

The West Texas Country Trader is a Supplement of:

Abernathy Weekly Review The Canyon News

The Castro County News The Clarendon Rews HEREFORD BRAND

Plainview Daily Herald Ralls Reporter-News Thursday, February 10, 1994

The Slatonite The Tulia Herald

Cotton payment 18.6¢

Following the anannouncement of final marketing figures for calendar year 1993 Lubbock-based Plains Cotton Growers says the final 1993 Upland Cotton Deficiency Payment rate will be 18.6 cents per pound.

USDA has not officially announced the final payment rate, however, county ASCS offices have received the information and are in the process of printing checks to be mailed the week of February 7. It is expected that official word of the payment rate will come in the next few days.

Based on an 18.6 cent final payment rate producers who asked for, and received, the 10.275 cent advance payment will receive a final payment of 8.3 cents per pound," notes Donald Johnson, PCG Executive Vice President. "Comin"

on the heels of an excellent 1993 crop, the final payment should really help producers establish a firm financial basis for 1994.

Upland cotton deficiency payments are calculated as the lesser of the difference between either the 52.35 cent 1993 cotton loan rate or the weighted average price received by producers from January through December and the 72.9 cent target price set by the Secretary of Agriculture. The maximum possible deficiency payment rate for 1993 is 20.55 cents per pound. PCG's calculations

are based on final upland cotton marketing statistics released January 31 by the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The figures showed December marketings totaled 3.063 million bales. The weighted average price received by farmers in December totaled 57.1

Final marketings for 1993 totaled 14.509 million bales. The weighted average price received by farmers settled at 54.3 cents per pound for the year.

PCG officials also note that USDA has not announced all of the provisions that will make up the 1994 cotton program.

Final Price Received Jan-Dec '93						
January	2,681	2,681	53	53		
February	1,009	3,690	53.8	53.2		
March	823	4,513	56.3	53.8		
April	338	4,851	55.1	53.9		
May	327	5,178	54.4	53.9		
June	279	5,447	53.6	53.9		
July	246	5.693	53.7	53.9		
August	336	6,029	53.1	53.6		
October	1,440	11,446	53.9	53.6		
December	3,063	14,509	57.1	54.3		

* Final 1993 figures as announced by the NASS,

EPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER

Local Llama takes the blue

Grace, a 7-month-old llama bred at Golden's Point near Akin won back-to-back grand champion honors at the Tulsa, Okla., and Albuquerque, N.M., state fairs recently. Jill Golden and husband Larry own Grace's sire, Jazz, another award winner.

Ostrich meet set in March

AMARILLO - An event billed as the "Biggest Little Ostrich Seminar in Texas" will be held March 5-6 by the Southwest Ostrich Breeders Association.

Headquarters for the meet is the Radisson Inn.

Speakers include Dr. James Stewart, Stewart Ostrich Consultation Services of San

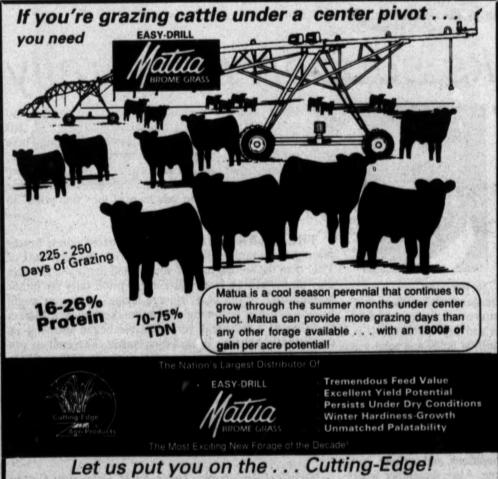
Ramon, Calif.; C.B. Wiley of A-Investigaotrs of Wills Point; Darryl Holle of Blue Mountain Ratite Feed of Berthoud, Colo.; and Reuben L. Hancock, Amarillo

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News

FEB. 10

TEXOMA CATTLE CONFERENCE — The annual Texoma Cattle Conference will be in session in Sherman.

FEB. 10-12

HOME-BASED ENTREPRENEURSHIP Sessions on starting and succeeding with a small busininess. Held at Rudder Tower at Texas A&M.

FEB. 10-11

TEXAS PEST MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION — Meeting to be held in the Saint Anthony Hotel in San Antonio.

FEB. 16

ROLLING PLAINS **COTTON GROWERS** MEET — Abilene will host this annual event in the Taylor County Coliseum and Expo Center.

