

ABERNATHY WEEKLY REVIEW Abernathy, Tx - Hale County CANYON NEWS

Canyon, Tx - Randall County

CASTRO COUNTY NEWS

Tops on that list are men's

and boy's shirts, 1.4 million

bales; men's and boys' trous-

ers and shorts, 1.3 million

bales; towels and wash

cloths, 1 million; drapery,

upholstery and slip cover fabrics, 700,000 bales; and

boys' underwear, 700,000

Other uses include

women's slacks and jeans,

600,000 bales; sheets and pil-

lowcases, 500,000 bales;

women's blouses and shirts,

300,000 bales; retail piece

goods, 200,000 bales; and

children's slacks, dungarees and jeans, 200,000 bales.

Wrinkle-free cotton pants

will join denim and T-shirts

on the popularity parade by

year's end, Howell predicted.

office workers to dress casu-

ally at least one day a week

may push that market along," he said.

"A national trend to allow

bales.

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

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

Cotton in record sales year, gains textile market share

By PHIL WEST

AP Business Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - Jim Howell's mind starts calculating every time he sees a music video performer wearing a fashionable T-shirt and jeans or boxer shorts.

That's nearly 15 ounces of cotton for jeans, five to six ounces for the T-shirt and about that much for the boxers.

The tally counts toward the record 9.9 million bales of cotton consumed in the United States last year, said Howell, senior market analyst for the National Cotton Council of America in Memphis, Tenn.

The casual wear trend pushed cotton's share of the U.S. apparel market from 62 percent in 1991 to 64 percent last year.

Jeans and T-shirts are pri-

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marily responsible, Howell

"It's the continuation of uphill gains cotton has been making in the market,"

Cotton Council research showed more than 877 million T-shirts were produced in 1992, 25 percent more than the year before.

More than 758 million of those cotton T-shirts were classified as men's and boys' though many were worn by girls and women.

"In the 1960s, polyester double knit was running crazy, and people were going nuts over easy wear, that type of thing. Cotton did reach a new low. But it's been growing. ... A new generation has become acquainted, and others have become reacquainted, to make the market grow like it has," Howell

after rice and wheat.

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Howell said.

Cotton consumption hit a account for 71 percent of cot-low of 5.4 million bales in ston use, Howell said. 1982, the last big year for polyester double knit, Howell

Consumption of staple cotton — the material used in apparel, home furnishings and industrial purposes rose from 36 percent of the U.S. textile market in 1991 to 37 percent last year.

"The textile industry had a very good year in 1992. It came back strongly from the recession," said David Link, chief economist for the American Textile Manufacturers Institute in Washington.

"Denim has been a very strong product in the past year or so, and most of denim is 100 percent cotton."

Cotton is the No. 3 crop in dollar value in Arkansas,

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Asgrow invites farmers to Sept. 2 field day

PLAINVIEW - Asgrow Seed Company has invited South Plains area farmers to a Field Day Thursday, Sept. 2, at its Southwest Business headquarters north of Plainview on Interstate 27, according to Jeff Thomas, division manager.

Hours of the field day are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"We plan to highlight our products we have available," explained Thomas.

Asgrow also will provide a noon hour address by Dr. John Bickel, field representative for Azteca Milling in Plainview, on food corn production.

Thomas said the field day address topic will change from year to year in an effort to provide latest information to growers on various current ag issues of interest locally.

Each year we will present something new, so we can pass along infomration for farmers that will help their business," Thomas said.

During the noon address, Asgrow will provide a free barbecue meal catered by Dyer's Barbecue of Amarillo.

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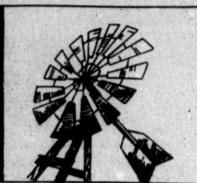


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AgReview



Sept. 15-19

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

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

Sept. 16-17

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

Oct. 3

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

Strong FFA program benefits the ag-inclined

■High school signs up 30 percent of student body in standout FFA chapter By GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview Writer

ALE CENTER - In a town like Hale Center, nestled in the heart of the South Plains ag region, you'd expect to see a strong interest in youth ag activities.

But finding 30 percent of the student body signed up in FFA, that's almost mind boggling. Out of approximately 140 in high school, a total of 42 are active in FFA.

