

# WEST TEXAS Country Trader

The West Texas Country Trader is a section of:

Thursday, June 3, 1993

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## Hardness test may spur a wheat variety revolution

By **JOE BRYANT**

A&M Extension Journalist

**CHILLICOTHE** — Texas and Oklahoma producers got their first look here at a new device which in the next few years may have a dramatic effect on which wheat varieties are planted in their states.

Most of the nearly 300 visitors at the Texoma Ag Day May 20 watched intently at the display where Robert Pudden, Extension specialist in milling and baking quality assurance at Kansas State University, Manhattan Kan., demonstrated a prototype of a new wheat hardness tester. The Ag Day program was hosted by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at its research facility here.

The new machine is expected to be in general use at grain elevators in the next two or three years. It measures and records the hardness, protein content and moisture of individual wheat kernels. "It tests each kernel and can check roughly 300 kernels within 1 minute," Pudden said.

A concern for Texas and Oklahoma growers, said Dr. David Worrall, Experiment Station wheat breeder here, is how varieties popularly grown in this area, and all of Texas, will fare with the new device. "In this area, for example, Chisholm has been, for many years, one of our favorite varieties," Worrall said. He said it is excel-

lent for grazing, has high grain yield and early maturity, although lacking a little in disease resistance. But with the new hardness testing device, Chisholm "too often classes as a soft red winter wheat, rather than as a hard red winter wheat," Worrall said. This will bring growers a lower price, he noted.

But Pudden says that, in the long run, the more accurate classification can help growers keep and expand their overseas markets. "If we're going to keep our foreign market, we're going to have to be at least as good as all our competitors," he said. He noted that overseas buyers are "quite concerned about hardness."

Worrall said the classification problem has evolved from changes in wheat varieties and intermixing of different wheat classes in shipments. "Our old classification system was based, more or less, on the shape of a wheat kernel. As you mixed different classes together, the kernel no longer resembled exactly the market class it came from," he explained.

The breeder said the release of a large number of new varieties every year for the past decade created too many different things for the old system to properly classify. So Congress mandated a task force to develop a new testing device. The Federal Grain Inspection Service, with the cooper-

ation of several state agricultural experiment stations, devised the system shown at Texoma Ag Day here.

"The one I brought is a pilot model, one of six being evaluated this year," Pudden said. It's development was under the leadership of Dr. Charles Martin, agricultural engineer, and the staff of the USDA Grain Marketing Research Center at Manhattan, Kan.

Once the evaluation is complete and the device accepted, it will go into commercial production. Stressing that his estimate was

### Ag News Inside:

Littlefield plant turns cotton into denim for 17 years, **Pg. 2.**

He harvests wheat the old-fashioned way, **Pg. 3**

"only a guess," Pudden said he expected each unit to cost from \$25,000 to \$40,000, "somewhere in line" with high quality infrared devices now being used.

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## BALE-ALL

### BALE-ALL II

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#### AGRONOMIC DATA\*

Days to 1/2 Bloom	67-69 Days
Plant Height	7-9 Feet
Yield Potential	6-8 Tons/Acre
Usage	Hay, Grazing, Green Chop
Comments	Excellent for Baling or Bundles Fast Regrowth

### BALE-ALL III

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Bale-All III is a full maturity forage sorghum that produces palatable, juicy stalks that reach nine to eleven feet in the height. The plant produces an abundance of leaves and can be used for bundles or baling. Top quality feed is attained when swathed while in the boot stage. It is recommended that broadcast planting be utilized for baling. Height under these conditions will be 5-7 feet.

#### AGRONOMIC DATA\*

Days to 1/2 Bloom	70-74 Days
Plant Height	9-11 Feet
Yield Potential	8-11 Tons/Acre
Usage	Hay, Grazing, Green Chop
Comments	Broadcast for Baling Can Also Be Bundled

Hereford, Tx.

\*All agronomic data will depend upon the growing conditions and may vary as conditions vary.

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# AgReview



## South Plains Ag News

June 5 & 6

**CLOVIS ANNUAL CELEBRATION** — Parade, tractor pull and other activities will highlight a weekend of fun.

June 12

**ANNUAL ARMSTRONG TRACTOR PLAY DAY:** Paul and Jackie Armstrong will host the event on their farm, 3½ miles west of Hart on FM 145, then three miles south. A slow race, parade and plowing contest will be held.

July 3

**HALE CENTER JULY FOURTH CENTENNIAL:** A tractor show will be the highlight of Independence Day events, with a parade set at 10 a.m.

July 3

**ANNUAL WEBB TRACTORS SHOW AND PLAY DAY:** Donald and Sallie Webb will host a tractor play day 3 miles northeast of Amarillo on FM 136. A parade, tractor pull, slow race, wheat threshing and log sawing will be held. Also, a Baker fan demonstration, feed grinding and other activities.

July 10

**LEVELLAND CELEBRATION:** Parade featuring tractors at 10 a.m. in the downtown area. For information, contact Preston Reeves at

July 17

**SEAGRAVES DAYS:** Texas Plains Chapter of the Two-Cylinder Club will bring the sounds of the "Old Poppin' Johnnie" to Seagraves residents celebrating their annual community event.

## Denim mill sees steady success over 17 years

GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview Writer

**LITTLEFIELD** — In goes the cotton and out comes the cloth — denim cloth, the kind used to make blue jeans.

Over 16,000 miles of blue denim roll out of the plant annually — enough to crisscross the nation six times coast to coast.

