

WEST TEXAS Country Trader



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The Canyon News

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Thursday, January 27, 1994

The Slatonite
The Tullia Herald

USDA lowers estimate of 1993 feed grain production

By MARGARET SCHERF

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department estimates that U.S. feed grain production last year was 187.3 million tons, 3 percent less than the November forecast and down nearly 33 percent from the 1992 record.

The largest change was made to corn production,

AgReview

down 159 million tons from the November projection. The estimate for sorghum was down 8.5 percent from the November forecast. Smaller adjustments were made to barley and oats production.

"Both lower area harvested and yields contributed to the reduced production," said the January feed update by USDA's Economic Research Service.

Harvested area of corn declined 104,000 acres, sorghum fell 262,000, barley dropped 271,000 and oats dipped 20,000 from their previous forecast levels.

Average corn yields for 1993 are estimated at 100.7 bushels per acre, down 2.4 bushels from the November forecast.

New grass gets raves on Northern Plains

Matua prairie grass has been thriving under pivots, provides pasture eight months a year

By GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview Writer

STRATFORD — More than just a few heads are turning over some lush green grass growing under pivot circles in the northern Texas Panhandle in the dead of winter.

The pastures are planted in a perennial pasture grass called Matua, a brome grass native to New Zealand.

Among other attractive qualities, Matua seems to remain surprisingly active into the colder winter months, a time when many forages and native grasses traditionally go into dormancy.

It's also a grass whose protein content which experts say remains high despite winter stress.

Because of these and other touted qualities, the grass may have the potential of bringing the area a new alternative for grazing stocker cattle, according to those just becoming familiar with it.

Roy Young, for one, is a cattleman leasing land near Stratford. Growing it beneath a mile-long center pivot system, he has a stand of Matua he converted from alfalfa last August.

"You can't believe how many people have come by looking at this," commented Mrs. Young. "They come from Texas A&M, and other places. Vanloads of guys drive down there and start grabbing handfuls of samples."

Young and others have watched it flourish in the bitter cold characteristic of the Texas Panhandle winters. And, apparently, they like what they have seen so far.



Matua: A Brome grass native to New Zealand has impressed some cattle raisers growing it under center pivots near Stratford. It is high in protein and provides pasture for eight months a year.

See MATUA, Page 3

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AgReview



South Plains

**Ag
News**

Jan. 22-Feb. 6
FORT WORTH'S SOUTHWESTERN EXPOSITION AND LIVESTOCK SHOW — The annual stock show, including a 17-day run of the championship rodeo, draws entries from throughout the state.

Feb. 16-17
ABILENE BIG COUNTRY FARM & RANCH SHOW — Champion Farm Shows will present its second annual Big Country Farm & Ranch Show at the Taylor County Fairgrounds on Feb. 16 & 17.

Total of \$600,000 in cotton research funded

By SHAWN WADE

Plains Cotton Growers

LUBBOCK — Producers and researchers got together Thursday, January 20, at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center north of Lubbock to hear progress reports on projects funded through the State Support Program of Cotton Incorporated (CI) and the Texas State Support Committee (TSSC).

According to Lubbock-based Plains Cotton Growers (PCG) the CI program was set up to provide 5 percent of CI's annual operating budget to

producers in cotton belt states to fund cotton related research and promotion activities.

Projects presented for review during the day-long meeting received funding in 1993 through the TSSC. A total of 25 projects were reviewed that seek to find answers to a number of important questions facing the cotton industry.

Reports were presented on projects ranging from efforts to remove gossypol from cottonseed to developing improved pest management and cultural strategies for cotton production.

TSSC Vice Chairman Larry Nelson, a cotton

producer and ginner from Edmonson, Texas, notes that several of these projects were also approved by the committee for further funding in 1994 and are therefore only partially complete. He adds that TSSC members will be meeting in the near future to select projects for funding in 1995.

Funding requests totaling close to \$600,000 were approved for 1994. Of that total, \$160,000 will fund projects specific to the High Plains and \$340,000 will go to projects of interest statewide. The remaining funds will be divided among other cotton production regions to fund

additional regional projects.

