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The Castro County News The Clarendon Rews HEREFORD BRAND

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The Slatonite The Tulia Herald

Holiday common sense prevents rural burglaries

By GORDON ZEIGLER AgReview Writer

It's time for residents of the countryside to think like a burglar would think — and make an adjustments needed to keep the home more sec-ure for the holidays.

That's because rural dwellers - whose family Christmas tree, residence or barn is often the target of a holiday break-in while families are away from home will be a bit more vulnerable than usual in the weeks ahead, experts say.

"One of the most disheartening things I have seen is people going somewhere for the holidays and returing to find packages under the Christmas tree opened up and gifts taken," says Tony Phil-lips, spokesman for National Guardian, a Lubbock-based security service.

He cited one experience in his 12 years in the profession that illustrates the point.

"Someone broke into a house, stole all the Christmas gifts and set fire to the residence," Phillips recalled. Fire and police units were dis-patched by the firm and, luckily, the fire was put out before it caused extensive damage.

One bit of good news about the case was that the police caught the perpetra-tors, and the gifts were quickly returned.

"So, we see in our business that crime does increase quite a bit around the period of Thanksgiving through Christmas," said Tony Phil-lips, spokesman for National Guardian, a Lubbock-based

The reasons are many.

security firm.

"People are busier and less likely to be at home," Phillips commented. "They're likely out shopping most of the time, not only out of town for the holidays. In each case, the home is left unattended."

Winter and the holidays are prime times for a holiday breakin, crime watchers say. But it can be prevented.

Even the experts agree. You'll have a happier holiday if your home is secure from break-ins. And, that's something whose chances can be lessened with com-mon sense solutions.

Phillips is in the business of equipping homes and businesses with alarm systems for as little as \$195 for installation and \$25 a month.

"Whether you have an alarm system or not, I think common sense is your best preventive measure," Phillips said. "For one, placing the Christmas tree in front of a window is advertising. You're putting on a display."
Phillips said such window displays are avoided by many

retailers, who have learned it is nearly impossible to pro-tect against so-called 'crash the window and grab' crime which circumvents even an

alarm system.

Making gifts and valuables inaccessible — not putting them on display - is the best

policy.

It also pays to make your holiday routine of coming unpredict-

and going seem unpredictable, Phillips advises.

"Try not to set yourself up such a pattern that people know when you are going to be home and when you are going to be gone," he said.

Ironically, the thing that most travellers like to stop during a trip — deliveries of newspapers and other items - worries Phillips the most.

"I say, don't stop these services," he said. "Have a friend or relative pick those up. "By maintaining these, you are not indicating to anyone you are going out of town. And, there is someone coming by the residence at irregular times.

Phillips and his fellow professionals in the alarm business will be the first to try and sell a security system.

"It is a proven fact security systems do deter crime," he said. "We have found that criminals skip over a house that has a security system and may go on to the next house that does not."

Technology has brought rural residents even better security protection in recent years. These include ability to protect remote homes, buildings and barns with alarms that notify authorities by radio rather than lephone.

All home security systems

installed by National Guar-dian now feature dual breakin and fire-alarm sensing. And, another new, highly

popular concept is tying in video surveillance equipment with the break-in alarm to identify the offending criminal and, hopefully, lead to his

Phillips listed several advantages he believes help sell homeowners on alarm

■ The alarm industry, the TExas Crime Prevention Association and police and sheriff's personnel generally support alarms as a deterrent to crime.

■ In case of a break-in, security systems are likely to scare intruders away and, as authorities are alerted, give a better chance of apprehension.

Insurance companies

usually offer a discount for installation of approved

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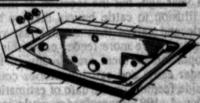
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AgReview



WHEAT MEETING - A "Wheat Symposium* sponsored by the Texas Wheat Producers Board and the "Annual Meeting" of the Texas Wheat **Producers** Association have been set for Thursday, Dec. 2.

The sessions will be held in the Amarillo Civic Center in cooperation with the Amarillo Farm & Ranch Show.

Texas producers concerned about low harvest-time prices, increasing environmental issues, threatened loss of beneficial chemicals and changing world trade alliances and marketing strategies, will gather to re-group" for the challenges ahead into a changing world grain economy, according to seminar leaders.

