

WEST TEXAS Country Trader

The West Texas Country Trader is a supplement of:

ABERNATHY WEEKLY REVIEW
Abernathy, Tx - Hale County
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Canyon, Tx - Randall County

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SLATON SLATONITE
Slaton, Tx - Lubbock County
TULIA HERALD
Tulia, Tx - Swisher County

Thursday, August 19, 1993



Photo courtesy/The Quarterhorse Journal

HIGH POINT PERSON — Jill Hosch, shown with her gelding Skoal Guy, earned high point horseman honors at the Texas State 4-H Horse Show recently.

Remainder of Hale joins water district

By GORDON ZEIGLER
AgReview Writer

In a special election characterized by light turnout and minimal opposition, voters Saturday overwhelmingly approved — 267 “for” to 37 “against” — to accept the recent annexation of the Hale County’s two northern and southwestern quadrants into the High Plains Underground

See Water, Page 7

Augustfest celebration begins Friday in Slaton

SLATON — Slaton folk will roll out the red carpet for citizens and out-of-town visitors beginning tonight in an event called Augustfest this weekend.

Friday evening is marked by a 6:30 p.m. barbecue followed by a Street Dance at 8:30 p.m. featuring MESA. Other activities during the dance include go carting and hot air balloon rides.

Saturday begins bright and early with a breakfast, followed by a motorcycle parade at 11:30 a.m. Other events during the day include kids games, a magic show, quilting display, daylong entertainment, a Nifty Fifty’s car show and a model railroad display.

Water Conservation District No. 1.

Saturday’s favorable vote brings the county in its entirety into Texas’ and oldest multi-county water district. The HPUWCD No. 1 was established in September, 1951.

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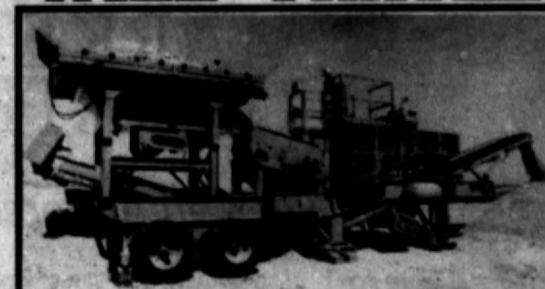
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AgReview



Calendar Ag News

Aug. 20-21

SLATON AUGUSTFEST

The City of Slaton will hold its annual summer celebration beginning with a barbecue Friday night at 6:30 p.m. followed by a street dance featuring music by MESA. Fun events in connection with the dance include go cart and hot air balloon rides.

Sponsor is the Slaton Chamber of Commerce and Women's Division.

Saturday kicks off with a breakfast, followed by a motorcycle parade at 11:30 a.m.

Aug. 19-21

RALLS RODEO — The annual Ralls Rodeo begins its three-night run tonight at 8 p.m. with rodeo-goers able to take advantage of a free barbecue meal with admission tonight only.

Friday is childrens night, with one child admitted free with an adult paid admission. Saturday action includes a parade at 4:30 p.m.

A dance nightly featuring the Rex Thomas band will follow Saturday night's performance. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Information is available by calling 253-2277.

Flour mill sells Dillehay on value-added idea

Success inspires ventures into pinto cooperative, bagging, selling food corn

By GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview Writer

DAWN — Harold Dillehay is another Panhandle agribusinessman sold on the concept that adding value to farm products is where the future of sustainable agriculture lies for Texas Panhandle farmers.

"I've sat and watched the family farmer barely eke by and make a living," Dillehay observes. "If farmers and ranchers can't start getting products to the consumer in a finished form, they are going to have an awful hard time surviving in agriculture."

Dillehay, a lifelong grain and elevator man who launched his own farming career about 15 years ago, speaks from experience.

A case in point is his six-year-old flour milling facility, built to beef up profits to growers. Already, the facility has returned over \$1 million in wheat bonuses on to Dawn area farmers who have brought their grain to be milled at a state-of-the-art facility.

The plant turns out high-quality baking flour — used to make bread and tortillas.