That may be a gross oversimplification of what happens daily inside the huge building (10-acres-under-one-roof), but it pretty well describes what goes on at the gigantic American Cotton Growers denim mill outside this Lamb County seat, and what has gone on now for 17 years.

This Littlefield textile operation, which is the county's largest single employer with 500 shift workers and runs 24 hours a day, has never produced more material that it could sell. In fact, it has sold all it has managed to produce directly to Levi Strauss, exclusive customer of the mill.

More importantly, it has boosted sales of High Plains cotton to the tune of 92,000 bales per year.

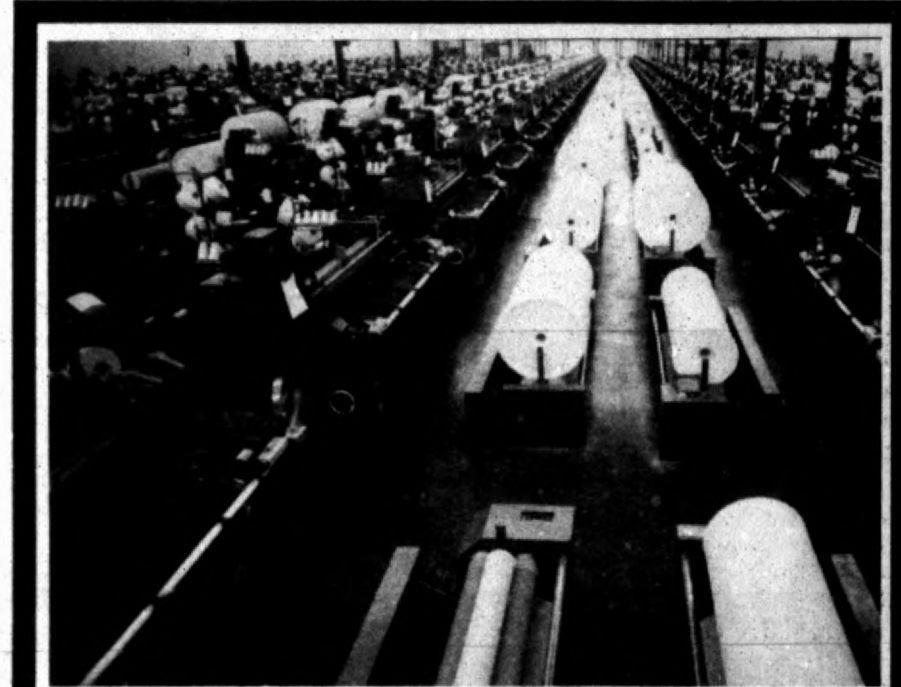
Lance Broadhurst, personnel manager at ACG, admits that despite these impressive statistics, the plant seldom rates a lot of publicity these days — primarily because when you're doing the same thing all the time, and not making any real changes, it isn't very newsy.

"Not a lot has changed," Broadhurst said. "It's pretty much the same as when we first opened."

Yet, what ACG does is fairly unique, since textile plants are, as a rule, native to the East Coast and oddities in the nation's mid section.

It's one of Texas' major — if not the major Lone Star state textile mill.

Although there are other small, specialty mills in operation like those in Abernathy, Lorenzo and elsewhere, and a major Texas mill operated by West Point Pepperell in New Braunfels, few rival ACG in what they do.



**ROLLING OUT THE DENIM** — A view inside the massive American Cotton Growers denim mill in Littlefield reveals highly sophisticated equipment in operation for 17 years.

Photo/Courtesy American Cotton Growers

For one, Levi Strauss, the world's largest manufacturer of clothing, is the exclusive buyer of ACG-woven denim — which it turns into Levis 540 and 550 jeans, blue jean jackets, shorts and other popular product lines.

The ACG mill turns out 29 million linear yards of 14 1/2 ounce heavyweight, indigo blue denim per year.

It has been the nation's sole producer of cloth woven from the new strains of "brown cotton" whose rights are owned by Sally Fox, and which has been marketed in some fashions for the last couple of years by Levi.

"We don't know where the market on that is going right now," admits Broadhurst. "We do know that Dillard's in Lubbock has been carrying it for a while. We manufactured quite a bit in 1992, and a little bit more this year."

Denim leaves Littlefield literally bound for the seven seas.

"Levi has cut jeans plants all over

the world," Broadhurst commented. "We get our releases from Levi headquarters in San Francisco telling us where to ship and what amount. The material leaves here and goes a little bit of everywhere."

The ACG mill pumps \$10 to 11 million in payroll back into the economy each year, not to mention adding value to High Plains cotton within miles of where it was grown and putting dollars back into pockets of farmer-members of the co-op.

PCCA, the owner, gives each producer-member an opportunity to participate via the annual mill option, but also offers numerous other marketing options based on desires of each.

One of the few major changes experienced by ACG in recent years involves the installation in June of some new spinning equipment, but that won't really change the routine here, where the practice of cotton in, cloth out will roll on for the foreseeable future.

## Commodity, speciality corn industries to emerge?

By CALVIN PIGG

Southwest Farm Press

SAN ANTONIO — Liberalized global trade could be good for U.S. corn growers and the domestic corn industry is likely to one day see two parallel industries: One for commodity corn and one for specialty corn.

Those are two conclusions to come out of the National Corn Growers Association's (NCGA) Corn Vision 2020 study, the results released during the NCGA annual meeting here recently.

Co-sponsored by NCGA and Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., the study project is intended to provide producers and others something of a map to the future.