A number of outstanding opportunities to hear about what is going on in agriculture and the cotton industry on the High Plains will present themselves January 25-26 during the Caprock Cotton Conference. The conference will be held at the Pioneer Memorial Museum in Crosbyton.

Plains Cotton Growers officials note that producers and other interested parties who attend the conference will have a chance to hear Texas Commissioner of Agriculture Rick Perry,

Congressman Charles Stenholm and others discuss issues facing agriculture on the first day of the conference. Extension Cotton Specialist Kater Hake and a number of other researchers from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service will speak on the second day and discuss a variety of production and insect management issues.

For information about how to register for the conference contact the Texas Agricultural Extension Service office in either Floyd County at 806-983-2806 or Crosby County at 806-675-2003.

Feedgrain rally providing pricing opportunities

By MARK WALLER

A&M Grain Mkt. Specialist

For the most part, last week's reports were bullish for the feedgrain market, as we could tell from the good jump in prices on Thursday. With '93 corn and sorghum production at 6.344 billion bushels and 568 million bushels respectively, and corn carryover of only 802 MB, one might think that prices could remain strong throughout the summer.

Don't get swept away in all the enthusiasm though, without considering what news will keep the rally going.

With some finality now in place concerning the size of the '93 crop, the market must look to

demand for new market information. It is unlikely that this will sustain prices for long since the rally should ration demand at some point. This bull market will need more good news to keep rallying, and that may start getting tougher to come by now.

With a zero ARP for next year, a return to normal weather could produce a huge crop. If that happens, carryover will increase and prices will come back down. That is normally the way our farm programs work.

The world economy is still sluggish, and the world grain situation is not nearly as tight as we are facing here in the U.S. As a result, it is unlikely that we will get enough bullish news to sustain our current price rally from that arena either.

Seasonally prices tend to decrease as we move into spring and thoughts turn to planting a new crop, especially in years when the ARP is lowered. Be thinking about your price objectives for '94 sales. Your best pricing opportunities may be this winter and into early spring.

After more than a dollar rally from the summer lows, basis the nearby, it looks as if the wheat market's post harvest rally could be running out of steam.

Even though the winter wheat seeding report and the world agricultural supply/demand estimates report were considered bullish, March futures was unable to rally back to its earlier highs, and July, which made a new high, was unable to hold on to the gains.

December COF report brings winter market no relief

The December Cattle on Feed report at best was neutral. November marketings and placements were both at year ago levels. Cattle on feed inventories remained historically large, in fact the largest since 1973 or 20 years ago. The 7-State feeding area reported 9.37 million head on feed, 5 percent more than a year ago, 10 percent more than December 1991 and 9 percent more than the 5 year average.

The bad news is . . . most of those additional cattle will need to be marketed sometime between now and March. So, don't expect a major market rally between now and then . . . unless something like a major winter storm or possibly China buying up all our beef supplies.

The good news is . . . if those cattle do get marketed between now and March, then fed cattle prices should make some sort of rally, at least to the high \$70's during March and April . . . unless we go mad and place 2 million head of cattle into feedlots during December.

Beginning January 1, 1994, the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) will discontinue the Quarterly Cattle on Feed weight group inventories and expected marketings for the preceding quarter. The weight group breakdowns and expected marketings were important statistics because they provided the industry some indication of supplies of fed cattle available for marketing during the next quarter.

Reasons given for the discontinuation of these data were that the estimates were inaccurate. On the contrary, for the period 1991-1993, which was the period of controversy, except for 2 of 11 quarters the expected marketings of fed cattle for the preceding quarter were most accurate. For 8 of the 11 quarters, the error was only 2.1 percent or less (Table 1). Four quarters the error was less than 1 percent!

It is our belief the principal reason that NASS discontinued the quarterly reporting of weight group categories and expected marketings is that some feedlots did not want to furnish the data. The cattle feeding and beef packing sectors are becoming more concentrated, therefore, more information, not less, is needed to insure a competitive market. Just because a sector of the industry does not want to supply the information is not a good reason to discontinue it.