It ranks as one of the only mills approved by the U.S. Organic Association to provide flour for that specialty market.

Best of all, the plant stays busy. So busy in fact that it operates 24 hours a day, six days a week — a schedule that it has followed since opening just to meet the demand. The plant turns out 330,000 pounds



VALUE-ADDED PROPONENT — Harold Dillehay is shown in front of the towering structure of Panhandle Flour Milling, located about seven miles north of Dawn. The plant found a strong market for high-quality Panhandle wheat flour — so strong it has had the plant operating 24 hour hours a day since it opened.

of flour daily, using up to 7,200 bushels of Texas Panhandle-grown wheat every 24 hours.

Experience at the plant has shown how bringing food processing closer to the producer, and allowing him to participate more directly in profit from finishing the product, can help reap expanded profits from a crop.

Not one to miss out on other projects with promise, Dillehay says he saw the potential of another value-added venture — formation of a pinto bean cooperative — and got on board about two years ago.

He is a former board member of United Bean Co-Op of Plainview which he helped guide it through the process of gaining a Texas Ag Finance Authority loan. The bean cooking plant is another value-added facility, whose goal is to pass on

more profit to 116 co-op members/growers spanning an area from Dalhart south to Big Spring.

Most recently, in May, he helped launch Panhandle Corn Milling, a plant that cleans and bags locally grown corn for sale to tortilla factories that grind it into masa.

It is easy to see that Dillehay is an experienced value-added proponent.

Thinking back on his efforts of the last several years, Dillehay says he believes there is yet further potential for value added in the Panhandle region.

"Value added has got to happen," he says. "We need more of it — more entrepreneurs, people who have vision to carry our product to market."

See FLOUR, Page 4

Record Texas crop helps push cotton lower

The reality of a "big" U.S. cotton crop was confirmed with the near-record 18.5 million bale August estimate. That was on the high side of trade estimates and adds more downward pressure on the market.

However, world stocks changed little as the China crop was reduced to 19.0 million bales, compared with 20.0 million last month and 20.7 million in 1992/93. Trade estimates for this year's China crop are as low as 16.5 million.

Thus, it is expected China's crop may be less than projected.

Fundamentally, the balance of foreign supply relative to demand has improved considerably. Foreign stocks-to-use has declined from almost 50 percent for the 1991 season to 38 percent this season.

More significant, is the fact that s/u in exporting nations has dropped from 65 percent to 45 percent.

Thus, the "A" Index may have stronger support than last year. However, in the short run, the 6.63 cent per pound user certificates to cotton shippers on some 5 million bales for exports after September 30 may result in an international price relationship that weakens world prices for awhile.

The adjusted world price could dip to lower levels early in the season and recover somewhat before the main West Texas harvest gets underway.

While this year's crop is only 14 percent more than last year, projected ending stocks at 6.6 million bales is 43 percent larger. This pushes s/u up to 40 percent, compared with 30 percent last year and 23 percent for the 1991/92 crop. Price received averaged 58.1 cents for the 1991 season and 54.6 cents for 1992.

The main questions are how far below loan will cash



COTTON MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Carl Anderson

prices go and will AWP go down by the same amount? And, will AWP stay down until Christmas? No doubt, the cotton program cost will be large and fuel the discussion to reduce government support.

The extra large U.S. crop, just under the record 18.9 million in 1993, results mainly from the 13.32 million estimated acres for harvest out of the 13.66 planted figure. A 97.5 percent harvestable acreage is exceptionally high, suggesting that planted acreage may be somewhat more than expected in the June report, or that eventually harvested acreage may decline. Despite dry weather, the Southeast crop is placed at almost 2.0 million bales.

The 5.8 million bale Texas crop is close to the 6.0 record in 1949. The Lubbock area has a bumper crop underway. The Valley crop is good with the Coastal Bend crop fair-to-good. Because of dry, hot weather, the Blacklands and Rolling Plains areas of Texas are expected to produce only a fair crop.

