

WEST TEXAS Country Trader

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The Clarendon News



The Lorenzo
EXAMINER
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The Slatonite
The Tulia Herald

Molly the mare nurses calves



Courtesy Photo/Frances Wood

L.W. Cook checks on Molly and one of the calves she raised this spring. For little fellers who have trouble reaching the faucets, a rubber tub is provided.

Molly is 'mom' to orphaned 'dogies'

Special to AgReview

CROSBYTON — Molly is a 'old maid' mare with a mothering instinct that is quite miraculous.

The odd thing about Molly, however, is her preference to mother young cattle rather than colts.

AgReview

Molly is the surrogate "cow" for orphaned calves — which she began mothering and nursing completely on her own a couple of years ago — on the L-7 ranch near Crosbyton.

Owned by former Plainview resident L. W. Cook, Molly is an 8-year-old quarter horse and honorary ranch

nursemaid.

Molly is a miracle mare. That's because she produces milk despite the fact she never had a foal of her own.

In the past two years, Molly has raised about 10 calves.

She's got calves right now that weighs 400 to 500 pounds, and if things go along like they usually do about this time of year, it's just about time to replace this fat animal with a new one.

Mrs. Billy (Frances) Wood, a Plainview Energas employee and daughter of Cook, says Molly's nursing ability even puzzles veterinarians, because mares normally must foal before they produce milk.

Of course, Molly can't produce enough milk when she has several little ones tagging along with her. So Cook does bottle-feed with a milk supplement.

The Wood children occasionally travel to the ranch and help with bottle feeding.

Frances explained that Molly's mothering instincts became apparent when she was 4 years old and stole a calf from its mama. Now every calving season she has a full-time job with her bovine brood.

"That first spring my dad noticed her bringing a baby calf back to the barn with her," explains Mrs. Wood. "She had never had a calf, and my dad

See MOLLY, Page 3

Clarendon ranch plans weekly 'hoedown'

CLARENDON — Any-one who enjoys the crackling smells of a chuckwagon cooking fire and the down-home fun of "opry"-style entertainment, can attend one of the regu-

lar "Hoedown" events at the Bar H Dude Ranch.

Frank Hommel, ranch owner, has announced plans to add the "Hoedown" to his full-fare of ranch entertainment. "Hoedown" will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings at the Bar H.

"We have lots of appeal to visitors from all over the United States and even from overseas," Hommel explained. "We wanted to add something else to entertain our guests. After a full day of activities on a

working cattle ranch, we didn't think we could find anything more satisfying than music."

Hommel intends to draw upon area talent for the "Hoedown." In addition to the singers and dancers performing cowboy songs and other country or western tunes, Hommel expects to have cloggers, line dancers and an occasional cowboy poet.

"There may also be some opportunities for folks to get up and do a little 'Texas

two-steppin' of their own," Hommel said.

The cost for the evening will be \$15. The price includes dinner and entertainment. Reservations are required.

Located on FM 3257, off U.S. 287 just three miles from Clarendon, the Bar H Dude Ranch began operating in October 1991. The 1,500-acre working cattle ranch has been operated by the Hommel family for three generations.

Equipped with two bunk-

houses, the Bar H can accommodate 50 overnight guests. The ranch also boasts a recreation building, a swimming pool, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits and wide porch fully equipped with rocking chairs. Activities and meals are geared specifically to fit individual or group needs. Individuals, fami-

lies, wedding parties, business retreats and tour groups all are welcome at the Bar H.

The ranch is also a game preserve and hunters are welcome. Reservations are necessary for overnight stays and other organized ranch activities. More information is available by calling 1-800-627-9871.

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AgReview



South Plains
Ag News

April 16-17

COTTON GIN FESTIVAL — The 4th Annual Cotton Gin Festival will be held in Burton in South Central Texas featuring cotton gin, antique farm equipment, folklife demonstrations, parade, contests, kids stuff, entertainment and arts and crafts.

May 6-8

PAWNEE, OKLA., OLD TRACTOR SHOW — Typical old tractor event. Information available at 405-282-7008.

May 28

FLOYD COUNTY OLD SETTLERS — Day of celebrating and fun, plus a parade including antique tractors.

Take this farm safety pop quiz

MOLINE, ILL. — The National Safety Council estimates 1,200 deaths and 140,000 disabling, non-fatal injuries related to agriculture occurred in 1992. To decrease deaths and disabling injuries requires increased awareness of potential dangers and determination to learn and use ways to avoid them.

You can test your awareness of potential dangers on the farm by taking the following quiz provided by Deere & Company. Be sure to review the answers after you have completed the quiz. True or False:

1. You should never attempt to start

an engine by shorting across starter terminals.

