

# WEST TEXAS Country Trader

The West Texas Country Trader is a Supplement of:

Thursday, September 23, 1993

**ABERNATHY WEEKLY REVIEW**  
Abernathy, Tx - Hale County  
**CANYON NEWS**  
Canyon, Tx - Randall County

**CLARENDON NEWS**  
Clarendon, Tx - Donley County  
**CASTRO COUNTY NEWS**  
Dimmit, Tx - Castro County

**HEREFORD BRAND**  
Hereford, Tx - Deaf Smith County  
**LORENZO EXAMINER**  
Lorenzo, Tx - Crosby County

**PLAINVIEW DAILY HERALD**  
Plainview, Tx - Hale County  
**FALLS REPORTER-NEWS**  
Ralls, Tx - Crosby County

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

## Cotton growers eye biggest crop since 1981

By NELSON ANTOSH

© '93 NY Times News

**HOUSTON** — Texas cotton farmers are going into the harvest season with prospects of the largest crop since 1981, adding to a huge nationwide crop that promises to be the second largest in history.

On the demand side, cotton continues to take market share away from synthetics, but not fast enough to lift prices because of a weak export market.

Cotton Incorporated, the industry's New York-based promotion arm, plans to put more advertising emphasis on women's skirts and blouses, carpeting and disposables such as diaper liners.

These uses present a "major opportunity" because they remain mostly synthetic, says

J. Nicholas Hahn, president and chief executive officer of Cotton Incorporated.

But other uses are so strong that cotton is enjoying its 13th consecutive year of market share gains.

Mill consumption is at a 30-year high, according to the organization. Domestic cotton is now the best-selling fiber at retail with \$60 billion in sales, outselling all other fibers combined.

Farmers have harvested large crops during the past couple of years although Texas didn't share in the bounty during 1992.

Prices for the lint have hovered in the unexciting 55-cent per pound range. This gives cotton an advantage over the competition, polyester, which sells for 74 to 75 cents a pound.

The demand from U.S. spinners is so strong that it sends signals to farmers to grow more, said Hahn.

The U.S. crop is forecast at 17.5 million bales, the second largest in history. The record was set back in 1937, when farmers grew 18.9 million bales on about twice as many acres.

Prospects are good across the Cotton Belt.

A huge crop is shaping up on the Texas plains around Lubbock, where harvest will start around the middle of October. "It looks strong, just amazing," said Hahn, who visited there Tuesday.

On the other hand, farmers along the Gulf Coast west of Houston are now harvesting a poor crop. The Houston-area crop was damaged by flooding in the spring and drought in the summer. The upper Texas coast will harvest only 130,000 bales compared with 210,000 bales in 1992, according to the Agricultural Statistics Service in

Austin.

Farmers in Fort Bend County who averaged two bales per acre for the past five years are picking about a bale per acre this year, says County Agent Johnnie Cooper. The harvest there is

starting to wind down.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley fared better, picking 380,000 bales compared with 275,000 bales last year.

The government is forecasting a Texas

cotton crop of 5.5 million bales, which would be up 68 percent from last year's disappointing harvest. That's short of the Texas record of 6.04 million bales set in 1949, but it's the highest since 1981.

Underwater Adventures. 1903 Quincy, Plainview. Freshwater and saltwater fish, aquariums and supplies. Monday - Friday 6p.m. - 9p.m. Saturday 2p.m. - 9p.m. Sunday 1p.m. - 6p.m. 293-FISH.

### CLASSIFIEDS

**FOR SALE: Two Hit & Miss Engines - One Grist Mill, Perfect Chapel**  
806-634-5690. Nights - 806-657-4644

**FOR SALE: Like New Stair Stepper, \$50.00.**  
Call 634-5608.

### AUGER REPAIR

Cotton Strippers - JD - IHC  
Combines - All Models  
Grain Carts - All Models  
Replacement Hubs For  
JD & IHC Row Auger Gears  
Assorted Cotton Stripper  
Repair Parts

**LORENZO MFG CO., INC.**  
Lorenzo, Tx - Hwy 62-82  
(806) 634-5942

### REAL ESTATE MORTGAGES

Want to buy mortgage notes. Madison, 1-800-234-9861, Plainview. Leave message on machine.

Auto Home  
Crop Farm  
YOUR AGENT  
Caprock Insurance Agency  
807 Main Ralls, Texas  
Pat Terry  
Nunley Rainwater  
253-3031

## Petersburg Co-op Gin

667-4731



First Bale Ginned In Hale County - Billie Heard

- Modern Gin Plant
- Quality Ginning
- Full Service
- Telecot Marketing
- Module Covers Furnished
- All Business Appreciated

**Paul Willis- Manager**

SINGER KINMORE WHITE PFAFF NECCHI ELNA

**ONE DAY SERVICE \$14.95**  
SINGER APPROVED DEALER Reg. \$44.95  
Clean, Oil & Adjust Tensions Any Make Or Model

### SINGER SERVICE CENTER

5418 Slide Rd. Lubbock, Tx ■ 788-0608  
Monday-Friday 9:30-5:30 ■ Saturday 9:30-3:00

DRESSMAKER VIKING SERNINA MONTGOMERY WARD

### 1993 MODEL CLOSEOUT SALE!

**AIRSTREAM**  
34' Excella SALE List \$51,837 ..... **\$43,000**  
30' Excella List \$44,999 ..... **\$38,000**  
25' Excella List \$34,941 ..... **\$29,500**  
21' Classic List \$27,268 ..... **\$23,950**  
These are loaded with equipment!  
Billy Sims TRAILER TOWN  
745-8791 • S. Loop 289 & Tahoka Exit • Trade-ins welcome!

**Anchor Marine INC.**  
Amarillo, Texas  
SALES SERVICE REPAIR  
FACTORY TRAINED MECHANICS  
BANK RATE FINANCING  
BOATS (New & Used)  
• Bayliner • Astro • Skeeter • Starcraft • Ebbtide • Cobra • Buccaneer Deck Boats • Meriah • Galaxie Deck Boats • Bass Boats • Cruisers • Ski Boats • Deck Boats • 2-Man Fishing Boats  
MOTORS  
• Outboards • Inboard-Outboard • Evinrude • Mercury • Mercruiser • Force • OMC  
ACCESSORIES & TACKLE  
• Rods & Reels • Boat Parts & Accessories • Fishing Supplies • Water Skis & Equipment • Trout Fishing Department • Trailers  
PONTOON BOATS  
353-9511  
4217 CANYON DR. • E-WAY & GEORGIA • OPEN 8-6 MONDAY-SATURDAY

# AgReview



## Calendar Ag News

Sept. 26

**RANDALL AG SHOW** — Beef quality is the topic of the main address at the 17th Annual Randall County Crops Tour and Ag Show luncheon on Friday.

The ag show begins at 10 a.m. followed by the noon meal.