The findings of the Corn Vision 2020, with its six general conclusions, will now be analyzed by a Think Tank composed of a dozen industry experts recruited from the original panel of 37 industry executives and decision makers.

The six major factors seen as having the greatest likelihood and impact on the future profitability of corn:

--Liberalization of global trade policies. Panelists expect trade to become somewhat freer over the next 30 years, which would be positive for the U.S. corn industry. They noted that trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade would probably not include all the provisions needed for completely free trade.

--Changing status of traditional farm programs. The panelists said they expect agricultural legislation to play a lesser role in corn production than it does today. Specifically, they predicted a reduction in farm program benefits as the federal budget deficit increasingly drives domestic legislation.

This could create short-term hardships and dislocations among corn producers, but in the long-term it would reward efficiency with greater profits.

--World demand for protein. Panelists had very different predictions about the impact of economic development, population growth and dietary trends--at home and abroad--on demand for corn as a feedstuff for livestock.

Clearly vigorous economic and population growth in key

markets would increase demand for protein, benefiting the corn industry. Even in the most optimistic scenario, increased competition from alternate crops or competing nations could moderate that impact.

--Parallel corn industries: Commodity and specialty. Panelists do not foresee major departures from present production and marketing patterns in the corn industry resulting from increased production of specialty corn. However, they do expect specialty varieties to become more important, providing increased profits for growers with access to contract or identity-preserved markets.

--Efficiencies achieved through technology. A large percentage of the panelists said comparative advantage/price competitiveness of U.S. corn production hinges on a U.S. commitment to the research and development of technology. Potential offsets to this edge may come from increasingly rigorous environmental regulation and technological advantages in competing countries.

(Article reprinted from recent issue of Southwest Farm Press by permission)

# Controversial report on sugar program claims protectionism

## It argues for freeing up markets

By ROBERT GREEN  
AP Farm Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress should cut sugar price supports and change import quotas that help just a few producers in the United States but add at least \$1.4 billion yearly to consumers' grocery bills, investigators say.

The federal sugar program "protects domestic sugar producers from lower world prices but has increased domestic sugar prices," the General Accounting Office said in a report released Monday.

The Agriculture Department guarantees a minimum price for U.S. sugar producers by controlling imports. By creating an artificially high price for sugar, the program also maintains a higher price for the increasingly popular sweeteners made of corn syrup, said GAO, the investigative arm of Congress.

The program is likely to cost more because U.S. producers keep making more sugar than is needed here, the report said, adding that pending agreements with Mexico and the rest of the world will require changes.

"Congress needs to consider legislation to move the sugar industry toward a more open market," the report said.

To make its report, GAO estimated a world price of 20.5 cents a pound for

sugar, exclusive of subsidies. It devised that benchmark to give a picture of what prices would be without the distortions created by other countries' sugar programs.

It then took a three-year average of U.S. price for sugar and corn sweeteners, which worked out to be some 5 cents a pound higher.

Sugar comes from an estimated 1,705 sugar cane farms in Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana and Texas; and from an estimated 13,731 sugarbeet farms in 14 states. California, Idaho, Michigan and Minnesota rank as the top sugarbeet producers. Forty-two cane mills and 36 beet processing plants convert the crops into sugar.

However, about 150 farms, or 1 percent of all domestic sugar farms, received nearly

Robert H. Buker Jr., senior vice president of U.S. Sugar Corp. in Clewiston, Fla., said Florida growers favor ending the 42 percent of the entire benefit to sugar growers, the report said.

One farm received more than \$30 million in estimated benefits. The 33 largest farms, all in Florida and Hawaii, received more than \$1 million each in program benefits, the report said.

Four makers of high fructose corn sweeteners shared nearly \$480 million in indirect benefits from the program, it said.

"It's becoming a program to benefit fewer and fewer people who will make more and more money," said Rep. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., who requested the

program when the Europeans end their subsidies.

He added that three-quarters of the sugar

consumed in the United States goes into processed foods but accounts for a fraction of the price.

## Texas beet president cries 'foul' over report

HEREFORD — The president of the Texas Sugar Beet Growers called a General Accounting Office report on the sugar program "flawed" and countered its findings worth some figures of his own.

"The GAO report uses a version of an old myth to come up with a flawed conclusion . . . that the program costs users \$1.4 billion in higher prices," Bill Cleavinger said. "And the report does not refer to consumers, but to users — and the candy manufacturers, bakers and food processors are the big users."

Cleavinger claimed the flawed approach assumes that large quantities of sugar can be purchased on the highly volatile world market without causing the price to rise. He points out, for instance, that the price has recently risen about 50 percent just since last fall.

"Even if a user could purchase large amounts of sugar without sending the price to the sky, every penny of the savings would be passed on to consumers," Cleavinger argued.

Cleavinger said recent figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and USDA point out that wholesale prices for U.S. sugar have, in fact, dropped 20 percent in the past two years — while sugar-containing products have risen about 7 percent in that period.

And a claim that great program benefits flow to relatively few cane sugar producers and corn refiners overlooks a key fact, Cleavinger points out.

"To be efficient in these industries requires large production units, each employing hundreds of workers," Cleavinger said. "Some production units are farmer-owned cooperatives."

Further, Cleavinger said, the GAO's "alleged benefit" to U.S. sugar producers incorrectly implies some form of payment.

"There are no government payments to U.S. sugar farmers," he said. "The program runs at no cost to the Treasury."

"Because of the U.S. sugar program, American consumers get a good value on sugar," Cleavinger argued in reaction to the report. "Consumers in other developed countries pay on average 25 percent more than do U.S. consumers. Worldwide, consumers pay about 10 percent more than we do in this country."

