

WEST TEXAS Country Trader

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Abernathy
Weekly Review
The Canyon News

The Castro County News
The Clarendon News

The Lorenzo
SEAMER
HEREFORD BRAND

Plainview Daily Herald
Ralls Reporter-News

Thursday, October 28, 1993

The Slatonite
The Tulla Herald

Proposition 16:

Last on ballot, first in economic importance

Ag Finance Authority funds to quadruple; value-added firms could blossom

■ Rural & urban areas to benefit from 'yes' vote

By RICK PERRY

Texas Agriculture Commissioner

On Nov. 2, Texas voters will once again be asked to decide on a slew of constitutional amendments that address issues ranging from building more prisons to abolishing county surveyors.

When voters are plowing through this long list, I hope they will not overlook the last amendment, Proposition 16, which has the potential to boost ag processing in Texas and create directly and indirectly more than 15,000 new jobs in our rural and urban areas.



PERRY

Guest Viewpoint

'Adding just 1 percent to our 8 percent ag processing rate would contribute \$2.2 billion in economic activity to Texas each year . . .

Rick Perry
Texas Ag Commissioner

PROPOSITION 16 proposes to increase funding for the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority, or Tafa, from its current \$25 million level to \$100 million. With its existing \$25 million, approved by voters in 1989, Tafa has helped 34 businesses obtain loans from lending institutions. These 34 ag processing and diversification businesses helped by Tafa have directly and indirectly created or saved more than 4,600 jobs and added \$463 million to the state's economy.

Companies helped by Tafa are not

traditional farms and ranches. However, these companies do keep our farmers and ranchers in business by making it a priority to buy Texas-grown products. For instance, east of San Antonio in Waelder, J&B Sausage uses Texas beef, pork, turkey and chicken to provide supermarket chains with a line of sausages and smoked meat products.

IN WEST TEXAS, a Graham sportswear manufacturer, Falcon Industries, uses Texas cotton in its T-shirts, sweats, jogging suits and other athletic wear.

And in San Antonio, En Casa Foods uses Winter Garden vegetables for its Northern Mexico and South Texas canned cuisine.

These companies are not Saturn car plants or microchip consortiums, but they are providing jobs by relying on this state's most basic source of renewable wealth—agriculture. Tafa-assisted companies help revitalize our rural and urban areas as well as strengthen Texas agriculture by increasing in-state agricultural processing.

Texas is the nation's second largest ag producing state, but we have a poor record for turning our raw agricultural wealth into more valuable consumer-ready goods.

Our state never was a British colony, but we tend to act like one by sending most of our agricultural products away to be processed and then by paying premium prices to buy these goods back in a finished form. Of all the agricultural goods we produce, only 8 percent remain

See PROPOSITION 16, Page 5

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AgReview



Pecos Valley may grow beets for Hereford plant

By RICK HASSLER
Artesia Daily News

ARTESIA, N.M. (AP) — What can you say about sugar beets, other than they don't end up on plates in little maroon-colored slices.

But they do end up as little white crystals in sugar bowls.

Carl Barnes, superintendent at the New Mexico State University Agricultural Science Center south of Artesia, whips out a pocket knife and slices a sliver from something that looks like a giant radish.

"Take a bite of this," he says.

It's sweet.

The center is growing nine varieties of sugar beets on three-quarters of an acre.

The center is in the first year of a trial project for the Holly Sugar Corp., testing beets to

see if they can be grown in the Pecos Valley.

The effort is to help Holly's processing plant in Hereford, Texas, keep operating a little longer each year.

Barnes says sugar beets were test-grown here in the early 1960s when the Pecos Valley was competing with other areas for the sugar beet processing plant that eventually ended up in Hereford.

"A lot of (sugar beet) research was done here then, and more was done in the late '60s," he says. "We knew we could grow sugar beets here, but the whole thing went into hibernation until 1991."

Holly has put \$1,000 into the project.

The end result is to help extend the processing season at the Texas plant, which runs from September to January.