Such a participation level may be seem surprising, yet the trend at Hale Center is similar to that in many other smaller ag-based towns in the region, believes Danny Ivy, Hale Center ag teacher and FFA chapter advisor for 18 years.

What we are doing is drawing kids that are not all actively involved in agriculture," explained Ivy. "And, a big drawing card in our area, is our county stock show. When we moved our county show from March to January several years ago the quality of our stock show doubled. It is tougher now, and very competitive."

Parental participation especially among some parents who are Ivy's own former students also boosts Hale Center Programs, Ivy said.

For example, Brian Patterson, a former student of Ivy's, has two children in the program and is an active booster. Harold Needham went through Ivy's FFA program, and is a loyal chapter booster, though his own children are not old enough to take part.

Hale Center's strong participation



FFA SCHOLARS - Aaron Rambo (left), Heather Isbell, Andrea Ahrens and Jennifer Ahrens were able to win scholarships through high school FFA activities.

in FFA activities as well as academics in general has reaped some tangible benefits for some of its seniors of 1992. Their activities and academics helping them qualify for valuable keys to the future, in the form of ag scholarships.

Aaron Rambo won a Wix Foundation \$1,000 FFA scholarship and a \$10,000 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship. He enters Texas A&M this fall to study landscaping management and horticulture.

Heather Isbell and Andrea Ahrens won \$1,000 Cargill Scholarships through the National FFA Foundation.

Jennifer, Heather and Andrea also won a \$250 Hale County Livestock Show scholarship and a \$500 scholarship went to Aaron Rambo, who won the county's lamb

showmanship honor in 1992.

Another indicator of success in FFA is the winning of the top national award — the American Farmer degree.

Last year that award went to Gregg Sherrod, a Hale Center ex studying ag communications.

This year, the Hale Center chapter has learned that the award will soon go to another ex, John Ivy, who an ag student at Clarendon College and member of the school's nationallyacclaimed livestock judging team.

Ivy knows of only two other Hale

Center students ever to win the national honor - Ronald Groves, whose daughter is an FFA student now, and Tommy Louthan.

For the past two summers in a row at least five students have been

See FFA, Page 6

Texans harvest rich life on the farm

Elite list wins the field

By WORTH WREN JR.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

She didn't ask for accolades.

Nancy Koehl, 34, doesn't have much time to think about publicity. In the Columbus-Alleyton area of Southeast Texas, the wife of hog and cattle farmer Kenneth Koehl has plenty of chores.

Koehl, who is pregnant with their third child, is finishing her master's degree in library science at Sam Houston State University. She teaches English to 85 high school seniors. And she's the librarian at a nearby junior high school.

Koehl, mother of 8-yearold daughter Erin and 6-year-old son Jacob, is also the farm's bookkeeper. She's using the computer

for both schoolwork and the farm's financial data plans soon to catalog the farm's extensive hog breeding records. And occasionally Koehl helps her husband and father-inlaw, Leslie Koehl, with hog farming chores.

The Koehls are among 26 farm and ranch families recognized recently in the fourth annual Fort Worth Star-Telegram Farm and Ranch Awards. The honors go to farmers and ranchers who are rated by agricultural experts as being among the most productive, innovative, hard-working and efficient in the state.

Lifeon Texas farms and ranches routinely takes the fast lane. The historical image of rural isolation doesn't fit today's realities. Just ask the women.

Family life, civic life, recreation and business get intermingled at Kay and Jody Bezner's Panhandle

Women fill many roles: worker, wife, mother. Those who work the earth take on even more responsibility, and some do it very well. . . .

farm home, 22 miles from the big town of Dalhart and 15 miles from the little town of Texline.

The Bezners are known for their cost-cutting and efforts to conserve water, soil, tillage and energy on irrigated fields. They raise feed corn for livestock, wheat and beef cattle on about 7,500 acres of owned and leased land.

"Jody has made his family the top priority, but he's also a workaholic farmer," says Kay Bezner, a former home economist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and a former schoolteacher. "It's intense

farming and family life, integrated, a full family partnership.

Kay Bezner, who is now a volunteer worker for a Dalhart latchkey-children's program, adds, "I haven't looked at being isolated as being a problem.

Having trekked the Texas stock show circuit with their three sons, Kay Bezner is also a volunteer to help 4-H youngsters showing livestock.

