

WEST TEXAS Country Trader



The West Texas Country Trader is a supplement of:

Thursday, June 24, 1993

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

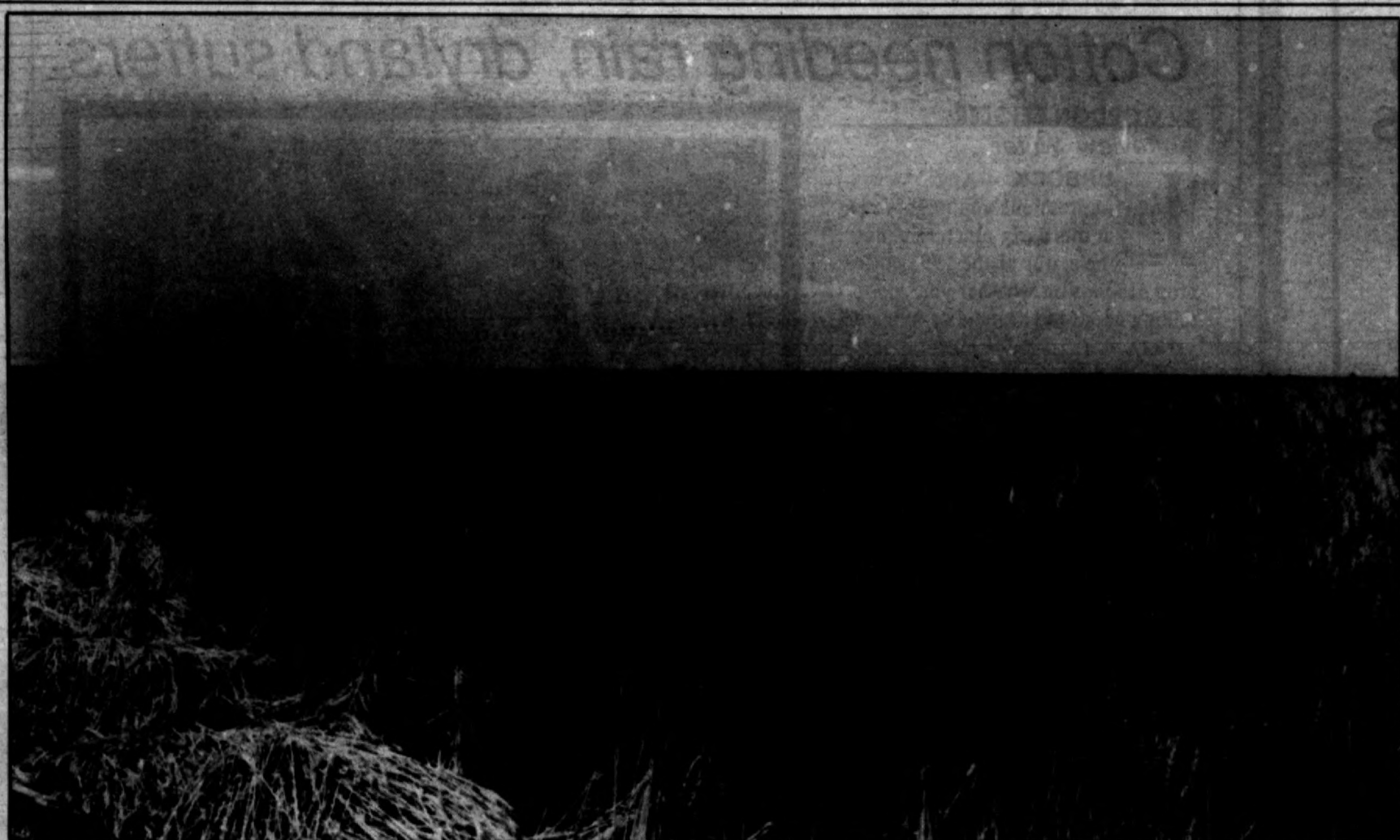
CLARENDON NEWS
Clarendon, Tx - Donley County
CASTRO COUNTY NEWS
Dimmit, Tx - Castro County

HEREFORD BRAND
Hereford, Tx - Deaf Smith County
HOCKLEY COUNTY NEWS
Lvelland, Tx - Hockley County

LAMB COUNTY LEADER
Littlefield, Tx - Lamb County
LORENZO EXAMINER
Lorenzo, Tx - Crosby County

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

BLATON BLATONITE
Blanton, Tx - Lubbock County
TULIA HERALD
Tulia, Tx - Swisher County



Amber waves of grain

While many picture-perfect Texas Plains wheat fields like this one have been cut, others await a late June harvest.