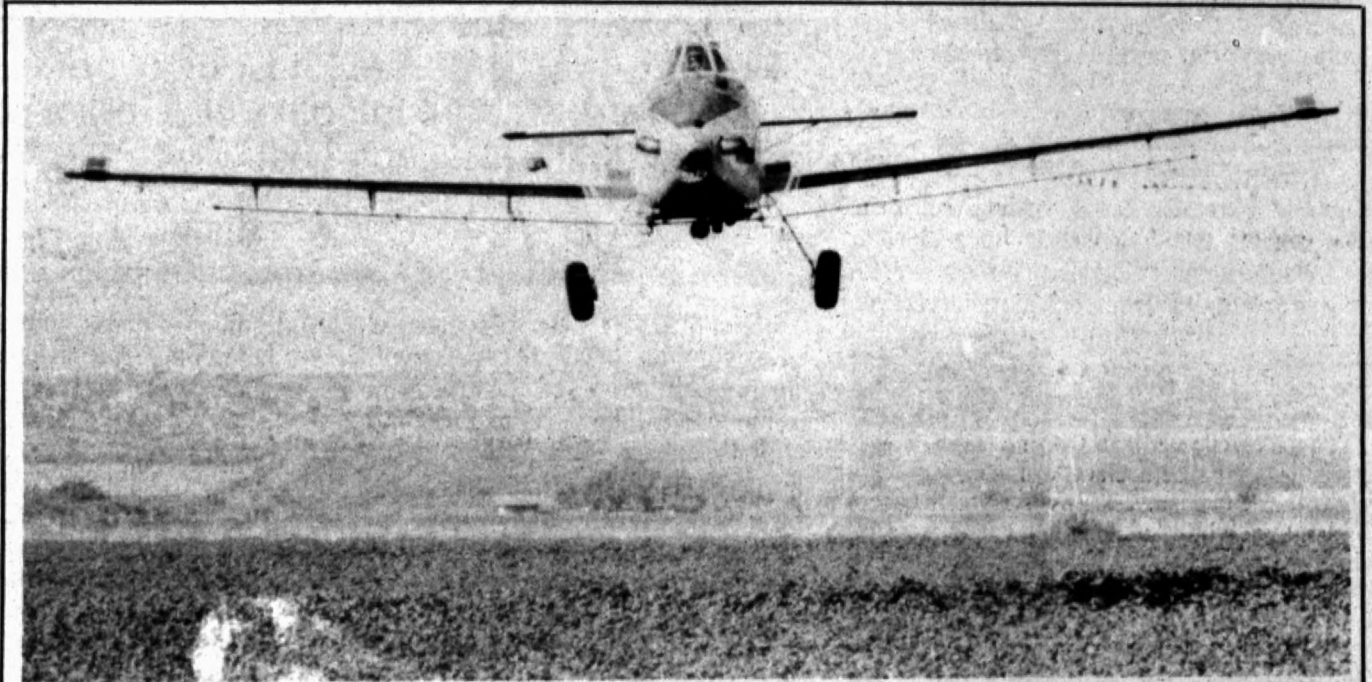
"The end result is to help extend the processing season at the Texas plant, which runs from September to January . . .

"They'd like to extend it a month or so," Barnes says. "They can't get their beets out with the sugar content high enough to make it profitable, and our (growing) climate makes it better to help

them."

The maturity of the crop affects the sugar content. A plant rendering a sugar content of 16 percent or more would be considered

See Beets, Page 4



Aerial ag mission

A crop sprayer in flight symbolizes the flurry of activity recently as farmers ordered the application of harvest aid chemicals to speed the approach of cotton harvest.

MID-PLAINS "Singles" Halloween Dance. October 29th, 8 P.M. to 12 A.M. First Christian Church, 1800 N. I-27, Plainview. \$5 person. Costumes optional but prizes given for best costumes. No Alcohol. For more information call Pat White, 806-296-6630.

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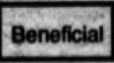
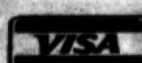
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Summit to debunk 'myths' of Texas agriculture

Honing in on value added, genetics, dialogue with the public . . .

■ Is ag in a decline? hurting environment; low tech, low brow?

By DR. ED HILER

Vice Chancellor, Ag Dean Texas A&M University

What most of us Texans know about agriculture these days is very little, and some of it is flat wrong.

Part of the reason is that we have left the farm. Today farmers represent only about 2 percent of the population. A century ago, nearly every American spent six days a week in some agricultural pursuit.