Ettie Ola "Boots" Bezner, Kay's mother-in-law, combines 4-H support with volunteer work at a Dalhart hospital, the Dalhart Chamber of Commerce and a loc-

al museum. She also works with her husband, A.J. "Doc" Bezner, 76, in his efforts to raise money for the Dalhart Senior Citizens Center.

Camille Bezner, Kay and Jody's daughter-in-law and wife of Michael Bezner, grew up helping her father and brother with farm and cattle chores and loves being on the farm. She's teaching 24 preschoolers, ages 3 and 4, at a Dalhart school.

She has joined in doing cattle chores with the Bezner men: Michael, 26; brothers Mitchel, 22, and Stephen, 18; and their father, Jody, 51. With her husband, she is restoring a classic old home in Dalhart.

Women have traditionally worked on and off the farm so the family could stay on the farm.

ly Cobb, the wives of dairly

farmers near Rio Vista in

Glenda, Jeanne and Kel-

Johnson County, are farm workers.

Glenda, wife of Jack Cobb. 60, handles bookkeeping and other family chores. Daughters-in-law Jeanne and Kelly often join their husbands, Byron and Craig Cobb, respectively, in feeding, hauling, milking and otherwise tending cows or driving tractors.

Marie Richardson, 61, one of Texas' best down-home cooks, also prefers to be working outside, parti-cularly on horseback, in far West Texas.

She helps on the 55,000 leased and owned acres where her husband, Rod Richardson, and daughter and son-in-law, Mike and Mary Jo Jernigan, run about 4,500 Rambouillet ewes and 1,750 lambs in the Pecos River country.

Understandably, the work isn't always pleasant,

See AWARDS, Page 7

Some TALL Texans

By GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview Writer

AMARILLO — What does it take to be a TALL

Randy Darnell, a Randall County farmer, is one of a select group of farmers, ranchers, bankers, lawyers and ag professionals — a group of 24 Texans aged 27 to 40 — who are part of the Texas A&M TALL-III class.

He joined his classmates recently during an intensive three-day tour of agri-industries, farms and ranches recent-

TALL is an A&M Extension Service-sponsored program to teach leadership skills to the state's future ag leaders. The TALL acronym stands for Texas Agricultural

About TALL:

The Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership program now has more than 100 applicants for its next class, according to John Sykes, TALL coordinator, who comments the acceptance process for the program, "is getting pretty competitive."

gram, "is getting pretty competitive."

Stated purpose of TALL is to prepare young men and women, dedicated to agriculture, for leadership.

TALL includes seminars with experts, on-site tours, meetings with business and government leaders, interntgional study and personal skills improvement.

It is funded by dedicated individuals and institutions thorugh private givts and grants. Participants pay a tuiton and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service provides administrative support.

. To date, 50 Texans have competed the extensive training program. These TALL alumnae often meet with current class members and serve as resource

Information concerning the program is available by contacting John E. Sykes, TALL Coordinator, at 809 University Drive East, College Station, 77843-2473. Phone is 409-845-1554. Fax is 409-845-6495.

Tall Chat: Randy
Darnell (left) of
Canyon and Jeff
Fairchild of Adrian
compare notes during
a recent gathering of
the Texas A&M
Extension ServiceSponsored gathering
of the TALL program
in the Texas Panhandle
earlier this month.



Lifetime Leadership.

Credentials of the members of this latest class (there have been two previous two-year classes), are varied.

Jay Messenger is a Muleshoe banker who deals with

nany ag clients.

Dena Jackson is a 4-H youth leader from Ranger who works in a sheep, goat and cattle production operation.

"TALL has given me more than I ever anticipated," she says. "I'm more confident with the media and general public," she says.

Jeff Fairchild of Adrian is an Oldham County dryland wheat, sorghum and cattle producer and a custom farmer and harvester.

Fairchild was especially impressed with what he saw when the TALL class visited Mexico earlier this year.

"To me, Mexico is going to mean vast opportunities for markets in the next 30 years," Fairchild said. "They are raising the minimum wage and trying to get a middle class. If they do (succeed), that is a lot of buying power, If they are going to buy somewhere, it might as well be in the U.S.A."