The 'Fourth' minus one in Canyon

The 1993 Independence Day Celebration in Canyon will be on July 3rd, and follows the theme, "Youth: The Future of Our Nation."

The schedule begins at 7 a.m. with the traditional Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast.

The remainder of the day will follow the following schedule:

- 10 a.m. — Bicycle contest and patriotic ceremony.

- 11 a.m. — Parade with Bar-B-Que following.

- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. — Arts and Crafts booths and entertainment on the square featuring musical dancers from "T.E.X.A.S."

- Evening activities in Conner Park

- Dusk — Firework display.

Those interested in booths may call Martha Hester at 655-1597, 655-4294 or 655-0366.

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PULSE & BANKING SERVICES • BUS SERVICE

The Square



AgReview



Calendar Ag News

June 27 - July 2

4-H SHOOTING SPORTS OLYMPIC — The 4-H Shooting Sports Junior Olympic Camp at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio.

July 3

HALE CENTER CENTENNIAL ROPING — A Centennial Team Roping contest — coinciding with the city's 100th birthday — has been set for July 3 to benefit the Hale Center FFA. It will be a 15x15 Round Robin tournament, \$100 per man/progressive after one head.

Information is available from Brian Patterson or Danny Ivy. Roping in pastures and rangeland may be aided by approval of Ally, a broadleaf herbicide.

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 TRACTOR SHOW AND PLAYDAY — 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 & TRACTOR PARADE — A parade featuring tractors at 10 a.m. in the downtown area will highlight the day's festivities. For information, contact Preston Reeves, 562-4381.

Cotton needing rain, dryland suffers

By GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview Writer

LUBBOCK — Any impressions you might draw at this early juncture about the status of the 1993 cotton crop depends on whether you're talking about the dryland or irrigated variety.

While things looked extremely favorable on irrigated acres at mid-June, dryland producers in some areas were feeling the sting of dry conditions — and some dryland acres were being viewed as lost for all practical purposes.

"The irrigated crop is doing extremely well," observed Texas Tech's Dr. Dan Krieg, professor of plant physiology.

Cotton plants receiving ample irrigation water, or dryland crops catching some timely rains, have benefitted.

The latest round of rains on the South Plains last Thursday and Friday had potential to put the crop in much better shape. Rain totals Thursday ranged from over a half inch in Plainview to more than an inch in the Kress area — and forecasts called for more rain through Friday, just what the crop is needing right now.

So far as the crop development, textbook conditions, including warm days and warm evenings recently have set up the ideal growing scenario for the 1993 crop.

But while things appear great for irrigated acres, prospects for much of the dryland crop appear dismal.

The bulk of the problem is centered on acres southeast of a line from Olton to Levelland and Brownfield — appears to be losing the battle to stay alive, says Krieg. Some that failed to snap out of the drought have already been zeroed out for insurance purposes. Farmers there may soon plant a catch crop.

Recent estimates have shed some light on the scope of the dryland situation. Lost acres could range from 250,000 acres to as high as 750,000 acres, according to Krieg.

Lack of rainfall has put pressure



SQUARING COTTON — A stand of irrigated cotton in the mid-South Plains region shows good growth progress.

on some marginally-irrigated farms as well.

"Farms with limited water, where you prewatered and have waited a month to six weeks without any rain, the cotton is going to need a drink pretty quick," Krieg said.

"Sprinklers are being turned on, lots are running now," Krieg said.

Krieg traced the growing season to date, one which got off to a slow start due to cool temperatures in early May.

"We were pretty short (on heat units) the first two weeks of May," he said. "Since then, we have had some not-so-extremely hot days in the 88 to 90s, and nights have warmed up and are staying in the 60s now. So the plant is doing all it can do."

Cotton planted around May 10 had received 430 to 450 heat units as of June 15, Krieg reported.

"It's at the 6 to 7 leaf stage and is

starting to square," Krieg said. "That is where it is supposed to be about now."

There has been some question about the appearance of some conventionally-tilled acres, where plants do not seem as tall as they should be.

"But these have the proper number of nodes and leaves, and are still at the proper developmental stage," he said.

Krieg remained pessimistic about prospects for dryland acres in western counties.

"Unless they are getting rain, I don't think there is a dryland crop out there," he said.

He cited the poor appearance of some of the dryland plants, saying some were in "bad shape."

"You've got spotty stands, sick plants that got up and that is about as

See RAIN, Page 9

Cotton plentiful, with no relief in sight

The latest worldwide figures on cotton supplies provide continued support for the "bears." Cotton is plentiful with no relief in sight from the sluggish market.