Farm show eyes 'dryland corn' idea

Nation's biggest indoor farm show ready to roll

■ Show off to 3-day run on Tuesday

By SHAE DODSON

West Texas A&M Journalist

AMARILLO — The state of dryland agriculture on the Texas High Plains will be explored in depth Tuesday at the 9th Annual Amarillo Farm & Ranch Show.

West Texas A&M University Dryland Agriculture Institute, the WTAMU Division of Agriculture and the WTAMU Agricultural Development Association sponsor a series of expert seminars on that day in conjunction with the show at the Amarillo Civic Center.

"Cropping and Tillage Systems for Dryland Grain Production" will be presented at 9 a.m. by O.R. Jones, a soil scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Station at Bushland.

Jones has been at Bushland for 32 years. The last nine years, he has concentrated on tillage effects on sorghum and wheat. In his presentation, he will



Photo/The Canyon News

Young cowhand

Rick Hales of Hales Angus Farm in Canyon explains to a young cowhand what the real Angus breed is all about. Hales showed two pens of Angus recently at the 17th Annual Randall County Crops and Ag Show.

discuss various tillage effects, crop selection, crop sequencing and efficient use of water.

Jim Cavin, a veteran farmer in Deaf Smith County, and Vanis Byrd of Dalhart, will host a "Producer Panel on Dryland Corn Production" at 9:30 a.m. Cavin grew dryland corn in 1991 and 1993. He said he was pleased with the yields, which were comparable to

sorghum. "This (dryland corn production) is still real new. Farmers need to experiment with it awhile before they plant acres and acres, Cavin said. "Last year, we had harsh, stressful conditions and still did well with belowaverage rainfall and aove-average

At 9:55 a.m., Jim Schrib, a field sales agronomy manager at the Amarillo branch of Pioneer Hi-Bred Inter-

temperatures.'

national, Inc., will discuss "Considerations for Dryland Corn Production." "The key to success-

ful dryland corn production is to: 1) have a high soil moisture profile at planting time; and, 2) use the correct hybrid, the correct include yield comparipopulation and the correct planting date," Schrib said. "You have three-day Amarillo to make certain the Farm & Ranch Show corn pollinates before is free, and free parkthe temperatures get ing is available.

too high."

Dr. W. Adren Colette, WTAMU professor of agriculture, business and economics. will discuss "Livestock Response to Grazing Old World Bluestem on CRP Lands in the Texas Panhandle: First Year Preliminary Results" at 10:10 a.m.

"The purpose of this experiment is to determine the profitability of utilizing CRP land instead of plowing it up," he said.

At 10:40 a.m., WTAMU Professor Ron Thomason will conclude the series with the presentation "Utilizing Manure and Compost n Dryland Forage Production."

Thomason has supervised a two-year experiment at WTA-MU's Nance Ranch involving various applications of manure and compost to 50 acres of forage sorghum. Data collected sons and soil analyses.

Admission to the

Feeder cattle and calf prices, through October, have averaged higher than a year ago and that has been good news for cow-calf operators.

Actually feeder cattle and calf numbers have been greater than a year ago, but the location of those cattle have given an illusion to cattle buyers that we have fewer of these cattle and calves than we did last year.

Although we have more feeder cattle this year, a much larger proportion of them are already in feedlots. Estimated feeder cattle and calf inventories count only those cattle outside feedlots on the date of estimation. For example, on Oct. 1, 1993 those feeder cattle inventories that weighed over 500 pounds on July 1 and still not in feedlots on Oct. 1 were estimated at 6.2 million head.

This was 7 percent fewer than a year ago, but the number in feedlots was 9 percent greater. Had feedlot inventories been equal to year ago levels, feeder cattle supplies outside feedlots on Oct. 1 would have been 5 percent greater than last year.

Demand for feeding cattle during 1993 has been stronger than usual. The winter weather disrupted cattle feeding, slowed cattle movements to marked, reduced staugment weights and consequently, caused fed cattle prices to rise to record levels.