Without the weight groups of steers and heifers on feed, the industry will only know that more or less cattle are on feed and that sometime in the next six months, more or less



LIVESTOCK MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Ernie Davis

fed cattle will be available for marketing. This means not much information will be available to most of the cattle and beef industry. It does not mean that the largest packers or largest feedlots won't have the information. They have the resources to obtain the information through either internal or external sources. The people that will not have access to the data or information will be most of the cattle producers, small and middle-sized packers, educators and scientists (i.e., universities and Extension Services).

On Feed: Cattle and calves on feed December 1 in the 7 monthly reporting states totaled 9.37 million head, up 5 percent from year ago counts and 10 percent above 1991. Texas feedlots had 2.78 million head of cattle and calves on feed, 15 percent above year ago numbers.

Placements: Cattle and calves placed on feed in the 7-States during November totaled 1.84 million head down slightly from last year and down 4 percent from November 1991. Texas feedlots placed 460,000 cattle and calves on feed during November. This was 6 percent above November 1992 placements.

Marketings: Marketings of fed cattle from the 7States during November totaled 1.44 million head down slightly from last year but 5 percent above November 1991. Marketings from Texas feedlots during November totaled 390,000 up 7 percent from last year.

Commercial red meat production in the U.S. during November 1993 totaled 3.45 billion pounds, 5 percent above last year. Kill days for November 1993 included 22 weekdays and four Saturdays. November 1992 had 21 weekdays and 4 Saturdays for production. Accumulative red meat production for January-November was 37.0 billion pounds, down 1 percent from 1992. The accumulative

production for beef was down 1 percent; veal was down 12 percent; pork was down 1 percent; and lamb and mutton were down 4 percent from a year ago.

Beef Production: For the month of November, beef production was 1.89 billion pounds, up 6 percent from last year. Head kill totaled 2.70 million head, up 5 percent from last year. The average live weight at slaughter increased 8 pounds to 1,185 pounds.

Veal Production: For November, veal production totaled 23 million pounds, the same as a year ago, when the record low was set. Calf slaughter totaled 104.9 thousand head, down 7 percent from last year. The average live weight was up 26 pounds to 385 pounds.

Pork Production: Pork production was 1.51 billion pounds, 4 percent above last year. Hog kill totaled 8.14 million head, up 2 percent from last year. The average live weight was up 2 pounds to 256 pounds.

Lamb Production: During November, lamb and mutton production totaled 26 million pounds, down 3 percent from a year ago. Slaughter totaled 418.2 thousand head, down 3 percent. The average live weight stayed the same at 125 pounds.

Texas Slaughter: November's livestock slaughter included 463.8 thousand head of cattle, up 8 percent; 1.8 thousand head of calves, down 28 percent; 31.6 thousand hogs, up 17 percent from 1992. Sheep and lamb slaughter was not reported to avoid disclosing individual operations. Commercial red meat production in Texas during November

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketing and Other Disappearance, 7 States, NOVEMBER 1-DECEMBER 1

	1991	1992	1993	93 As % of	
				91	92
	1000 Head			Percent	
On Feed NOVEMBER 1	8,013	8,584	9,076	113	106
Placed on Feed NOVEMBER	1,917	1,843	1,838	96	100
Fed Cattle Mkt. NOVEMBER	1,376	1,442	1,439	105	100
Other Disappearance	77	91	108	140	119
On Feed DECEMBER 1	8,477	8,894	9,367	110	105

MATUA

From Page 1

The Youngs and others trying it are pioneers of sorts. Since the New Zealand product is still in its infancy, there is little documentation about its characteristics on U.S. farms, the Youngs learned.

"We had ours picked and tested recently, and it measured 20 percent protein," Mrs. Young said. Its good forage qualities have boded well for the 300 Holstein replacement heifers they raise on the pasture, she believes.

Their neighbor, Toby Kautz, is another cattle raiser growing it. He has two center pivots. Kautz' father is the landowner leasing out the land on which the Youngs have their cattle.

Farther to the north, Greg Blackwood of Liberal, Kan., was able to keep his stocker cattle on a circle of Matua from April through November.

Another plot of Matua has been growing for about three years at Texas Beef Feedyard at Sunnyvale.