Domestic use is doing very good. The latest report

boosted 1992/93 mill use 300,000 bales to 110.2 from 9.9 million but reduced exports 100,000 bales to 5.2 million. Projected 1993/94 mill use is 10.3 million and exports 6.3 million for total offtake of 16.65 million. Ending stocks will be large in the range of 6 to 7 million bales, up from 3.7 two years ago.

For cotton not priced earlier, the CCC loan program is a primary marketing alternative. Cotton can be placed under loan and redeemed at the posted AWP. Or, producers can have their cotton declared not eligible for loan by ASCS and a "POP" payment (marketing loan deficiency payment) accepted. The cotton can be sold or held depending upon your assessment of market potential and cash flow needs.

The AWP is already lower than many expected. The potential upturn in AWP can be "hedged" with call options, depending upon your expectations of a higher price later on.

Cotton producers and policymakers are faced with some hard decisions in setting the 1994/95 crop ARP level. A turnaround in the U.S. market requires substantially fewer stocks. The main influence on reducing U.S. stocks over this year and next year is the amount of acreage planted next year and exports this year. Based on current 1993/94 crop projections, the 1994/95 ARP to reach a target of less than 3 percent s/u needs to be near 25 percent. The September 9 crop report will give a more realistic basis for forecasting the crop size because of the added maturity by then.

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

South Plains Ag News

Aug. 20-22

HAPPY DAYS — Three days of celebrating as part of the 27th Annual Happy Days Celebration begins today and continues Friday with County Club Member Team Roping at 7 p.m. followed by a western dance featuring Bottom Line at the Jaycee Hall at 9 p.m.

Saturday events include craft shows, a 10 a.m. parade, a peddle tractor pull, kids games, a noon barbecue, the Top of Texas Cloggers and an afternoon of music.

A Little Britches Rodeo at 3 p.m. will be followed by a team rodeo at 7:30 p.m. and the final night of dancing to the music of Bottom Line at 9 p.m.

Aug. 21

PETERSBURG DAY — Besides the annual Petersburg Day Parade, numerous food and fun booths will be available and the band, Texas Thunder, will entertain during the afternoon.

Sept. 15-19

TEXAS PRODUCE growers will hold the 2nd Annual Texas Produce Convention and Trade Show will be Sept. 15-19 in the South Padre Island Convention Centre.

Information is available from the Texas Vegetable Association, 210-687-7250.

Sept. 16-17

SOUTHWEST BEEF Efficiency Enhancement Forum will take place in Lubbock. The new program coincides with the Golden Spur weekend. Topics include enhancing beef quality, communicating value to the consumer and genetic management for quality. Contact is Dr. Ronnie Green at 806-742-2805.

Oct. 3

EXCEL MEAT JUDGING — The 13th Annual Excel High Plains Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest will be held all day in state-of-the-art facilities in the Excel Plainview Division plant north of Plainview.

The event will feature 25 of the nation's top collegiate judging teams vying for numerous awards.

Corn products finding niche in tortilla industry

Mom and pop firms like quality, size of bag; canner cooks it for hominy

By JIM STEIERT
West Texas Rural Telephone

DAWN — Panhandle Corn Products, Inc., located seven miles north of Dawn, is one of the newer value-added ventures in the Lone Star State, having begun cleaning and bagging food-grade corn at its location five miles north of Dawn since May.

A subsidiary of Farmer's Elevator of Dawn, PCPI is a companion industry to Panhandle Milling, another Farmer's Elevator subsidiary.

A 40 x 60 ft. warehouse and cleaning room to house Panhandle Corn Products was completed this spring, under the guidance of Don Fuller, general manager. Fuller came to the Dawn facility last November after experience in California in the masa business, and a four-year stint as division manager at Valley Grain Products at Muleshoe.

