

New County Judge presides at Commissioners Court

Janet Felderhoff
News Editor

Cooke County Commissioners Court has a new leader. Jason Brinkley was sworn in as the County Judge on Jan. 1. County Judge John Roane opted for retirement rather than seeking another term of office.

Judge Brinkley opened the Jan. 12 meeting of Commissioners Court with a few announcements. He noted that the look of the agenda had been changed a bit and some of the rules that had been approved by Commissioners Court in the early 2000s and were still in effect would be observed.

Brinkley said, "Typically when we have a County employee or elected official who has served this County for a number of years, we do a proclamation or some type of presentation for that individual. When John Roane retired, he asked that we not do that. We are going to honor his wishes and not do that, but I would like to, and I know I speak on behalf of the entire Court, and thank him for his services to this County. I believe he served 17 1/2 years for Cooke Coun-



Janet Felderhoff photo

Jason Brinkley officiated over his first Commissioners Court meeting as Cooke County Judge on Monday, Jan. 12. He was sworn in to a four-year term as County Judge on Thursday, Jan. 1.

ty. He spent 20 years in the Air Force. On behalf of the whole Court, we do wish him the best of luck in retirement and any future endeavors."

Several months ago, Commissioners Court became aware that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was laying claim to land along the Red River near Vernon. Cooke County was invited to be a participating member in a group dealing with that topic. Cooke County was to appoint a representative and send an approved memorandum of understanding to the group. Commissioner Leon Klement said that the memorandum was approved, but for some reason never sent. He was recently made aware that it had not been received.

Klement stayed in touch with the County Judge from Wichita County and learned

that Regional meetings are coming up to rewrite the resource management plan. Klement noted, "We need to be part of it. Wichita said it's very important to all the counties along the Red River to part of this planning session."

The Court again approved the memorandum of understanding between Cooke County and the Bureau of Land Management Oklahoma Field Office and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office Southern Plains Regional Office. Commissioner Klement was designated as the County's representative and Commissioner Gary Hollowell as the alternate.

Nathan Vajdos, developer for OwnEnergy, presented an update to the Court regarding a proposed wind farm near Muenster. He said

they expect to complete preliminary work by the end of this month and to bid the project next month.

"The deal is picking up certainty as you can tell," remarked Vajdos. "We are spending money as if the project will get done, but there is still a long way to go. Natural gas prices continue to not be as favorable as we'd like."

Vajdos said that they would hope to be able to financially post on the project by the second or third quarter. "There's a lot of moving parts to this," he noted. "A lot of things continue to evolve and we are encouraged by some and discouraged by others."

Vajdos presented a graphic which mapped out Cooke County in the area proposed for the wind farm. It had tur-

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CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

MUENSTER, TEXAS

Muenster Ferry - a short-lived dream

Janet Felderhoff
News Editor

(This is the first in a year-long collection of photos and stories of Muenster's past commemorating the town's past 125 years.)

Did you know that Muenster once had a ferry? It was completed on Aug. 1, 1951 and located on the Red River on the road to the Shiloh Baptist Church at a place where the river was about 500 feet wide during normal times.

According to information in the *Muenster Centennial Book* and several 1951 issues of the *Muenster Enterprise*, the purpose of the ferry was to provide a river crossing and road which would connect Muenster with Jimtown, OK and Leon, OK, making Muenster their near-

est market. By ferry, these communities were about 20 miles apart. Before the ferry, people traveled 50 miles from the Texas community to Leon or Jimtown and vice versa. This 50 miles route was used often by ranchers wishing to bring their cattle to the Muenster Livestock Auction. Some wished for a shorter route to send milk to the Muenster cheese plant.

It was also hoped that a ferry might draw enough traffic to eventually lead to a bridge being constructed there.

After the project was considered for a number of years, J.M. Weinzapfel became one of the driving forces who made it happen. Weinzapfel along with 13 stockholders financed the \$5,000 project. The Muen-

ster Corporation Ferry was formed with board directors being Ben Seyler president, J.P. Flusche vice-president, Herbert Meurer secretary/treasurer, and Jerome Pagel and Weinzapfel directors.

