

Farm Service Agency Emergency Loans Available to 207 Disaster Counties in Texas
USDA Texas Farm Service Agency (FSA) Acting Executive Director James B. Douglass announced that 207 counties in Texas were declared a disaster on January 9, 2013, due to drought and heat using the new, streamlined Secretarial Disaster Designation process. Under this designation, producers with operations in any of the 157 primary disaster counties or 50 contiguous disaster counties are eligible to apply for low interest emergency loans.
The streamlined disaster designation process issues a drought disaster declaration when a county has experienced a drought intensity value of at least a D2 (severe drought) level for eight consecutive weeks based on the U.S. Drought Monitor during the crop year. Under this declaration 157 counties in Texas have reached that threshold since November 1,2012.
The following 157 counties were designated as primary disaster counties:
 The following 5

| Anderson | Comal | Llano | Sterling |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Aransas | Concho | McCulloch | Titus |
| Atascosa | Crane | Madison | Tom Green |
| Bastrop | Ector | Martin | Travis |
| Bexar | Franklin | Mason | Upton |
| Blanco | Frio | Medina | Uvalde |
| Brazos | Gonzales | Midland | Van Zandt |
| Brewster | Henderson | Morris | Victoria |
| Burleson | Howard | Pecos | Wilson |
| Calhoun | Irion | Reagan | Winkler |
| Cass | Lavaca | Reeves | Wood |
| Coke | Lee | Runnels | Zavala |

"The disaster designation is welcome relief to producers because it allows all qualified operators in primary and contiguous counties to apply for a low interest emergency (EM)
loan," said Douglass. loan, said Douglass
Emergency loans help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding and other natural
disasters or quarantine.
tion to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider tion to apply for emergency loan assistance. FSA will consider
each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. Producers can borrow up to 100 percent of actual production or physical losses, to a maximum amount of $\$ 500,000$. The current emergency loan interest rate is 2.15 percent.
Producers with operations in counties that did not receive a disaster designation could be eligible for emergency loan assistance if they suffered at least a 30 percent loss in crop production or a physical loss to livestock, livestock products, real estate or chattel property.
For more information about emergency loans, please con-

## Applications for

## Conservation Programs

 Being Accepted at Briscoe County NRCS OfficeDistrict Conservationist Cody Sparks announces application for funding opportunities with the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) are currently being accepted at the NRCS offices located at 410 Lone Star Silverton, TX 79257 NRCS in Texas has received its initial allocation of EQIP funding in 2013 and will begin ranking and obligating EQIP contracts after February 15. All agriculture producers interested in submitting a contract application for 2013 should do so before this ranking deadline.

EQIP - one of the largest programs in the Farm Bill - is a voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and assists producers to meet local, state and federal regulations.
"EQIP is a valuable tool to help Briscoe County's agricultural producers implement conservation practices that provide environmental benefits to help sustain agricultural operations," says Cody Sparks.
EQIP is a continuous sign-up program that allows landowners or operators to apply for financial and technical as-
sistance for the application of specific sistance for the application of specific conservation practices but the deadine for the first 2013 funding is February 15, 2013. Contracts are offered periodically depending on budget considoced in. Applications made ater the deadine will be considered in the next funding cycle. Higher priority will be given to those applications that address national, state and lopriorities and provide higher cost efficiency.
EQIP offers techercal and fial help to install or implecan benefit the soil, water, air, plants, livestock, and wildlife Each county in the wate is funded yearly to assist producers Each county in the state is funded yearly to assill
financially with these land management practices.
Last year, NRCS in Texas funded over 4,000 EQIP contracts with $\$ 76$ million to accomplish conservation practices such as irrigation efficiency, minimum tillage, brush management and more on 2.1 million acres across the entire state. In addition to helping our environment, Farm Bill conservation program funds support rural communities. In Texas, it is estimated that each dollar of NRCS and private matching expenditures on NRCS conservation programs generates an additional $\$ 2.54$ in sales of goods and services.
For more information, including eligibility requirements call the USDA Service Center office in Silverton at (806)8232431 ext. 3. Service center locations and program information can be fou
usda.gov.

## Responses Needed for <br> Census of Agriculture

## than 3 million U S agricultural producers during the last week

 of December. In Texas, about 375,000 Census forms are being mailed out. The mailings include all known farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers, plus a large number of potentia agricultural producers.The Census is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and tenure, operator characteristics, production practices and economic information. The Census provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive and impartial agricultural data for every county in the nation. Through the Census, producers will show the value and importance of agriculture in their county and can help influence decisions that will shape the future of American agriculture. By responding to the Census, producers are helping themselves and their communities The Census of Agriculture has mandatory reporting authority, just like the population Census. This is due to the tremendous value of the information and because of the large amount of funds and resources targeted and allocated based on Census results.
Individual information is guaranteed complete confidentiality by federal law, Title 7 of the U.S. code. Title 7 prevents NASS from sharing individual information with any other government agency and also gives NASS immunity from any gal processes and FOIA.