Expectations for world production and consumption in 1993-94 are balanced at about 87 million bales. This makes for another season of big supplies and a stagnant market situation. World consumption has been stable for the last five years as economic activity in foreign countries has been sagging. As a result, U.S. exports have been reduced. However, domestic use has increased to the highest level in 40 years.

As expected, the June report reduced 1992-93 exports by 300,000 bales to 5.4 million and increased expected 1993-94 shipments by a like amount of 6.3 million. Ending stocks for the new crop remain at 5.7 million. That is a burdensome 34 percent stocks-to-use (s/u) level. It com-



COTTON MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Carl Anderson

pared with an upward revised 31 percent for this season and 23 percent in 1991/92. Foreign s/u stands at a high 43 percent, down slightly from 45 percent this year and 49 percent in 1991/92.

Market Looking to June 30 Acreage

The market will now focus largely on the June 30 acreage report. If acreage is more than the March intentions of 13.43 million, it will be more bearish news. But, because of huge supplies, 50,000 to 100,000 fewer acres would only offer minor support. Indications suggest acreage may fall slightly higher around 13.5 million. Although price is low, given the 72.9 cent target price and possible marketing loan deficiency payments, cotton is a better income alternative than grain and soybeans for many producers.

Texas acreage may be around 5.7 million, up slightly from 5.5 in 1992-93. With good rains, California has increased water available for irrigation. The Delta area is

See COTTON, Page 9

Rural development and housing are big priorities

By MIKE ESPY

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

As a Congressman from Mississippi, I was always cognizant of rural issues, whether they concerned business development, jobs, health care, housing or education.

Rural issues were my number one priority as I represented the Mississippi Delta, one of the poorest districts in America. So when President Clinton asked me to be Secretary of Agriculture, I couldn't pass up an opportunity to help make rural issues a priority for this administration.

President Clinton and I have a long history of working together to address the economic revitalization of rural communities. I know he



ESPY

is committed to rural development and making sure rural communities are not left behind as America enters the 21st Century.

We know our world has changed but in many ways our government has not. I want to assure rural families that I intend for the Department of Agriculture to be America's leading catalyst for rural development.

Recently President Clinton unveiled the Economic Empowerment Act of 1993. This represents a new approach to addressing the problems of distressed communities — both urban and rural. It gives local communities the incentives, deregulation and flexibility they need to work with the private sector to develop comprehensive economic strategies. The proposal calls for creating 30 rural enterprise communities and three empowerment zones.

Both the enterprise communities and the empowerment zones will qualify for tax incentives and special priority for federal programs. Further, the empowerment zones will qualify for additional tax incentives and employment and training credits for businesses that employ people who live within the

zones.

Besides the rural inclusion in the Economic Empowerment Act, here are some of the other rural concerns and ideas I hope to emphasize as Secretary of Agriculture:

- With the 1994 budget, we have proposed almost \$2 billion more for rural economic development. Job one will be putting rural America back to work. We want to invest more in loans, grants and technical assistance to give small businesses a boost in starting up or hiring more employees.

- We need to invest more in water and waste disposal assistance for smaller communities struggling to comply with the Clean Water Act.

- We have to rethink how we fight rural poverty. It's time for new strategies like community development banks, which would grant loans to rural entrepreneurs and work with them to start businesses. Other strategies needing attention include welfare reform, individual development accounts, employee stock ownership plans and microenterprise lending.

- Real rural development means getting more people in Washington to understand the

rural housing crisis. There are more than 1.4 million substandard housing units in rural America. We plan to invest nearly half of the rural development budget on housing to finance 108,000 new units. That's 27 percent more than last year and one of the largest increases ever.

- We plan to focus on rural health care needs unique to rural communities. Sometimes a family must travel 100 miles or more to get a child vaccinated or to get needed emergency care in a hospital. President Clinton is committed to proposing a health care plan, that will provide reasonably-priced, high-quality health care to everyone, including those who live in rural America.

- We need to modernize telecommunications capabilities in rural communities — to give businesses, health care providers, educators and students access to computer services across America. Vice President Al Gore's technology program emphasizes the newest technology so all Americans can move ahead into the 21st Century. There is no need for rural Americans to pay more for computer

See ESPY, Page 5

South Plains Ag News

Sorghum yield contest

ABERNATHY — Texas grain sorghum growers have an opportunity to compete with fellow producers in the 1993 Grain Sorghum Yield & Management contest, according to Frances Thompson, newsletter editor of the National Grain Sorghum Producers Association.

"Entries must be postmarked at least 30 days prior to harvest to be eligible," notes Thompson.

The competition has two categories: irrigated and non-irrigated.

More than one family member may enter, but each must be a NGSPA member. At least five acres must be set aside for the entry. The field entered must have been owned or leased by the contestant. More than one field may be entered, but each field represents a separate entry. Seed variety must be designated.