For the first half of 1993, profit margins from fed cattle were good, increasing the demand for feeding cattle. This increased demand for feeding cattle has kept feeder cattle prices above year ago levels, even though U.S. cattle num-

Even with the losses posted by cattle feeding operations the past three months, demand for the heavier feeder cattle



Dr. Ernie Davis

(700 to 800 pounds) has remained fairly strong.

Fed cattle prices have fallen from winter and spring highs of \$84-\$86 per hundredweight (cwt.) to levels sometimes below \$70 cwt. or a drop of about \$15 cwt. Prices of feeder steers and heifers in the 500-600 pound weight. bracket have dropped \$9-\$10 cwt. from spring highs. However, heavier weight steers and heifers in the 700-800 pound range only experienced a \$4 to \$5 cwt. drop in prices from spring highs. Demand for cattle heavy enough to be placed directly on feed has been the strongest.

Barring another severe winter such as last year, fed cattle prices are not expected to reach the peak levels of this past winter and spring. In fact, fed cattle prices during the March-April 1994 period could be \$14 to \$16 cwt. below those of 1993. That is, if the demand for feeding cattle continues to be as strong this fall as it has been for

most of 1993 and feedlot placements continue to run high. Even with some drop in feeder cattle placements this fall, fed cattle prices for the first half of 1994 will probably average some \$4 to \$7 cwt. below those of 1993. This along with potentially higher feed prices should cause next year's feeder cattle and calf prices to average some \$6 to \$8 cwt. below 1993 levels.

October and November feedlot placements will be critical to next spring's fed cattle market and prices of feeder cattle and calves. During October, prices for the heavier weight (700-800 pounds) feeder cattle remained relatively strong, which has already been discussed. This reflects continuing strength in demand for these cattle to be placed in feedlots. For those of you placing cattle on feed for next year's March and April markets, it should be a high risk market. However, there should be some opportunity this

winter to hedge those cattle on the April Live Cattle Futures Contract at \$78 cwt. or more. Speculators will try to drive the market up and will use every winter storm passing through the mid-west as a tactic for driving the futures market up. Cash prices in March and April may not reach or exceed \$76 cwt., but you will probably be able to hedge them on the futures for \$78 or more.

The story's not over - we will know more by Thanksgiving. Just don't expect 1994 cattle and calf prices to be as good as those experienced during 1993. Cattle inventories should increase and cattle prices will decrease. The critical question is - by how much?

15-county pre-plant survey set

High Plains Water District and USDA-Soil Conservation (USDA-SCS) personnel are now collecting data for the annual pre-plant soil

moisture survey.

The purpose of the survey is to determine the general soil moisture availability and deficit trends across the 15county High Plains Water District service

Review of the pre-plant soil moisture survey information helps agricultural producers determine the amount of water they need to apply to bring their five-foot root zone soil profile to field capacity without over-irrigating or under-irrigating.

Historial data shows that there is a better likelihood of producing above-average crop yields when the plant root zone of the soil is at or near field capacity prior to planting.

"Unless the area receives significant precipitation during the winter, we expect to find extremely dry soil conditions at most of the 310 soil moisture monitoring sites within the Water District," said Wilfred E. "Willie" Crenwelge, USDA-SCS Soil Scientist.

"Irrigation for the 1993 growing season

ended in early August. Since that time, there has been very little precipitation. Crops remaining in the field continued to deplete the available soil moisture from that time until first

freeze," he added.
Three teams are now in the field collecting data for the 1994 preplant soil moisture survey. Weather permitting, they should complete their field work in early January.

Jerry Funck and Arnold Husky started data collection in Armstrong, Potter and Randall counties and are working their way south to Castro, hale and Lamb counties.

Crenwelge and Brian Houston started in Deaf Smith County and are working south to Bailey, Cochran, Hockley and Parmer counties.

Glenn Blackmon and Ken Carver started in Floyd County and will continue in Crosby, Lubbock and Lynn counties.