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NASS is restricted to publishing only aggregate totals at that the identity of any individual is not discernible in the published totals.
There is a toll free phone number on the front of the Census form for anyone with questions: (888) 424-7828. NASS will operate calling centers from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays, to respond to incoming calls. For more information
about the Census of Agricul about the Census of Agricul-
ture, please call the USDA's ture, please call the USDA's (800) 626-3142.

## January Crop Report

Lowers High Plains

## Production Estimate

## By Mary Jane Buerkle

The January crop report from the National Agricultural Statistics Service revealed yet another drop in upland cotton production figures for the Texas High Plains.
NASS estimates that Districts $1-\mathrm{N}$ and $1-\mathrm{S}$ will produce 2.92 million bales, down from 3.4 million in their December eport. Expected statewide production dropped from 5.5 milion bales to 5 million bales. Nationwide upland production estimates were down from the December report to 16.25 mil lion bales.
However, worldwide production for the month was estimated to be higher and consumption slightly lower, resulting in ending stocks of 81.7 million bales, according to the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report.
Yield per acre estimates increased for both the northern and southern portions of the Plains Cotton Growers service area. The northern half estimates increased slightly, from 726 pounds/acre to 745 , but estimates for the southern half umped 89 pounds from 458 pounds/acre to 547 .
The report also decreased harvested acreage by 790,000 acres, from 3.11 million acres in December to 2.32 million acres of the 4.22 million planted in the area in 2012. As a re sult of that adjustment, acreage abandonment on the High Plains now is estimated at about 45 percent for 2012.
Cotton acreage nationwide for 2013 is predicted to decrease, with some projecting planted acreage to be as low a 10 million. However, much of that shift is expected to occur in areas other than the High Plains, where only a slight adjustment is expected.
"We've still got a lot of time before any seed goes into the ground on the High Plains and those decisions are made, PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett said.
Much of the High Plains received welcome rainfall this pas week, and almost all of the West Texas Mesonet sites have re

## NCC Planting Survey

## Deadline is January 16

 All cot Council's annual survey of 2013 planting National Cotton Council's annual survey of 2013 plantingintentions, which was recently distributed to upland and extra-long staple cotton producers across the Cotton Belt. The current survey was distributed through a combination of regular mail and email with the intent of reaching all U.S. cotton farms. Growers who did not receive a survey may contact the NCC via email at econsurvey@cotton.org for survey instructions.
The survey, conducted each year to aid with industry planning and policy deliberations, provides the basis for the economic outlook presented to delegates during the NCC Annual Meeting in early February. Survey results will be presented during the Joint Meeting of Program Committees on Saturday morning, Feb. 9. To enhance the survey's accuracy, producers are encouraged to respond by the Jan. 16 deadline.

## Commissioners' Court removed the fire ban for Hall County <br> January 14, 2013



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##  <br> ARSITY BOYS \& GIRLS <br> \& JV BOYS \& GIRLS

 Motley County MatadorsVARSITY BOYS \& GIRLS \& JV BOYS \& GIRLS

| Tuesday, January 15 | Friday, January 18 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Matadors | Matadors | Matadors Matadors Vs. Jayton at Home Vs. Spur at Spur



VARSITY BOYS \& GIRLS | $\& ~ J V$ BOYS \& GIRLS |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Tuesday, January 15 | Friday, January 18 |  |

Silverton Owls Silverton Owls Vs. Vs.
Valley
at Home McLean at McLean @ 8:00 p.m. Lady Pats @ 6:30 p.m. Lady Pats @ 6:30 p.m.

| $1 / 8$ |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Patriots $-1 / 11$ |  |
| McLean - | Patriots - 58 Hedley - 38 |


sday, January 15 Friday, January 18
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Valley Patriots
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Silverton
at Silverton
@ 8:00 p.m.
ady Pats - 68 Hedley - 20

Vs.
Valley
at Home
@ 8:00 p.m. ady Owls @ 6:30 p.m.
$\qquad$
Owls - 27 Groom-62
Lady Owls-33 Groom -
Owls - 28 Kress - 69
Lady Owls - 33 Groom-31 $\quad$ Lady Owls - 44 Kress - 35

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## The Dora Merrell Stroup Story