2. The operator of a tractor equipped with a rigid ROPS (rollover protective structure) or ROPS cab should always wear a seat belt.

3. You can avoid injury when pulling a corn stalk at least twofeet long from plugged stalk rolls if you release the stalk as soon as it begins to be pulled in.

4. Do not permit children to ride with you while you're operating a tractor.

5. The best way to check the tractor and implement hydraulic system for leaks is to quickly run your hand over

the lines, fittings, and components.

6. Clothing caught in a wrap point will normally tear away, permitting the person to escape serious injury.

7. When a tractor operator signals a left turn with the yellow flashing lights on, the right-hand flashing lights change to more steady illumination (stop flashing) and the left-hand lights start flashing at a faster rate.

8. In cold, winter months, gasoline does not vaporize enough to form an explosive or flammable mixture with air.

9. A tractor can overturn to the rear when driven forward up a steep incline.

10. Maximum speed is 20 mph when towing a load that is not equipped with brakes and is equal to or less in weight than the tractor. Answers to the safety quiz

Only a perfect score is acceptable — for even one mistake about safety on the farm can cost pain, suffering, or loss of life. While a perfect score doesn't guarantee an accident-free farm, it does indicate an awareness of basic safety rules and practices. That's the first step toward a safer farm and work environment. But remember, you have to pass with a perfect score every second of every day on the farm!

1. True. The machine will start in gear if neutral-start circuitry is bypassed. This could cause the machine to move suddenly and cause serious injury or death to anyone in its path. Start an engine only from the operator's seat of the machine, with the transmission in park or neutral.

2. True. If your tractor is equipped with a rigid ROPS (rollover protective structure) or ROPS cab, you must wear your seat belt at all times. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for foldable and telescopic ROPS. If you do not

See QUIZ, Page 4

Feedlot corrections made during January

The Feb. 7 states "Cattle On Feed" report was a needed bullish report for the fed cattle sector of the beef industry. Moderately bullish, but still bullish!

During January cattle feeders upped their marketings 6 percent above the 1993 winter troubled marketings. Slightly over 1.6 million head of cattle were marketed from the 7-States feedlots during January.

Put in perspective, however, the January 1994 marketing were fractionally below the 5-year average of 1.2 million head. On feed numbers were still 7 percent greater than the 5-year average and the largest number on feed in February since 1974.

Higher feed costs, still relatively high feeder costs, and tight to negative margins have discouraged cattle feeders. Cattle and calves placed in feedlots during January numbered 1.54 million head, down 5 percent from a year ago and 9 percent below the 5-year average.

With the continuation of smaller placements and increased marketings, inventories should begin declining. January-March fed cattle marketings are expected to average 4 percent above last year. For the April-June period, marketings are projected to slip 1-2 percent below last year. Even if marketings slip below year ago levels during the second quarter, beef production may still remain above year ago levels. Average carcass weights rose to record levels last fall and have continued to post new records in 1994. Marketing weights have been boosted by excellent feedlot performance this winter.

Beef production is expected to average about 7 percent over a year earlier during the January-March quarter before moderating to a 4 percent weight-induced rise in the April-June period.

Production levels likely will continue to moderate during the last half of the year, with July-September output holding near a year earlier while October-December output is projected to rise 1 to 2 percent.

Fed cattle prices traded mostly in the lower \$70s through the fall and early winter months, but by early March are expected to move into the upper \$70s. April-June prices



LIVESTOCK MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Ernie Davis

an average in the \$72-\$74 range, before rising back into the mid-\$70s by year end.

On Feed: Cattle and calves on feed Feb. 1 in the 7 monthly reporting states totaled 9.14 million head, up 1 percent from year ago counts and 11 percent above 1992. Texas feedlots had 2.66 million head of cattle and calves on feed, 10 percent above year ago numbers.

Placements: Cattle and calves placed on feed in the 7-States during January totaled 1.54 million head, down 5 percent from last year and down 1 percent from January 1992. Texas feedlots placed 365,000 cattle and calves on feed during January. This was 11 percent above January 1993 placements.

Marketings: Marketings of fed cattle from the 7-States during January totaled 1.61 million head, up 6 percent from last year but 3 percent below January 1992. Marketings from Texas feedlots during January totaled 425,000, up 21 percent from last year.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production in the U.S. during January 1994 totaled 3.37 billion pounds, 2 percent above last year. Kill days for January 1994 included 21 weekdays and five Saturdays. January 1993 had the same number of weekdays and Saturdays for 1994 for production.

Beef Production: For the month of January, beef produc-

tion was 1.94 billion pounds, up 7 percent from last year. Head kill totaled 2.74 million head, up 3 percent from last year. The average live weight at slaughter increased 27 pounds to 1,191 pounds.