The list includes other Panhandle area members — Bill Bandy, a Potter County legislative staffer and grain farmer; David Moore, a Moore County wheat, corn, grain sorghum, popcorn and cattle producer; and Paul Strouhal, a loan officer at Sunray State Bank.

And the list goes on.

Darnell's background is typical of the others. He's a successfull ag producer. He falls within an age in which he is as busy raising a young family as he is starting up his ag career.

He's had the chance to meet other highly successful agri-industry persons around the state — a feature that drew him to the program. Now, about half way through the

two-year class, Darnell says he has enjoyed the opportunity to rub shoulders with agri-industry leaders who are on the cutting edge of their specialties

cutting edge of their specialties.

And, the potential for future networking among TALL's 24 classmates will, no doubt, prove rewarding, Darnell

Though he's spent more than a year in the program, Darnell says he is continually impressed with what he learns.

"It is amazing to me, the opportunities that exist in agriculture as we study and go around the state," he said. "I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting people who come from different areas of agriculture."

By sharing his own ag background with others, Darnell has had a chance to see agriculture from many new perspectives. His class is composed of some bankers, ranchers, agribusinessmen, state ag agency staffers and a speechwriter for Ag Commissioner Rick Perry.

"It brings a whole new perspective," Darnell says.
And, TALL is giving Darnell with an opportunity to
learn innovative ways to make his own operation successful. In return, he says he is ready and willing to become
involved in ag leadership roles in the future.

"We in the TALL class are getting ten years of experience wrapped up in two," explained Darnell.

In their bi-monthly meetings — which include visits to ag-intensive sections of the Lone Star State, will feature a tour of Brazil next year and gave them a look at the USDA in Washington earlier this year — Darnell is being equipped with knowledge and contacts that he believes are proving invaluable.

"The program, basically, has equipped me with tools to become involved, with leadership in our industry and our communities," Darnell says.

South News

Ethanol surge would benefit rural economy

w n d

WASHINGTON (AP) — Increasing yearly ethanol production fivefold by the turn of the century could create over 100,000 farm and farm-related jobs, new Agriculture Department research shows.

When used as a gasoline supplement, ethanol — a corn derivative — reduces harmful pollutants released by automobiles. Ethanol has long been touted as a energy alternative to foreign oil.

Corn producers also welcome an increase in ethanol production as a way to use surplus crop yields.

The USDA's report found that if ethanol production rose to 5 billion gallons a year by the year 2000, more than five times the current level, U.S. farm income could go up \$1 billion.

U.S. beef herds expanding slowly

Slowly but surely the U.S. beef herd is expanding. Beef cow numbers were estimated at 35.4 million head in the recently released July 1 Cattle Inventory report. This was a 2 percent increase in beef cow numbers from a year ago and a 4 percent increase from Jan. 1, 1993.

Since 1988, the year that the July 1 inventory reached its low point for this cattle cycle, the total U.S. cattle herd has only grown 2 percent. That is only 2 percent in 5 years! The July 1 beef cow herd has increased from 34.05 million in 1988 to 35.4 million head in 1993. This is only a 4 percent increase during the 5-year period.

The past 5 years represent the slowest increase ever experienced since cattle numbers have been collected in the U.S. It is also the reason we have had relatively strong cattle prices since June 1987. Just think 6 years of good cattle prices. In the past we could kill a good market in only two years. Again, as mentioned in Comments previously, the 1986 Tax Reform Act left the beef cattle industry with only a profit incentive as it removed lucrative tax benefits that had driven the industry for years.

Another indication that the growth of the beef cow herd would continue at a more healthy, slower pace was the number of beef heifers being retained for herd replacements. These heifers numbered 5.8 million head, up 2 percent from 1992. After an expected higher cow slaughter this fall, the actual annual increase in 1993's beef cow herd could slip below the 2 percent level again. Not since 1981 has the mid-year beef cow herd increased over 2 percent from the previous year. Never-the-less, cattlemen should continue to be cautious about increasing the beef cow herd. Meat exports have kept our domestic markets relatively strong for red meats and poultry. Domestic demand for beef, however, is in delicate balance. Just 2 or 3 years of herd growth rates of 3 percent or more, could wreck the market we have enjoyed for 6 years.