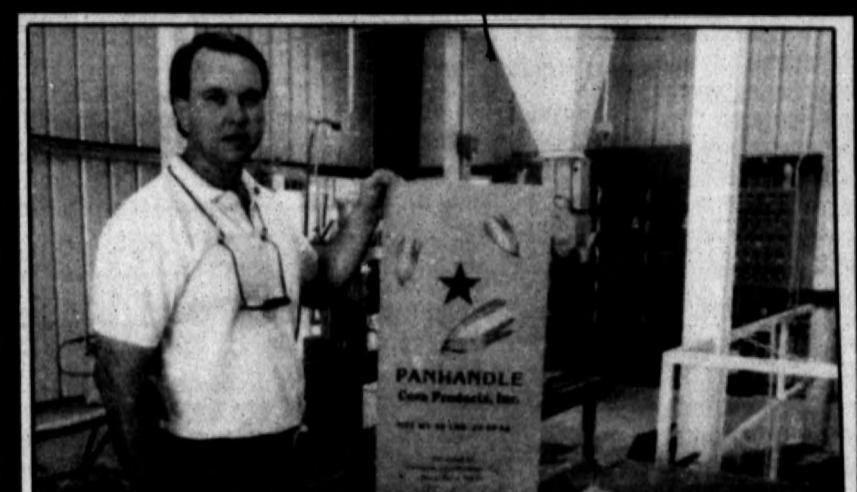
Facilities at Panhandle Corn Products include a five screen cleaner, two gravity tables, a de-stoner, and sacking equipment. Up to 12 tons of corn can be processed at the facility each hour, and PCPI can ship corn in bulk, or in bags.

The Dawn plant will handle special white and yellow corn varieties that are used in products including tortillas and snack chips. PCPI will be contracting a limited amount of corn in this, its initial year.

Fuller says that Deaf Smith County has a reputation for producing some of the best quality food-grade corn to be found anywhere in the world. PCPI is looking to cash in on that reputation.

"We are now supplying a major canning company that is very impressed with the quality of our corn," Fuller said. "They cooking and canning it as hominy."

Among its early customers were small tortilla factories — located predominately in California, New Mexico, Texas and Arkansas — all desiring to buy their corn in bags, since they lack the facilities to handle large bulk shipments. PCPI arranges both truck and rail



NEW NICHE FOR AREA CORN — Don Fuller shows bags being filled fast and furiously at a new corn processing plant near Dawn. High quality food corn is being marketed in several states to tortilla factors that grind their own masa, and most recently to a nationally known canning company to produce hominy.

shipments.

Fuller says that the domestic tortilla and chip market continues to grow, and much of the demand is for white corn, which is perceived as yielding a healthier product. White corn is used in producing "light" chips and other snacks.

Fuller's experience in working with food corn, along with the help of a marketer the firm hired in the Los Angeles area, should give PCPI a jump-start in the marketplace.

Those handling marketing for the firm have almost 40 years of total experience. Fuller's contacts and market knowledge are expected to open an important geographic market.

"In the Los Angeles area alone, white corn usually triples from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. Hispanics do their holiday cooking during this time period," Fuller said.

The corn processing plant is looked upon as another facility for adding value to raw products produced in this area, and for diversifying local agriculture.

More food corn is produced in the local area than other chip firms can absorb. PCPI will be able to pick up some of this excess corn, and will be paying a premium above the commercial corn price for corn that meets quality standards.

Prior to construction of the PCPI

facilities, a survey of the food corn market was conducted. The survey revealed that a market niche existed, relatively close to home.

Once those survey findings were reviewed, Fuller assisted with planning for designing and equipping the corn facility.

He calls the Dawn plant a "simple design" that's also functional. Bulk loading and holding tanks plus the cleaning and warehouse area were added adjacent to the Farmer's Elevator office building, where fertilizer storage tanks were once located.

In addition to use in the local area, corn from the Dawn facility is expected to find markets in a diverse area including Albuquerque, El Paso, Arizona, Nevada, California, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

According to Fuller, California will be an important market, since it is one of the biggest users of white corn in the U.S.

Corn is cleaned, and bagged according to customer wishes, at the Dawn plant. Once it reaches its destination, it is usually transformed into masa, a wet dough that is cooked in the making of corn flour tortillas, chips and taco shells.