Cleavinger claimed the U.S. sugar program creates 360,000 jobs in 42 states and adds an estimated \$18.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy.

"And the U.S. sugar program helps reduce the federal deficit by paying more than \$25 million into the U.S. Treasury each year through paying marketing assessments."

Cleavinger claims the "sour grapes" report was initiated by a Brooklyn congressman on behalf of big industrial users shortly after the users failed to achieve a sugar support price reduction in the 1990 Farm Bill.

"It would be interesting to find out how much money the government spent doing this report," Cleavinger said. "It is the big industrial users who complain about the price they pay for sugar, while raising their own prices. The American consumer gets a good value on sugar."

(Article compiled from a Texas Sugar Beet Growers Association Newsletter)

## Cattle up in Texas, down overall

AMARILLO — The total number of cattle in the seven-state area that we were in feedlots in April was far below trade expectations, according to Monte Winders, marketing analyst for Financial Freedom and Futures.

But cattle placements in Texas were up somewhat from the previous year.

Placements in April were down 8 percent from a year ago in the seven-state area, from 1.42 million to 1.32 million head, Winders said.

"It probably took a lot of people by surprise," Winders said. "Predictions were pretty much for a 3 percent increase on

placements and marketings. The experts were way off on placements and the initial reaction was an expectation of a 25- to 50-cent higher opening on the next trading day.

Placements in Texas, however, were up 7 percent, from 375,000 to 400,000.

The total number of cattle on feed in April was 8.35 million head, up 7 percent from the same month a year ago (7.82 million). Cattle on feed in Texas showed a 12-percent jump from April 1992, from 1.93 million to 2.17 million head.

Marketings in the seven-state area were 1.55 million in April, a 4 percent increase.

## Floral market requires old-fashioned harvest

By SCOTT LUCE

Abernathy Review

**A**BERNATHY — Monroe Waits is spreading a lot of Abernathy around the United States.

And he's doing it a little bit at a time.

Waits recently joined friend Jimmie Davis in taking a 1937 D John Deere tractor, owned by Davis, and hitching it to a '30s vintage broadcast binder.

From there they went to Jerry Oswalt's wheat field north of Abernathy. Waits and Scot Wesley then proceeded to cut and bundle some of Oswalt's wheat for a very large order Waits had to fill.

For years, Waits has traveled from Abilene to Colorado, New Mexico and all over West Texas collecting what most people would call weeds for decorative floral arrangements.

What Davis and Wesley were cutting will supply the material for an order of 10,000 pounds Waits will deliver.

The hefty order will also receive special handling and must be a certain length.

"It needs to be around 30 inches long," Waits said. "I'll pack it 25 pounds to a box."

Waits' customer in Florida had been getting wheat out of South America. Waits sent the man a sample



VIEW FROM YESTERYEAR — Jimmie Davis rides a broadcast binder through a Hale County wheat field as Scot Wesley mans the tractor.

Photo/Scott Luce, Abernathy Review

of West Texas wheat and soon received the order for more.

In Florida they will sell it in half ounce sizes of make small bouquets that will sell for \$1.25 to \$2.50. The wheat will be distributed through various outlets up the east coast and into Canada. Waits is also working on a distribution point in San Francisco that will handle the west coast.

"They want wheat that has the grain and beard," he said. "It's going to be extremely good wheat and make

attractive flowers."

Davis' equipment is well suited for harvesting the wheat. It tied the wheat into shocks which were tied upright for drying.

"This is the only one I know of around here that's working," he said. "It's something just to find somebody that can still run one."

His normal alternate method of harvesting was more physically demanding.

"There's no way I could have cut this much by hand."

## Cellular tower on line in Castro

DIMMITT — The Cellular 3 partnership has activated a site at Dimmitt which should provide improved cellular telephone service to most of Castro County.

## Lamb to sponsor annual FB queen local contest

LITTLEFIELD — Lamb County Farm Bureau is sponsoring a Lamb County Farm Bureau Queen's Contest, with the winner advancing to District contest and then on to state contest.

Contestants will be judged on appearance, poise, personality, speech and response to impromptu questions.

To be eligible to compete, the contestant must be a daughter or sister of a Texas Farm Bureau member and must be between the ages of 16 and 21 as of Sept. 1, 1993.

Each district winner will receive a \$600 college scholarship by Texas Farm Bureau. District winner must compete in the state contest in order to receive the district level scholarship. State winner will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 with runner-up getting a \$1,500 scholarship.

Miss Texas Farm Bureau for 1993 will be reimbursed up to \$500 towards the purchase of a wardrobe consisting of all natural fibers.

The runner-up and winner will each receive a set of luggage from TFB.

Those interested in entering the contest should contact the Lamb County Farm Bureau office or Carla Synatschk, 986-4234 before May 14.

# Ultimate southern gardeners handbook available

N.Y. Times News Service  
© 1993 Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Looking for a planting guide, plant list, gardener's journal and month-by-month list of gardening tips, all

rolled into one — and geared for gardens in the South?

"A Southern Gardener's Notebook" by William C. Welch, Don Hastings and Stan DeFreitas (Taylor, \$15.95 in hardcover) is just

such a book. The volume covers the entire Southern region, from Florida to Texas.

Wisely, it doesn't lump the region's many diverse areas together. Rather, gardening

information for each month is divided into sections devoted to Texas/the Gulf South, the Mid-South and Florida. And logically enough, the three authors hail from those regions: Welch

from College Station, Texas, Hastings from Georgia and DeFreitas from Florida.