The mechanization of agriculture, coupled with remarkable advances in animal and plant sciences, have freed most of us from the drudgery of food gathering. We've left the farms for the cities, in part because agriculture's advances have made such choices possible.

AGRICULTURE TODAY is not just about farmers; it embraces an expanding food industry that employs one American in five. And it's not just about raising crops and livestock; it engages the sweep of modern science and the range of industrial technology in a quest to meet consumer demands for food that is safer, healthier, and produced at less cost — both to the environment and for the grocery shelves.

To the extent that myths define reality, however, decisions, in a democracy can be as poorly informed as the populace. This is a great concern in agriculture, where so much innovation is research-driven, and so much of the research goes on at publicly funded universities.

THREE MYTHS are particularly pernicious and pervasive about agriculture in Texas.

Myth No. 1: Agriculture's days are over as a big



HILER

Guest Viewpoint

'Myth No. 1: Agriculture's days are over as a big player in the Texas economy . . .

— Dr. Ed Hiler, Texas A&M

player in the Texas economy.

Simply not true. Agriculture has long been a mainstay of the Texas economy, and it holds an even greater promise. Texas is second only to California in the annual value of its agricultural production, and it's the nation's leading producer of cattle and cotton. Agriculture and its related food enterprises represent the state's second-largest industry.

The future of agriculture in Texas is bright, in large part because of the continuing contributions of agricultural research.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF the mild jalapeno pepper is but one recent example. The mild pepper, developed and grown by Dr. Ben Villalon, a Texas A&M researcher in the Rio Grande Valley, has helped make salsa the hottest condiment in the country. The less fiery jalapeno widened the appeal of salsa and picante sauces, and together the two accounted for \$500 million in sales last year, replacing ketchup at No. 1.

The leading salsa manufacturer is Pace Foods Inc. of San Antonio, which increases sales by about 10 percent last year. Together, Pace, Texas-based Frito Lay, and Old El Paso, which has a plant in El Paso, hold a 62 percent share of the salsa market.

THE SALSA STORY is also a perfect example of how "adding value" to Texas agricultural products can spice up the state's economy. To be sure, the farmers who grow jalapenos in Texas see increasing demand for their products. But just as importantly, the sauce is being made in Texas

factories, meaning jobs and sales of the final product benefit Texas more than other states.

The state has been encouraging the development of these "value-added" agricultural businesses over the last several years, and the results have been dramatic.

The Texas Agricultural Finance Authority (TAFE), a loan program run by the Texas Department of Agriculture, has invested \$25 million in these businesses since 1991. In two years, Commissioner Rick Perry says, the program has created 4,700 jobs and added \$463 million to the gross state product. That's a 1,800 percent return on the taxpayers' initial investment.

EVEN SO, only 8 percent of the agricultural goods that Texas produces are sent to processing plants within the state. The national average is more like 20 percent, and economists estimate that even a 1 percentage point increase in the Texas figure will generate \$2.2 billion in economic activity.

Voters in the November general election can help by raising the funding authority for TAFE to \$100 million, a move Perry says could create another 14,000 jobs.

A stronger value-added industry would stand ready to capitalize on an array of improved products being developed by the same folks who gave us the mild pepper — the 460 scientists in the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. A part of the Texas A&M University System, the experiment station performs about 90 percent of the agricultural research in the state. Over the years, these scientists have developed new plant varieties that account for more than 30 percent of the cotton grown in Texas, 70 percent of the sorghum, and 95 percent of the rice.

A SUSTAINED agricultural research effort, coupled with encouragement of "value-added" businesses, should ensure that agriculture remains strong in Texas.

See Myths, Page 4

Statewide

Ag News

Ag summit tackling ag issues

COLLEGE STATION — Exploring solutions to problems facing the 21st century farm producer will be the emphasis of the first ever Texas Agricultural Summit which ends today on the campus of Texas A&M.

Topics being discussed by ag leaders at the two-day summit included: changing consumer preferences, uncertain world markets, managing business changes, the environment, technology, public policy and innovative leadership.

Plainview banker John C. Anderson, who chairs the Century 21 Blue Ribbon Committee that worked closely with Texas A&M University in organizing the event, said the summit has been built around the industry and educational institutions.

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MYTHS

From Page 3

Myth No. 2 — Agriculture is an enemy of the environment.