Unlikely place for a forest

By DANNA RYAN

A&M Extension Journalist

UBBOCK -- Reaching from the Panhandle to the Gulf Coast of Texas, the Texas Forest Service delivers windbreak trees to almost two-thirds of the state. Bob Fewin, area forester at the agency's West Texas nursery in Lubbock, said they sell trees to nearly every county west of Interstate 35.

Fewin has been involved with windbreak sales for the Forest Service, an agency of the Texas A&M University System, since 1971. With so much territory to cover, the Forest Service lets the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts handle sales in each county.'\

Each district sends landowners a purchase list and the landowners pay the individual districts for the trees. In turn, the districts then place orders with the Forest Service. "We let each individual Soil and Water Conservation District handle the sales and they buy the trees from us", said Fewin.

He said the selling season usually begins in the middle of September and runs through the last week in March. Ideally, delivery of the trees begins in the middle of February and takes approximately six weeks.

'It works really smoothly if we don't get any ice storms or snow, but invariably we'll encounter bad weather," said Fewin.

'We rent trucks and drop off trees in nearly every county in Texas," said Fewin. Windbreak tree planting is a yearround job for the Forest Services' West Texas nursery. Fewin said they begin sowing seed in May, fertilize all summer and begin digging the trees out of the



Sheep stray from flock?

In the words of Randall County Extension Ag Agent Robert Devin, "Coyotes, dogs and sheep just don't mix. He says predators are the primary reason there are no flock operations in some areas. Even so, these finewool sheep were sighted recently off FM217 in rural Randall County.

ground normally the first week in December and put them in cold storage until delivery. "We take orders for around 2,500 landowners and sell trees directly to about 115 Soil and Water Conservation Districts," said Fewin. "We sell everything; there's a demand for more trees than can be produced. "

While the individual districts are free to increase the prices they sell the trees for, the Forest Service itself only makes enough money from sales to cover their operating expenses, Fewin said. Landowners typically use the trees for farmstead windbreaks, livestock

protection, living snow fences and habitat for wildlife. Fewin said the future of the program looks promising and will continue to grow. Although the nursery in West Texas started off slow due to an initial lack of acceptance from landowners, it has overcome many obstacles in the last 15 years. Planting windbreak trees is now virtually maintenance free. "The whole purpose of the nursery is to make it economical for landowners to plant a lot of trees," Fewin said. "We want it to be relatively inexpensive to purchase good, quality

Total wheat acres in Texas down 5 percent from the previous crop year

AUSTIN — Texas wheat producers have the 5.9 million acres planted in 1992. dry conditions slowed progress. State unable to get their acreage seeded. Scattered seeded 5.8 million acres for the 1994 winter Seeding of winter wheat began on schedule Statistician Dennis Findley reported showers during late October and early wheat crop, 5 percent below the 6.1 million in late August with only a few minor delays planting conditions were dry in many areas. November helped emergence but more acres planted last year and 2 percent below early in the planting season but subsequent during the fall and some producers were moisture is needed.

Decreasing world stocks support price rally

Cotton futures posted a strong uptrend during January as world supplies diminished and prospects improved for increased U.S. exports. On January 28, March '94 futures moved up the limit to 75.86 cents per pound, compared with 66.84 a month earlier and 62.36 on November 29. Likewise, the "A" Index has soared upward to 76.85 cents on January

THE STRONG, BULLISH sentiment of the cotton market in January was unusual and may lead to an easier seasonal peak for 1994/95 crop prices this spring than the normal midsummer peak.

Behind the market rally is the real prospect for increased U.S., cotton exports. Foreign consumption is exceeding production by at least 11 million bales for the 1993/94 foreign crop. The deficit was 9.18 million bales in 199Z93. As a result, this season's shortfall opens the door wider for more U.S. exports. A/so, economic growth in most industrialized foreign countries as well as developing countries has improved substantially.

Domestic cotton consumption in December was better than expected. This report further supports the market's January rally.

Poor crops in foreign countries of Pakistan, India, China, Turkey, Brazil and Australia support the improved outlook for 1993/94 cotton exports. Mexico has already purchased a large amount of U.S. cotton, mostly from Tens. Shipments to Mexico as of week ending January 21), totaled 375,100

Dr. Carl Anderson



bales, with sales commitments of 756,400 hales.