The reason for the concern in thr ate of growth in the beef herd is that "delicate balance" we currently have between the supply and demand for beef. By no means are we in a deficit supply situation for cattle, especially when you look at annual supplies and disappearances. For example in 1992 the annual calf crop was 39.34 million head. Now consider in 1992 steer and heifer slaughter was



LIVESTOCK MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Ernie Davis

25.75 million head. Calf slaughter was 1.37 milion head and calf death losses were 2.79 milion head. Farm slaughter accounted for about 49 thousand last year. If you consider the total cow herd (beef and dairy cows) was 43.8 million head and that we keep back heifers for replacement and herd expansion at a rate of 20 percent of the cow herd, that wil take another 8.76 million head of the annual calf crop. That is about all that can happen to the calf crop since we don't export many feeder cattle and calves and we still have; 180 thousand head left over. Well that just could be counting or statistical erro! But add another 1.25 million head of feeder cattle imported each year from Mexico and Canada and we have a residual of about 1.4 million head with which we have to do something. If we expand our cow herd by 3 percent and calf crops by 2.7 percent, what are we going to do with the additional 1.1 million head next year?

Many people foreign to Texas have an image of our cattle ranches, as large, sprawling ranges with cattle galore. I wish we all had one, but in reality the average Texas beef cow herd is 40 head per operation. The USDA *Mid-Year Cattle Inventory* report just released the latest information on the number of beef cow operations by size groups. Those size groups included operations of ranches with 1-49 head of beef cows, 50-99 head, and 100 head or more.

(Dr. Ernie Davis, Livestock Marketing Specialist with the Texas A&M Extension Service, is an authority on the livestock markets.)

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TALL

From Page 3

become involved in ag leadership roles in the future.

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In their bi-monthly meetings — which include visits to ag-intensive sections of the Lone Star State, will feature a tour of Brazil next year and gave them a look at the USDA in Washington earlier this year — Darnell is being equipped with knowledge and contacts that he believes are proving invaluable.

"The program, basically, has equipped me with tools to become involved, with leadership in our industry and our communities," Darnell says.

TALL meets every other month for three days a week, over a two year period. They also make an out-of-country tour — they will spend 10 days in Brazil in early 1994.

For their out-of-state trip, Darnell's class chose to take an eye-opening visit in January to Mexico. The tour south of the border left Darnell the impression that Mexico's growing middle class will be a prime future market for Texas ag products.

"I would say our class left Mexico optimistic," Darnell explained. "Optimistic that the North American Free Trade Agreement would be good for us."

A visit to Washington, D.C., earlier this year brought the group in contact with many USDA officials. They also met with Former San Antonio mayor and new HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros.

"TALL has far exceeded my expectations," explained Darnell. "Due to our sessions in Austin and Washington, I think our group understands the political process better. At least, we have been exposed to the channels."

Darnell, who was accepted for the TALL class in April, 1992, farms south of Canyon and and near Bushland.

Interestingly enough, Darnell grew up not in a rural, but in an urban setting. Thinking back, however, he remembers he always had a strong desire to be on the farm.

"I was raised in a normal urban setting in Amarillo. My parents both had 8 to 5 jobs — Mom was a school teacher and my dad, a leasing agent for Santa Fe," recalls Darnell.

But, he did have ag connections. An uncle farmed in Parmer County. One summer his farmer-uncle Wendell Christian encouraged him to try farm work.

aged him to try farm work.

"My uncle said that anyone who liked the idea of farming as much as I did should, at least, have a chance to try it," Darnell recalls.

Later, a farmer named Harold Erwin offered him sort of a farm apprentice-

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Ralph Miller - 296-2994 Wade Clark - 293-9884 Elton Wilson - 296-6638 Lee Bridwell - 296-2635 ship job on land southeast of Amarillo. The job developed into more than just a working relationship, however. Erwin became his father-in-law after Darnell met and, seven years later, married the former Lisa Erwin.

"I married the farmers' daughter," laughs Erwin. "We met, dated through high school and college, and married our senior year at Tech."

By the time Darnell received his Ag Economics degree at Texas Tech, a solid farming opportunity had opened up.

"Through the watch line of the Good Lord, a guy called and offered me a farm to rent," Darnell said. He carried the American dream even farther last year when he was able to purchase his farm — the same one he had rented to launch his career.