Agriculture is part of the state's environmental problem, but it's also part of the solution. Without question, agriculture has depended too heavily on chemicals that have harmed the soil and the water. Pesticides and fertilizers have been over used and misused. Concentrated animal operations have contributed to groundwater pollution.

But it's also true that agriculture has been working for years to help solve many of these problems. We've learned that we can't ruin the good land we have — there isn't any more. Much of agricultural research in Texas today concerns finding ways to make farming a sustainable enterprise — one that maintains its productivity without depleting or damaging its resource base: fertile soil and ample water.

INTEGRATED PEST Management programs, for example, seek to reduce the use of pesticides by employing an array of cultural, biological and other tactics to control insect populations. Many of these A&M research and education programs have been in operation in Texas for more than 15 years, and they've reduced insecticide usage by more than 17 million pounds per year. These efforts also have contributed an estimated \$1.5 billion in savings to the state's economy per year.

Experiment Station research on the High Plains has led to vastly improved center-pivot irrigation systems, energy requirements by 45 percent, and reduced overall chemical use through more precise applications. These new Low-

BEETS

From Page 2

ideal.

Sugar beets are best planted in the spring and harvested in the fall. Center personnel this year planted 30,000 sugar beet plants Feb. 17, March 16 and April 1.

Sugar beets need nitrogen-rich soil in which to grow, and soil samples taken in the Artesia area before planting showed the nitrogen level was high, Barnes says.

The plant also apparently adapts well to the Pecos Valley's heavy alkaline soil.

"Once the plant is established, it's pretty tolerant," Barnes says. "It'll use somewhat more water than cotton but not as much as chili or alfalfa. One of its strong points is that it recovers well from hail and hot weather."

Ideally, a typical

Energy Precision Application (LEPA) irrigation devices achieve savings by placing the water at low pressures within a foot of the ground and directly on the plant.

Often what's environmentally good for the farm is also good for the city. Water-saving irrigation methods developed for crop production have found direct applications in urban landscapes. Research on drought resistance in plants has led to the development of new varieties of shrubs that use less water. The techniques in using "good bugs" to control "bad bugs" in fields of row crops have been applied to protect the ornamental trees in shopping malls and office buildings where pesticides can't be used.

IN SHORT, AG research is finding solutions to the environmental problems posed by production agriculture, answers that often have applications in urban settings.

Myth No. 3 — Agriculture is low-tech and low-brow.

The outdated stereotype of the farmer as bumpkin seems eternal. Right up there with it is the mistaken notion that farming is mostly tractor driving and hoe slopping.

Today's farming operations are as sophisticated as any modern business, and they will become only more so. In research demonstrations in Texas, computers are used to monitor weather conditions to predict the onset of plant diseases, to run mathematical models that forecast insect infestations, to determine fertilizer applications on fields based on soil samples and infrared photography of vegetation.

Biotechnology research in Texas promises an array of plants specifically designed to enhance production, resist diseases and

plant would weigh 2 or 3 pounds at harvest, but it can grow to the 10- to 20-pound range. The big ones can have more impurities, Barnes says.

Initially, the tiny plant is placed about one-half of an inch under the soil. At the peak of the growing season, though, it can reach almost two feet in length.

The part of the plant that remains underground is what interests Holly the most. The leafy tissue on top of the plant and other byproducts are sliced off during harvest and used for livestock forage.

A machine harvests the plant's root, and the raw sugar is refined into table sugar.

After harvest, the soil can be grazed or plowed under for soil development, Barnes says.

"We already know we can produce the tons of sugar," Barnes says.

discourage and even kill insect predators. These kinds of innovations in agriculture's immediate future require an increasingly savvy farmer-manager-technician.

BUT AGRICULTURAL research also is looking for answers to other questions. In laboratories at Texas A&M, plant scientists are teaming with medical researchers to develop carrots, onions and other vegetables to enhance their cancer-prevention qualities. Insect research at the molecular level is discovering ways to make bugs living pharmacies that manufacture medicines for humans. Bacteria is being studied and developed to detoxify polluted.

The economic, environmental, and technological contributions of Texas agriculture are enormous, but so are its challenges ahead. Here at Texas A&M, we're looking to help Texas agriculture move wisely into the 21st century by sponsoring the first-ever Texas Agricultural Summit this week in College Station.