Up to five people could be employed at the corn sacking facilities at the Dawn plant when shipping operations are in full swing.

1993 beet crop sugar content higher

HEREFORD — Recent pitole test results indicate the prospects for an excellent sugar beet crop across the Panhandle are good.

The Hereford-Holly agricultural department projects that if growing conditions remain normal the remainder of the year, then the overall crop could easily top 23 tons per acre, about two tons higher than last year. Also, early sugar content indicates that sucrose counts are about 1 percent higher than this time last year.

Dennis Printz, ag manager, says the use of better seed varieties has helped growers obtain better plant populations. That, along with good rains in many areas have helped the crop. But some growers are still short on moisture.

While some farms have received above average rainfall, others received barely a trace.

There have been widespread reports of leaf spot and powdery mildew over most of the growing area. Growers are monitoring the condition.

Information on controlling the diseases and other production problems is available by calling Holly agriculturalists at 364-6475.



Silent, but not for long

The Holly Sugar beet dump at Dawn stands silent, but will not be that way much longer. The 1993 beet crop is on the way.

FLOUR

From Page 2

Dillehay himself got the value added bug many years ago.

"For a number of years I had thought about all this abundant amount of wheat produced in this area," he recalls. "The quality was so good, I couldn't understand why more of it wasn't being processed here."

He began to research it seriously in 1984 and 1985. With the help of the Texas Department of Agriculture, he did a market study.

"We built a flour mill. We started construction in 1985 and opened our doors in August, 1987," says Dillehay, adding, "It has been very profitable to this area."

Bonuses paid for high quality wheat to be processed has benefitted farmers since its opening.

At first, Dillehay's mill

paid based on protein level of 14 or above. Producers who qualified got an extra 50 cents per bushel.

Then, more recently, the mill began paying instead a flat 10 cents per bushel bonus to each and every participating producer.

Besides his value-added ventures, Dillehay farms and ranches about 6,000 acres of land in concert with three sons.

"We run cattle on wheat, and have about 1,000 acres of grass," explained Dillehay. "We have irrigated farmland, which is served by four half-mile pivots."

Dillehay had a wheat crop this year that averaged 71 bushels per acre. He is growing food corn, seed and commercial grain sorghum and 300 acres of pinto beans.

A native of Vega, Dillehay credits getting a break when he was only 11 with pointing him in the direc-

tion of a career in the grain business.

"I grew up without a dad at home," Dillehay recalls. "The man who owned the elevator gave me a job, and the opportunity of learning the grain business and grain markets.

He describes his mentor in the grain business as "An old fellow who kind of took a liking to me, and was, more or less a big daddy to me. He taught me a lot about the grain trade and I've been in it all my life."

Dillehay and nine other farmers started Farmers Elevator of Dawn, Inc., in 1965. Through the years the business diversified and grew. It was involved in fertilizer and chemicals, spraying — becoming an important agribusiness cen-

ter for farmers bringing in grain and buying supplies.

It was in 1978 that he began his first venture in farming, starting out about the same time as one of his sons. Now all of his sons, ages 27 to 36, work with him.

Dillehay and wife, Sarah Janelle, have sons, Richard, 36, who is employed at West Texas A&M in Canyon and farms part time; Edwin, 33, and Leslie, 27; a daughter, Janice Hamilton, 32, of Austin and two grandchildren.

Following the success of his wheat milling business, Dillehay began giving some thought to yet another entity that would add value to area commodities.

He and elevator manager

Jerry O'Conner began discussing the possibility of food corn cleaning and packaging. That idea came to fruition recently with

Don Fuller as manager of the new entity.