Keynote speaker Mike Bowles, chairman of the National Cattlemen's Association Beef Quality Assurance Task Force, will deliver the main address.

A tour of result demonstrations will depart at 2 p.m., returning to the West Texas A&M University Horse Center at 5 p.m.

Sept. 20-25

**TRI-STATE FAIR** — Traditional fair exhibits, booths and fun at the Amarillo Tri-State Fairgrounds, 10th and Grand, ends Sunday.

Sept. 25-Oct. 2

**SOUTH PLAINS FAIR** in Lubbock begins Sunday for a seven-day run.

Sept. 29

**WASTE PESTICIDE COLLECTION** in Hereford.

Oct. 3-9

**NATIONAL 4-H WEEK**

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.

Excel, the longtime sponsor of the event, will hold an awards banquet at 7:30 p.m. following the judging event.

## First bale kicks off region's 1993 harvest

By GORDON ZEIGLER  
AgReview writer

**PETERSBURG**— Sam Heard, who harvested the first bale of cotton in Hale County — and apparently

one of the first on the northern High Plains — says the accomplishment came as both a shock and surprise to him.

"I was a little shocked," admits Heard, who stripped his first bale Tuesday, Sept. 14, from a 60-acre stand of dryland cotton 16 miles south of Plainview on FM400.

"I don't usually pull the first bale," he explained. "But this time my crop was ready to harvest, and now I've got over 500 acres of defoliated cotton to work on now."

It was the second time Heard Farms had delivered the county's first. His father, the late S.R. "Pockets" Heard, had the first bale in the mid 1980s.

By virtue of being first in line at Petersburg Co-op Gin, Sam secured for the landowner, his mother Billie Heard, the traditional \$1-per-pound premium for the 528-pound bale, which was purchased by Lee Horn Cotton Company in Lubbock.

Heard says he is pleased with the performance of both HS26 and HS200 on dryland, and it appeared that HS200 might have been the better performer this year.

Quality of his first load appeared excellent, and is expected to grade as middling white. He hastened harvesting by applying both Prep and Folex 13 days prior to stripping.

As excited as he is about the first

well.

"We had warm nights and hot days most of the summer," Heard said. "It's been a year that is a little above average."

Heard, who has learned to take great care with his watering techniques in view of a marginal water supply, says some good June rains came at about the right time to help him hold waterings on cotton to only a time and a half this year.

Besides a shining cotton season, Heard is pleased with the performance of his soybeans — a crop which the Heards have used for years as a rotational crop alongside cotton.

Despite such a strong showing from cotton and beans, Heard says this year's crop will still fall short of the favorable performance of his farm last year.

Last year's disaster made believers out of farmers like Heard, who has seen insurance come to the rescue many times.

When his cotton was hailed out last year, he relied on both hail and multi-peril insurance. He went back with soybeans that averaged 38 bushels per acre.

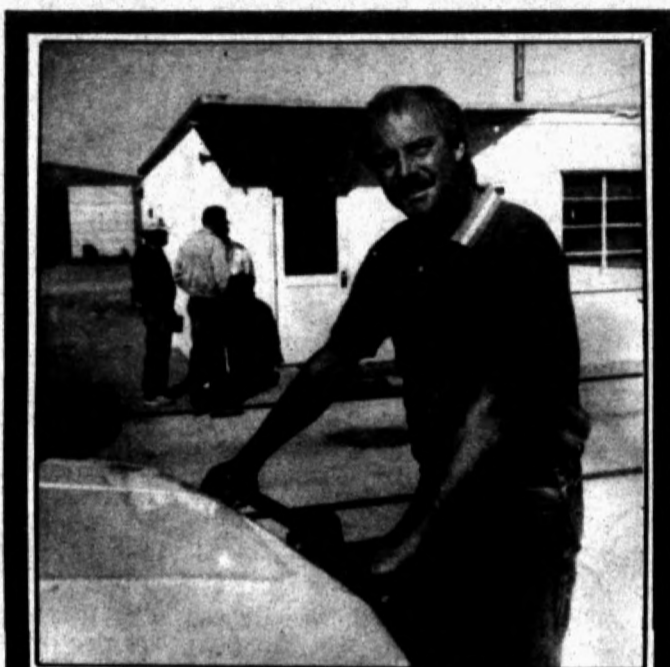
Soybeans have become an important crop for Heard.

"They work good with rotation of cotton," said Heard, who is encouraged by the price of beans, which are just a bit higher than they were this time last year. "I only have to water soybeans a couple of times, they make a good yield and are not much of an insect problem."

As good as his crops look this year, Heard says it will be hard to repeat the financial performance of his operation last year.

"I don't think there is any way I could make the money I did last

See Bale, Page 7



**GROWS FIRST BALE** — Standing near the Petersburg Co-Op gin, Sam Heard takes a break to celebrate bringing in Hale County's first bale of cotton.

bale, he is anxious to see the performance of 800 acres of his nearby irrigated cotton — soon to be hit by the stripper.

"Our irrigated crop looks like it may be the best we've had in years," Heard said. Planted May 5, the irrigated cotton on Heard Farms appears to have the potential for some above average yields. Heard would be well pleased if it makes a bale and a third per acre.

Crop year 1993 will go down as almost picture perfect. Except for some problems with thrips early in the season, Heard didn't have to spray for other pests such as bollworms. And, weather cooperated

## Grapes seem at home in buffalo grass

By DANNA RYAN

A&M Extension Journalist

**LUBBOCK** — Environmentalism is the key word of the future. One of its primary targets is the agricultural industry and South Plains grape producers are not excluded from such targeting.

Growing grapes encounters many of the same problems that occur when producing other crops. One different obstacle in grape production is finding a suitable vineyard ground cover system when one is needed.

"A floor cover system may be needed for erosion control," says Dr. William Lipe. Lipe is a professor of viticulture at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES) in Lubbock. He conducted a study using buffalograss as a possible ground cover system.

The study was funded by Frontier Seed Company in Abernathy and examined water use and weed competition of buffalograss when grown with grapevines.

Lipe says vineyard floor cover crops were common in the first half of the 20th century

"I think it's one of the best vineyard floor covers I've ever encountered . . ."

— Dr. William Lipe

and are again demanding attention due to the new emphasis being placed on erosion control farming and chemical-free production systems. Earlier floor systems possessed a number of negative attributes that led to their discontinuance.

"Buffalograss is native to the semi-arid Great Plains with excellent drought resistance, extreme heat and cold tolerance and is one of the lowest water consuming grasses available," said Lipe.

He said that observation of native stands of buffalograss revealed that few weeds survive in buffalograss sods. Therefore his study was aimed at determining if the buffalograss'

aggressive behavior was due to its production of a chemical inhibitor or due to its competition for available water. The study concluded that water competition was the underlying reason for the elimination of weeds.

In a separate part of the study, the competition with grapevines was examined.