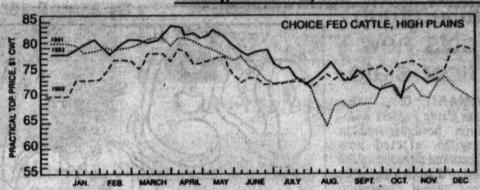
The USDA-SCS soil scientist noted that 20 additional temporary soil moisture sites will be read in newlyannexed portions of Cochran and Hale counties. Permanent sites have already been installed in the newlyannexed portion of Lynn

"Until permanent soil moisture sites can be established, five temporary istes in Cochran County and 15 temporary sites in Hale County will help us gauge soil moisture conditions in these new portions of the Water District," says

Crenwelge.
Soil moisture sites are selected based upon soil types, the local saturated thickness of the Ogallala Aquifer which indicates possible well yields, and crop water requirements in the area. Each site represents typical dryland or irrigated farming conditions in the area.

Water District and USDA-SCS personnel use neutron moisture meters to gather soil moisture data. readings are taken at six-inch tervals throughout the five-foot soil profile by lowering a neutron probe into a previ-ously-installed aluminum access tube.

These maps, as well as the results of the preplant soil moisture survey, will be provided to local news media and will be published in the Water District's monthly newsletter, The Cross Section, prior to the pre-plant irrigation season.



Courtesy Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Amari

Choice fed cattle, High Plains

The above report reflects market activity through Nov. 19.

Jan. 10-11

IRRIGATION CONFERENCE - A two-day conference sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association and the A&M **Extension Service** will include discussion of critical issues impacting irrigated agriculture.

Monday begins with a session on energy regulations. Tuesday highlights a program on ag commodities with a morning session devoted to peanuts, corn and sugar beets and afternoon program on cotton, wheat and grain sorghum. Information is available from Leon New at 359-5401.

Jan. 22-23 AUSTIN'S ECO-FAIR TEXAS — ECO-FAIR '94



Courtesy Photo

Shorthorn champ

Michael Fisher, a Cotton Center FFA member, exhibited his July 23, 1992 heifer, MJS Flower's H Katherine as the Reserve Champion Shorthorn Heifer of the Junior Heifer Show at the 1993 Panhandle South Plains Fair in Lubbock. The heifer follows in the footsteps of an older sister. MJS Flower's H. Julie was Reserve Champion Female of the Open Shorthorn Show at the 1992 fair. Michael, 17, is a CHS senior and son of M.K. and Becky Fisher.

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Cattle group elects new officer slate

AMARILLO - The Texas Cattle Feeders Association, headquartered in Amarillo, elected new officers and members of the board of directors during its recent annual convention Nov. 7-9 in Corpus Christi.

Les McNeill of Panhandle was elected President; Ron Davenport of Friona was elected President-Elect; and Randall "Cuppy" Graham of Roscoe was elected Vice President.

TCFA Board of Directors is comprised of 32 members. Elected for a one-year term were W.H. Attebury of Amarillo, Jack F. Bibb of AMarillo, L.J. "Lee" Britting of Muleshoe, C.E. "Shuck& Donnell of Dalhart, Gary Craig Gentry of Lubbock, Robert J. Hillier of AMarillo, Les McNeill of Panhandle, Larry Ogle of Bowie, Walt Olson of Turpin, Okla., and Hank Walton of Buffalo, Okla.

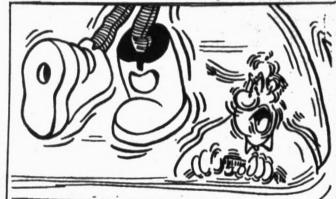
Board members elected to a two-year term were Jim Bill ANderson of Canadian, John Ballard of Claude, LoRenzo Bates of Farmington, N.M., Bill Carrothers of Eagle Pass, Ron Davenport of Friona, George Driskill of Sabinal, Pat Halverson of Hale Center, Wm. k. "Bill" Irwin of Bushland, Gail Morris of Lazbuddie and Alan Smith of Amarillo.

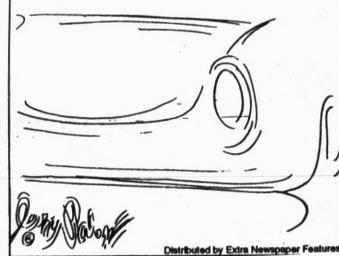
Board members elected to a three-year term were Robert Carter of Plainview, Gery C. Donnell of Lubbock, J.B. Douglas of Muleshoe, Paul F. Engler of Amarillo, Randall "Cuppy" Graham of Roscoe. John F. Hughes of Bartles-ville, Okla, Walter Lasley of Stratford, Rodney L. Schemm of Guymon, Okla., Wm. S. "Buck" Wehrbein of Amarillo and David W. Winters of Del Rio.

