.

We've all seen what this summer's horrendous wild-

fires have been doing to Florida. We don't want a repeat of that scenario in Texas.

Federal assistance is now making available several programs to help Texas firefighters, farmers and ranchers prevent conditions from deteriorating further. Emergency loans, CRP haying and grazing, and crop insurance are some of the important tools that could do more to assist our producers. Earlier this summer, at my request, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency agreed to delay making some proposed changes in the way crop insurance policy claims are appraised on seed that fails to grow due to a lack of rain. The original appraisal period, seven days, remains in effect. The agency's draft regulation would have deferred these appraisals to 25 days after the final plant date, a proposal that worried many growers.

In a Senate Resolution offered in June, Secretary Glickman was instructed to:

- \* Ensure that local Farm Service Agency offices are equipped with adequate personnel in drought-stricken areas to assist producers with disaster loan applications;
- \* Direct the U.S. Forest Service to assist the State of Texas and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in pre-positioning fire-fighting equipment and other appropriate resources in affected Texas counties;
- \* Authorize haying and grazing on CRP acreage (so far 35 countries have been released for grazing only);
- \* Implement an emergency plan to help prevent wild-fires.

As is the case during any drought, all Texans have a stake in its outcome. While farmers and ranchers are feeling the pinch now, over the long term everyone will suffer the consequences in the grocery store check-out line and elsewhere in our economy. While the possibility of wildfire presents an immediate threat, over the long haul drought can depress property values, reducing the tax revenues on which school districts and local governments depend. And inevitably, drought increases the competition for scarce water resources among municipalities, agriculture and wildlife preservation efforts.

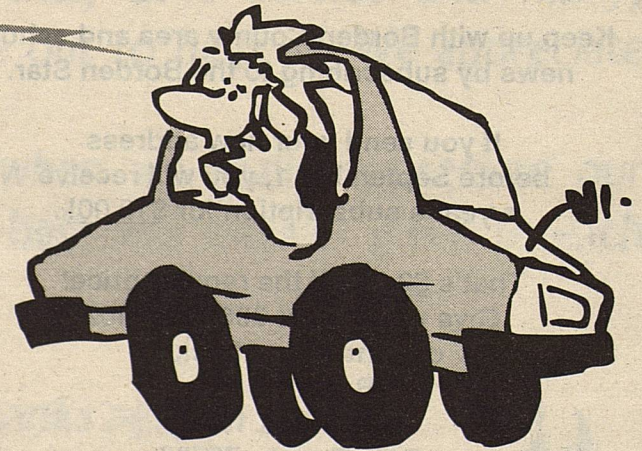
There's an old joke that says the success of a "Rain-maker" depends on his timing. We can't change the weather. But what we can do is work together, as Texans always have, to limit the damage wherever we can.

*(For more information on the programs mentioned in this column, contact the Texas Department of Agriculture at (877) 429-1998, toll-free.)*

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