The Darnells have two children — Trey, 6; and Elizabeth, 4.

They are members of the First Baptist Church of Canyon. He is president of

the board of Consumer's Fuel of Canyon and serves on the Randall County Noxious Weed Control District board. He is actively involved in Randall County Extension activities and serves on the crops committee.

Darnell grows 350 acres of corn, 200 acres of sorghum and 700 of wheat. In addition, this is his first year to raise beets under contract with Holly Sugar.

His diversified operation also includes 35 cows and calves. He runs stockers on wheat pasture.



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Plainview Daily Herald



Southwest Passage Travel

Beet growers discuss foreign trade, market quotas, farm bill extension

The seemingly never ending North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) situations, government enacted marketing allocation program and sugar's role in the Clinton Administration have kept leaders more active than usual this summer.

Marketing allocations went into effect July 1 for everyone. They were set because sugar prices dipped below the forfieture level. Congress has mandated that the sugar program operate at no taxpayer expense, but expenses would be incurred with sugar forfeitures.

An exceptionally good northern crop last year, coupled with expansion of several processing facilities helped create a sugar surplus which created the low prices. Some processors will apparently be impacted more than others. They include Minn - Dak*

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Farmers Co-op, Southern Minnesota Co-op, Monitor and American Crystal, all of which feel the allocations are unjustified.

Officials of Imperial Holly say the allocations will not impact production and processing in the Hereford area or other Holly plants.

"Imperial Holly recognized the possibility of allocations early on and factored it into this year's operating and production plans," said Bill Cleavinger, president of Texas Sugar Beet Growers Association (TSBGA) and chairman of the American Sugarbeet Growers Association (ASGA) public relations committee.

Farm bill legislation this summer extended the 1990 bill two years to 1997; however Luther Markwart, ASGA executive vice president says the sugar program likely will be reviewed along

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"There remain certain members of Congress and others who want major changes in the sugar program," said Cleavinger. 'That's why ASGA and state and regional grower associations will continue in their efforts to educate senators and representatives on the advantages of having this program in

NAFTA side agreements are still being discussed between the US, Mexico and Canada, and there still are no changes that would cause ASGA to approve of the trade agreement.

Incentives still are provided in NAFTA that would eventually increase Mexico's quota for sugar sales to the US to 1.5 million tons. This quota is more than enough to encourage major investment into expansion of Mexico's sugar industry.

Opening our markets to this type quota could easily destroy out domestic industry," Cleavinger

GATT talks are still bogged around agricultural support issues, which are currently unfair to US producers, but negotiations are expected to pick up again in the fall, said TSBGA officials.

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FFA

From Page 2

recognized at the Texas FFA convention for having achieved the Lone Star Farmer degree, the top FFA award on the state level. This year's honorees were Kevin Ivy, Sarah Mahagan, Wendi Groves, Heidi Huffhines and John David Roberts.

Ivy says he is sold on the benefits of FFA, especially the opportunities that exist today for scholarships.

The Hale Center ag mentor recalls an earlier era when opportunities to attend school on an ag scholarship were fewer.

"I can appreciate these kids getting scholarships for an education, because I had to work part time to get mine," says the Texas Tech graduate.

But, Ivy likes to stress that FFA is a great preparation for life, regardless of whether a student is bound for college or not.

"I think FFA today gives a kid a more saleable, workable skill when he gets out of high school," Ivy says. "It will prepare a student for college if he or she wants to go. BUt, if you're not going to college, you'll still find an advantage because FFA trains to do cert; in jobs.

"When I was in it, FFA was known as cows, sows and plows," he grins. That was back in the early 1960s. Back then, if you thought you wanted to be a farmer, you got in FFA. Today we call it Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

Ivy laughs as he considers how much FFA - formerly called Future Farmers of America before it was shortened to "FFA" to reflect the new emphasis has changed.

A native of Paint Creek, north of Stamford, Ivy grew up showing calves and entering cotton demonstration contests in FFA. His father worked the Davis and Son Ranch and allowed him to use a few acres of land for his cotton.

"I guess the best thing I got out of the FFA program then, it taught you that if you are ever going to succeed, you've got to work at it," Ivy says. "It also taught me to speak, communicate with people. I served as a state FFA officer, and on those travels I met more people and it opened more doors than you could imagine.