Of the corn cleaning

See FLOUR, Page 6

ESTATE SALE

OF

Madeline & Don Winn**Friday, August 20, 1993 - 6:30 p.m.****Viewing Held All Day Friday****218 Texas Ave., Slaton, Texas****SILVERWARE:** 12 pc. set of Wallace sterling, pattern Grand Baroque.**GLASSWARE:** Champagne, water, wine parfait glasses of cut crystal.**American Brilliant cut glass vase, bowl, cream sugar, butter dish. 1906's iridescent green bowl. Prussian hand painted teapot. Cut glass pitcher & 6 tumblers. 1920 flower period. Pair salt & pepper shakers. Cut glass toothpick holder. Pair German Bisque figurines. Johnson Bro. turkey platter, England.****Set of 12 piece Theodore Haviland. China pattern Crinolin. 2 vegetable bowls. Cream & sugar. Bavarian hand painted dessert set. (Imperial Lace Edge) cups, glassbowl w/spoons, divided dish, ice bucket, w/creamer & sugar, oblong bowl, dessert plate, double candle holder, large round server, punch bowl w/laddle, small bowl, 2 large plates. Silver food warmer, Leonard Silver tea set. Labelle silver coffee set w/creamer & sugar. Gorham hand chased 4 pc. creamer & sugar set, 29 pc. oriental tea set (light blue), Rembrandt vase (Oriental), Westmoreland satin candy dish, hand painted Vernonware by Metlock vineyard pattern 45 pc. set handpainted Nepon bowl, butterdish, Cardo Del Monte Royal China bowl w/lead 22k. Picture - Mr. Pickwick 22k Royal Design pie server, 2 occupied Japan Lamps, Black Sambo iron clock w/banjo, glass fluted pedestal stool, candy dish, 19 pc. sculpture daisy pattern by Metlock, Ribbon Milk Glass, Fenton Hobnail candle holder, milk glass, toothpick holder, lace edge Fenton vase, milkglass, brass hobnail lamps, 14" tiara, divided relish platter & roundplate & large bowl, all Tiara, 1940 cream & sugar glass.****FURNITURE:** Pair bentwood chairs. Duncan Phyfe sofa. Duncan Phyfe loveseat. Antique Seth Thomas mantle clock. French style side chair. Lyre style end table. 4 panel Chinese screen. Antique Eastlake mirror, American Victorian. Antique rocker, cane seat. Antique oak lamp table, circa 1900.**DOLL COLLECTION:** A Madame Alexander 21", Horseman, Vogue - 1940's, Aranbee, Elisa Ballet Tutu 12", Ideal Shirley Temple, Kate Greenway 17" W.C. Fields 16", Oliver Hardy 16", 4 membership & retired precious moments collection & many more.**POCKET KNIVES:** Case Handie Knife(2), wood handle knife, 807782 Italy Gordon 32 Auto. collector pistol, 04238 German H&H Stingray 25 Auto., L79520 RG 22 Revolver.**JEWELRY:** Watches, bracelets, rings.**BOOKS:** 1959 Walt Disney hardbacks, Zorro, Spin & Marty, Lassie hardbacks, Secret of Summer, Forbidden Valley, Restless Gun, Wagon Train, The Walton Boys, Cold in the Snow, The Rapids Ahead.**MISC.:** Teapot, sugar & creamer & serving tray, Leonard Silverplate Imperial Lace Punchbowl set, ice bucket, plates.**FRANCISCAN:** Starburst pattern 13" oval & round platters, covered vegetable bowl, 2 pitchers 7"x10", gravy bowl, creamer, sugar, salt & pepper, covered butter dish, plates, saucers, cups.**Payne's Auction Service**

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PONTOON BOATS

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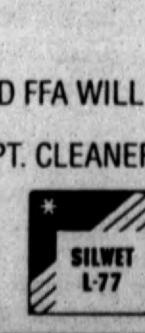
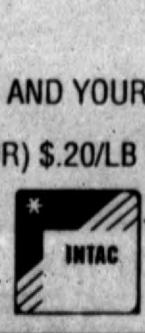
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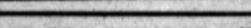
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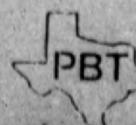
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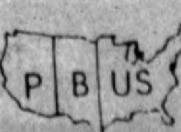
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FLOUR

From Page 4

operation, Dillehay sees much potential.

"The business shows a lot of promise," he said. "We package whole corn for grinding, to go to tortilla factories."