The book contains solid information, but a bit of explanation would prove helpful, at least for the novice gardener. The Mid-South and Texas/Gulf areas should be defined, for example, or at least outlined on a map. (Florida seems obvious enough.) And a "How to use this book" section would be

a welcome addition to suggest exactly what should be recorded in the spaces provided for notes. Or maybe you're just supposed to know.

□ □ □

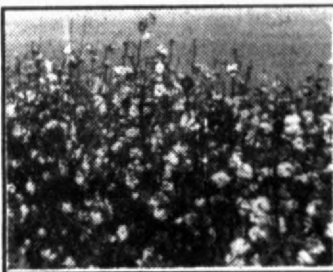
Wheat growers will have the option of using Lorsban 4E for controlling Russian wheat aphids as result of a recent EPA approval.

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## Genetically leaner lamb

By MARGARET SCHERF  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Leaner lamb may be on the way for health-conscious consumers as a result of work done by Agricultural Research Service geneticists.

The researchers are working now on a way to predict whether lambs will be fat or thin.

"One way to do that is with a genetic marker -- a specific gene that correlates with how lean an animal will likely be," said ARS geneticist Gary D. Snowder, who is at the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station near Dubois, Idaho.

The genetic marker could help researchers select the best animals for future breeding, and also guide farmers in feeding their lambs diets that keep them trim, says a report on Snowder's work in a recent issue of Agricultural Research magazine.

Snowder and colleagues at Utah State University have found that two genes important in fat metabolism may be useful markers to identify leaner lambs. They are adipocyte P2, or AP2, and lipoprotein lipase, or LPL.

Other researchers already had discovered both genes in humans, cattle, mice and birds. But Snowder's study, the report said, is the first to link them with specific characteristics used to determine fatness in lambs.

"We found that fatter lambs tended to have higher levels of AP2 gene expression, yet lower levels of LPL gene expression," Snowder said.

He also plans to test five other genes. When he determines which genes are

the most accurate fat predictors, he said, a simple blood test taken at birth might be all it takes to pinpoint fat-prone lambs.

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# Perry poses question of moving TDA out of Austin

By RICK PERRY

Texas Ag Commissioner

When I was going to school in Paint Creek, my teachers told me the only dumb question was the one that didn't get asked. They never worked in Austin.

I say that because when Sen. Frank Madla, Rep. Kim Brimer and I asked, "Is Austin the best place for the Texas Department of Agriculture to serve Texas agriculture and agribusiness?", the first thing we heard was, "That's a dumb question."

It was a good question when I asked those two members of the Texas Legislature to introduce measures that would allow TDA to relocate its headquarters outside Austin. And now, even though 12 senators have told me that the time isn't right to talk

about it by announcing they have enough votes to block its consideration, this question and the broader issues that we must address if we want to "reinvent government" are still worth thinking about.

There's no doubt that Austin is a government town. Although many people hate to hear it, state government office buildings have become ivory towers in disguise. I'm not blaming anyone. It's just a fact. A local reporter remarked to one of my staff members that his paper covered state government a little differently because, in Austin, government is an industry.

Government as an industry is an interesting concept, considering that the end product is not something you can lend, spend or sell, but rules and laws.

Rules and laws that are conceived over yellow legal tablets in insulated office buildings but affect people in fields, small businesses, oil patches, urban neighborhoods, rural hospitals and a million other personal panoramas across Texas. It didn't make sense that all these rules were made in a place where success is measured by the thickness of a rule book, not the strength of the bottom line. So, I asked the question.

Government as an industry also brings up a question that is rooted not in philosophy but in economics. If cities and towns are engaging in bidding wars for new prisons, what sort of incentive packages could they develop for other governmental functions? It's no secret that Texas state government is in a financial bind. With our Legislature

struggling to find ways to educate our children, fund our prison system and take care of our less fortunate citizens, it didn't make sense — and it wasn't right — for me and my agency to sit in a building "just because" and not explore other alternatives that might save the state money. So I asked the question.

Economics, in the form of the North American Free Trade Agreement, also played a part in my proposal. NAFTA is going to change the face of Texas, and Texas agriculture in particular. Studies have shown that Fort Worth, part of the DFW metroplex, and San Antonio — the two cities that initially expressed interest in talking to us about relocating — will be leading the pack in the trade race to Mexico. It didn't make sense for TDA — Texas agriculture's marketing representative — to be in Austin stretching and tying its shoes, when the race was being run somewhere else. So, I asked the question.

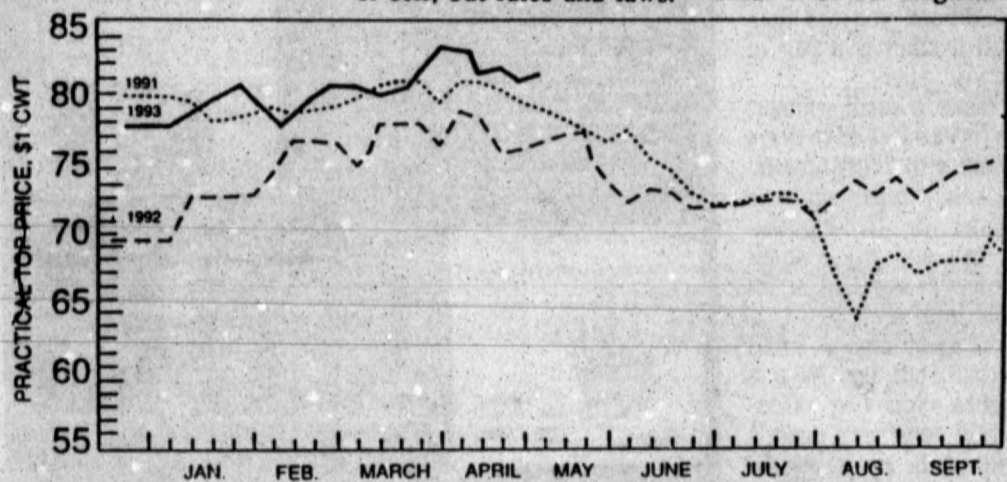
When I asked the question initially, I said I