"Buffalograss extracts most of its water from near the surface and then it turns brown and goes dormant. Weeds don't have a summer dormancy mechanism and therefore will die. But with buffalograss, when it rains again it will come back."

The grass is able to starve out the weeds because of the drip irrigation system used. Irrigating under the vines only, this allows the grass in the middle to get very dry and therefore starves out the weeds.

Using neutron probes, Lipe compared plots with and without buffalograss. He found that the grass did not contribute to a large reduction in moisture and therefore did not take a significant amount of the water needed by the grapevines.

## South Plains Ag News

Oct. 12-14

**FARMER-STOCKMAN SHOW IN LUBBOCK** — A 40-acre field demonstration area will be the focus of the first annual Texas Farmer-Stockman Show, billed as the first working farm show ever held in Texas.

The show will be based at the City of Lubbock farm, just east of Loop 289 on Farm Road 835 (East 40th Street).

Nov. 13

**HALE COUNTY 4-H ACHIEVEMENT BANQUET** — Ollie Liner Center.

## Panhandle-South Plains Fair on tap

LUBBOCK — A variety of exhibits by area industrial technology, agriscience and agricultural mechanics students, as well as open crop exhibits by area gardeners and farmers, will be on display during the upcoming 76th annual Panhandle-South Plains Fair beginning Sunday.

Educational displays, describing methods and practices studied in high school agriscience classes, will be constructed by FFA chapters. Space limitations allow for ten display booths and only the first ten entries will be accepted in the department.

**ROSETTES AND** prize money will be presented to all ten entries, with the top three displays winning cash awards of \$350.

Paul Vaughn is superintendent of the department, assisted by Robert Terry.

Agriscience-agricultural mechanics exhibits, featuring class projects constructed individually or jointly by FFA members, will be on display throughout the eight day run of the fair. Articles entered must be the work of students enrolled in approved high school agriscience classes and construction must have occurred during the 1992-93 school year

or at the beginning of the 1993-94 year.

**PRIZE MONEY** will be awarded in the following agriscience agricultural mechanics areas: livestock and farm equipment; general shop projects; recreational and home convenience; finished wood projects; and trailers.

Superintendent of the department is David Lawver.

The industrial technology show is open to all area students enrolled in approved industrial technology courses in grades 7-12. The show is supported by the South Plains Industrial Technology Association.

Projects or drawings for the show must have been produced by students during 1992-93 school year or at the beginning of the 1993-94 year. Students will compete for cash prizes in two categories: high school or middle school. Superintendent of the department is Kent Crowell, assisted by James Petty.

**FARMERS, WHETHER** back yard or professional, can enter crop exhibits in the open crop display. They will be competing for cash prizes in the following categories: seeds; sheaf grains and seeds; grain sorghum heads; hay; corn; vegetables; fruits

and nuts; cotton; and miscellaneous crops. Specimens displayed must have been grown in the South Plains area during the

Thomas Cotton Neely is general superintendent of the open crops department, is assisted by Chris Kountz and David Schwertner.

More detailed information concerning entry times, categories, etc., is available from the Panhandle-South Plains Fair catalog. Contact the fair office (763-2833) for locations where catalogs are available.

**TICKETS FOR FAIR** Park Coliseum shows by Tanya Tucker, Ricky Van Shelton, Michael English, 4 Him and Alan Jackson are on sale at the fair office and the following locations: Luskey's, 2431 34th St.; Ralph's Records, 909 University and 3322 82nd St.; and Tejas Western Outlet, 5715 19th St. All tickets are for reserved seating and do not include the gate admission charge.

Show ticket mail orders are being accepted by writing SHOW TICKETS, P.O. Box 208, Lubbock 79408. For additional ticket information call Fair Park Coliseum ticket office (744-9557).

## Four former governors back ag finance funding

AUSTIN — Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry has announced the support of the four former Texas governors for a constitutional amendment that will boost agricultural processing, ag diversification and economic development throughout Texas.

**FORMER TEXAS** governors Preston Smith, Dolph Briscoe, Mark White and William P. Clements Jr. also submitted written statements at a news conference offering their support for the constitutional amendment.

On Nov. 2, Proposition 16 will ask Texans to consider increasing funding for the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority from

\$25 million to \$100 million.

"By helping businesses start up or expand in their communities since the program began in 1991, TAFE has already directly and indirectly created 4,700 jobs and added \$463 million to the gross state product," Perry said. "That's an 1,800 percent return on the taxpayers' initial investment of \$25 million."

"If voters give the okay for additional funding, the program can directly and indirectly create another 14,000 private sector jobs for Texans."

**PERRY SAID** ADDING 1 percent to the state's processing rate would generate \$2.2 billion in economic

activity in Texas.

"Increasing our processing rate from 8 percent up to the national average of 20 percent would add more than \$26 billion to the state's economic output," he said.

Because ag processing businesses are expensive to start up, operate and maintain, TAFE is needed to help boost Texas' ag processing rate, Perry said.

"We all know how the lending situation is these days with banks less and less willing to take risks, especially on new businesses. But new businesses create jobs and many of these operations just need a nudge in the right direction. TAFE provides that nudge with minimal expense to

the taxpayer," the commissioner said.

**IN A WRITTEN STATEMENT**, former Gov. Smith said he supports Proposition 16 because it promotes not only urban but also rural economic development.

"TAFE does not ignore rural Texas," Smith said. "I grew up in rural West Texas, and it pains me now whenever I drive down the main street of a once-vibrant community to find most of the businesses boarded up. TAFE is already helping to tear down those boards in many places, but it can do so much more if Proposition 16 is approved by voters." Former Gov. White, in

his written statement, noted that TAFE has taken advantage of innovative financing to borrow money at the lowest rates possible. "Instead of borrowing a huge lump sum, TAFE is using the state's bonding authority to issue short-term, low-interest commercial paper notes," White said. "Commercial paper notes offer lower interest rates than bonds, so TAFE is borrowing money at a minimum cost. In addition, these notes are only issued when needed — when a business has been approved for a loan."

In a written statement supporting Proposition 16, rancher and former Gov. Briscoe said increasing

TAFE's funding will help increased processing of Texas cattle and other livestock.

"Texas is the number one cattle producing state in the nation, so we should be number one in meat packing," Briscoe said. "We also should be the nation's number one leather goods manufacturer with our more than 14 million head of cattle. Well, we're not. But Proposition 16 can get us started down that trail by helping businesses that add more value to our livestock."

Former Gov. Clements said in a written statement that the program relies on sound business practices and private sector participation for its success.

## Lower foreign cotton stocks cloud market

The September crop reports fell on the friendly side of the cotton market. Stocks worldwide were projected to be much lower by the end of this season.

In other words, the latest supply/demand estimates gave the market "bulls" some much needed reinforcement in the price battle with the "bears." Historically, during "big" U.S. crop years (when supply increases substantially), the market low is reached early in the season.