At this time, using expected acreage of 13.0 million (National Cotton Council survey indicates 12.950 million for '94) with trend yields and 11% ARP, the U.S. 1994/95 crop my be around 17 million bales and total use 17 minion. That would hold ending stocks about stable with

this season's expected 4.5 million bales. However, with the current strong demand, carryover may be closer to 4.0 million by the end of July. With the "A" Index (world price) now in the

midseventies, a marketing loan deficiency payment for the 1994/95 crop appears remote. The U.S. market is very sensitive to market and weather conditions, and current

resulting price changes are large. Also, remember what goes up in the market must come down—the only question

It appears financially advisable to have a marketing plan in place that will benefit from the price rally and still maximize the risk of a much lower price at harvest. There are several pricing strategies that may be used such as for, yard contracts, minimum price contracts, puts, and more sophisticated strategies that use puts and calls, and synthetic puts. When contracting, be sure to read the "fine print" so that you understand terms of contract.

THE MARKET IS expected to offer much better pricing opportunities for growers during the first haft of 1994 than the second half. If you missed out (most growers did) on benefiting from the current price rally by either holding cash cotton or a "storage hedge", then you might want to consider becoming a better market watcher, Market signals that a rally was very possible began showing up consistently starting in mid-November. The cost of not participating in this major rally exceeds \$50 per bale already and may become much greater before July.

County agents are sponsoring "marketing clubs" over a large part of the cotton growing area of Tins. These groups meet to teach producers how to better benefit from market price changes, either up or down. Contact your county Extension agent if you want to participate.

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

Cotton expert Anderson given prestigi

SAN DIEGO - Dr. Carl G. prize and another \$5,000 grant to Anderson, cotton specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, won a top Dational award

his outstandiDg contribution to cotton industry at the 1994 Beltwide Cotton Production Conference at the Sanl



Diego Marriott Hotel.

Anderson, based at Texas A&M University, was given the 9th annual Hoechst-Roussel Cotton Extension Education Award by the National Cotton

The award carries a \$10,000 Anderson's influence in

support his Extension work at Texas A&M. "Carl Anderson is one of the premier cotton marketing economists in the nation," said Dr. Zerle Carpenter, director of the Extension Service.

'He has a keen insight into the cotton market as well as the markets of a wide range of agricultural commodities. He has the ability to transfer that insight to producers and county Extension agents who assist producers with marketing decisions.

Carpenter said Anderson has helped producers bridge the gap between production and marketing, enabling them to give the marketing phase of their operations the critical attention needed. Since he joined the Extension Service 14 years ago, developing innovative educational programs in marketing, policy and price risk management has become nationally recognized.

Prominent leaders for Gommodity and farm oranizations contact him regularly for his expert analysis in marketing and policy interpretation.

One of his most successful programs has been the in-depth 12-hour marketing workshops on futures and options

More than 100 of these workshops have been conducted since the trading of agricultural commodity options began in 1984. In recognition of his marketing expertise, Anderson was named to the Board of Managers of the New York Cotton Exchange in 1986.

"He has the remarkable ability to deterrnine the needs of the

people he serves and to relate to all levels of clientele, ranging from the large agribusiness CEO to part-time farmer," saidDr. A Gene Nelson, head of the agricultural economics department at Texas A&M and one of Anderson's nominators.

Anderson received his bachelor's and doctorate degrees from Texas A&M University and earned a master's from Louisiana

Sugar Beet Growers -

State University.

The awards are made possible by a grant to The Cotton Foundation from Hoechst-Roussel Agri-Vet Company.

The program also recognizes the outstanding county agent from a cottonproducing state. Winning that award was John W. Barnett, a Ouachita Parish agent in Louisiana.

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Amarillo Bank acquires ag credit branch

AMARILLO - Amarillo National Bank announced it has acquired the assets of Cargill Ag Credit Corporation, which has been the cattle financing subsidiary of Cargill, Incorporated of Minneapolis, MN.

The company will operates as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Amarillo National under the name Circle A Ag Credit Corporation. Circle A will continue to offer cattle financing for feedlot cattle in the Texas Panhandle and surrounding trade area. This acquisition will make Amarillo National the largest independent cattle-lending bank in Texas.

AG Computer terminology:

bits _ are necessary to represent a character.

CPU: Central Processing Unit, the microchip brains of the computer. The larger the number, the greater the power and speed _ and usually the price.

expansion slots: Plug-in slots inside the computer case that let you extend the capabilities of your system.

floppy drives: Allows you to inser 5^2-inch or 3⁴-inch diskettes. Some computers have two drives; a few IBM compatibles have one of each size.

hard disk drive: High capacity mass storage device _ your main data that can be internally, located

byte: One byte _ eight externally or both. This is the computer's permanent

K: Kilobyte, or K,

represents 1,000 bytes. keyboard: There are two basic types: 84-key and 101-key expanded.