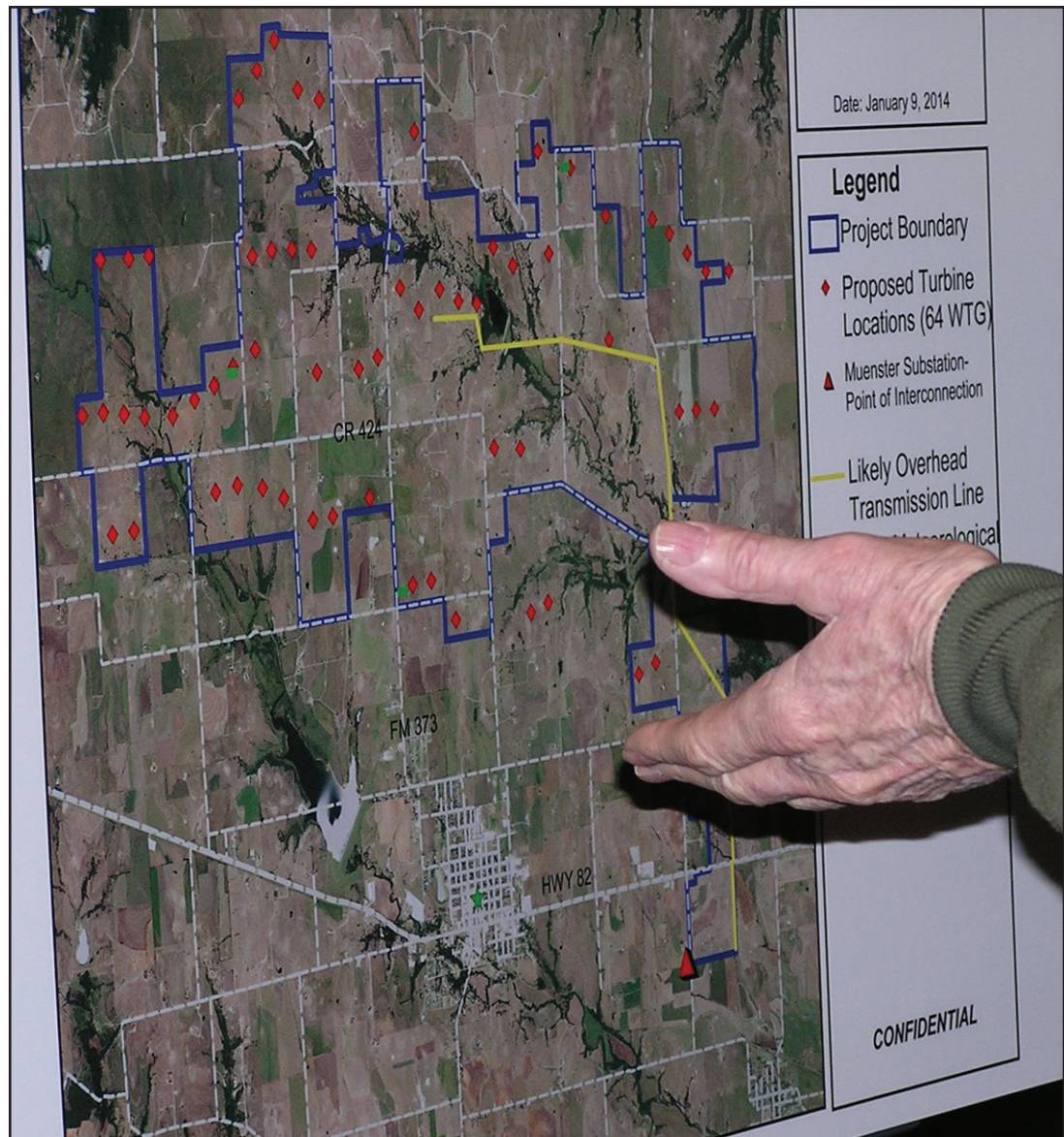
Construction on the bridge began in mid July 1951 with the work being done by Community Lumber Company. Workers included C.J. Fette, Rody Klement, and Harold Knabe.

The structure measured 50 by 14 feet and was built of two inch lumber over a framework of heavy timber braced by iron rods. Joints were caulked for water proofing and then the whole structure coated with tar as an additional precaution. When completed, it weighed 25,000 pounds and had a

See FERRY, pg. 2

Photos courtesy of the Muenster Museum

The Muenster Ferry was located along the Red River to give passage from the Muenster area into Oklahoma and open a pathway for Oklahomans to trade in Muenster. Pictured are Richard Cain, left, and J.M. Weinzapfel aboard the ferry.