The contestant will be judged on the number of bushels by which his yield exceeds the five-year county average as determined by USDA.

More information is available by calling Thompson at 806-298-2543.

July 17

SWISHER COUNTY PICNIC — A parade at 10 a.m. and the traditional noon barbecue will highlight this annual celebration. Old tractors will be part of the parade, which begins lining up at 9 a.m.

July 24 & 25

WESTERN WHEATLAND GREEN & YELLOW EXPO — Old tractor buffs from Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma will gather for a salute to the old tractor. Featured model this year is the John Deere Model D. Machines from 1923, 24 still needed. Jim Cole, Rt. 2, Seliing, OK, 73663, is show coordinator.

Farmers fighting the pesky cotton aphid

By LARRY BINZ

Texas Agriculture Magazine

LUBBOCK — Since the cotton aphid has become both an agronomic and economic menace to West Texas farmers in recent years, the Extension Service has put together a management program designed to deal with the problem.

"A Cotton Aphid Task Force is working to assist farmers through the coordination of research and education efforts," noted Dr. Jim Leser, an Extension entomologist.

Leser was one of several speakers at the annual Texas Cotton Ginners Association meeting recently.

Leser offered producers several suggestions for handling their aphid problem.

"These suggestions incorporate current knowledge of aphid biology and ecology, cultural management practices and insecticide resistance management," the Extension specialist noted.

Foremost on Leser's advisory list is the preferred planting dates in West Texas for better aphid management.

"Aphid numbers during August are higher in late June-planted cotton than cotton planted either in April or May in all of the (three West Texas) production regions," Leser pointed out.

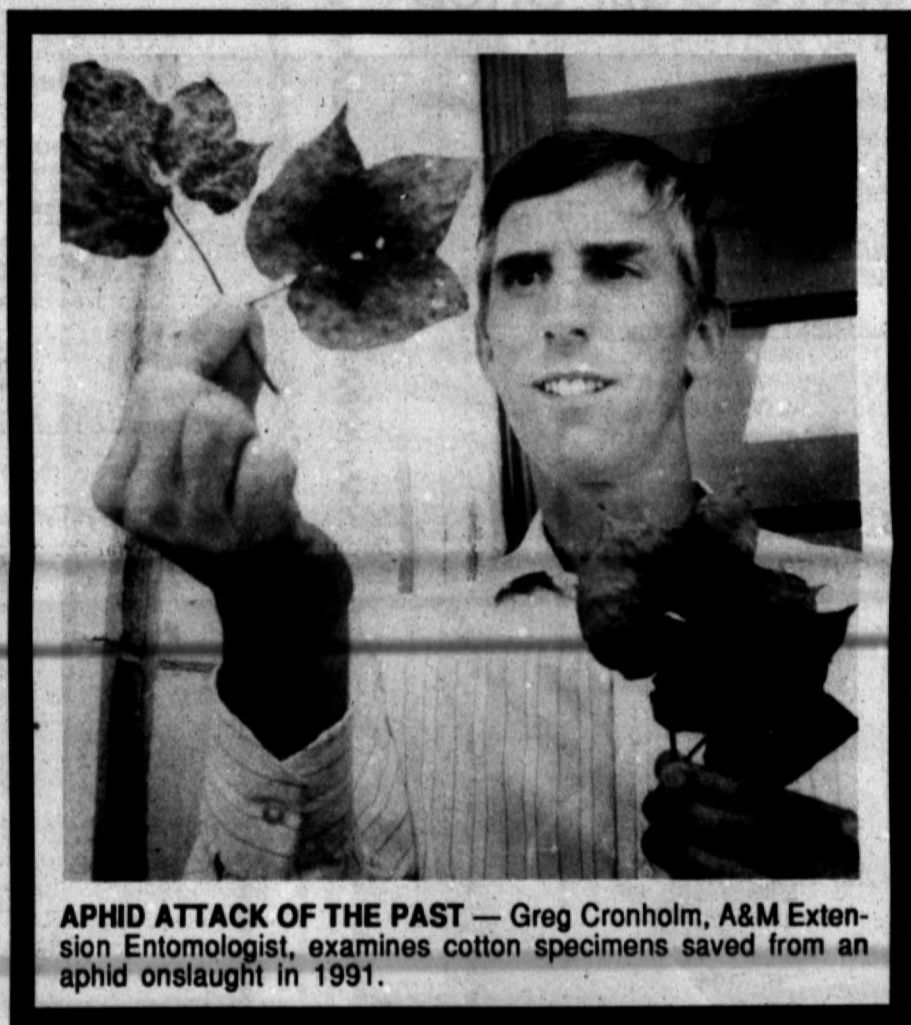
Leser noted that where practical, land preparation should have been done during April to allow farmers to get their fields ready for planting — particularly in May and June.