wanted to take the ag department back to agriculture, so people assumed that we would move to Dimmit, D'Hanis or Dime Box and build a huge barn to house the agency. This literal interpretation of "back to agriculture" proved to me what I was afraid of — even Texans underestimate the impact of Texas agriculture today.

Sure, Texas agriculture is the raw production power found in rural Texas, but it's also HEB, Blue Bell ice cream and Pace picante sauce. It's trucking companies, textile mills, livestock pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology research

firms and a thousand other jobs and industries that drive Texas' economy. Texas agriculture is the state's number two industry, employing one out of every five Texans. Something this big and this important isn't stopped by city limits or barbed wire fences. It pushes past the imaginary boundaries established by ivory tower dwellers and sends the lifeblood pulsing through the heartland.

The heartland of our state is important to me because it's home. It's where I learned about right and wrong, personal integrity and commitment.



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## Anglers tell secrets of spinnerbait

By BILL SCHULZ  
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Anglers make a big mistake by accepting the spinnerbaits they find on cards at tackle shops, says top bass fisherman Jimmy Houston.

The bait you buy is only a starter kit. Make the bait fit your fishing conditions.

"People seem to have a tendency in their mind to accept the spinnerbait as it was manufactured," Houston says. "Everybody builds their baits the same way. Everybody's quarter-ounce spinnerbaits will have little bitty blades on them. Everybody's one-ounce spinnerbait has big blades on them."

But you don't have to fish them that way.

Play mix and match and make your own spinnerbait for conditions you are fishing. All it takes is a pair of needle-nose pliers.

To make a small spinnerbait to fish 10 feet or so deep, don't take a little one-quarter ounce bait, "move up to a half-ounce or five-eighths-ounce bait and put a small blade and a small skirt on it," Houston says.

"You then have a small spinnerbait, but you have a spinnerbait you can effectively fish very, very deep."

If the fish are sluggish, such as in the spring before the water warms up, you want a big bait that falls very slowly.

"You can take again a really tiny spinnerbait like a three-16ths ounce, but a big blade, a big skirt, a big trailer on it and now you have the big bait, but one that will fall very slowly because of the lead size," Houston says.

He said he fishes three basic color combinations — blue and chartreuse, chartreuse and white and solid white — with a little bit of red somewhere.

The most common spinnerbaits come with either one or two blades.

Houston said a two-blade spinnerbait gives more flash, making it easier for the fish to see. A one-blade bait vibrates more, sending pulses fish feel.

"I believe in clearer water you need more flash than you do vibration. In murky water, you need quite a bit of vibration," Houston says.

Another thing blades do is allow the angler to control a bait's speed.

A lighter bait with a large blade can be retrieved slowly on the surface.

That slow retrieve is important.

Under most conditions, fish won't strike at a bait that is rocking through the water.

"One of the things I believe in spinnerbait fishing is when you go through a strike zone area is to have that bait running as slowly as possible," Houston says.

"When I'm where I think I'm going to get a bite, that bait is not moving very fast. Sometimes you have got to actually stop it."