Janet Felderhoff photo

A graph presented at Cooke County Commissioners Court on Monday by Nathan Vajdos of OwnEnergy shows the expected line of wind turbines on a wind farm proposed for the Muenster area. Vajdos noted that these are approximate locations and could change.

New structured United Way sets celebration luncheon

Janet Felderhoff
News Editor

Fiesta is the theme of the 2015 Cooke County United Way's (CCUW) Annual Celebration Luncheon. The event will be held in the Gainesville Civic Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Reservations are recommended since seating is limited. Reservations should be made no later than Monday, Jan. 19 by calling (940) 665-1793. Checks may be mailed to Cooke County United Way, P.O. Box 208, Gainesville, TX 76241.

The Celebration Luncheon is being held in January this time instead of November. Cooke County United Way Executive Director Angie Hare explained the reasons for this change. She said, "CCUW has implemented a structural change which included changes to our program time lines. That also included the need to move our Celebration Luncheon to January. We have a couple of local employee campaigns

that typically do not conclude prior to our November date, as well as we also typically receive funds in January from outside our county, such as Peterbilt, UNT, etc. This change allows other pledges to be counted at the Celebration!"

"Additionally, the time line change will allow our 2016 allocation process (the process in which United Way interviews and determines its partner agencies and amounts awarded to each) to align with the amount raised announced at our Celebration date. Moving the date allows the possibility of a larger amount to be consid-

ered for agency allocations.

"Another key factor is that our previous practice awarded (or pledged) the money BEFORE the campaign even starts. Now, we will award/pledge the funds to the agencies AFTER the public campaign. United Way will have a firm amount to base allocations instead of an estimated amount! Our United Way has been working on this change for about three years. This was the year of implementation!"

CCUW's 2015 goal of \$435,000 is their largest goal ever. As of press time, that goal had not been at-

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Police apprehend noisy thieves

On Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 1:30 a.m., Muenster Police Officer Madaline Chance responded to a report of noises around a closed business. Officer Chance located a truck loaded with stolen structural iron.