In addition, the two immediate past presidents of TCFA serve as memnbers of the board.

STAMPEDE

By Jerry Palen





"DANG! Somebody oughta complain about these country roads!"

Pesticide certification course is planned Dec. 6

A recertification course for Texas pesticide applicators will be held Monday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Castro County Farm Bureau Office in Dimmitt.

To register for the course, call the Farm Bureau office at 647 -5106. Seating is limited to 15-20 people and will be reserved on a "first-come" basis. Deadline to register will be Nov. 23.

There will not be a lunch break and lunch will not be served. Those attending are asked to bring their own lunch.

The course is for private, commercial and noncommercial pesticide applicators licensed or certified through the Texas Dept. of Agriculture.

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Five continuing education units (CEUs) will be awarded to participants at receiving sites for the satellite broadcast.

To renew a license or certificate, most applicators must obtain 15 CEUs by the end of 1995. This course will count toward CEU requirements for all licensees and "grandfathered" private certificate holders.

The course will include one CEU in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and two CEUs in laws and regulations.

Sponsors for the course are Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University System and Texas Dept. of Agricul-

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Experts 'ooh..and..ah' over 1993 cotton quality

■ Nations biggest cotton patch has a rare blend of fiber quality

By DANNA RYAN and JOE BRYANT

Texas A&M Journalists

LUBBOCK — This Year's cotton crop on the High Plains seems almost too good to be true, but something obviously happened along the way that led to this record-breaking

With weather conditions less than perfect, the 1993 crop, nevertheless, is a dream come true for most area growers.

"It is a record crop in terms of both yield and quality and quality continues to be excellent overall," said Kater Hake, cotton agronomist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. With 90 percent of the area's cotton already harvested, crop predictors are estimating the yield to be at 3.6 to 3.8 million bales in the 25-county area often called the nation's biggest cotton patch.

Fields in the northern part of the area, most of which are irrigated, are averaging 658 pounds of lint per acre. The estimated yhield for those 620,000 acres is 850,000 bales. Growers in the southern area, much of which is dryland, are harvesting 2.48 millioni acres with an average yield of 503 pounds an acre or some 2.6 million bales.

Cotton specialists with the Extension Service say conditions throughout the 1993 growing season weren't what producers would have requested, but the results are more than satisfactory. Only some 18,000 of the 3.3 million acres planted to cotton - about five percent - were lost to drought or other causes. The area's longterm average loss between planting and harvest is 14 percent of the acreage.

Last year, more than haft the 3.2 million acres of cotton planted on the South Plains

was lost to bad weather, insects and disease from start to finish of the season. As a result, area producers harvested only 1.4 million bales.

The quality of this year's crop is another cause for joy among producers. Hake said strength is running 28.5 to 29, staple is 33 to 34 and micronaire (fineness) is near or above

Hake said weather conditions this season weren't all that good. Many fields were extremely dry early in the season and cold weather persisted into early May. However, these "problems" turned out to be more of a bonus than a hindrance in most fields.

The low rainfall in 1993 kept seedling disease under control and allowed for excellent rooting of the crop to take place. The lack of precipitation also kept blowing sand to a minimum and saved many stands of cotton that would otherwise have been damaged.

"When the soil surface is smoothed and sealed by rain, it is much more susceptible to blowing," Hake explained.

Temperatures in Lubbock and surrounding areas on the average were slightly above normal, with precipitation staying just under the norm for most of the growing area.

The bloom period is the stage of cotton production the scientists deem responsible for making this year's crop. Fields did not enter bloom particularly early, but did enter with healthy planlts having a full plate of squares, the fruiting buds which develop into blooms and, eventually, into bolls.

"Plants entering bloom with 95 percent square set was typical on the High Plains this year," Hake said.