The 20-acre plot is furrow-watered and is located next to the feedyard. The pasture is used to feed out problem cattle not doing well in the pens.

"It's working real well," commented Texas Feedyard manager Tommy Raper.

"It's mid-January and it's still green," Raper said. "Last year it didn't go dormant until around February, and that was a pretty tough winter. If we don't have a worse winter than we've had so far this year, it'll probably keep on growing right on through spring."

Though the Matua stands are still in their infancy at this time, there seems to be some reason for optimism about the future.

Sherman County Agent Jim Allison is anxious to see Matua's track record over the next year or two.

"It sounds good," Allison said. "But my experience with it has been little to none, though some producers talk highly of it."

Allison says it will be important to look at several growing seasons to just

how the grass will climatize to the area. Only the long haul will tell producers for sure the real value of such a new product, he says.

But, he admits it has promise. "We need something like this," he admits. "We always need new crops that offer some alternatives to the crops we have. And, basically, cattle is a big part of the economic stability of the area."

Questions that will be answered in the future, as producers watch it grow, he says include: How many pounds of beef can be grazed on it? How the cattle gain and how it works through the summers? Also: How much management you really have to have with it?

"How I see this can be used is a rotational program with wheat," Allison said. "What we would be looking at is — 'How would it fit in with other things that we do? Is it going to be best as seasonal, or as a continued grazing program?'"

The Youngs were sold on the grass when they saw it growing on a pivot circle near Liberal, Kan. Prior to that, they had seen an article in a newspaper about it, and started to investigate. They found some of it in Liberal and Garden City, Kan., and near Boise City.

"My husband thought this is just what we had been looking for. He said 'We've got to do this,'" Mrs. Young recalls. "In the past we had to chase down wheat pasture, go to grass in the summer. You're never guaranteed pasture the way Mother Nature plays tricks on you."

Now, with a pasture of long season grass in place under a dependable pivot setup, they believe they have found a winning program.

"This program is just what we needed," she said.

Newness of a product like Matua can create a few challenges, Mrs. Young admits, especially when it is time to explain to financial lenders the potential of an unknown product.

"It's so new that when we tried to get documentation, we couldn't find much," she said. "They wouldn't just take our word for it."

Calling other growers through Kansas and Oklahoma — where more is raised than in Texas at present — and contacting grass researchers at regional universities, they finally found more data. And their success over the preceding fall and winter has spoken for itself, she said.

With 300 cattle on the land now, they hope to add 1,000 more about April 1 — believing that to be about the optimum number of animals their pasture will support. They expect Matua to keep up with the needs of the cattle, and even afford them a chance to do some haying on it to boot.

Keith Carmichael, a native of Clayton, N.M., who operates a stocker cattle operation in Missouri, was among the first to begin distributing Matua in the United States.

Basically, Carmichael tried the grass on his own operation and was so impressed he formed a company, Cutting Edge, to market it and other forages.

"Basically, it gave us a pasture longer than anything else we could use," Carmichael said. He found it in use as a winter forage, but the cool season grass, when grown under a center pivot, keeps on growing through the summer months.

Most of his customers like that aspect. It is called "easy drill" since it goes through the big box on a standard grain box planter.

He gets the certified seed through an importer. The seed was popular last fall, selling out at the wholesale level in about three months, Carmichael said.

Carmichael says interest among those who raise cattle and have access to center pivots is growing. Dairyman are finding that it chops well, working good in hay mixtures, too. An Idaho customer cut his Matua five times last year, every 28 days, in an irrigated situation.

Feedyards can utilize it for backgrounding cattle as well as for waste disposal compliance — since Matua can utilize large amounts of nitrogen.

Carmichael says the yield potential is illustrated by trials in which it reportedly doubled yields of winter rye, wheat and oats, and outproducing most annual ryegrass varieties.

"As long as you have good water, it will work," Carmichael said. He has seen interest as far south as Abilene, in areas where adequate irrigation exists for the grass.

Carmichael operates Cutting Edge Agri-Products, Lowry City, Mo.