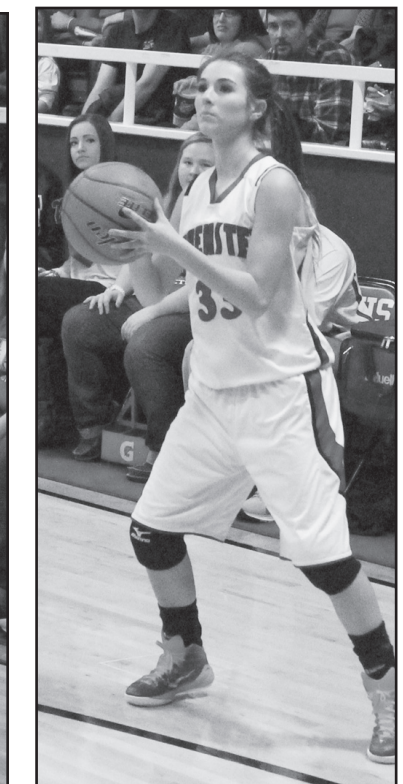
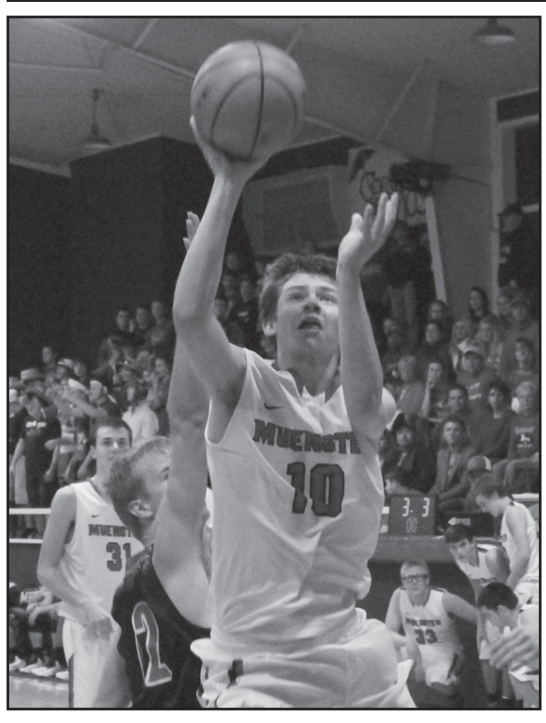
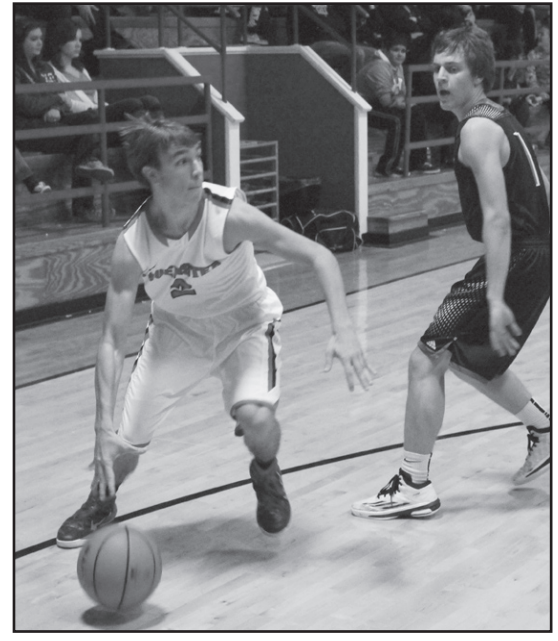
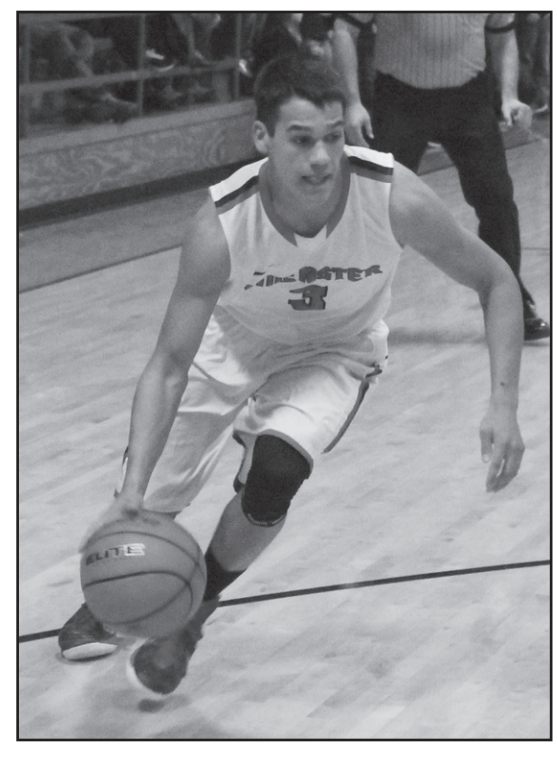
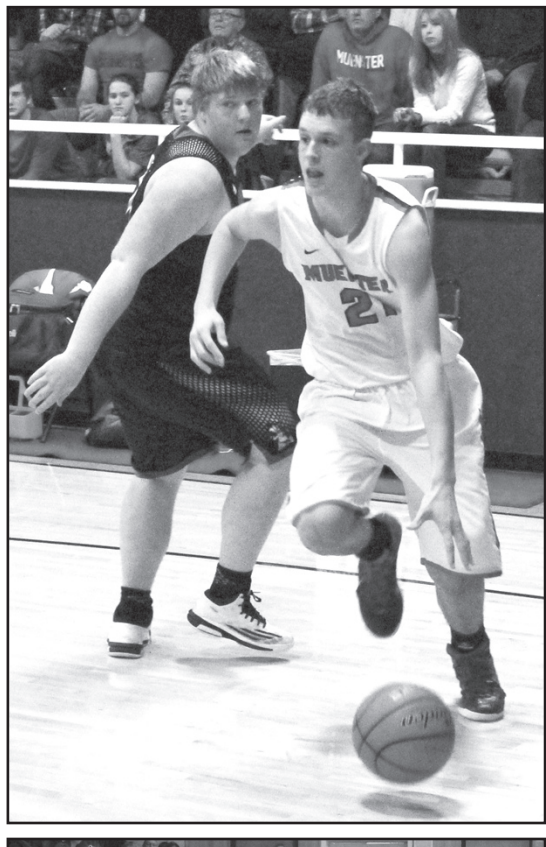
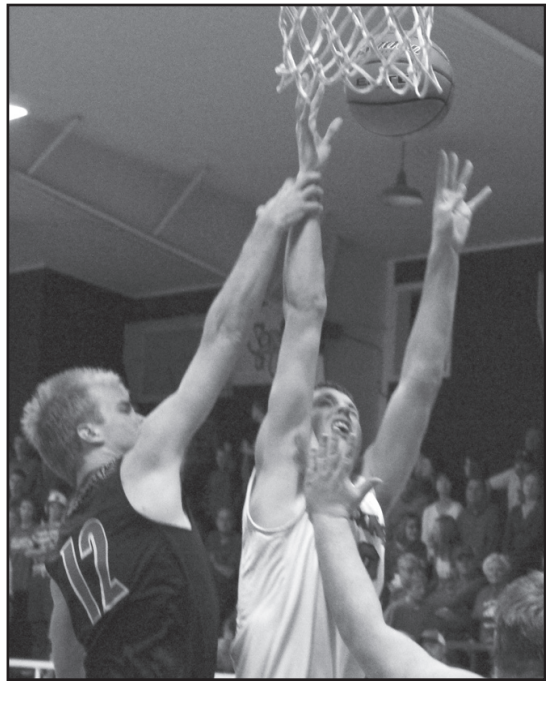
Patrick Schultz, age 49, and Veltette Skaggs, age 34, were arrested for Theft and booked into the Cooke County Jail. Both are from Comanche, OK.