Therefore, the cotton market loan deficiency payment, or "POP" payment, may go down. As a result, a modest increase in both U.S. and world prices ("A" Index and AWP) may be roughly offsetting, leaving the net realized price to producers about the same.

Although the size of the U.S. and foreign crops will be uncertain for several months, the hot, dry weather in July and August and insect damage in some areas reduced expected U.S. upland production by 676,000 bales from the August estimate.

The all U.S. cotton crop estimate was 17.87 million bales, with ending stocks decreasing 600,000 bales to 6.0 million for a stocks-to-use (s/u) percentage of 36.1 percent. This is a decrease of 39.8 percent last month.

In Texas, the crop was placed at 5.5 million bales, 300,000 less than a month earlier. The Valley crop was good, with the Coastal Bend crop mostly good and the Upper Coast not so good. The Blacklands, especially the northern half, and the Rolling Plains cotton crops are only poor to fair because of hot, dry weather in July and August.

The Lubbock area irrigated crop is excellent, with the dryland area mostly good. Many observers of the Texas crop expect the production to be reduced several 100,000 bales more in October because of the bad weather in August.

Mainly because the estimated crop in China was cut from 19.0 million to 17.5, world ending stocks were decreased a substantial 2.63 million bales to 33.17 for a s/u of 37.95 percent. Two years ago world stocks were 40.79 million and s/u 48.28 percent.



### COTTON MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Carl Anderson

A more positive market signal is that ending stocks in major exporting countries have nosedived to 19.83 million, an 8.3 million bale drop from 28.16 in the 1991/92 season. This means the s/u level for exporting nations that two seasons ago was 65 percent is now projected at only 41 percent.

China remains a key player in the world cotton market. Their crop shortfall may help boost U.S. exports beyond current prospects. Also, it is reported that Uzbekistan, the largest cotton producer in Central Asia, has made a barter deal with Russia for most of their 1993-94 cotton crop. This would curtail their exports to Europe and provide an opportunity for larger U.S. sales to European buyers.

The foreign cotton supply, compared to demand, has been reduced substantially. The deficit gap between foreign production of 65 million bales and projected consumption of 77 million is a significant 12 million bales.

That deficit gap was 10 million bales in 1992-93 which adds up to a sizable shortfall of 22 million bales in the last two seasons. As a result, there is a big opportunity for increased U.S. cotton sales to overseas markets. Therefore, U.S. exports may exceed the 6.3 million projection.

Domestic use continues very good. Total exports and mill use might be more than 17.0 million bales for the 1993-94 season. Yet, ending stocks will be plentiful, even if reduced to 5.0 million bales.

Policymakers are now considering the level of ARP needed for the 1994-95 crop. The 1993-94 program target was 30 percent, with a 29.5 percent s/u target for the 1994-95 crop. A preliminary ARP should be announced by Nov. 1 and a final ARP by Jan. 1.

For U.S. stocks to decline, increased exports are needed and fewer acres should be planted next year. Most likely some of both will happen.

Unless the U.S. crop is much smaller than currently expected and exports much larger, the 1994-95 ARP level may need to be 20 to 25 percent. Such a level would idle a lot of productive resources both on the farm and off. ARP levels have a history of large changes that create severe industry adjustments. The last 25 percent ARP was in 1989-90.

It was dropped to 12.5 percent in 1990-91 and further reduced to 5 percent in 1991-92. Then it increased to 10 percent in 1992-93 and down to this season's ARP of 7.5 percent.

A 5 percent ARP decreases production very little. Given the "flex" program, a minimum ARP of 10 percent in any year would offer less severe adjustments and lower government costs. When price levels move higher, acreage could be flexed into cotton from other crops as the program intended.

The CCC loan program appears to be the main marketing alternative this fall. However, producers have several ways to use the program. Producers can have their cotton deemed not eligible for loan by the ASCS office and receive the appropriate marketing loan deficiency payment which is also known as the "POP" payment.

Then, cotton can be sold on the cash market or held for sale at a later date. Or, cotton can be placed under loan and redeemed at the AWP level. Remember, storage is free while AWP is less than base loan for only up to 10 months.

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

# Knotgrass a natural for playas; and cattle like it

By CARMON McCAIN

High Plains Water District

Playa basins in the High Plains of Texas are typically an under-utilized natural resource for several reasons.

They are extremely difficult to farm, since they are collection basins for rainfall runoff and are likely to fill with water and drown any crop planted in them.

They also seem to always be muddy when they need to be plowed to control weeds, and many a farmer has bogged his tractor up to the axles trying to plow his playa.

To say the least, most farmers have a difficult time managing their playas, especially to obtain some economic benefit.

James Mitchell of Wolf-orth has solved the problem of managing his playas.

In 1983, he transplanted some sprigs of *Paspalum distichum*, or knotgrass, into two playas located on a farm he leases in Lynn County. Knotgrass is a perennial grass native to the Southern United States and is found primarily standing in fresh water marshes or areas that are periodically flooded. The grass is well suited for playa lakes.

The most notable quality of knotgrass is its ability to survive while being submerged under water and then thrive in dry conditions throughout the remainder of the summer. The grass will even grow up to the top of the water and have stems and leaves floating on the sur-

**T**he knotgrass provides a much better habitat than a bare, dry basin . . .

— Water district spokesman

face. Mitchell has seen cattle wade out into water in playa lakes to graze on the knotgrass.

Knotgrass is a warm season plant that grows to heights of one to two feet, and when submerged in water it develops an extensive rhizome system. The plant produces long flattened stolons that creep along the ground and form roots at the swollen nodes. These roots give the plant its name because they look like knots of thread.

Knotgrass growth is similar to bermuda grass. It comes out slowly late in the spring. Once the grass is out, it has a good growth rate.

The grass also has deep roots. Roots have been found as deep as 17 feet into the ground. This allows the plant to reach greater depths of moisture to survive during drought periods.

The extensive and deep root system allows the grass to choke out most lake weeds which have shallow roots and die from lack of water. Knotgrass also provides an excellent wildlife habitat and environmental advantages.

More than two million ducks and geese overwinter on the playa lakes, and the seeds produced by knotgrass are an excellent food source for these birds. In the sum-

mer, the tall grass provides good places for rabbits and other animals to hide, feed and build nests.

"The knotgrass provides a much better habitat than a bare, dry basin," says A. Wayne Wyatt, Water District manager. The grass also prevents wind erosion of the playa lake soils.