And, Dillehay is pleased with what he is hearing about the recent startup of the Beantime Foods Plant in Plainview. Though he resigned this year as a board member for the 117-member bean co-op, he is serving as a director of Beantime Foods, Inc., the entity that leases the cooking plant and equipment and cooks the beans.

"We had some early setbacks, but I think we are now making our mark and I'm excited about it," commented Dillehay. "Like any new business, it takes a while to introduce new product to the market. I think time will show that it is going to be successful."

News from a Beantime Foods board meeting August 4 is that business has begun to accelerate.

"The first four days in August we have already had more shipments than

the entire month of July," Dillehay said.

Beantime is gaining momentum as it has expanded its Bowl-of-Beans offerings from a meal-sized container of beans and sausage to new 2-pound and 6-pound spiced beans.

And, this month it is launching a menudo product containing beef products from Cargill's Excel plant in Plainview and corn from a local elevator to make hominy. Shipments of menudo are going weekly to the Los Angeles area.

As his business grew, Dillehay has maintained the same business formula as when he started out.

"Our philosophy has been that we've always felt like kind of pay as we go," he said.

Dillehay said a key aspect of his businesses that has added to its success is that it has dovetailed perfectly with the cattle industry.

"We have a real high population of cattlemen in this area," Dillehay says. "All our byproducts are being absorbed within the local community. This is a real advantage when you get into any type of milling. All our byproduct goes right into cattle feed."

Dillehay is president of Panhandle Milling, Panhandle Elevator, Farmers Elevator and Panhandle Corn Products. He is a director of First State Bank in Happy and a former director of Arrowhead Mills of Hereford.

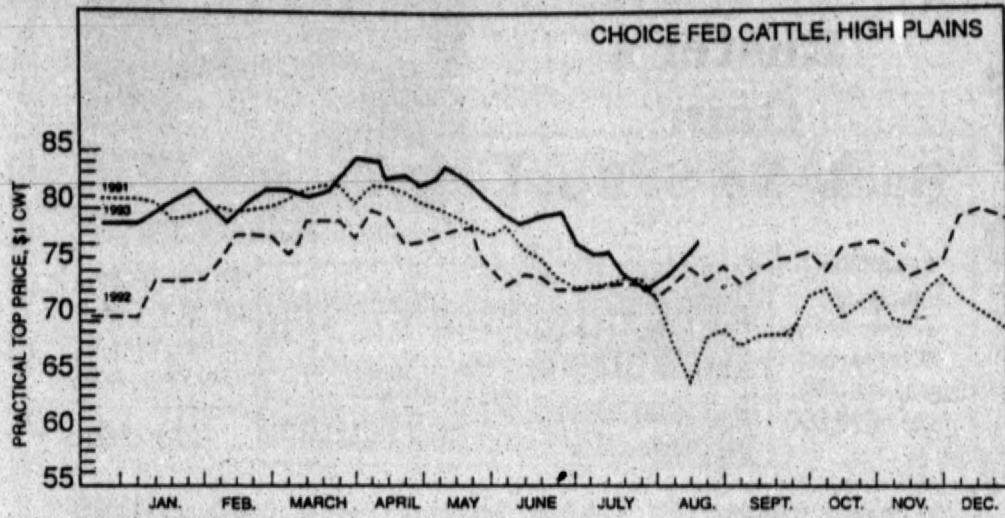
Of his ag-related activi-

ties, Dillehay said he "supports anything that has to do with agriculture."

A guiding philosophy in his business life has been a desire to return something back to others for his own success.

"My whole life I've been involved in agriculture and it's been good to me," he said. "I feel like, at my age, that the best thing I could do is give something back — by giving of my talents, my time and what money I can invest in new value-added ventures."

He is a member of Texas Cattlefeeders Association, Texas Grain Association plus other Panhandle and statewide ag organizations.



Courtesy Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Amarillo

Choice fed cattle, High Plains

The above report reflects market activity through August 13.

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WATER

From Page 1

water conservation and water development and education programs — now become available to the county immediately.

Services are funded by the levying of an ad valorem tax for operation and maintenance.