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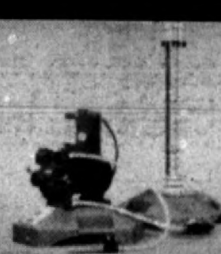
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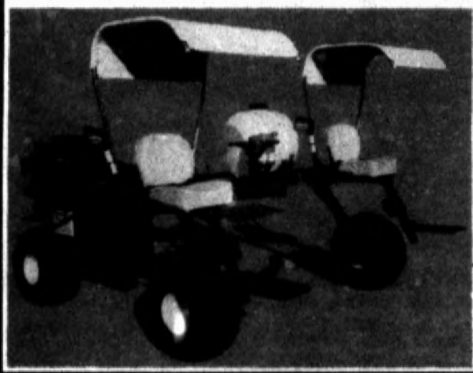
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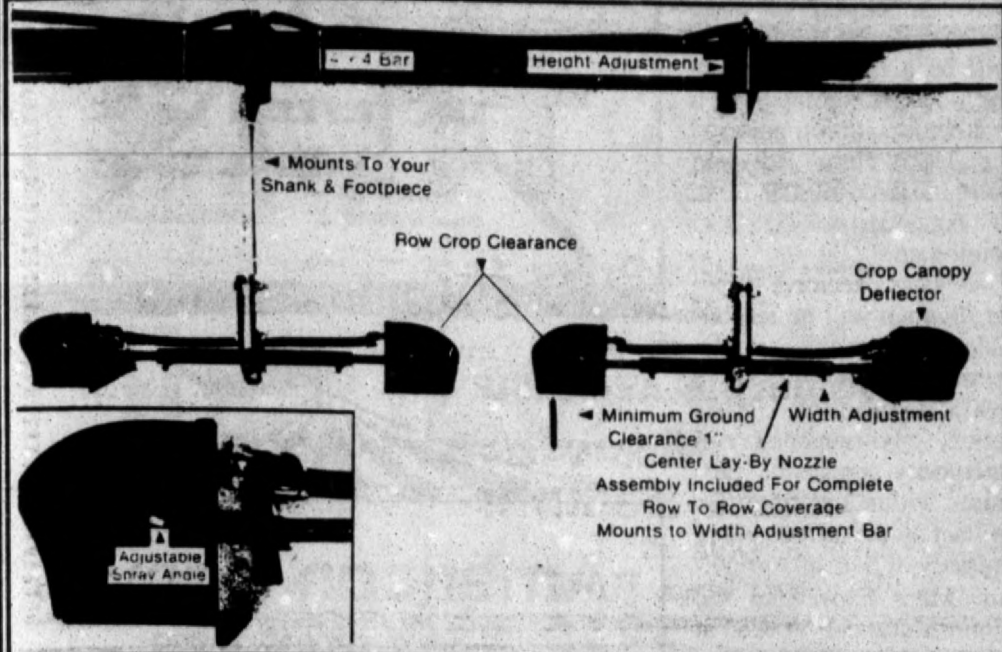
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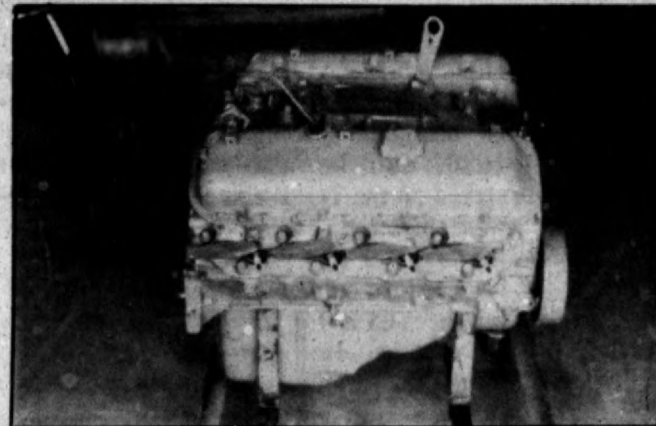
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# Hart farmer is ASCS state director

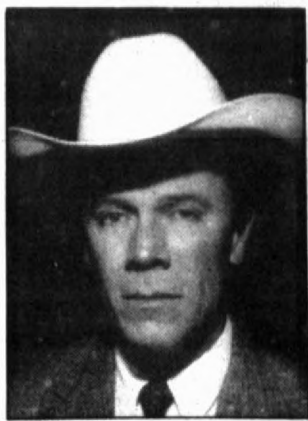
Hart farmer Harold Bob Bennett has been appointed the new state executive director for the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

Bennett officially took over as head of the ASCS Tuesday and he has moved to College Station (where ASCS state headquarters is located).

Bennett said he plans to maintain his farming interests in Hart. During his absence, Bennett said his two brothers will run the family's farming operation, which includes about 4,500 acres of farmland, some grassland and some cattle.

"My family has been very supportive in helping me reach the decision to accept the appointment," Bennett said. "Without their support, I couldn't have pursued this. I know it's going to cause them some hardship, especially with running the family business."

Bennett feels his farming experience was one factor in his earning the appointment, along with his experience working as Amarillo District Director for Texas Dept. of Agriculture (TDA), his work with the Texas Corn Producers



Harold Bob Bennett  
... State ASCS chief

Board (TCPB) and his membership on the Democratic National Committee.

He is a graduate of Hart High School and he attended Texas Tech University. He has been farming since 1970, and he also has served on the TCPB since it was chartered. He worked for TDA for two years and has been executive assistant for the TCPB for the past 20 months. He also has served on various local, civic, church and school boards.

Bennett was first contacted about submitting an application for the ASCS state executive director's posi-

tion last November, but says he wasn't interested at that time. He was approached again in January, but still declined the offer to submit an application.

Then in late January it was decided that the position would only be offered to someone not directly involved with ASCS operations. After that decision was made, Bennett again was asked to submit an application. This time he agreed.

"I didn't initially pursue this appointment because I'm totally happy doing what I'm doing—I enjoy farming and working for Texas Corn Producers," Bennett said. "That's one of the reasons I said no at first."

"When they decided to go outside the organization to hire a director, I thought I might as well try," Bennett said.

He said the challenge of being able to present some new ideas led him to accept the appointment.

"I think this will be a

great challenge. It will give me an opportunity to really have an impact on farm legislation. Hopefully that will be a favorable impact for Texas. It's going to be a real battle with formation of the 1995 Farm Bill and reorganization of US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) coming up."

As state executive director, Bennett will be responsible for planning, implementing and operating ASCS stabilization, conservation, environmental and emergency assistance programs within the state. He will act as the advocate and emissary of Sec. of Agriculture Mike Espy, and the administrator of ASCS at the state level.

Bennett said he will have a hand in drawing up the 1995 Farm Bill and says that could be the biggest issue he'll face.

"We will be able to make recommendations (on provisions) on the '95 Farm Bill. I think the impact we'll have on it will be as important as anything we'll do. There are 49 or 50 state directors who will have input, and with Texas' size and farming industry, we're going to have a lot of opportunity to make our recommendations."

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## State Extension Service Tells Money Saving; Cooling Tips

Everyone would like to save money on energy bills, but in the scorching heat of a Texas summer, staying cool is a priority, too. With a little preventative maintenance to your air conditioning system this spring, you can stay cool and still save money. The following tips from the Texas Energy Extension Service will help you prepare your air conditioning system for the summer.