Mac: General term used to describe any computer from the Macintosh family

Megabyte or MB: A million bytes.

MHz: Megahertz. Operating speed, or clock speed, is measured in MHz. The higher the MHz number, the faster the computer runs.

monitor: Your computer's display screen, and depending on the builtin or optional video card.



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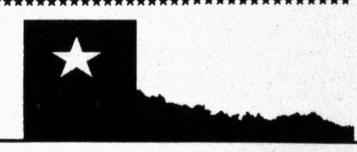




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Cargill again supports Farm Safety 4-Just-Kids

MINETONKA, Minn.-The Cargill Contributions Committee announced recently it would provide \$50,000 in 1994 to continue a partnership dedicated to preventing children from being injured or killed in farmrelated accidents. Cargill and the nonprofit organization, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, have been partners since November 1992. Today's announcement raises the company's contributions to the nonprofit to a total of \$100,000. "Since the partnership was formed, nearly 200 Cargill locations in the United States and Canada have become business members of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids," said Dan Huber, president of Cargill's Agriculture Sector. "Cargill formed 12 chapters and sponsored many events with Farm Safety 4 Just Kids last year. Cargill is committed to keeping farm children safe." Cargill's experience with safety is valuable, said Fritz Corrigan, president of Cargill's Fertilizer Division. Corrigan and Huber co-sponsor the farm safety partnership for the company. The partnership enables Cargill to share its experience with safety and safety training with farm communities and farm families. In our business and in our partnership with Farm Safety

prevent tragedies." Farm Safety 4 Just Kids was founded in 1986.

4 Just Kids, our goal is to

her son to a farm accident. Cargill is a privately held merchandiser, processor. transporter and warehouser and supplier of food products.

Funds available to stimulate ag alternatives

Agriculture's projects, providing funding on a costsharing basis commercialize new products or processes from traditional ag

The goal of the AARC Center is to bring new industrial products using agricultural materials into the marketplace. This increases markets for farmers, and many of these products have environmental or conservation benefits, especially when the crops are grown using sustainable agricultural practices. All of the projects chosen for AARC funding are at the commercialization stage, according to Dr. loe Roetheli, deputy director of the AARC's national center in Washington,

They were chosen from more than 400 proposal;s for funding. AARC had approximately \$10 million in funds available. which limited the number of projects it could support, according to Roetheli. Congress gave AARC a \$9 million appropriation for fiscal year 1994, and AARC is in the process of choosing additional projects for Its program.

HE U.S. Department of Projects were chosen for their potential for commercial! Alternative Agricultural success; environmental benefits; Research and Commer- potential for rural job creation; cialization Center (AARC) is and potential for earning working with 25 business valueadded income for farmers and rural businesses.

> The 25 chosen projects included 18 small businesses, one agricultural cooperative, three midsized companies, one large corporation and two nonprofit organizations. The projects are: Production of ethanol from lignocellulosic materials— grasses and biomass sources typically from marginal lands. (Projects are in California, Florida and Texas.) Production of pulp from waste straw (Oregon).

Production of newsprint from kenaf, which is an alternative annual crop, and recycled fibers (Texas). Lawn growing mats made from kenaf (a California projects with the potential to use 50,000 acres of kenaf). Molded furniture parts made from wood strands flaked from pulp wood grade lumber (Michigan). Environ, a granitelike composite board material for furniture, tile and structural use made from soybeans and waste newspaper (Minnesota). Onfarm composting utilizing animal manure, animal bedding, yard waste and starch based

(Pennsylvania). Biodegradable films and coatings made from wheat (Kansas).

Bio-degradable starch encapsulated pesticides made from corn to lower pestieide application rates (Kansas and Illinois). Improved seed oilbased. biodegradable lubricants made from crambe and industrial rapeseed oil (Washington). Windshield washer solvent made from ethanol (Missouri). Biodiesel production and processing technology (Kansas). Biodiesel from animal byproducts, including waste cooking fats and oils, tallow, lard, poultry fat (Florida). Biodiesel performance standards (Washington, D.C.). Specialty biodegradable lubricants and cosmetics made from lesquerella (California and Biodegradable Arizona). concrete release agent made from rapeseed (Illinois). Poly chemicals from corn starch to replace petroleumbased products (Washington).