He graduated from Tech in 1970, and served as an ag teacher at Farwell before he came to Hale Center in

1974.

Over the years, Ivy has seen agriculture classes become more technical, and not so general as before. Now they're broken down into semester courses in horticulture, metal fabrication, ag science, production and more.

Though ag classes equips a youth for instant entry into ag fields, Ivy says he is pleased each year to see the majority of his students go on to college.

Why has the Hale Center chapter rated such participation, and so many awards and scholarships recently?

"It's because of the kids in there, and attitudes they have," Ivy said. "You're going to get out of the program what you put into it. If you take advantage of FFA opportunities, you are going to gain some leadership, some confidence, the ability to communicate and function in the real world."

The 1993 Hale Center scholarship winners are all planning ag careers, Ivy

Looking back on the past year, Ivy admits that, scholarship wise, "This is the most I ever had in one year. He recalls other previous

FFA scholarship standouts. In 1987 Jamey Laney received a \$10,000 San Antonio Livestock Show scholarship, the \$4,000 Hale County Soil and Water Conservation scholarship and a \$300 local FFA scholarship. She is now married to another former Hale Center FFA member, Ronald Phillips (also a scholarship winner). They both are currently law students at Texas Tech.

Ivy's first student to win one of the coveted Houston Livestock Show scholarship - then totalling \$6,000 — was Robert Esparza, who graduated in the 1980s.

Another former HHS. scholarship winner, Jennifer Curry (who won a \$4,000 Hale County Soil and Water Conservation District scholarship), is a Texas A&M graduate and employee of a wholesale lawn and garden cooperative in Bryan.

Former ag chief Hightower in role of radio show host

By STEVEN COLE SMITH

© '93 Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH, Texas -Populist windbag to some, grassroots visionary to others - Jim Hightower seems tailor-made for the role of controversial talkshow host.

The former two-term Texas agriculture commissioner has been testing the waters of talk radio this week in Fort Worth. He at WBAP/820 AM Friday morning.

"At the least, it has been interesting," Hightower said. "I didn't know whether or not I could do this, and I'm still not sure. But at least the station's tower hasn't fallen over yet."

Earlier this year, Hightower began syndicating daily commentaries to radio stations nationwide. WBAP was among the first of about 50 stations to subscribe.

Hightower became more interested in radio, and radio became more interested in Hightower - particularly in his liberal

voice, a rarity in talk radio.

Vacationing WBAP staffer Don Harris created a weeklong hole in the lineup, and Hightower came up from his Austin home to fill it. "For me, it's a training ground, to see if this is something I might want to do for the long haul," he said.

Hightower, 50, sees the near-total domination of national talk radio by conservative hosts as an opportunity, not a liability.

"There are plenty of progressives in the radio business, and they've been searching for some kind of voice, so I think there's a natural niche in the industry," he said.

Hightower's potential competition includes the conservative voices of Paul Harvey, Rush Limbaugh, Michael Reagan, Oliver North, Pat Buchanan, G. Gordon Liddy and Morton Downey Jr.

What happened to leftleaners like Hightower? . "I think the right wing

never forgot radio. They stuck with it," he said. "I don't know why the progressives left it, except maybe they got romanced and enamored with TV." Aside from Larry King,

who only occasionally uses his show as a platform for his liberalism, WBAP operations manager Tyler Cox can't think of a current nationally successful liberal talk show host. But he believes that may be more of a coincidence than an indication that liberals can't make it on radio.

"There is always room for talk show hosts who are entertaining, who have fun on the air dealing with current issues," Cox said.

As for Hightower's chances, Cox said, "I'm not concerned with what his politics are. I'm concerned with whether or not he can do an engaging, compelling show, interact with the listeners and the guests, and make it fun to listen to.

Money, Hightower said, is not his central consideration. "Like Mark Twain said, 'I'm not a millionaire, but it would be dangerous to offer me the position.' If money wants to flow my way, that would be great.

"But I want to be on radio because it's a way to reach gazillions of people. My little commentaries now reach between 600,000 and 700,000 people a day. That is huge.

"You can speak all day long, every day, all year, and you're not going to get 70,000 people. And with radio, you're back on tomorrow.