The summit (which began Wednesday and ends today) was expected to attract more than 400 participants — producers, educators, scientists, consumers and environmentalists. The summit was to explore the environmental, economic and scientific challenges confronting the industry, and attempt to make the first steps toward formulating responses to them.

We then will take those first responses and begin a dialog with the general public about the future of agriculture in a series of meetings held around the state.

In the process, we hope that a greater understanding of the value of agriculture in Texas will emerge and that some of these myths can be put to rest.

The center's first harvest took place in August.

Plants harvested from the first and second plantings had sugar contents of 14½ percent to 15 percent, and those from the April planting had sugar contents of 13½ percent to 14 percent.

"Our biggest contribution will be in helping identify the proper planting window, finding the latest you can plant to hit the planting window, and evaluating the different varieties of sugar beets," Barnes says.

Plans call for fall planting in nearby areas.

The project, which could run for at least three years, would require rotating acreage,

Barnes says. A five-year rotation site to avoid root disease would be ideal, he says.

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Market reacts to big cattle on feed numbers

September's cattle on feed inventory of 7.75 million head came as a bit of a surprise to the industry to say the least!

This inventory was the largest Sept. 1 on feed number since 1978, was 11 percent more than a year ago and was 12 percent over the five year average.

The larger number on feed was caused by an unexpected large number of cattle and calves placed on feed during August. August placements numbered 1.85 million head, 12 percent more than a year ago and 13 percent higher than the five year average. It seems there is still strong demand to feed cattle this fall in speculation of winter and spring markets.

If cattle feeders continue their bullish attitude to feed more cattle and continue with large placements this fall, we could begin 1994 with record numbers of cattle on feed.

It seems like the normal summer (July-August) runs of country cattle and calves were a bit late this year. From June through August calf prices declined slowly at Texas markets. Prices for steer calves weighing 400 to 500 pounds dropped from an average of 109.31 per hundredweight (cwt) in June to 104.50 cwt in August. Steer prices for those weighing 500-600 and 600-700 pounds dropped only \$1.50 cwt during the same period. Prices for feeder steers weighing 700-800 pounds actually increased 50-75 cents cwt, probably reflecting the continued demand for these weight cattle for feeding.



LIVESTOCK MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Ernie Davis

Since August, however, the prices for these feeder cattle and calves have dropped more abruptly. For example 400-500 pound steer calves, down \$11 cwt to \$93.50 cwt; 500-600 pound feeder calves, down \$11 cwt to \$84 cwt; 600-700 pound feeder steers, down \$8.50 cwt to \$80.50 cwt; and 700-800 pound feeder steers, down \$7 cwt to \$79.25 cwt.

This rapid decline was probably caused by 3 factors. One, more feeder cattle and calves coming to market during September. Two, fed cattle prices dropping from \$75 cwt in August to \$71 cwt in September. And three, the largest Sept. 1, inventory of cattle on feed since 1978.

Not only did cattle cash prices decline. Live Cattle futures declined also. Currently, the October Live Cattle

futures contract is trading at \$72.60 cwt. December's at \$73.40 cwt. February 1994's at \$74.20 cwt and April 1994's at \$75.40 cwt. With this decline in fall and winter futures prices, cattle feeders should be more cautious about putting more cattle on feed for the next two of three months.

Even with the lower futures contract prices, cattle feeders will still be tempted by the current (lower) feeder cattle prices. They may still place larger numbers of feeder cattle and calves on feed while those prices are relatively low and just speculate on higher fed cattle prices next winter and spring... *not for the faint of heart.*

The outlook for fed cattle prices this fall is not as good as last year nor, for that matter, the five year average. Beef production during the fourth quarter (October through December) should be 3 or 4 percent more than a year ago. Most of the increase will be from fed beef, but cow slaughter is expected to be higher than a year ago, too.

Fed cattle prices should rebound from the current low prices later this fall, but don't expect \$78 to \$80 cwt fed cattle prices for the remainder of 1993.

The best to expect probably is \$74 to \$75 cwt. Cattle feeders dodged big bullets earlier this year because slaughter weights were well below year ago levels. Slaughter weights have rebounded to year ago levels. Therefore, as we marketed larger numbers of cattle, we will produce larger supplies of beef. More quantity means less price and that is what we expect.