DAVIS

From Page 2

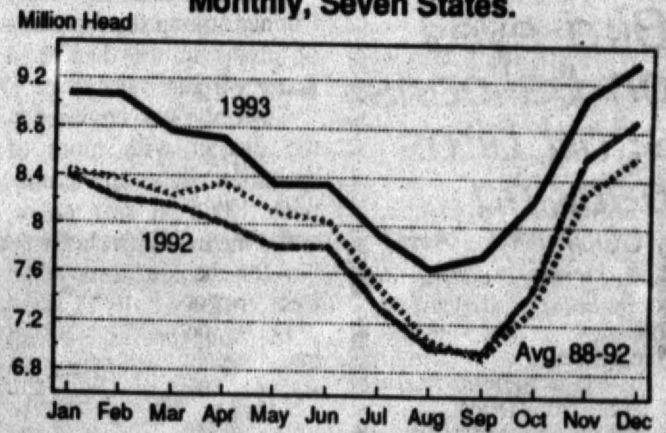
ber was 316.1 million pounds, up 7 percent from a year ago.

Cold storage beef supplies totaled 355.4 million pounds, up 29 percent from a year ago and 3 percent above last month's levels. Frozen pork supplies were measured at 325.5 million pounds, which was 3 percent above last year's levels, but 1 percent below last month's supplies.

Frozen poultry supplies were estimated to be 657.3 million pounds, down 3 percent from a year ago and

37 percent below last month's levels. (Dr. Ernie Davis, Livestock Marketing Specialist with the Texas A&M Extension Service, is an authority on the livestock markets.)

On Feed: Monthly, Seven States.



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Cotton industry likes GATT in some ways, not in others

Reprint Textile News

MEMPHIS, TN — Officials with the national Cotton Council are pleased with the tariff level established for raw cotton imports, but disappointed with a number of other General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) provisions, including those governing international textile trade.

GATT talks were completed on the Dec. 15 deadline, ending multilateral trade negotiations that began in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in 1986.

Sam Hollis, a Memphis warehouseman and member

of the President's Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee for Trade, represented the National Cotton Council in Geneva.

"It is my understanding that the final agricultural agreement is better for U.S. raw cotton than were previous versions," Hollis said. "The tariffication level for cotton, for example, was increased from seven to 16 cents in the final offers submitted by the U.S. This increase makes the tariffication level in GATT the same as negotiated in NAFTA.

Cotton's target price program and successful market-

ing loan will not be affected by terms of the GATT agreement because of budget reductions made since 1986.

Hollis commended the Secretary of Agriculture and his staff for the manner in which the final stages of these negotiations were conducted.

"Secretary Espy's accessibility and willingness to listen to what U.S. agriculture wanted made the final outcome much better than it would have been otherwise," Hollis pointed out. The cotton industry has steadfastly expressed concerns about the inadequate protection afforded by tariff offers pre-

viously submitted by U.S. negotiators. The first proposal by Bush Administration negotiators was a meaningless 17 one-hundredths of a cent per pound. The level was later raised to seven cents and, at the Council's insistence, it was eventually hiked to 16 cents.

"I know the entire cotton industry appreciates the efforts of Secretary Espy, Ambassador Kantor, and the entire delegation to get a more equitable agreement for cotton," commented National Cotton Council President Neely Mallory.

The phase out of textile quotas was not extended to

15 years from 10 as requested, nor was the phase out directly linked to reciprocal market access into the markets of competing textile producing countries. Further, the U.S. textile industry remains concerned with the size of some of the tariff reductions agreed to by U.S. negotiators.

However, negotiations with individual countries on agricultural and textiles market access issues will continue in early 1994.

"We hope that the U.S. can get increased market access for cotton and textiles in the individual country negotiations," Mallory stated.

"That increased access is crucial for our textile sector, that otherwise faces a lowering of protection at home, but no guarantee of better access abroad."

The National Cotton Council will be evaluating all aspects of the GATT agreement as it affects cotton over the next two months.

Mallory, who also is a Memphis warehouseman, added, "This is a complicated agreement with several aspects of it overlapping in their impact on cotton. We must ensure that we fully understand all of it before we take a final position on this deal."