"Hale County is now a part of the district and eligible for all the district programs and activities," Carmon McCain, district spokesman said.

Though it had the opportunity to join the district since its inception in 1950, most of Hale County had opted not to become a member. The southeastern quadrant of the county surrounding Petersburg, however,

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entered the district in May, 1967.

Then, earlier this year, public opinion and support for new efforts at joining the district appeared to solidify at a public meeting on water issues April 13 at Ollie Liner Center.

Recent state and national water issues, including the Edwards Aquifer controversy, were cited as reasons for consideration of joining an organized water district. Membership, it was argued, would enable residents to have a more effective local voice and input at the state and national levels on water issues in the future.

At that meeting, characterized by the gathering's moderator S.M. True, Hale County farmer and Texas Farm Bureau President, as "one of the most important meetings on water ever held in Hale County," a crowd of 150 persons voted informally to mount a petition effort to seek annexation by the High Plains district.

As the petition effort succeeded and the legal process to call an election went forward, city and governmental bodies, the Plainview Chamber of Commerce and numerous farm groups and individuals

duals across the county endorsed the plan.

Gilbert Fawver of Floydada is Hale County's representative on the district board.

The district has already discussed preliminary plans to open a centrally-located office for administration of district programs but the issue was put on hold pending Saturday's vote.

The newly-annexed territory will be taxed at the same rate as is levied to other property owners within the rest of the 15-county water district service area.

Current ad valorem tax rate is \$0.00780 per \$100 valuation. That amounts to \$3.90 annually on a \$50,000 home or \$11.23 a year on 320 acres of land valued at \$450 an acre. By law, the maximum tax rate the district could ever levy is set at \$0.05 per \$100.

Hale County is not the only county to hold a water district election in recent years. The most recent prior effort to join the district came in August 1992, when residents of southern Cochran and Lynn Counties voted overwhelmingly to ratify annexation of the remainder of their counties.

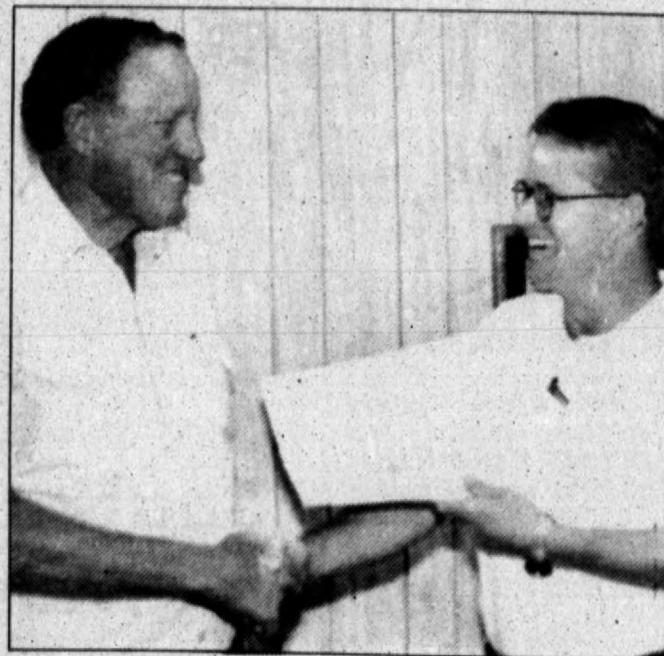
The High Plains district's board was scheduled to canvass the returns and declare the results official during a special meeting today at 11 a.m. at their Lubbock offices, 2930 Avenue Q.

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RUTH HACKLEMAN (left) receives a 2500 hour sick leave certificate from Scotty Abbott, Castro County Executive director of ASCS, for her dedication to ASCS County office employees and service to her job. Photo By Deana McLain



ALBERT HARTMAN receives a certificate of service in recognition of 20 years of county service, and a 1500 hour sick leave certificate from the National Association of ASCS County Office Employees. Pictured here are Albert Hartman (left) and Scotty Abbott, Castro County executive director of ASCS. Photo By Deana McLain

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