Leser said research has shown that aphid numbers tend to be lower on varieties with the smooth-leaf characteristics.

He suggested that aphids tend to thrive best in clean-till or conventional-till production systems rather than infields where cotton is planted with wheat or grain sorghum residue.

Using high quality seed is recommended and just enough seed to provide a uniform stand of 3-4 plants per foot or row for dryland production and 3-5 plants per foot of row for irrigated production, Leser stressed.

While nitrogen is essential to proper plant growth, Leser said it could become too much of a good thing.



APHID ATTACK OF THE PAST — Greg Cronholm, A&M Extension Entomologist, examines cotton specimens saved from an aphid onslaught in 1991.

"Avoid excessive nitrogen levels. Base your fertilizer use on realistic yield goals," Leser stated.

Keeping insecticide use to a minimum has become a recommended cultural practice, Leser pointed out.

"Insecticides reduce predators and parasites which contribute to natural control of cotton aphids," the Extension specialist advised.

Leser considers early applications of insecticides not only unnecessary but unwise since insects tend to build up resistance to the chemicals throughout the season.

Since most aphid infestations reach their peaks after mid-August, Leser suggested that 50 aphids per leaf call for "intensifying scouting efforts," but do not necessarily signal an economic threshold.

The 50 aphids per leaf level could mean either that extensive economic damage may occur, requiring insecticide control, or that the number of aphids will soon decline.

"Scouting fields at this point is very important," Leser stressed.

Ovicides, organophosphates and carbamates should be applied where

necessary prior to boll set, Leser emphasized.

"When a pyrethroid is used for bollworm control and cotton aphid numbers exceed 50 per leaf and are rapidly increasing, add a full recommended rate of an effective aphicide," Leser stated.

Since aphids develop on both the undersides of leaves and those leaves near the bottom of the plant, a thorough top-to-bottom coverage with an insecticide is vital, Leser advised.

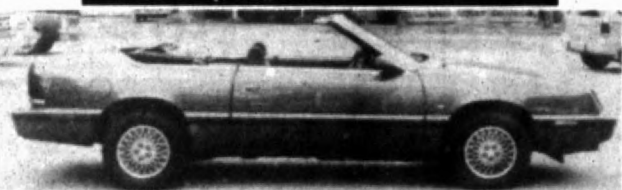
He recommended a minimum of 10 gallons of total spray volume per acre for ground equipment and 3-5 gallons total spray volume per acre by aerial application.

Leser strongly advised producers to consult their area Extension entomologist since resistance to insecticides varies by region.

"There can also be considerable seasonal variation in aphid susceptibility to aphicides," he observed.

(This article Larry Binz is reprinted from *Texas Agriculture*, the monthly publication of the Texas Farm Bureau. Larry is Field Editor)

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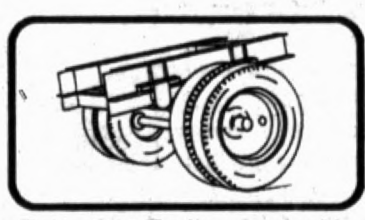
Carpet Pole - Yale Forklift
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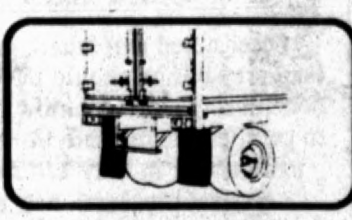
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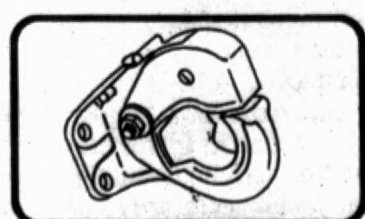
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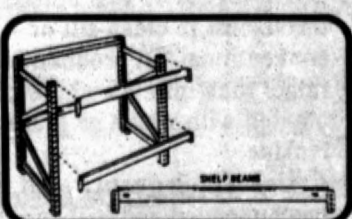
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ESPY

From Page 3

services than the rest of the country.

The USDA has, in many ways, lost touch with rural communities. We plan to reinvent the USDA to make it more user and taxpayer-friendly. We have begun reorganizing the Department in Washington. We plan to reorganize our field offices to operate more efficiently with less red tape. We have already suspended FmHA foreclosures pending review, increased the Farmer-Owned Reserve to the highest allowable level and proposed in the 1994 budget a consolidated system of "one-stop shopping" for our farmer service agencies. In addition, I will continue to fight for my own personal goal of increasing farm income.