Proposition 16

From Page 1

in Texas to be made into valuable goods like clothing and convenience foods. The rest we ship out of state for someone else to get rich on.

ADDING JUST 1 PERCENT to our 8 percent ag processing rate would contribute \$2.2 billion in economic activity to Texas each year. And increasing our ag processing rate from 8 percent up to the national average of 20 percent would add more than \$26 billion annually to the state's economic output.

But ag processing businesses are expensive to start up, keep going and

expand, and that's where the TAFE program fits in. Banks these days are reluctant to take risks, especially with new businesses, so TAFE acts to guarantee loans for approved companies from banks. There are many agricultural-related enterprises out there—probably several in your very own community—that have the potential to create new jobs, but these enterprises need a nudge in the right direction. TAFE provides that nudge with absolutely minimal expense to the taxpayer.

TAFE is an investment in Texas that will pay tremendous dividends for years to come. So on Nov. 2, please vote. And please don't forget to check the bottom of the ballot—Proposition 16 to provide jobs for Texans through agriculture.

Grain gain

millions of tons

Years (per capita, kilograms)	Total
1950 (247)	631
1960 (279)	847
1970 (296)	1,096
1980 (325)	1,447
1990 (336)	1,780
1991 (315)	1,696
1992* (318)	1,745

World grain production nearly tripled between 1950 and 1992; grain per capita, however, only went from 247 to 318 kilograms during the same period.

Combest, beet growers wonder about future under NAFTA

HEREFORD — Concerns run high in Deaf Smith County over implications of the North American Free Trade Agreement and what it would do to the market for this area's key commodity, sugar beets.

Upholding a promise to reserve his conclusions about NAFTA while he works for improvements and "satisfactory answers," U.S. Rep. Larry Combest (R-Lubbock), commented late last week on a new suggestion for the benefit of U.S. sugar producers.

COMBEST IS pursuing farmers' concerns that Mexico would swap cheaper corn sweeteners for domestic use and then export their surplus to the U.S. in competition with local production.

"This latest proposal is that Mexico not export any amounts of surplus sugar to the U.S. that traditionally has been used within Mexico," said Combest. "That cer-

tainly has been a main concern of our U.S. sugar beet producers, and I will continue to personally work to see that these and other important concerns about NAFTA are addressed before I make a commitment either way on this proposed trade agreement with Mexico and Canada."

MORE THAN HALF of Texas sugar beets

used to produce sugar are grown in the 19th Congressional District represented by Combest. In the region surrounding Deaf Smith County, sugar beet producers represent a significant contribution to the local economy.

This takes some very dedicated people, Larry Combest being one of them, to impress upon Mexican negotiators that we mean business," said

Texas Sugar Beet Growers Association President Bill Cleavinger of

Wildorado, near Vega. "We know this has been a concern of his for

our area that would otherwise mean a loss of an entire industry.



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Ag courses fit new Texas high school requirements

AUSTIN — Today's high school students are facing many changes in graduation requirements and curriculum choices.

The agricultural industry faces similar changes in a more urban, mechanized society. Students must choose career pathways that will lead them to vocations or higher education. The high school Agricultural Science and Technology program, offered in over 950 schools statewide offers a diversity of semester courses that can be applied to numerous careers and vocations.

Commissioner of Education, Lionel R. "Skip" Meno says, "It is my belief that the minimum graduation requirements were

never intended to be a full preparation program." He has proposed creating a Recommended High School Program. It will not affect the minimum graduation requirements, but will put the focus on a full preparatory program that should be provided to all students.

Concern has been expressed about how Agriculture Science and Technology programs fit into these graduation recommendations. The Commissioner's proposed Recommended Texas High School Program would allow students to take 3 credits in a coherent sequence of agriculture/agribusiness courses. The reference to a coherent sequence indicates planning to ensure meeting

the student's training needs. Other students who choose the more rigorous college preparatory courses would have only one elective. Options exist for increasing the number of electives for students. Many of the options available are subject to local administrative control and include: Conducting a 7 or 8 period academic day; Granting physical education credits to students enrolled in multi-period occupationally specific courses; Granting science, fine arts and economics credits for specific agriculture science courses; and Pursuing credit by examination and/or correspondence courses.