"I think it's an advantage for me that mine is not only a progressive voice, but a different voice. Above all, they're looking for a voice that's going to cause listeners to dial them up. It has to be that combination."

So far, considering his inexperience, Hightower's shows have been surprisingly smooth. "There has been no shortage of calls







Photos/The Canyon News

Farmers Market popular in Canyon The Randall County Farmer's Market, open each Tuesday evening and Saturday morning in Canyon, is attracting lots of activity to the downtown Canyon square on a regular basis. Mary Reinhart of Umbarger (left) stands behind her tables of produce — left almost instantly bare after crowds of vegetable lovers converged on the scene. The farmer's market in Canyon and numerous others like it across the Texas Panhandle/South Plains region, will remain active until frost.

AWARDS

From Page 2

Marie Richardson says.

Last year the Richardsons and Jernigans saw more rain fall on their sheep in about six months than normally falls in two or three years.

That spawned the growth of parasitic worms on area vegetation, where their sheep, 300 Angora goats

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and assorted horses grazed. The parasites thrive inside the livestock's stomachs, but the livestock fall ill if they are not medicated.

So, the Richardsons, Jernigans and their hired workers had to insert, using a small pressure gun, a drench into the mouth and down the throat of every. animal.

Last summer's weather forced them to repeat the process four times, compared with the usual oncea-year medication.

In 1955, near Gorman, J.O. and Gay Nell Jackson took their savings from J.O.'s stint in the Navy, borrowed some more and started farming peanuts and cotton, without irrigation, in Eastland County. They had a new car and some cash.

Then the first year's crops withered to nearly nothing in the '50s drought, taking car and cash, says Gay Nell Jackson. She and her husband now live in a

nice home in Hobbs, N.M. J.O., 62, Gay Nell and their son and daughter-inlaw, Gary and Carla Jackson, farm peanuts, cotton and other crops on about 5,000 acres along the Texas-New Mexico line, primarily in Gaines Coun-

ty, Texas. But back during the 1955 disaster on 320 acres much farther to the east in Eastland County, Gay Nell and J.O. were reduced to driving one clunker of an old pickup. Both worked off the farm to support his self-described bullheadedness

to continue farming.

Some women become farmers when their husbands die young.

Debbie Pinkston, 36, took over managing the

farming assets after her husband, Garry Pinkston, died in 1991.

Her father, Stanley Bushong, 60, is helping out by providing the field labor and daily supervision while also working his own cotton- and grain-farming operation near Sinton on Texas' coastal plains.

Other farm widows take over with their own careers.

Judy Wadsworth's husband, Grady Wadsworth, died last year at age 47 after an intense career that made him one of Texas' best nursery farm operators. She had worked to help support him through college and graduate school. He returned the help, she says.

"He supported me in whatever I wanted to do," she says. He supported her while she finished college eight years ago and began teaching seventh-grade lan- and for some of the guage arts.

And women are still performing the more traditional farm roles for women.

Dorothy Brorman, wife of Panhandle sugar bee grower Tony Brorman, tends her garden and invites her daughters and other female relatives to share her canning chores for some time to secialize beside their home.

proceeds.

Last year she alone canned more than 250 pints of sweet corn, 150 pints of green beans and varying volumes of squash, tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, black-eyed peas, carrots, okra, cucumbers, cabbage, peaches, cherries, strawberries, apples, pears, apricots and other produce grown

Fat substitute wins award

WASHINGTON (AP) - Fake fat finishes first.

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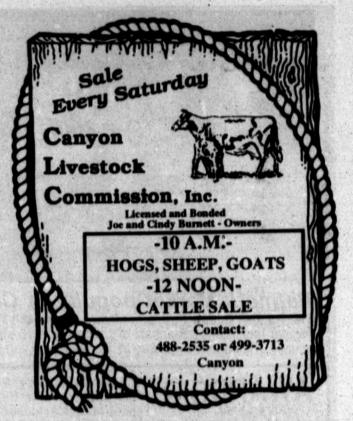
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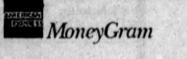
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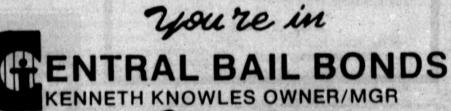
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