Hesperaloe for paper towels (Arizona and Wisconsin). Milkweed down for use as an insulation material (Nebraska) Kenaf and wood composites for spaceboard (California). Epoxy materials from soy oil (Michigan) Cotton fibers with properties bioplastic

(Wisconsin).

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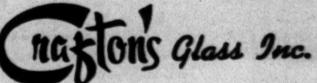
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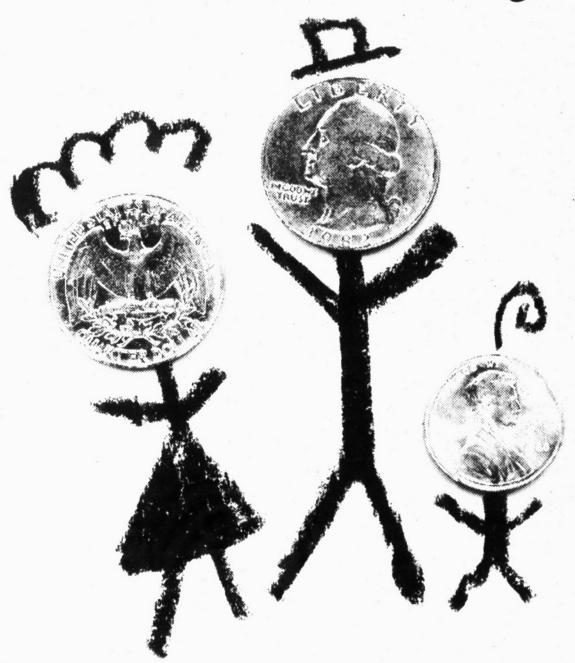
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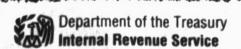
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Giant new soybean plant offers new feed source

By MARGARET SCHERF

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soybean plants that grow up to seven feet tall could provide feed for dairy cows that produces more protein and needs less nitrogen fertilizer than corn, says a researcher.

The experimental plants, bred from longneglected hay-type soybeans, "open the way to a new dairy silage for sustainable farming systems. I think they'll find a useful niche, especially in the mid-Atlantic region," says Thomas Devine, a geneticist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Silage is plant material — mainly leaves and stems - that is 'pickled'' by natural microorganisms to yield long-lasting, nutritious feed, Devine explained in a recent edition of Agricultural Research magazine.

Plants grown for silage are cut, slightly dried, chopped, then enclosed in a chamber such as a bunker. After natural microorganisms use up the chamber's oxygen, other microbes produce lactic acid that pickles the forage.

Soybean silage varieties based on his experimental strains could be available in about three years. Devine said. He will begin testing a few of the best experimental lines for yield and nutrient value in Iowa, Pennsylvania and Virginia this spring.

"Corn is the number one silage, but soybeans potentially can produce more protein," he said. And soybeans are a legume, which need less commercial nitrogen fertilizer than corn.

"Symbiotic bacteria on soybean roots capture nitrogen from the air, and the roots slowly release it as they decay," Devine said. "After harvesting soybean silage in summer,

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43 MC

a farmer could plant a small grain, like barley or wheat, that would use this 'free' nitrogen."

Soybeans first became popular in the United States as a hav crop, Devine noted, with 70 percent of the 1924 crop used for that purpose.

But that use dropped to 3 percent by 1964, with the rest used for grain. The drop in hay use happened, Devine said, because "quality was erratic. The plants dried slowly and rain often leached out

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nutrients."

The few farmers who do grow soybeans for silage have to plant varieties bred for their grain production and therefore produce much less foliage.

Devine began in 1976 crossing a hay soybean with grain types having resistance to diseases and pests.

The hay type was described as a vigorous, leafy but little used strain supplied by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Devine tests the plants

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in cooperative studies with David Starner of Virginia Tech and Elwood Hatley of The Pennsylvania State University.

U.S. rye production one the decline

WASHINGTON (AP) -The 1993 U.S. rye production is estimated at 10.3 million bushels, down 13 percent from the previous

The average yield was 27.1 bushels per acre, down 2.3 bushels per acre from 1992, said a 1993 summary of crop production by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

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Area harvested was 381,000 acres, down 6 percent from last year. Planted acres were estimated to total 1.49 million, down 6 percent from a year ago.

"This is the smallest planted area on record,' the report said.

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farmer multiplies natural poisture

LOCKNEY — Charles Huffman of Lockney strongly believes in making the most of the free moisture provided by Mother Nature. Since 1979, he has been using furrow dikes to harvest rainfall on the 1,200 acres he farms near Lockney.