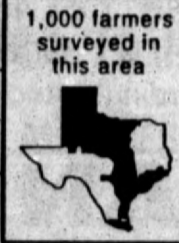
If we are going to succeed as a nation, we must remember that our chain of prosperity is only as strong as its weakest link. Through no fault of its own, rural America has been the weak link. As the president has said so often, "We are all in this together." That is why we are all working together to ensure that rural America will have an opportunity to play a major role in the economic revitalization of this nation.

Texas farmers' opinions on current environmental policies



Percentage of farmers who agreed with these positions

The number of environmental provisions in future farm programs will increase over the current level	82%
Environmental provisions of the farm program are written by and for urban residents	80%
Government involvement is a cause of problems in agriculture	70%
The government should leave environmental provisions completely out of the farm program	52%
Environmental provisions are more for appearance than impact	40%



Source: Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
Graphic: Agricultural Communications, The Texas A&M System

(Secretary Espy's guest editorial was written for the June-July, 1993 issue of *Grange Today*, published by the National Grange. The bi-monthly publication circulates to 30,000 grange officers in 36 states. The Grange is the nation's first general farm organization formed in 1867 and having 3,000 chapters and 300,000 members.)

Canner pressure testing set

As canning season nears, the Texas A&M Extension service plans canner test clinics in Littlefield, Olton and Sudan to allow housewives to check out home canning equipment. June 28: Ag Center, Olton, 2 to 4 p.m. More information is available by calling 385-4004.

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Young farmer loan legislation enacted

AUSTIN — Gov. Ann Richards signed into law last week a bill that would establish the Young Farmer Loan Guarantee Program (YFGP). The bill, sponsored by Sen. Bill Sims (D-San Angelo) and Rep. Pete Patterson (D-Brookston), would establish guaranteed loans for eligible applicants not to exceed \$50,000 or 90 percent of the total loan amount. "I applaud the efforts of Sims and Patterson in sponsoring this bill," Gov. Richards stated. "HB 1287 is a vital piece of legislation for the future of the

agriculture industry in Texas," the governor continued. "It will provide young farmers with the funds they need to build a prosperous future for themselves and add to the economic base of Texas." Sen. Sims added, "The program gives young men and women a chance for a career in agriculture that they might not have had otherwise." Echoing Sims comments, Rep. Patterson stated, "This legislation gives young people the opportunity to buy enough land to have a base in agriculture."