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conditioning system this spring, you can stay cool and still save money. The following tips from the Texas Energy Extension Service will help you prepare your air conditioning system for the summer.

A good way to start is to insulate the air-conditioning ducts. Before you begin, tape any cracks or gaps and all the joints in the ductwork with duct tape. Then, wrap the ducts with two-to four-inch thick R11 insulation and secure with tape. Be sure the insulation has a vapor barrier.

Have your air conditioning unit inspected by a professional cooling service person before the warmest weather arrives.

You should also change the air filter seasonally and then once a month during

the summer. For more information on how to maintain your air conditioning unit or other ways to stay cool this summer, call the Texas Energy Hotline at 1-800-643-SAVE. The Texas Energy Extension Service is a public service program of the Governor's Energy Office.

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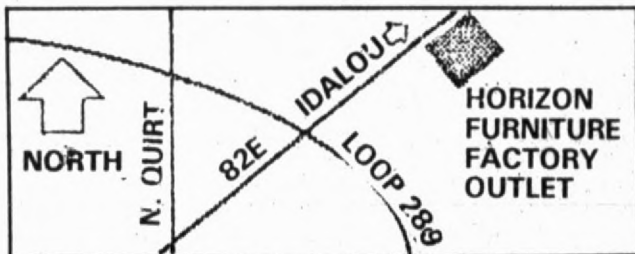
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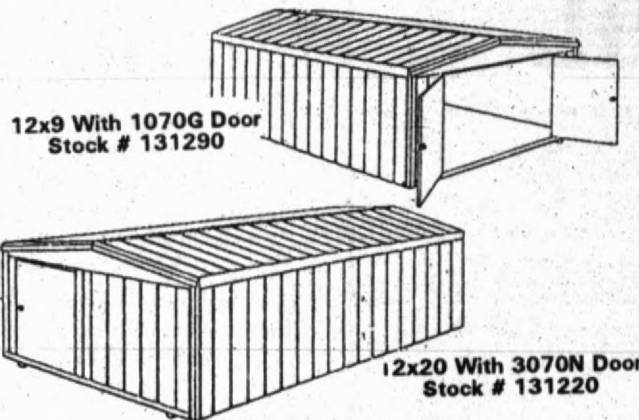
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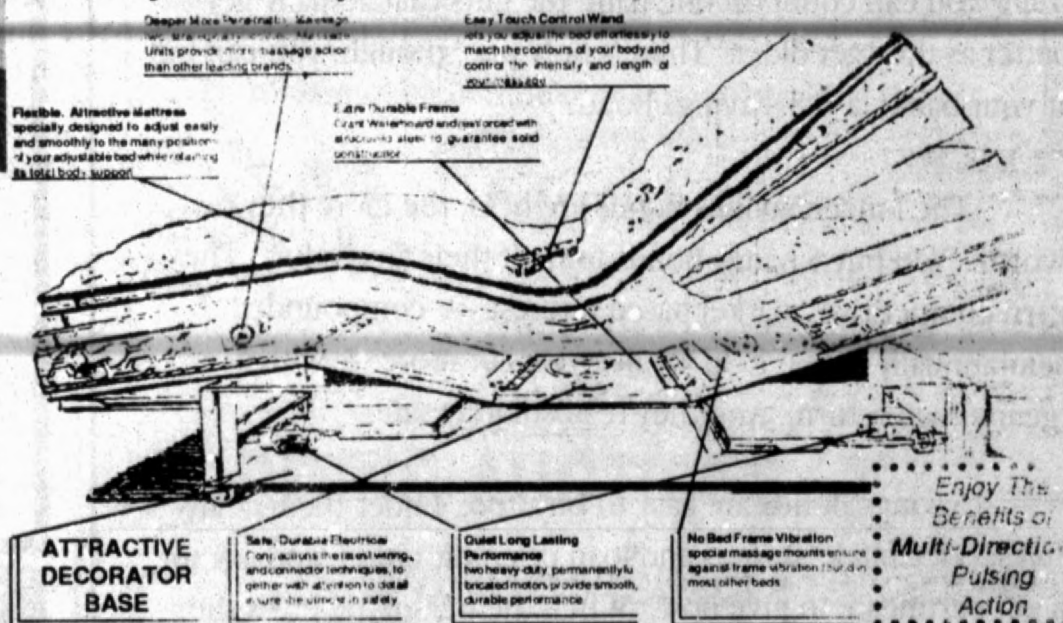
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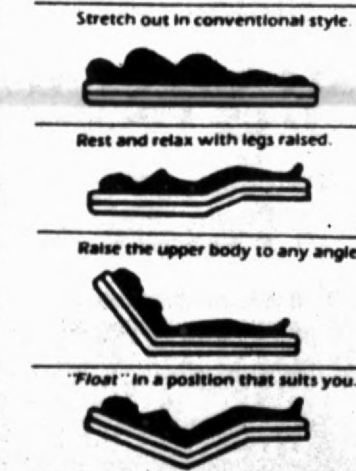
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We spend at least one-third of our lives in bed. That's why it is so important to have a bed that provides the maximum in comfort and health. That's right, health.

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- Back Ache
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THESE BENEFITS MAY BE ENJOYED WITHOUT THE SIDE EFFECTS SOMETIMES ASSOCIATED WITH PILLS, DRUGS, SALVES OR LOTIONS.