Boll set in cotton is typically 15 percent fewer bolls than squares in the bottom of the plant. This year many fields set 80 percent of first position bolls in the bottom of the plant. This was phenomenally high, compared to measurements in previous years, the cotton specialist said.

Extension Service agents and specialists said dryland farms ran out of water a few weeks into bloom, but because of good boll sets in the bottom of the plant, the coton

maintained its quality condition even under water stress. As the current harvest confirms, Hake said, bolls set on the bottom of the plant have the highest weight and quality.

The early abundance of white dominating

fields in the area proved the euperiority of the 1993 crop. Extension Service specialists credit the success to the tremendous efficiency on the parts of growers and prodeucers who took advantage of the weather, despite the shortness of the season and lack of rainfall.



Quality cotton year

Manuel Ayers, who served as Hale County's ag agent 43 years ago, inspects quality cotton in a field east of Plainview. In 1946, Ayers' first year, the county logged 75,000 cotton acres. Irrigation expansion increased that to over 130,000 by 1950, his last year of service. This year 207,000 acres will be harvested.

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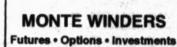
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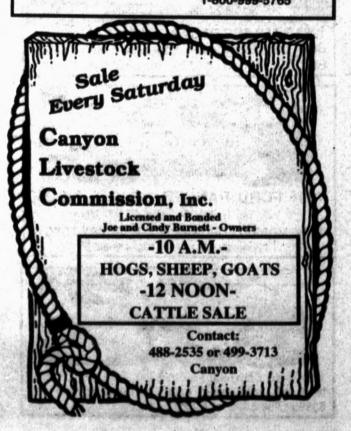


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Next year's corn ARP to be '0,'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 1994 corn acreage reduction program will be set at zero, meaning more land can be planted to corn next year than was this year, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy has announced.

The adjustment was made because the 1993 corn crop is down 31 per-cent from last year and the projected 1993 corn carryover stocks are at the lowest level since 1975.

The action was taken partly to help assure feed grain supplies would be adequate for domestic livestock producers and to

have sufficient feed grains for export in 1994. For 1993, the acreage reduction was 10 percent of the crop acreage base. The base is the average of the

acreage planted for harvest during the last five years.

Agriculture law requires that the secretary announce the feed grain acreage reduction percentage by Sept. 30. At the time, Espy

announced 1994 feed grain ARP percentages of 5 percent for com and zero percent for grain sorghum, barley and oats.

The secretary is also authorized to make adjust-ments in the 1994 program no later than Nov. 15 if the total supply of feed grains changes significantly after the first announcement.

Since the initial announcement, estimated feed grain supplies for the 1993 corn crop are down

Cattle feeding history offered for Xmas giving

Special to AgReview

AMARILLO - With the holiday season about to kick off the day after Thanksgiv-

ing, every-body's looking for a gift to suit those involved, or interested in learning about the Southwest's cattle indus-

While The Finishing Touch was released last year, it is being offered anew this year just in time for Christmas.

When released in connection with the TCFA 50th Anniversary in 1992, the book authored by Charles E.

Ball, TCFA Executive Vice Presi-dent Emeritus, offered the first comprehensive history ever written of cattle feeding

in the Southwest.

The Finishing Touch is a 192-page compilation of little-known facts, anecdotes and history of cattle feeding in the Southwest.

While "modern" cattle feeding in the region is only a few decades old and there are still a few old timers around to tell about it, this history of the industry reaches 300 years into the pages of

As Ball researched the book, he found that much of the history of the cattle feeding country wasn're readily available.

"The libraries were full of cattle books on subjects like trail drives, famous ranches and breeds of cattle," he says. "But there was nothing on cattle feeding — the other half of the cattle business, and a very important half."

One thing that Ball discovered is that cattlemen are cattlemen, and always have

For Ball, writing the history was a labor of love. He retied in 1988 as TCFA executive vice president, a position he hedl for 16 years. For 20 years prior, he witnessed and reported in Farm Journal magazine on the birth and early years of the cattle feeding industry in the Southwest.

"This is a very readable history of cattle feeding in America," according to Elmer Kelton of San Angelo, former associate editor of Livestock Weekly and author of 32 western historical novels. "It's very well documented and colorful."