#### Abstract

Sometimes the cistern would go dry and they would have to haul water from the river to fill it up. There was a large live oak at the north of the house where we played many a day. The old house was burned down now. Nothing but the trumps of the trees, the old ci left to tell the fate. left to tell the fate. We lived closest to the little Baker school house. Mother usually boarded the school teacher. The only one I remember is Miss Fanny Woodford. She lived in Galveston. Her mother died when she was a little child. She used to tell us about her Negro nurse. She said the nurse did most everything for her. She helped her put her clothes on and combed her hair til she was a young woman. She was my first teacher. I had visited the school many a time, but the first day for me at school I cried. school many a time, but the first day for me at school I cried. The teacher told me she would let Jane, my sister, take me home. I said, "Oh, I can go home by myself. I am not afraid." She was disgusted with me. I was not afraid to go home alone but too big a baby to stay at school all day. Anyway, she sent me home with poor little Jane along by my side. There was another school just across the river from us. We went to Sunday school and church there. It was only a short said she would rather walk to Sunday school and church than harness a team and drive all the way down to the ford to cross. The hired man told her he would cut a footlog. That pleased mother. So he cut a tall tree on the bank of the river for us to cross on. How I dreaded to cross the trunk of that tree to go to Sunday school and church I was fine after I reached the limbs Sunday school and church. I was fine after I reached the limbs on the tree. From there on it was fun. I won a little red pitcher on the tree. From there on it was fun. I won a little red pitcher and a white mug for having good lessons and good conduct. I still have the little white mug, but it is minus the handle. I knocked the picture off the table and it broke to pieces. I never went to school there but Lizzie, Bill and Jane did. I am told that one of the four girls that went to school with them still lives there. Back to the San Saba school. Miss Fanny taught there for of school in our home. We enjoyed that term of school very much. She then went back to Galveston and wrote often. Then in the fall of 1900, the Galveston storm came. We never heard from her anymore. Mother wrote but the letters came back. Mother tried to hard to learn of her where abouts. She wrote the people that knew her. They tried to get n touch with her also. Finally we decided that she was one of the many hundreds that met their death in the storm. Father was a cattle man on a small scale. He was in pardners with his nephew. Father's brand was (inserted in the transcript is a handwritten version of the TV brand - a capital T setting inside a capital V). Cousin Billy branded the T on the left shoulder I believe. The country was a free range at that time. There were lots of little cattle men and there were some time. There were lots of little cattle men and there were some that were not so small. The big cattle men wanted to take over They tried to buy the little cattle men out. The little cattlemen wanted to stay, too. After the big cattlemen learned that they could not buy them out, they decided they would run them out. They began to cut their fences. Father's fence was among out. They began to cut their fences. Father's fence was among them. They also killed their sheep and poisoned their sheep them. They also killed their sheep and poisoned their sheep dogs. That did not work altogether, so they threatened their lives. They made their threats good in some instances. Well do I remember one man. He was riding into town one day and his only child, Sally, sitting behind him on the horse. As they crossed a little draw with thick growth of bushes on each side, they shot him. As they both fell off the poor horse ran up the road as hard as he could. Some men riding after the cattle stopped the horse. They knew the horse, and led him back down the road. There he lay with his head in his daugh- ter's lap. She was beside herself in tears. How our hearts went ter's lap. She was out to little Sally. Father had a large corral. We lived on the road leading to San Saba where the men shipped their cattle. Many of the men penned their cattle at our place. One night a man penned his herd there. It was a rainy night. The men had gone to bed out  at their camp. We all were steeping om the south perre sleeping on the south porch. A man came from town in the night. He recognized the man; and his horses. He rode up to the corral fence. He pulled off his sisicker and shook it over the fence It stampeded the the fence. It stampeded the catte, They laid the fence: cattle. They laid the fence flat They came into the yard. Some went on one side of Some went on one side of the house, and some went on the other. They ore the onther yard fence down The other yard fenee down. The cattle began to mill around cattle began to mill around in Fathers pasture. The ment in Fathers pasture. The men rounded them up and kept them until day light and then went on to market. on to market. To be continued...


## - Valley SchoolLunch Menu

Wednesday, January 16
Breakfast: Scrambled Eggs, Toast or Tortilla, OJ/Milk
Lunch: Chicken Sandwich,Let/Tom/Pickle, French Fries, Fruit, Milk
Breakfast: Muffin, Yogurt, OJ/Milk
Lunch: Beefy Mac, Carrots, Breadstik, Fruit, Milk
Friday, January 18
Breakfast: Biscuit Sausage, OJ/Milk
Lunch: Pizza, Broccoli Salad, Corn on the Cob, Frech Fruit, Milk Monday, January 21
Breakfast: Malto Meal, Cinnamon Toast, JJ/Mw Tuesday, January 22
Breakfast: Pancake on a Stick, OJ/Milk
Lunch: Tex Mex Stack, Let/Tom/Cheese, Refried Beans, Salsa, Cinnamon Apples, Milk The Salad Bar Will Change Daily \& Will Include Chicken Salad, Diced Ham, Tuna Salad, Fajita Chicken \& A Variety Of Cheese
"PATRIOT SPIRIT"
VALLEY STUDENT OF THE MONTH


## Abby Hill

Abby Hill is a senior at Valley High School. She is 17 years old daughter of Dusty and Audrey Hill. Abby is the oldest child out of three children. Her younger sister, Jolee, is in the 8th grade and her younger brother, Cooper, is in the 4th grade. Abby is actively involved in FFA, Student Council, basketball, track, cross country, cheerleading, and
NHS She is a Chapter Officer in FFA and a Captain in basketball. Her favorite food is NHS. She is a Chapter Officer in FFA and a Captain in basketball. Her favorite food is
steak, and her favorite pastime is hanging out with friends. Abby Hill is an outstanding steak, and her favorite pastime is hanging out with friends. Abby Hill is an outstanding
role model for the students at Valley School. We are extremely proud of her and are role model for the students at V
proud to call her a Valley Patriot
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is for the regognition of Outstanding Valley Students regardless of age or grade and is proudly
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