Survey reveals extent of pivots in Hale

PLAINVIEW —

Approximately 604 center pivot sprinklers are in operation within Hale County — placing its farmers third among the leading counties on the South Plains in numbers of the high efficiency

systems in use.

The survey was done as part of a routine inventory conducted recently by the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1.

THAT PLACES Hale County among the top users of pivots in the district, a water official said.

The only two counties in the district with more of sprinkler circles are Lamb, with 1,065 at last count, and Parmer, with 1,061.

At last count, Bailey had 599 followed by Castro with 566. In all, about 4,474 pivots are in use in the district, though the figures are believed to have increased even further over the past year or so since

some surveys were done.

The survey report is one of the first of a number of regular statistical studies to be conducted regularly by the district. It was among the first reported since voters okayed a proposal to bring Hale County in its entirety into the district on Aug. 14. Studies are done periodically within all counties in the district.

CENTER PIVOT surveys are done to reflect current water conservation activities within the newly-annexed territory.

"Given an average price of \$30,000 per sprinkler system, this represents an \$18 million water conservation commitment by Hale County producers," said

Water District Manager A. Wayne Wyatt. "They are to be commended for their efforts."

Many center pivot systems operating within the district service area are partial drop line systems which achieve water use efficiencies of about 80 percent.

Water use efficiencies of up to 95 percent can be achieved because Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA) Systems apply water at low pressure directly into the furrow. This eliminates water losses associated with evaporation, wind drift and deep

percolation.

USE OF A LEPA system can reduce labor costs as much as 75 percent, reduce fuel costs from 35 to 50 percent, and save from 20 to 40 percent of the water previously pumped for irrigation when compared to conventional furrow irrigation.

Bird eyes on balloons send birds packing

ANOKA, Minn. — A Minnesota farmer traveled to Japan several years ago and saw an odd sight in a rice paddy.

It was a balloon bearing a large, circular eye.

The farmer asked the rice producer what the deal was, and was informed that birds ran rampant in his fields until he installed the balloon.

"Do you ever see birds attacking butterflies," the Japanese farmer asked? "Look at their wings, and you will see patterns on them shaped like the eyes of eagles or hawks. That is their natural secret."

The man returned to Minnesota and teamed up with a friend, Joe Kovar, to manufacture and sell the product.

Kovar, a retired implement dealer-turned salesman related the above story at his booth at the recent Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show.

Kovar now sells the balloons at shows and business events nationwide.

"It is a product that works. It does what it says it will do, scare birds away," proclaims Kovar.

He related how Texas A&M Extension Service locations are now using his balloons, and that the idea is beginning to spread.

Shortly after his stop at the Amarillo ag event, Kovar says he got a call from the U.S. Postal Service in Amarillo asking to purchase the balloons to hang in the eaves of their parking garage, which is infested by dozens of bird pests most of the year.

Kovar's balloons are made of durable material and last for years if taken care of, he says. And, most of all, he stresses, "They do work."

Kovar, owner of Joe Kovar Co., sells his products mostly by mail order from his office in Anoka, Minn.

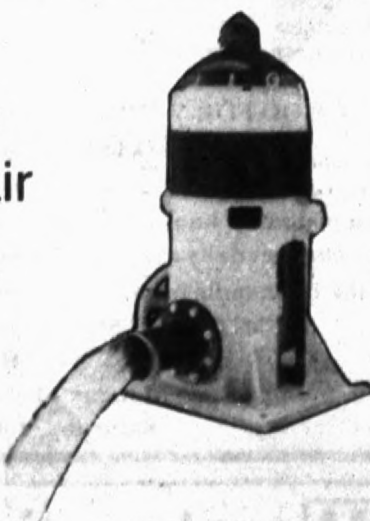
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Decreasing cotton stocks push price up

The cotton market started the new year on an unusually strong note because of decreasing stocks worldwide. The 1993/94 cotton harvest estimates in January were revised lower, especially in the U.S. and Pakistan.

The crop in China has deteriorated sufficiently to bring on "rumors" that they will be a buyer of a substantial amount of U.S. cotton during the next year and a half.