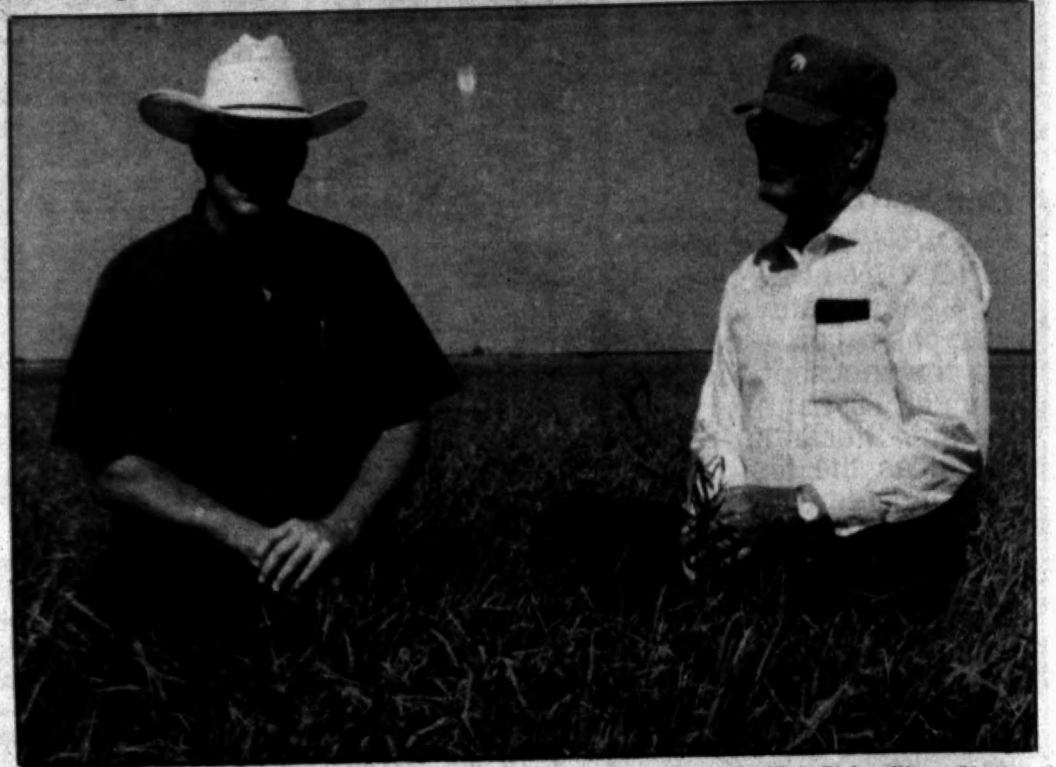
This summer as Mitchell was plowing around one of his lakes, he counted approximately 50 hawks hunting mice in the knotgrass, and he saw a family of skunks march out of the tall grass.

The grass is evidently quite palatable to cattle. Cattle prefer the grass to other forages when given a choice and will eat the grass even after it dries up in the late fall and winter.

Mitchell plants wheat around the edges and lets the cattle graze it along with the knotgrass in the bottom of the lake beds. If he does not have any wheat and the knotgrass is dry, he supplements it with protein blocks.

Mitchell sprigged knotgrass in both of his lakes. "I have really enjoyed the knotgrass because it is maintenance free," Mitchell said. In the last 10 years, he has only fertilized the grass two or three times.

See Grass, Page 7



Courtesy High Plains Water District

## Knotgrass for playas

Lynn County Extension Agent Wade Shackelford (left) and James P. Mitchell of Wolforth inspect knotgrass growing in a playa lake bottom on Mitchell's farm near New Home. Knotgrass is highly adaptable since it can survive in dry conditions and when submerged in water.

### AUCTION! AUCTION! AUCTION! ADVANCE NOTICE

Reagan and Brown Auctioneers will be holding their 7th Annual After Harvest Farm Equipment Auction in Dalhart, Texas at the Miller Air Field. Date—17th, 18th of November.

Anyone wanting to consign large items: farm and ranch equipment, tractors, trucks, trailers, vehicles, etc.

May contact Reagan and Brown Auctioneers, no later than September 27th to be included on advertising.

Mail list to: P.O. Box 648, Dalhart, TX 79022  
or call our office at (806) 249-6776

Tired of rusty and chipped tubs or sinks? Are your countertops scratched or outdated?

Let West Tex Resurfacing Specialists resurface them for a fresh new look!

806/364-7117  
HEREFORD, TEXAS

White Space Does Sell!  
Use it!

## Windshields • Windshields • Windshields

### Lowest Prices Ever!!!!

#### Chevrolet & GMC Pickups & Suburbans

1978-1987 Fullsize Pickups & Suburbans (Shaded)	\$57 <sup>00</sup>
1988-1992 Fullsize Pickups & Suburbans (Shaded)	\$125 <sup>00</sup>
1993 Fullsize Pickups & Suburbans (Shaded)	\$198 <sup>00</sup>
S-10 & Jimmy Blazers (Shaded)	\$80 <sup>00</sup>

#### Ford Pickups

1980-1986 Fullsize Pickups (Shaded)	\$85 <sup>00</sup>
1980-1986 Fullsize Pickups (Tinted)	\$80 <sup>00</sup>
1987-1993 Fullsize Pickups (Shaded)	\$85 <sup>00</sup>
1987-1993 Fullsize Pickups (Tinted)	\$80 <sup>00</sup>
Ford Ranger & Bronco II (Shaded)	\$85 <sup>00</sup>

#### Dodge Pickups

1974-1993 Fullsize Pickups (Shaded)	\$110 <sup>00</sup>
1974-1993 Fullsize Pickups (Tinted)	\$91 <sup>00</sup>

\*All above prices are installed plus tax.

65% OFF All Foreign Windshields

75% OFF All Domestic Windshields

\*Plus labor, kit and tax

Windshield Repairs \$20<sup>00</sup>

Installed in Lubbock Only

Offer good through Oct. 1, 1993

**Crafton's Glass Inc.**

4801 I-27

744-4838

744-3511

Lubbock

Round Baler 855 New  
Holland Good Condi-  
tion. Ready to Roll  
806-364-5774  
Hereford, Texas

LET "BEAR"  
HELP YOU  
WITH YOUR  
WHEAT &  
GRAZER NEEDS

AGRI-PRO & OTHER  
WHEAT VARIETIES  
RYE, OATS, BARLEY  
& TRITICALE

"BEAR'S" SEED  
212 E. NEW YORK  
HEREFORD  
800-765-0902  
BOOK EARLY

PASTURE  
PASTURE  
PASTURE

Maton Rye, Triticale,  
Most All Wheat Vari-  
eties. Custom Cleaning  
Bulk or bagged.  
We deliver.

GAYLAND WARD  
SEED

1-800-236-2734  
1-800-236-7641  
800-236-4818 NIGHTS

## TEXAS ORDER BUYERS

Hereford, TX

FRESH CALVES AVAILABLE  
AT ALL TIMES!

Don Foster  
806-364-3900

Mobile  
344-2950

Stocker & Feeder Cattle  
Registered & Bonded

## HAVE CRUSHER WILL TRAVEL



Completely portable on-site custom crushing of your caliche rock for all your crushed caliche needs. We can also haul and spread the material after crushing it.