Furrow dikes are mounds of soil mechanically installed in the furrow. The dikes create basins that hold rainfall until it can soak into the ground and prevent excess water from running off the field.

Huffman says he really doesn't remember why he started using furrow dikes in his field, except that they made good sense to him. The use of furrow dikes seemed to be a good way to improve his dryland farming operation by conserving precious rainfall.

The first furrow diker Huffman purchased did a good job of installing the furrow dikes, but there was one small problem. "It was just too slow, so I built my own," he says.

Huffman has since purchased two additional dikers and now uses all three dikers on his land. "I hardly ever go across a field without diking it," he

Since precipitation is unpredictable, it is important to keep the furrow dikes in place as much as possible — especially from June through August, when the High Plains area receives most of its annual precipitation.

Huffman leaves his dikes

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in place year-round, since he can straddle them with his cotton stripper. The dikes catch water in the fall and winter, which helps improve soil moisture conditions for spring planting. He even leaves the dikes in place when he plants winter wheat. Huffman says the planter does not tear up the furrow dikes too badly, and they still help hold water on the field.

Furrow dikes have been called reservoirs of yield potential. Research has proven that cotton produces an additiona 30 to 40 pounds of lint per acre for every inch of water received above the plant's basic water requirement. Water stored in the soil because of the furrow dikes can make the difference between losing money and making money on a crop.

Measurements of rainfall runoff made during a threeyear study at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at Lubbock on loam soals revealed that no runoff occurred on level land and that the average annual runoff was 1.74 inches for land with a 0.2 percent slope (two inches per 100 feet).

Runoff was 2.51 inches from soils with a 0.5 eprcent slope, and 3.08 inches from soils with a 0.9 percent slope, and 3.61 inches from soils with a 1.2 percent slope. The average annual precipitation runoff during the three-year study for the four graded tracts was 2.73 inches per acre.

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season, Huffman's dryland acreage is producing a little more than 600 pounds of cotton lint per acre. In years with more rainfall, his dryland cotton yield has been as high as 800 pounds

"The furrow dikes really saved me this year. We got a 3.7 inch rain in August, which my cotton crop really needed. The furrow dikes held the water on the field and allowed the crop to reap the full benefit of the rain," he says.

He added that he has seen the runoff from a big rain fill his playa lake. However, since he has been using furrow dikes, the lake has far less water after a rain - illustrating the amount of water that was previously lost as runoff.

In the 1970s, the Bushland Experiment Station conducted a five-year study of furrow dikes in grain sorghum fields. The diked areas had an average annual yield of 420 pounds more per acre than the undiked areas. The undiked area had an average annual runoff of 1.7 inches compared to no

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runoff from the furrow diked area.

Furrow dikes are also beneficial when used with irrigation, especially when used with Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA) center privot sprinkler systems. They hold water in the furrow until it has time to infiltrate the soil, and this provides a more uniform application of water across the field.

With furrow irrigation, the dikes are typically installed in alternate furrows which are not watered. This allows the producer to take advantage of any precipitation that

"Furrow dikes are very cost-effective. Initial equipment investments range from \$140 to \$300 per row, but this cost can usually be recovered during

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the first year as a result of increased crop yields and reduced irrigaiton pumping costs," says Ken Carver, Assistant Manager of the High Plains Underground

trict No. 1. Huffman says he is seeing more furrow dikes in area fields each year, and

this in turn causes more

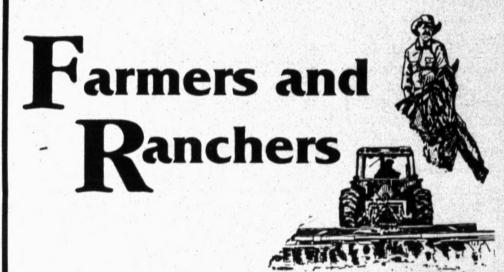
Water Conservation Dis-

demand for furrow dikers. When considering the purchase of a furrow diker, Huffman says it is important to make sure that it has sturdy construction and low maintenance requirements, that it attaches easily to other equipment to combine field operations, that it is capable of high speed operation, and that it constructs a large furrow dike which will hold runoff dur-

ing intense thunderstorms. "We have to better utilize our rainfall and our ground water. There is still too much water running down the ditches, and furrow dikes are a good place to start the conservation effort," Huffman says.

The Water Management Note, Furrow Dikes: Small Reservoirs of Yield Potential, is available by contacting the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, 2930 Ave. Q, Lubbock, 79405-1499 or by calling 762-0181.





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