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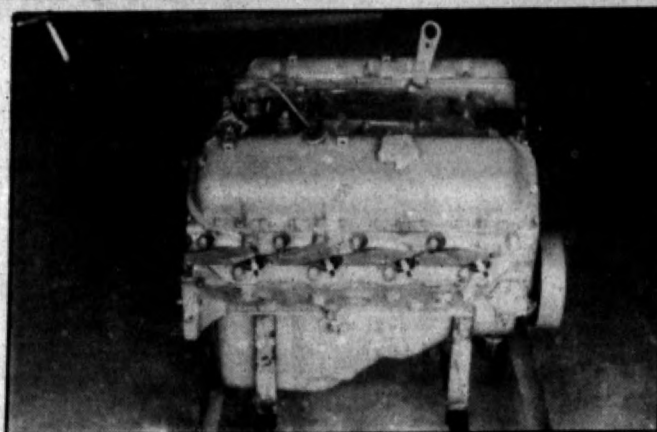
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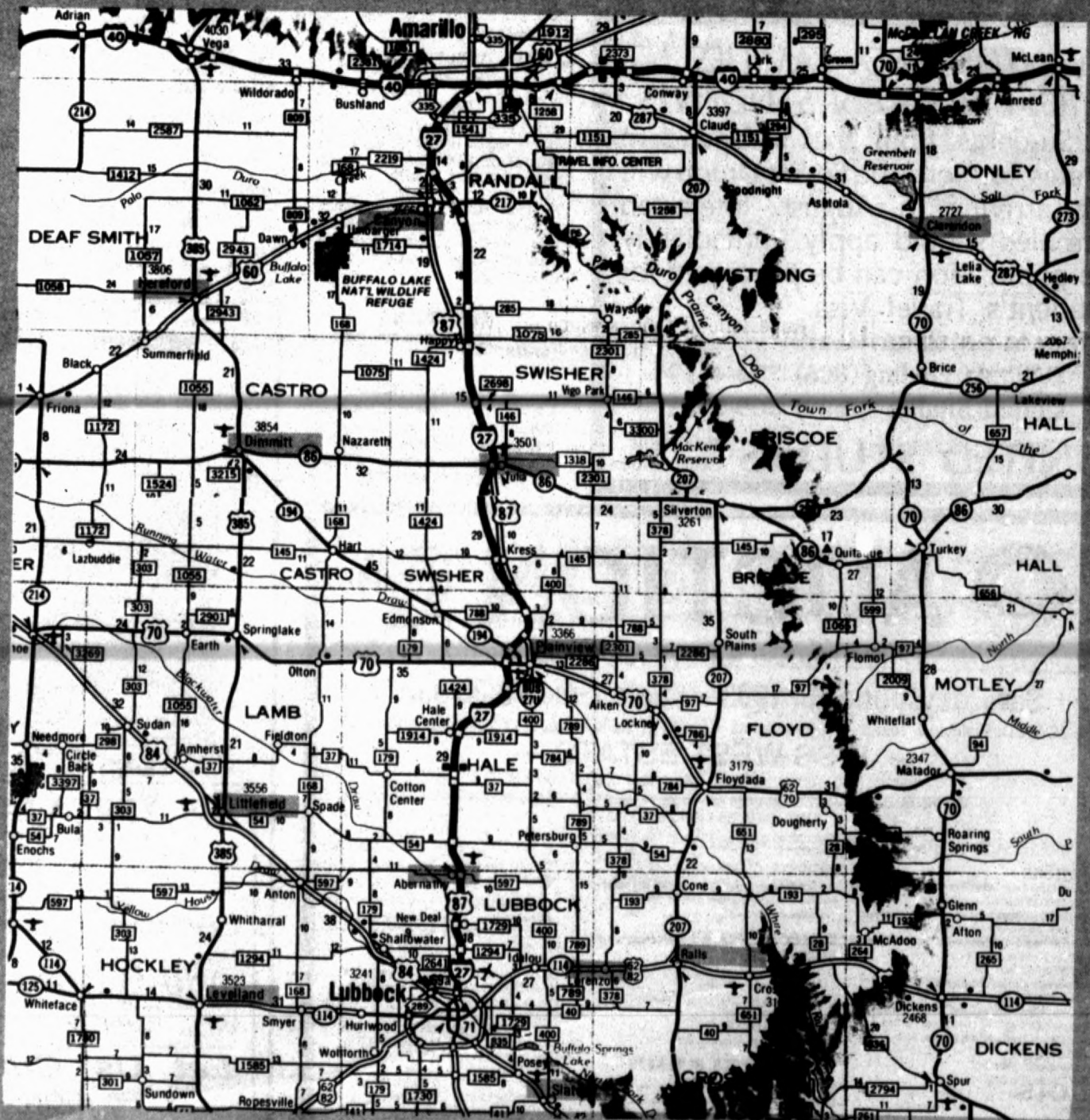
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COTTON

From Page 3

off to a fair start and the Southeast is okay. A little more acreage is expected than last year, especially in the Southeast.

Supply-Demand Balance
The large cotton supply will have to be reduced, or perhaps expectations of reduced stocks are needed, before a sustained market rally can be expected. Increased exports are the key to the U.S. market. For this to happen, foreign countries will need to produce less and increase usage more. The main unknowns for 1992-93 are the amount of cotton in China and the Former Soviet Union.

Forward delivery certificates at 6.63 cents per pound to exporters on almost 5 million bales for delivery of 1993 cotton after September 30 may depress world prices. But, the certificates should boost exports. This could weaken the "A" Index and cause the adjusted world price (AWP) to be lower than it would have been otherwise and the payment larger.

Big Crop, Low Price
The 1993 cotton market is following price movements typical of a "big" crop season. When the market expects abundant supplies, it peaks early and trends downward until after harvest. December '92 futures peaked at 64.25 last summer and reached a slightly lower high in

March this year. Since the crop is off to a good start, the possibility of tight supplies is diminished, the volatile weather market fades, and a calmer demand driven market takes over. Low prices early in the season encourage domestic use and provide a competitive price that tends to increase exports. Prices usually bottom early and then gradually edge upward.

Pricing the crop at this time is difficult because the changes are gradual and not very favorable. The CCC loan, then, becomes the main pricing alternative.

What Loan Alternative to Use?

With the marketing loan provisions, the CCC loan offers several alternatives such as placing cotton in the loan and seeking an offer to buy cotton. The offer will depend on the AWP level relative to loan rate and its expected direction.

The other main alternative is to hold cotton out-

side loan hoping for a sizable marketing loan deficiency payment or "producer optional payment" (POP). This depends entirely on level of "A" Index and resulting AWP relative to loan rate. Of course, the lower the AWP is under loan, the bigger the marketing loan gain. But, with world stocks slightly lower than last year, the world price may be somewhat stronger.