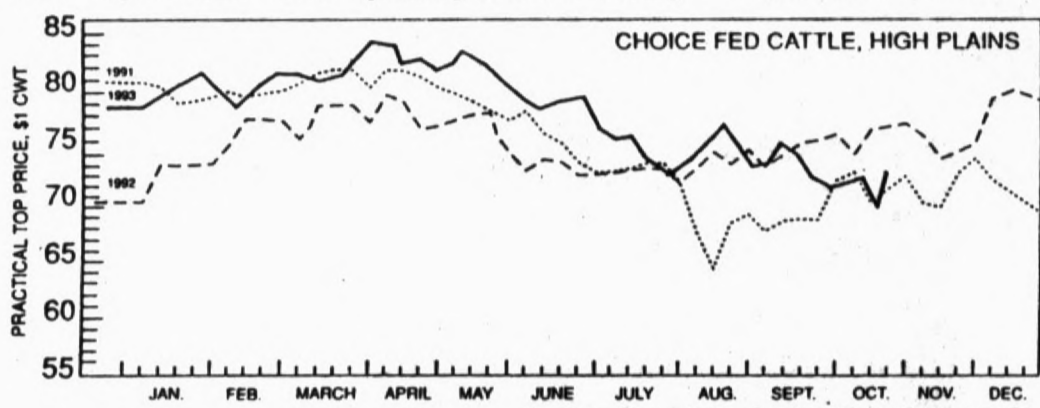
Agricultural Education

becomes more significant with increasing challenges facing the industry. Texas' broadly diversified agricultural production is worth more than \$11 billion annually. The consumer population, expected to increase from 17 million in 1990 to over 20 million by the turn of the century, increases the potential for Texas agricultural expansion. The Agricultural Science and

Technology curriculum and FFA leadership programs prepare young men and women for careers in agricultural production and such diverse areas as biogenetics, international marketing, engineering, horticulture, communications, processing and business, as well as college. In the class and laboratory, they might work with computers and accounting, plants and animals, or

mechanics and sciences as they learn useful problem-solving skills.

We must prepare our young people to meet the demands of a changing society, workforce and economy. Agricultural Education is an integral part of meeting the needs of the future. Students enrolled in Agricultural Science and Technology courses are preparing to meet the challenges of tomorrow.



Courtesy Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Amarillo

Choice fed cattle, High Plains

The above report reflects market activity through October 22.

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Friday, October 29
Merchants In Costumes;
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Football Game - 7:30 p.m.;
Littlefield/Floydada

Saturday, October 30

9:00 a.m. Arts & crafts open; Circle Dot biscuits & coffee; entries registered
10:00 a.m. Judging-baked & decorated; Cake walk; & 5K race begins (sponsored by Coca-Cola)
11:00 a.m. One Mile Fun Run & Stroller race
11:30 a.m. Fat Man's Race
1:00 p.m. Max Von Roder's Human Puppet Show; Auction
1:30 p.m. Cow pattie bingo; Seed spitting; Washer Pitching
2:00 p.m. Fumpkin games & contests
4:00 p.m. Wheelbarrow contest
4:30 p.m. Pumpkin pie relay
6:00 p.m. Costume contest at High School - \$1.00 entry
6:15 p.m. Trunk or Treating - High School Park - sponsored by Southwestern Bell, Brach's, Floydada Implement and local donations
9:00 p.m. 4-H Dance at Duncan

All day antique auto & implement show; pumpkin jail; Cargill's Toy Tractor Pull

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South Plains
Ag News

Oct. 30

FLOYDADA PUNKIN DAYS
— A day of family fun including pumpkin contests of all types and a safe trick-or-treat for children is part of Floydada's annual celebration, boosted by the town and Floyd County pumpkin produces.

Oct. 30

SILVERTON FALL CARNIVAL
— The Progressive Homemakers will hold their annual Fall Carnival at 6 p.m. at the Briscoe County Showbarn. The event features booths of all types sponsored by clubs, civic organizations and school classes in the community.

USDA documents increases in U.S. farm equipment sales

WASHINGTON (AP) — Capital investment in farm machinery increased during the first eight months of 1993, with combine purchases up 15 percent and tractor purchases up 10 percent, the Agriculture Department says.