Basketball 2015



MUEENSTER OVER LINDSAY



Photos by Clay Corbett

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AGRICULTURE MARKET SUMMARY

For the week ending Jan. 10, Texas auctions quoted feeder cattle prices mostly steady to \$10 higher, with one sale location reporting an increase as high as \$30 in comparison to pre-holiday prices. Texas direct feeder cattle sales were \$2 to \$9 higher. Fed cattle weekly cash sales were slow later in the week, though prices were quoted at \$170 per hundredweight (cwt) last Thursday, up about 5% from last week. Wholesale beef values continued their increase to close at \$256.79 per cwt for Choice Grade cut-out and \$248.23 per cwt for Select Grade. Weekly export sales beginning Jan. 1 totaled 6,000 metric tons (MT), with Japan, Chile and Mexico as the top buyers. Export shipments of 7,700 MT went primarily to Japan, Hong Kong and South Korea. Accumulated exports of 680,200 MT for 2014 were down two percent from the previous year.

Wheat cash prices in Texas are down 67 cents after the holidays, and futures experienced a 16 cent decrease since last week. Net export sales for wheat were at a marketing-year low, down 57% from the prior week and 61% from the four-week average. However, shipments were three times higher than the previous week and 43% higher than the weekly average.

Texas corn cash prices also were lower after the holidays, down about 14 cents. However, corn futures prices experienced a four cent gain to end the week. Corn export sales also were at a marketing-year low, down 57% from the previous week and 63% from the four-week average. Export shipments were 24% lower than the prior week and 28% lower than the average.

Much of the state recorded precipitation over the last week, with the exception of the Texas Panhandle. Reports of a half inch or more

were almost exclusively east of I-35. Last week's U.S. Drought Monitor for Texas showed 61% of the state was experiencing some form of drought conditions. Twenty-four percent of the state continues to experience severe drought conditions. On the national level, almost 44% of the U.S. is experiencing abnormal dryness or some degree of drought, down about two and a half percent from last week.

In other news, crude oil prices fell below \$50 a barrel last week, its lowest settlement price since April 2009.

Beef imports outlook up for 2014

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Outlook report for December raises U.S. beef imports to 2.848 billion pounds in 2014, reports *Drovers CattleNetwork*.

The report revealed demand for imported processing beef has expanded in

2014 due to lower domestic supplies.

USDA is forecasting 2015 beef imports at 2.7 billion pounds.

Total beef exports for 2014 are forecast at 2.599 billion pounds, marginally higher than 2013. In 2015, beef exports are forecast to fall

to 2.525 billion pounds due to expected lower U.S. beef production and the strengthening U.S. dollar.

Ardmore man convicted of cattle theft

An Ardmore, OK., man was convicted on Dec. 16 after knowingly concealing stolen property (cattle) in Jefferson County. Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) Special Ranger Bart Perrier led the investigation.