The Finishing Touch sells for \$33, or at a special of \$35 including postage, and is available for gift giving from the Texas Cattle Feeders Association, 5501 W. I-40, Amarillo, Tx., 79106, or by calling 806-358-3681.

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Book Review: 'The Finishing Touch'

By PAUL ANDRE

A void in the story of the U.S. cartle industry has been partially filled with the publication of The Finishing Touch, a history of hte Texas Cattle Feeders Association and cattle feeding in the Southwest, by Charles E. Ball.

As a former longtime farm magazine writer and **Executive Vice President** Emeritus of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association, he is eminently qualified to author this book.

Surprisingly, despite numerous books about ranching, trail drives, cattle barons, the Old West, textbooks and breed histories, there have been none so comprehensive on cattle feeding.

Ball has done a commendable job in detailing the history of the TCFA. In the first chap-

ter, titled Feedyards and Forefathers, he points out cattle feeding in this nation actually had its beginning with European colonists in the 1600s. Interestingly, some of that early fed beef was exported.

In the second of 12 chapters, Ball documents a number of feedyards in the Southwest, who at the turn of the century, were feeding 1,000 head or more. Included are commentary about some of the pepoole who were prominent feeders of that era, along with prices paid and received and quotes from them as reported in various sour-

The arrival of big feedyards is the subject of the third chaqpter. Although thought of as happening in the 1960s, there were some subastantial size lots in the early 1930s in the South-

Other chapter trace the effect of government on feeding and how technology has advanced the art of cattle feeding. Then there are the entrpreneurs who created the boom and soon shared in the pain of the "wreck of 73" and struggled through to subsequent recovery.

Careful, painstaking research by Ball is evident throughout the book. The result is delightfully interesting reading, spiced with information that is not combined in any other source. There is no boring, stuffy material here, which is a credit to Ball's writing ability.
(Paul Andre is editor

of Beef Magazine. Reprinted with permission of Beef magazine.)

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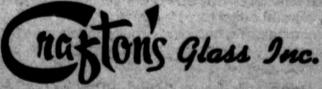
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Saving fuel

Dr. Jöhn Sweeten shows computer-equipped tractor that shows graphically how much fuel can be saved by gearing up and throttling down while working on the farm. Large graph depicts the savings that result.

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Gear up, throttle down works

By GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview Writer

VERNON - Want to save fuel, and add to your bottom line? It may be easier than you think.

It takes a different mindset, sometimes, to save money with the new machines, and it's called the gear up, throttle down. It really works, too, according to Dr. John Sweeten, Texas A&M Extension Service.

Sweeten has taken his computer-equipped tractor to farm shows and A&M experiment farms over the past few months to demonstrate how much fuel can actually be saved using the process.

"We have monitoring equipment on the tractor, which sends back information to our computer by radio," Sweeten explains. When the tractor operator steps on the gas, the computer shows an obvious decrease in fuel economy.

Gearing up, and easing back on the throttle results in much better fuel savings while still power, Sweeten has been demonostrating.

In Nebraska tests, the tractor was tested for maximum drawbar horsepower in a gear selected by the tractor manufacturer.

In the same gear, the tractor was tested pulling 50 percent of the maximum power run load.

During the third run, most tractors tested lused between 15 and 30 percent less fuel than

delivering adequate during the second run, even though the same amount of work was performed.

> Throttle and gear selection were the only factors changed.

Nebraska tractor tests indicated that a large diesel tractor operated at a reduced engine speed for light drawbar loads may actually use less fuel than a smaller tractor working at its rated capacity.

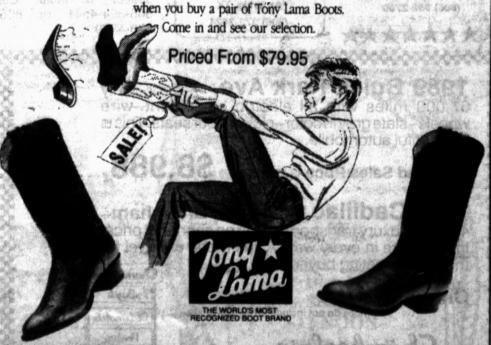






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