One factor in the increased capital investment in such machinery was the 20 percent increase in farm income in 1992, said a recent Agricultural Resources Situation and Outlook Report.

"Since machinery purchases tend to lag behind farm income, the income increase led to more purchases in 1993," it said.

"Interest rates are below 1992 levels, another positive factor for increased farmers' equity position, which also contributed to higher demand for farm machinery," it added.

IN ANOTHER area, the report said average 1993 farm herbicide prices rose 1.9 percent and insecticide prices climbed 7.7 percent.

Pesticide manufacturers' costs increased in order to develop addi-

tional data to reregister older products, and to research and develop new products.

"Many manufacturers

have also embarked on expensive biotechnology research," the report said. "Dealers' costs have also risen, especial-

ly for liability insurance." In the 1992-93 crop year, soybean planted acreage stayed the same,

the report said, while the increased barley, oats and cotton planted acreage was offset by decreased acreage.

Monsanto, DeltaPine to cooperate on future bug, herbicide-proof cotton

SCOTT, Miss. — An agreement between Delta and Pine Land and Monsanto has been reached this month that sets the stage for future commercialization of seed containing the Bt insect control feature.

The agreement expanded terms of existing agreements, and more closely links the two companies' long term efforts in biotechnology, the companies announced.

BEFORE U.S. sales of seed containing the Bt gene can be made, DeltaPine says it must complete its program of breeding cotton seed and multiplying it into commercial quantities. In the meantime,

Monsanto says it must complete the government approval process.

Under the original agreement, DeltaPine had limited lead time rights to Monsanto's Bt gene technology conveying insect control in cotton in the southeast and mid-South regions of the United States. The new agreement grants DeltaPine rights to exclusive licenses in certain foreign countries — where it hopes to potentially sell Bt cotton seed.

INSECT CONTROL is achieved by transferring a gene from a common soil organism, *Bacillus thuringiensis* into cotton seeds. The result is

a cotton plant providing natural control of certain major lepidopteran pests, such as cotton bollworm, tobacco budworm and pink bollworm.

The agreement also granted DeltaPine an option to access Monsanto's weed control features for cotton. In some areas, under average growing conditions, weeds can be the biggest problem farmers face. To solve the problem, the companies are developing cotton specially bred to allow new uses for Roundup, a widely used herbicide.

WHEN COTTON seed containing the Roundup Ready gene is commercially avail-

able, the companies anticipate farmers will be able to spray entire fields — cotton plants and weeds — and only the weeds will die. Existing cotton varieties are sensitive to broadcast foliar applications of Roundup — a Monsanto product.

Monsanto is a shareholder in DeltaPine, having purchased 5000,000 shares in the initial public offering of DeltaPine stock in June. DeltaPine is the world's largest commercial breeder, producer and marketer of cotton planting seed.

(This article was compiled from a joint news release issued Oct. 13 by both companies)

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Nixing chemical use on cotton acres would make commodity expensive

WASHINGTON (AP) — The most cost-effective programs to reduce water pollution from cotton farm-

ing are those targeted only at the most susceptible land, an Agriculture Department study has found. "Restricting the use of environmentally damaging chemicals on all cotton

acreage could reduce the overall potential for water-quality impairment, but could raise cotton prices by as much as 31 percent," said a report by USDA's Economic Research Service.

The recently released study on cotton production and water quality was based on a 1989 survey covering 10.5 million acres, 99 percent of all cotton acreage, in 14 states.

The report noted, however, that cotton is only one of many agricultural products whose production may affect environmental quality.

"Reducing erosion or chemical use on cotton farms alone may not improve water quality significantly if production of other crops within the area is also polluting local water resources," it said.

In 1989, the year of the survey, cotton was the fifth most valuable field crop, at \$3.9 billion, after corn, \$17.9 billion; hay, \$11.5 billion; soybeans, \$10.9 billion; and wheat, \$7.5 billion.

"Cotton production is chemical-intensive, including the use of fertilizers, insecticides, defoliant and herbicides," the report said.

"The most widespread potential damages are from nitrates in fertilizer that can pollute ground water and pesticides that can contaminate surface water," it said.

The 14 states surveyed were North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, California and Arizona.

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