Cody Wayne Blalock, 28, was convicted after he sold two steers, in the summer of 2014, to subjects who resided in Jefferson County. The steers in question were stolen from the Speake Ranch, located near Ardmore. Both of the steers were branded with the victim's state registered brand, which aided in the quick identification and recovery of the cattle. The stolen steers have been returned to the victim.

"This case highlights that branding livestock is an invaluable tool for law enforcement to quickly locate, identify, and recover stolen livestock," said Perrier.

Blalock pled guilty to a five year suspended sentence along with a \$500 fine and \$1,000 in restitution. Blalock is also required to complete 100 hours of community service.

Texas Panhandle dairies continue to grow

Texas is responsible for nearly 5% of U.S. milk production, an increase of 1.5% from 1999. That increase can be attributed to one geographic region—the Panhandle.

Eight of the top 10 dairy counties in Texas are now in the Panhandle. Dry climate, cheaper land, and communities supportive to animal agriculture make the area an ideal location for dairies, according to *Ag Web*.

Dairies and feedlots bring infrastructure to the High Plains of Texas. Their success can be attributed to the Ogallala Aquifer that supplies ground water for irrigation and watering livestock.

AG TALK

By Russell Boening
TFB President

Time to step up political activism

It is my great honor to be selected president of Texas Farm Bureau by the voting delegates at our Corpus Christi convention. As that all sinks in, I'm eager to get started. We have a big job ahead, and there are many challenges.

To start with, it's a legislative year. As a farmer, I know about taking care of the land and preparing the ground for a new crop. In only a few days, our elected representatives will return to Austin. That in itself is challenging, and we have to be ready. We will study the issues and develop relationships with state officials. Many of them have never been part of state government before. Others are now in a completely different role.



Inexperience is part of this complex situation in Austin and it makes our role as active Farm Bureau members even more important. It's vital that you communicate with the folks you sent to the capitol.

Voter Voice, built into our Texas Farm Bureau website, is a very easy and effective way to communicate. Our Government Affairs staff will at times ask you to use Voter Voice to send messages to your elected officials. But you don't have to wait. You can send emails and make calls as a constituent to your state senators and state representatives. We've talked about using social media. Legislators use these tools and we have to think about using them, too.

For Texas Farm Bureau, one of the most exciting things about 2014 was the emergence of some outstanding leaders from our organization. People like DeWayne Burns of Johnson County and Andy Murr of Kimble County stepped forward to take their places in Austin.

This is going to be one of my top goals as president. I want to step up our political activism. We must be more involved in the political process than ever. Our AGFUND PAC must be strong and well-financed. We must communicate with our leaders and many of us should give careful consideration to running for public office.

The organization will do its part. We need you as we step out to achieve positive change for Texas Farm Bureau and agriculture. I will visit with you often on these pages. You can also follow me on Twitter—@RBoening. I'll be telling you what I'm doing. Contact me through the state office in Waco or on social media.

There are major issues, important debates, and hard work ahead of us. There are exciting prospects full of great opportunity.

Gaylon Thompson

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YOUR TEXAS AGRICULTURAL MINUTE

Standing up. Standing out.

By Jessica Domel

Everything is bigger in Texas. From our hats to our breakfast tacos, Texans stand out.

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All of the above.

But how do we continue to be the best state in the nation?

We speak up. We stand out.

The legislative session is about to start. And like everything else Texan, it's big. It's bold.

And it needs the voices of Texans like you and me to ensure the greatness of our grand state.

Take 10 minutes of your time. Tell your legislators what you need to keep Texas great. Talk about water rights, transportation, and any other issue affecting your area.

Our state is large. But the divide between us and our legislators doesn't have to be.

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Hog numbers show increase

The U.S. hog and pig inventory is up 2% from last year, totaling 66.1 million head as of Dec. 1, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) quarterly report.

The increase in inventory may reflect a sow herd that has gained some immunity from Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv), *Agri-Pulse* reports.

The report also showed market hogs totaled 60.1 million head as of Dec. 1, up 2% from 2013. The Dec. 1 breeding hog inventory was at 5.97 million head, up 4% from last year.

U.S. hog farmers intend to have 2.87 million sows farrow during the December-February 2015 quarter, which is up 4% from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2014.