• 1-800-585-4854 •

OFFICE # 806-364-2322 • NIGHTS 806-364-5205  
• HOLLY RD. HEREFORD, TX

**GRIEGO  
DRAGLINE INC.**



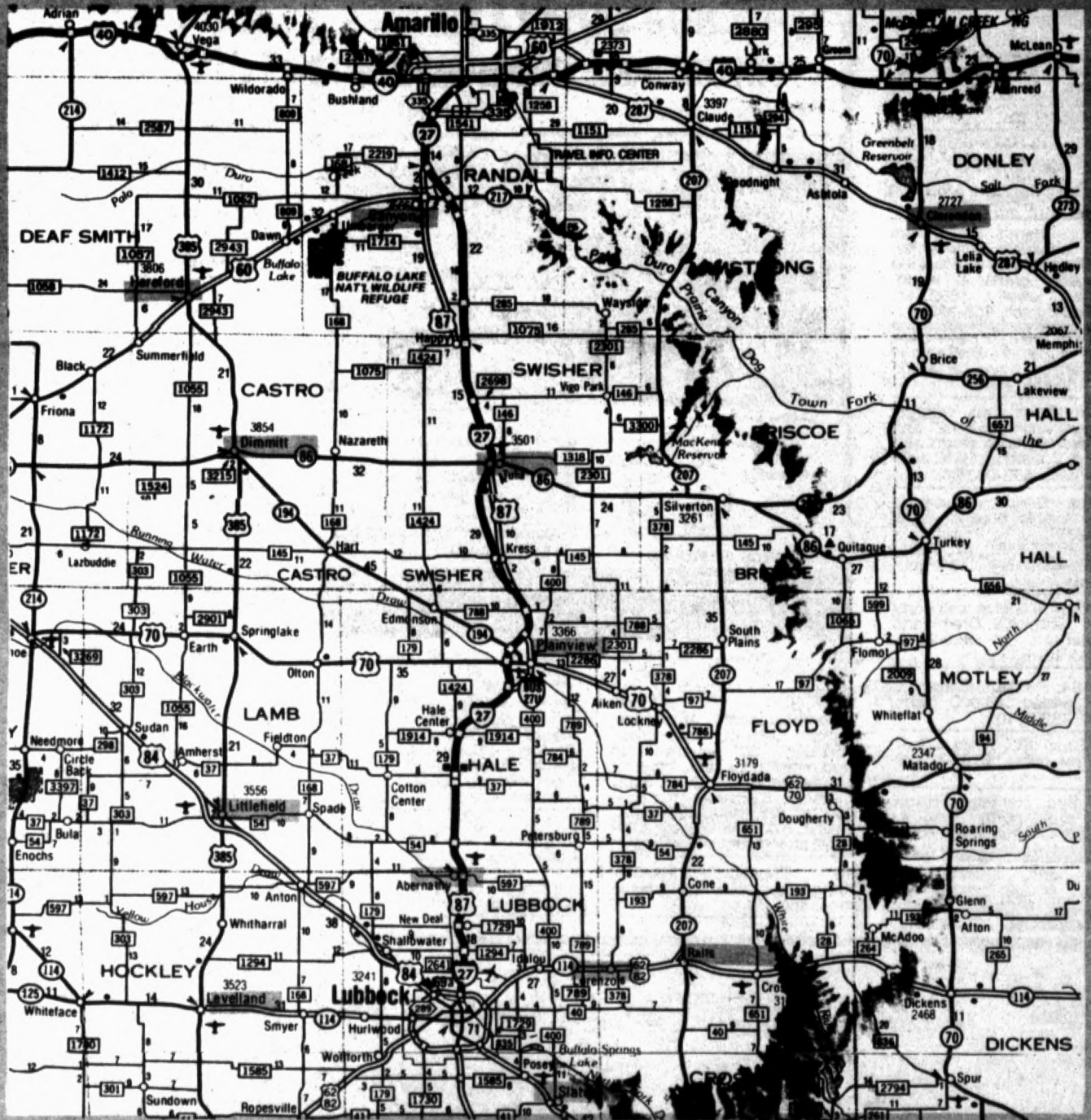
# Advertise In The West Texas Country Trader!

□ *The COUNTRY TRADER is a weekly section produced and published by these following newspapers:*

- *Abernathy Review, Hale County 298-2033*
- *Canyon News, Randall County 655-7121*
- *Castro Co. News, Castro County 647-3123*
- *Clarendon News, Donley County 874-2259*
- *Hereford Brand, Deaf Smith County 364-2030*
- *Hockley County News, Hockley County 894-3121*

- *Lamb County Leader, Lamb County 385-4481*
- *Lorenzo Examiner, Crosby County 634-5390*
- *Plainview Daily Herald, Hale County 296-1300*
- *Rails Reporter News, Crosby County 634-5390*
- *Slaton Slatonite, Lubbock County 828-6201*
- *Tulla Herald, Swisher County 995-3535*

It reaches across the 10,000 square miles of the Texas plains and lower Panhandle illustrated here:



Reach a  
**\$3.3 Billion**  
dollar market  
with the  
West Texas  
Country Trader

For approximately  
double the ad cost  
of one newspaper,  
you can reach  
**Twelve**  
newspapers!  
over 36,000  
Paid Subscribers

Reach this rich  
market with a  
quarter page ad  
for as little as  
**\$5.40**  
per thousand  
homes.

Advertisers wishing  
to expand their  
businesses by  
reaching interested  
buyers all across  
this area should  
call the publication  
in your area.

## Bale

From Page 3

year," Heard explained. "We got to plant another crop, it was like raising a second crop."

Heard has learned the value of insurance, having seen his crops hailed out numerous times in his 18 years of farming in southeastern Hale County.

"We were wiped out in 1989," he recalls. "We planted cotton twice and beans once." Then in 1991, Heard lost his crop to hail.

Heard has inherited a farming heritage that dates back to the early 1900s when his grandfather, Jim Heard, was one of the first to break out the land he now farms. He graduated from Petersburg High School in 1972, then settled down to farm with his father, the late S.R. "Pockets" Heard in 1975.

Of all the profession he could have followed, Heard said he would still choose farming if he had it to do over again.

"I really like being self-employed," Heard says. "I've worked for other people before. It's nice to be your own boss."

Farming, however, is more than just a job. "It's something that has been passed down. It's an honor and a heck of a challenge to keep it all together, and getting harder every year" he said.

He often wonders what his grandfather, who farmed with mule teams, would have thought about today's developments.

"We've diversified," admits Heard. "I have a spray company, doing mostly ground rig spraying, called H&R Spraying." Heard's partner is Mike Richardson.

Further diversification on his farm results from his cattle operation.

He says he would recommend farming to anyone, especially his sons. He and wife, Brenda, have sons, Coy, 17; and Shaun, 14 — both who have joined their dad in doing farm work during the summer months.

But it is tough to know whether farming as he

knows it will continue as they reach adulthood.

"That is the toughest thing, knowing what will happen," said Heard, bemoaning the constant pressure to fine tune his operation to fight rising costs and depressed prices for commodities.