Government Programs
The House Budget Committee has recommended to increase non-paid program acreage to 20 percent from 15 percent, starting with the 1994 crop, to reduce program costs. This is another step toward decoupling farm prices from income support.

There are other program changes and associated implications that should be considered. Why are the "flex" program and non-paid acreage provisions tied together? The flexible acreage program virtually assures low market prices

for all program crops that are grown in the same area. Producers in mainly a one crop area have a disadvantage in that it is not economically feasible to plant another crop regardless of price. As a result, government costs go up and farm income from the market not only goes down but tends to stay down. Low prices have not increased exports in recent times.

When the "flex" program was introduced, cotton prices were relatively strong. They dropped the next year and remain low. Exports have decreased since the 1990/91 crop. Individual producers without government involvement stand little chance to compete against heavily subsidized foreign agricultural production and exports.

Low levels of ARP have produced low prices and big government costs. If the government cost is unacceptable, even though the total outlay is only a fraction of 1 percent of the Fed-

eral Budget, then higher ARP levels are necessary to assist in supply management.

However, overlooked is the fact that government payments generate substantial business benefits and government revenues because more taxes are paid on the added economic activity and jobs created by the payments. Cotton is a capital intensive commodity to grow and process that generates a substantial

return in tax benefits to local, state and national budgets through the economic multiplier effect.

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

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RAIN

From Page 1

far as they got," he said. "I saw a lot of acres around Whiteface which were planted, but did not come up."

While these western counties have lost acres to dryness, a few others have suffered from too much rain.

Krieg referred to acres in southern Dawson County which were inundated by up to a 6-inch rain deluge.

In the middle of that extreme were dryland farms stretching from Ropesville to Tahoka which received .75 of an inch or more, and extreme southern Hale County, around Abernathy and south of Cotton Center, which received over half an inch, while escaping a strip of Hale that destroyed plants along FM 54.

As the year progresses, Krieg said area cotton experts are watching at least one technological phenomenon in the cotton industry.

That surrounds the use of the new HS200 variety — only in its second year of production — in the region from Lubbock County north.

"The variety is ideally suited to the short growing season and good irrigation," he said. "We haven't had the best of years for seed quality — in 1991 and 92 — and we have some relatively low vigor seed this season. But this year will give us a chance to see how it responds."

(Dr. Dan Krieg is Texas Tech University Professor of Crop Physiology, specializing in water management in grain sorghum and cotton, genetic improvement and water use efficiency.)

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Nazareth German Fest July 10

Reservations are being accepted for those who wish to rent space at the Nazareth Art Club's arts and crafts show, which will be held in conjunction with the annual German Festival on Saturday, July 10.

The show will be held in the school cafeteria from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on July 10 and those reserving space will be allowed to begin setting up their exhibits at 7:30 a.m. that day.

The 8 x 10-foot booths will include a table and two chairs and will rent for \$15. When reserving a booth, exhibitors are asked to specify whether they prefer a wall or center booth and they must include a description of items which will be on display.

Booths will be assigned on a first-come basis and deadline for reserving booths will be July 3.

Those interested should contact Lucille Drerup, P.O. Box 3, Nazareth 79063, phone 945-2562; or Rose Mary Wilhelm, HCR 2, Box 13, Nazareth 79063, phone 945-2583.

Other highlights of the celebration will be the annual German sausage dinner, Suds and Sounds concert and dance, performances by Sky Tone (a barbershop quartet) and the Texas Cloggers, games and more.

The annual German sausage meal will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Nazareth Community Hall.

During the meal, Sky Tone and the Cloggers are scheduled to perform.

The Maines Brothers Band will headline a host of performers at the annual Suds and

Sounds concert, which will begin at 4 p.m. at the Nazareth Community Center, located east of town on Highway 86. Proceeds from the concert

will benefit the Nazareth Community Hall and the Texas Deaf Program, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and Nazareth's Rough Riders band.

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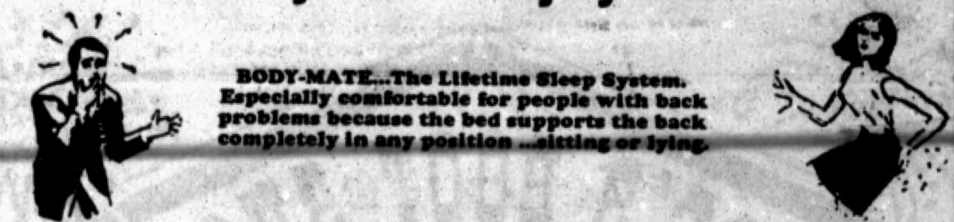
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