The latest supply/demand report reduced the 1993/94 U.S. crop 100,000 bales to 16.2 million and increased expected exports 300,000 bales. Domestic use was trimmed 100,000 bales for total use of 16.4 million. Ending stocks were projected to be 4.5 million, 400,000 bales less than in December. The stocks-to-use (s/u) ratio decreased from 30.25 percent a month ago to 27.44 percent. The decline in U.S. stocks will likely boost the average U.S. spot market by some 3 to 4 cents per pound.

Exports are showing signs of increasing. The projected 1993/94 deficit between foreign production and consumption increased slightly from 10.7 million in December to 11.24 million bales. That follows a 9.18 million deficit in 1992/93 for a sizable two-season shortfall of 20.42 million bales.

The 11 percent ARP set for the 1994/95 crop will likely produce around 17 million bales with average yields. Domestic use may rise from 10.2 million this season to 10.5 million, and exports around 6.5 million bales, for a



COTTON MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Carl Anderson

total use of 17 million. This would hold ending stocks steady at 4.5 million for the "new" season.

The "A" Index (world price) has increased sharply, pulling the AWP (U.S. adjusted world price) above the loan rate on Jan. 13, 1994, for the first time since Oct. 1991. Projection syndicate that the AWP will remain above the 1994/95 loan rate of 50 cents per pound for the entire season.

In other words, I do not expect a market loan deficiency or "POP" payment for the 1994/95 crop. That means it may be advisable to prepare a marketing plan to minimize risk but to allow benefits from a possible price rally later on.

The market is setting the stage to be very price sensitive and volatile during the early stages of the planting and growing season. Minimum price contracts and put options provide price insurance yet allow benefits from unexpected higher prices. You also may want to spread contracting over a reasonable time period to average out pricing opportunities.

When contracting, be sure to read the "fine print" and to understand the terms of the contract. Does the contract stipulate handling and storage charges and how much? What is the delivery date? What are the premiums and discounts? Remember, all contracts do not have the same terms.

It is possible that you may get a higher market price for the 1994/95 crop and still fall far short of the total price received for last year's crop because of no marketing loan gain. The market is expected to offer much better pricing opportunities for growers during the first half of 1994 than the last half.

(A price risk management workshop will be offered at Texas A&M Feb. 9-10. Those needing information may call 409-845-8011.

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

Surveys reveal fishing potential at White River Lake

CROSBYTON — A comparison of fish populations at White River Lake near Crosbyton last fall to the same month in 1990

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sheds some light on a growing white bass population in the lake, and good maintenance of crappie and largemouth bass numbers.

That was reported recently by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Inland Fisheries staff, based in Canyon.

During the fall, the TPWD collected an abundance of 2 to 3-inch white bass, indicating they had an excellent spawn last year.

THE TPWD HAD stocked a few adult white bass in 1985 but had seen and heard little of them until spring, 1993, when it collected 21 measuring up to 19 inches in length.

Largemouth bass numbers, it was discovered, have increased considerab-

ly since 1990, the TPWD reported. Fish up to 21 inches in length were collected with the biggest increase occurring in fish from 9 to 11 inches in length.

It was also discovered that 25 percent of the small bass collected were of the Florida strain. Because of that, Florida bass will be restocked when their percentage drops to less than 20 percent.

SMALLMOUTH BASS numbers in 1993 were identical to collections in 1990, it was learned. This species maintains a small population in the lake in areas with an abundance of rocky structure. They apparently spawn each year but numbers are limited by the amount of habitat available and fisherman harvest.

The TPWD has recommended an 18-inch minimum length limit on smallmouth bass, 3 fish daily bag limit, for fall 1994 in order to build up the smallmouth bass numbers.

Crappie have increased over the past three years. Fish up to 11 inches in length were collected with many small fish observed. Spawning and survival of crappie has been good.

Stocking of yellow perch in 1994 has been recom-

mended. The species has adapted well to Greenbelt and Meredith and have

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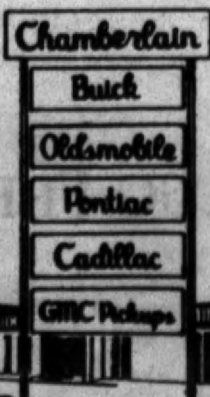
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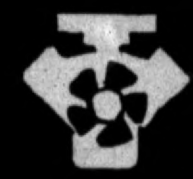
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Satellite to provide 'cable-like' services on rural Plains

LUBBOCK — Residents in South Plains counties will soon be able to tune into the nation's first high powered direct broadcast satellite (DBS-1), which was successfully rocketed into space recently from the South American nation of French Guiana.