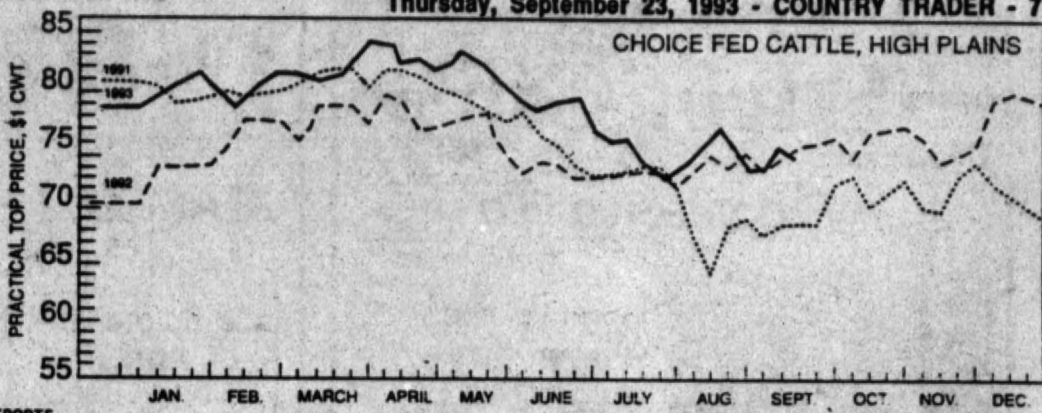
"I know prices have got to go up, they're just going to have to," he said. "The price of cotton is the same now as it was when I was in high school. Then, in 1973, cotton brought 73 cents. It's now 57 cents when you include the POP payment."

His management style has been forced to change with the times — not making as many trips across the field as he used to.

"We list a lot of land," he says. "We used to make three or four trips. We've cut that in half."

Water has become an even more precious commodity than it ever was.

"We try not to waste any of it," he says. "And we sure don't run it down the bar ditch. We try to run a pretty full ditch and change it every 12 hours whether it is out or not. We just have limited water here."



Courtesy Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Amarillo

## Choice fed cattle, High Plains

The above report reflects market activity through September 17.

## Burnett is NCG leader

ST. LOUIS — Plainview corn grower Neal Burnett has been elected treasurer of the National Corn Growers Association by its board of directors.



BURNETT

Burnett will assume his responsibilities Oct. 1.



## SURE, HE CAN FIX YOUR PUMP.

When pump failure puts you in a bind, there's always a temptation to turn to someone who's ready with a Quick Fix. But before you do, ask yourself: Does he really know what he's looking at? Does he know the required manufacturing tolerances? Does he understand what the pump is designed to do? If he doesn't, you could be in for more trouble than you've already got.

So next time you're faced with pump problems, better call us first - before a Quick-Fix Artist gets a chance to fix your pump. AND FIX IT, AND FIX IT, AND FIX IT.

**We do it right the first time.**

**BYRON JACKSON PUMPS**

296-5504 1305 N. Columbia Plainview

## Grass

From Page 4

The Water District recently had a protein analysis run on the knotgrass growing in both of Mitchell's playas and found that the knotgrass has a dry weight, crude protein of 8.18 percent and total digestible nutrients of 62.14 percent in one lake and 10.6 percent crude protein and 70.7 percent digestible nutrients in the other. Clip samples indicated a yield of 8,075 pounds of dry forage in one lake and 6,653 pounds in the other.

A grown cow consumes about 20 pounds of dry grass a day. This year's yield will support about one cow per acre. According to Ken Smith, a research assistant with the animal science department at Texas Tech University, both of these are good protein percentages for a forage grass. He does recommend supplementing protein when grazing or feeding knotgrass hay.

The grass does not do much in dry years, according to Mitchel, but he is thrilled that it survives through dry years and High Plains winters.

The soil around one playa lake is sandy, and in June two inches of rain fell at this playa. This rain may have leached the nutrients and made them unavailable for plant use. This playa has the lowest protein content. Mitchell said he may apply some fertilizer to boost the protein levels.

Knotgrass does have a few disadvantages. The seeds from the grass are extremely difficult to harvest. Each tiny seed matures at a different time, and each stem is covered with seeds of many different maturity levels. Consequently, this grass must be sprigged. Wyatt said he has found the best way is to simply drop a sprig in the mug and stamp it in with his foot.

For anyone wanting to get a start of knotgrass, the Water District office at 2930 Ave. Q in Lubbock is offering sprigs for those wishing to plant it.

## CLEAN UP YOUR ACT!

CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO?



High Pressure Washers

Professional Farmer - Hot pressure cleaning is a must for maintaining your expensive machinery

For Free On Sight Demo Please Call...

293-3333

Plainview, Tx



**AUCTION**  
SAT., SEPT. 25<sup>TH</sup> - SALE TIME 10:30 A.M.  
IRVIN PRICE, OWNER  
401 YONKERS, PLAINVIEW

New 12 H.P. Riding Mower, 16' Tandem Axle Trailer, All Type of Carpenter Tools, Hand Tools, Furnitures and Household Items. For More Information Contact Rex Mogg, 296-5532.

SALE CONDUCTED BY  
**REX MOGG AUCTIONEERS**  
296-5532 Plainview, Tx.

## "WE GIN TO GIN AGAIN"



Since '53  
Quality Has Become A Family Tradition

See Manager Randy Pritchard  
For All Of Your Cotton Ginning Needs

TELMARK SYSTEM  
**SERVICE GIN**  
E. 24<sup>TH</sup> ST. 296-6878

## COINS - JEWELRY GOLD - DIAMONDS

## PUBLIC AUCTION

SUNDAY, SEPT. 26, 1993  
2:00 P.M.

3909 Idalou Hwy.

Lubbock, Texas

Approximately 250 lots of very select high grade rare coins, featuring 12 choice U.S. gold coins and numerous Morgan & Piece Silver Dollars with many key dates and many in brilliant UNC condition, proof set, walkers, commorative, early type coins, certified coins, ancients and many more coins. Approximately 75 lots of very nice gold & diamond jewelry including 3 ct diamond 14 K tennis bracelet, 14K Tennis Bracelet w 2 ct. diamonds, & 2.5 ct. ruby, 14K drop earrings w 1.95 ct. diamonds, 14K cocktail ring, .69 ct. Ruby, 3 - 1 ct. diamonds, 1.6 ct oval cut diamond set in 14K gold solitaire mounting plus many more rings and antique jewelry.



**UNDERWOOD AUCTIONEERS**

806-744-0371  
806-892-3071

Wes Underwood, Tax Lic. #7095

# Edcot Gin

Edmonson 864-3335  
A Progressive Gin



- High Volume
- Proven Quality
- Aggressive Marketing
- Customer Service

We can process your "POP" paperwork at the Gin Office.

Larry Nelson  
manager

Brett Aven  
commodity spec.