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- SELECT VARIETIES PASTA **American Beauty** 16 OZ. **5 FOR \$5**
- SHURFINE ASSORTED VARIETIES **Spaghetti Sauce** 24 OZ. **5 FOR \$5**
- SUNSHINE **Krispy Saltines** 16 OZ. **\$1.99**
- SELECT VARIETIES - WITH OR WITHOUT BEANS **Wolf Brand Chili** 15 OZ. **2 FOR \$3**
- ORIG. OR LAVENDER - BATHROOM TISSUE **Angel Soft** 12 DBL. ROLLS **\$6.99**
- ORIG. OR THAI DRAGON FRUIT - DETERGENT **Gain 2x Liquid** 50 OZ. **\$5.88**
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- ASSORTED VARIETIES COFFEE CREAMER **Coffee-mate** 10.2-15 OZ. **\$3.79**
- ASSORTED FLAVORS **Kool-Aid Jammers** 10 PACK **2 FOR \$4**
- GRAPEFRUIT OR ASSORTED APPLE **Old Orchard Juice Cocktail** 64 OZ. **\$1.49**
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- NISSIN ASSORTED CHOW NOODLES OR **Chow Mein** 3.63-4 OZ. **89¢**
- CASSEROLE **Pinto Beans** 4 LB. **\$4.79**
- CHUNK LIGHT, IN WATER OR OIL **StarKist Tuna** 5 OZ. **99¢**
- APPLE, GRAPE, OR PUNCH FUN SIZE **Juicy Juice** 8 PACK **\$1.99**
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- FRENCH'S CLASSIC YELLOW **Mustard** 20 OZ. **\$1.99**
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- MARKET SLICED **Virginia or Honey Ham** LB. **\$3.49**
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Fresh Produce



FRESH **Texas Grapefruit** **5 for \$1**

FANCY **Navel Oranges** LB. **79¢**

- RED HOTHOUSE **Tomatoes** 2 LBS. **\$3**
- HALOS - BAGGED **Mandarins** 2 LB. **\$2.99**
- PEELED **Baby Carrots** 1 LB. **99¢**
- BAGGED **Yellow Onions** 3 LB. 4 FOR **\$5**
- FRESH BUNCH **Radishes** EACH **89¢**
- FRESH BUNCH **Green Onions** 2 FOR **\$1**

- SPICY HOT PEPPERS **Jalapeños** LB. **79¢**
- LARGE GREEN **Bell Peppers** 2 FOR **\$1**
- RED OR GOLDEN DELICIOUS, OR GALA **Bagged Apples** 3 LB. **\$2.99**
- FRESH **Sweet Potatoes** LB. **89¢**
- YELLOW, ZUCCHINI **Fresh Squash** 4 LBS. **\$5**
- SELECT VARIETIES SALAD/MIXES **Fresh Express** 5-7 OZ. **\$2.99**

20-PACK CANS ASSTD. FLAVORS **Coca-Cola** **\$5.99**



24-PACK CANS OR BOTTLES **Miller Lite** **\$2.15**



Coors or Coors Light **\$2.15**



Miller Lite **\$2.15**

Dairy & Frozen Foods



BRIDGFORD CINNAMON **Monkey Bread** 16 OZ. PKG. **\$3.29**



ORIGINAL OR LIGHT **Daisy Sour Cream** 16 OZ. TUB **\$1.99**

Health & Beauty Care

SELECT VARIETIES 6 OZ. LIQUID **Mucinex Fast Max** YOUR CHOICE **\$9.99**



- SELECT VARIETIES **Vaseline Lotion** 10 OZ. **\$3.49**
- WESTERN FAMILY SELECT VARIETIES **Toothpaste** 6.4-8.2 OZ. **99¢**
- WESTERN FAMILY ORIG. OR WITH ALOE **Hand Sanitizer** 8 OZ. **\$1.79**

- ORE-IDA SELECT VARIETIES **Potatoes or Onion Rings** 16-32 OZ. **\$2.99**
- SELECT VARIETIES **Banquet Dinners** 4.75-10.2 OZ. 5 FOR **\$5**
- WEIGHT WATCHERS SELECT VARIETIES **Smart Ones Entrées** 8.5-11.5 OZ. **\$1.99**

- SHURFINE SELECT VARIETIES **Steam-Its Vegetables** 12 OZ. **99¢**
- ASSTD. VARIETIES COFFEE CREAMERS **International Delight** 16 OZ. **\$1.99**
- BLUE BONNET **Spread Quarters** 16 OZ. **99¢**