"The successful launch of this satellite will put rural America on the cutting edge of the information age," said Ronny Puckett, Manager-Digital Satellite Television.

Hale and neighboring counties will be served by Digital Satellite Television — an entity managed by the Lubbock-based Poka

Lambro, South Plains Telephone Co-Op.

System owners are South Plains Telephone Co-Op and South Plains Electric Co-Op of Lubbock, the Lynteger Electric Co-Op in Tahoka and Lamb County Electric Co-Op in Littlefield.

Puckett said the quality of the signal to be received will be enhanced due to it being broadcast to earth via a compressed digital format, allowing customers to tune into CD quality sound. The television picture is claimed to be 30 percent sharper than standard television signals.

The new satellite, DBS-1, will begin

delivering around 70 channels of digital television service, operating under the trademark name DirecTV, to viewers across the country in the spring.

Key to the convenience of the system will be an innovative 18-inch satellite dish receiving system. The Digital Satellite System equipment is being manufactured by Thomson Consumer Electronics, makers of RCA-brand products. Each DSS will include an 18-inch dish, a digital receiver box and remote control.

The service will expand to 150 channels when the initial satellite is joined by a sister satellite in the summer

of this year.

DirecTV, a unit of GM Hughes Electronics will offer its service to the United States and Canada via a series of local agents.

In rural areas, DirecTV is dealing with rural electric, rural telephone and affiliate members of the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative.

Poka Lambro is serving 22 counties including Andrews, Bailey,

Borden, Cochran, Crosby, Dawson, Dickens, Floyd, Gaines, Garza, Hall, Hockley, Howard, Kenkt, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Martin, Motley, Terry and Yoakum.

Retail outlets will soon be opening in the 22-county service area, Puckett said.

Among features of the new service will be use of an on-screen electronic programming guide which will allow

viewers to choose programming by category and theme.

The programming signed to the system so far includes CNN, The Disney Channel, The Discovery Channel, The Sci-Fi Channel, The Learning Channel, The Discovery Channel, Country Music Television and others.

DirecTV will also offer more than 50 channels of pay-per-view programming.

NAMES IN AG NEWS

Two Hale County beef producers have recently joined the American Angus Association. They include Tim Barton of Abernathy and Randy Bennett of Plainview.

The AAA has a membership of more than 20,000 active adult and junior members and is one of the largest beef cattle registry associations in the world. Its computerized records include detailed information on nearly 11 million registered Angus.

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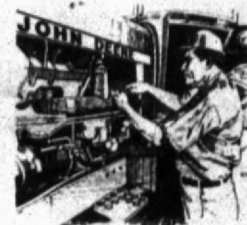
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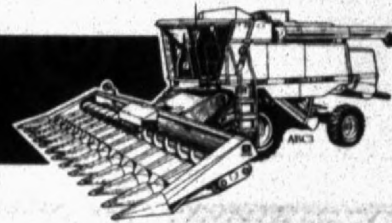
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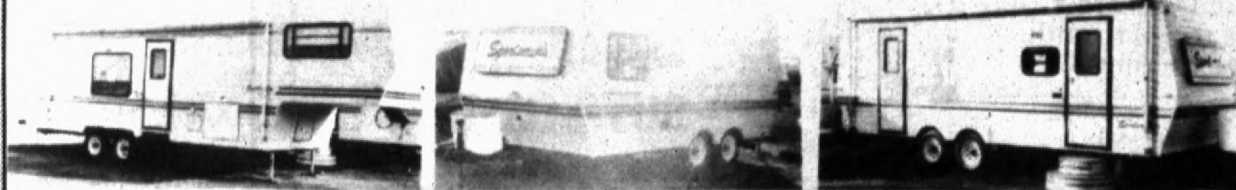


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