Need Medical Insurance?? Don't Have Group Insurance?? Self Employed?? Son or Daughter Just Graduated?? Between Jobs?? Long Term and Short Term Available. Call Jett Green, 296-2621.

**L & L LIMITED**  
Estate Liquidation Service. Complete Sales. Percentage Basis. Phone 839-3169, 684-2852, 293-5744.

8 HP electric start riding lawn mower. 28 ft. metal display shelves, shelves on both sides. 293-5868.

**LOCAL VENDING ROUTE**  
\$1200 a week potential. Must Sell. 1-(800)-955-0354.

9600 John Deere with 8 row corn head; 9500 John Deere with 6 row corn head; 1680 International Case 6 row, 30 and 40 corn head; Six 18 wheelers for hauling. Call Hector Munoz, 296-1554.

**FREE GIFT CATALOG**  
RG Associates, P.O. Box 93461, Lubbock, Texas 79493. 799-4906.

**GOATS FOR SALE**  
500 East 27th - 293-0509

**Wheat**  
TAM 200  
TAM 202  
TAM 109

Complete line of Agri Pro Wheat Seed

285-2015  
**MCFADDEN GRAIN**  
N. Hwy. 168 Olton, TX

Quality seed oats, rye, triticale, and wheat. Ask about our tried and proven blends for winter forage. Call 1-800-243-5271, 293-5271 or 296-7347. Brown-ing Seed.

**CUSTOM**  
Shred/Plow/Seedbed  
Titan Ag, 293-1583

**MINI STORAGE**  
Rent a storage building in your own yard. Bill Cartwright, Inc. 296-6368.

**SHOW LAMBS**  
Three Fine Wool show lambs. 684-2448.

**HORSESHOEING**  
DON McMAHAN, 296-2021. Mobile, 296-8631.

**Plainview Auto Auction**

S. I-27 Ex. 48 \* Buy Or Sell \* A McKibben & Lincycomb Co.  
1-800-598-1193 Every Thur. 7:00 p.m. Plainview, Tx.

**Health Insurance**  
At Affordable Group Rate  
**CALL**  
1-800-285-2204

**Dale Powell Irrigation**  
*Flexible Tubing The Leader In Irrigation Tubing*

We appreciate your business for the 1993 year. We look forward to serving your irrigation needs in 1994.

**DALE POWELL**  
652-2641 Lockney, TX 296-1416 Mb.

**HALE CENTER COOPERATIVE GIN**  
*Ready to serve the cotton farmer For the Upcoming Harvest*

- Modern Gin Plant With Gin UD Press
- Experienced Gin Employees
- Telcot Markets Plus Local Markets If Needed
- Friendly, Helpful Staff Ready to Serve You

*New Customers Are Welcome, Needed & Appreciated*

**General Manager**  
**Gene Latham** 839-2436

## Farmers & Ranchers



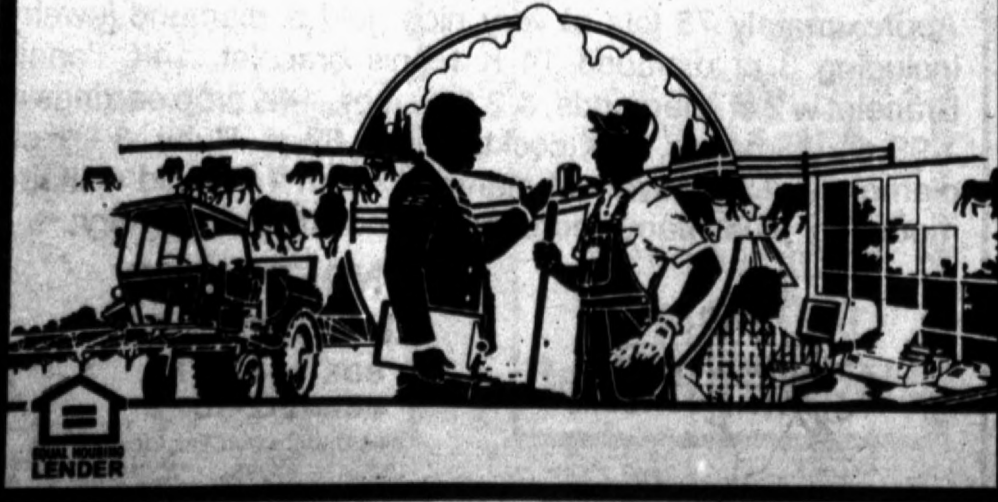
A few of the growing needs of farmers and ranchers in the '90s include financial stability, operating efficiencies and profitability. The people who understand these needs the most are the agricultural specialists at the LAND BANK ASSOCIATION. They will work with your individual needs to help ensure you a successful operation.

So, if you are considering making changes in your operation, see the LAND BANK ASSOCIATION for additional information on a loan program to fit your specific needs.

*We're dedicated to helping you.*

Association offices conveniently located at:

<b>AMARILLO</b> 3615 S. Georgia (806) 353-6688	<b>HEREFORD</b> 709 N. Main (806) 364-1464	<b>MULESHOE</b> 316 Main Street (806) 272-3010
<b>CHILDRESS</b> Highway 83 South (817) 937-6181	<b>LEVELLAND</b> 613 Ave. G (806) 894-6155	<b>PLAINVIEW</b> 629 Baltimore (806) 296-5579
<b>CROSBYTON</b> 207 S. Berkshire (806) 675-2761	<b>LITTLEFIELD</b> 504 Phelps Ave. (806) 385-4425	<b>SPUR</b> 403 East Hill Street (806) 271-3378
<b>DIMITT</b> 105 W. Bedford (806) 647-4178	<b>LUBBOCK</b> 1117 65th Drive (806) 745-3277	<b>TULIA</b> 115 N. Armstrong (806) 995-3129



Hockley County Texas Agricultural Extension Service Agricultural Industries Committee

## 4th Annual South Plains Farm & Home Show

**September 24, 1993 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
**Hockley County Fairgrounds - Levelland**

Featuring... Indoor Booth/Outdoor Exhibits/Tillage Demonstrations/Crop Contest/Antique Tractor Show

**★ Schedule ★**

- 10:00 a.m. -- Exhibit Halls Open
- 11:00 a.m. -- Cotton and Grain Sorghum Contest Entries Close
- 11:30 a.m. -- Antique Tractor Show Entries Close
- 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. -- Lunch Served By Hockley County Farmers Assn.
- 2:00 p.m. -- Winners Announced
  - Antique Tractor Show
  - Cotton and Grain Sorghum Contest
  - Booth and Outdoor Exhibit Contest
- 3:00 p.m. -- Exhibit Halls Close

**60 Plus Farm & Home Indoor Booths**  
**20 Plus Outdoor Trailer & Equipment Exhibits**

Bill Brown of ABC Fire Equipment, Inc. Invites All Exhibitors And Participants To Bring Their Fire Extinguishers To The Show For A Free Annual Maintenance Inspection.