Veal Production: For January, veal production totaled 23 million pounds, up 4 percent from the record low set last year. Calf slaughter totaled 102.0 thousand head, down 2 percent from last year. The average live weight was up 20 pounds to 385 pounds.

Pork Production: Pork production was 1.38 billion pounds, 4 percent below last year. Hog kill totaled 7.47 million head, down 5 percent from last year. The average live weight remained the same at 254 pounds.

Lamb Production: During January, lamb and mutton production totaled 25 million pounds, the same as a year ago. Slaughter totaled 394.6 thousand head, almost the same as last year. The average live weight was down 1 pound to 127 pounds.

Texas Slaughter: January's livestock slaughter included 504.6 thousand head of cattle, up 17 percent; 1.5 thousand head of calves, down 44 percent; 30.2 thousand hogs, up 9 percent from 1993. Sheep and lamb slaughter was not reported to avoid disclosing individual operations. Commercial red meat production in Texas during January was 350.2 million pounds, up 21 percent from a year ago.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen meat in U.S. warehouses on Jan. 31, 1994 totaled 814.8 million pounds, up 25 percent from a year ago and up 12 percent from last month. Cold storage beef supplies totaled 435.4 million pounds, up 52 percent from a year ago and 9 percent above last month's levels. Frozen pork supplies were measured at 348.9 million pounds, which was 6 percent above last year's levels, and 17 percent above last month's supplies.

Frozen poultry supplies were estimated to be 679.3 million pounds, down 2 percent from a year ago, but 10 percent above last month's levels.

(Dr. Ernie Davis is Livestock Marketing Specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.)

Texas Ranchers pushing goat for dinner

By NELSON ANTOSH

Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON — It's what's for dinner. And these Texas ranchers aren't talking beef.

Call it cabrito, chevon, chivon, capretto or just plain ol' goat — in any language it spells an up-and-coming meat product.

After decades of being little more than a cottage industry in the western part of Texas, the business of raising goats for meat is on the rise.

The action is taking place in Texas because the state historically has been No. 1 in the nation for the number of goats, with concentrations around Junction, Menard and San Angelo. There were an estimated 1.96 million

MOLLY, from Page 1

thought this was really strange. The next thing he knew, she was trying to nuzzle the calf to start nursing it."

The Woods enjoy going to the ranch and watching Molly and her brood.

"She beds 'em down in the haystack and makes sure they have their naps," commented Frances. "Then she will nip them on the back and let them know it's time to nurse."

goats in Texas on Jan. 1, but the vast majority were raised for their mohair.

Ranchers interested in goat meat are reacting to a growing demand by immigrants from such places as Mexico, Asia, the Middle East, Cuba, Haiti and Jamaica, where goat meat is more commonly eaten than beef. Texas ranchers are hoping to broaden this market, now met largely by imports, by improving their product through the use of a new breed of goat developed in South Africa.

The demand for these Boer goats is so high that prices have soared since they first entered the United States last April. Texas ranchers are paying \$14,000 to \$25,000 per goat and using them as breeders. In a few years, these bigger and meatier animals will allow butchers to sell cuts they can promote as mainstream menu items in supermarkets.

"We are going to introduce to middle America a high-quality, consistent product," pledges Kay

Keen, executive director of the American Meat Goat Association, a 3-year-old organization based in Mertzon, Texas. "This is the fastest growing industry with the most potential in Texas agriculture at this time."

But first, ranchers have to devise an appealing name and a hot recipe for their goat meat. This search will be the topic of a by-invitation-only goat industry summit to be held May 9 in Prairie View, Texas.

"We want to latch onto something like the beef industry did with fajitas," Keen says, noting that skirt beef, formerly known as a "throw-away" piece of beef, is now a bestseller.

The need for a good name is obvious. Pig raisers produce pork, not pig meat; cattle raisers produce beef, not cattle meat; and sheep raisers produce mutton or lamb, not sheep meat.

Thian Hor Teh, who heads the Kika de la Garza Institute for Goat Research at Langston University in Oklahoma, likes the

name chevon. He thinks the label cabrito should be avoided, because, speaking accurately, cabrito comes from young goats, from 6 to 8 months old, and people don't like the idea of killing kids.

But Texans don't like the name chevon, because it sounds too French, Keen says. They want something more Southwestern. They would like to call all of the cuts cabrito

— cabrito loin, cabrito steaks, cabrito roasts. In Mexico, cabrito typically refers to the entire carcass.

But for many consumers, the name isn't a big deal. There are about 61 million people in the United States whose ethnic background makes them more likely to eat goat meat if they can get it, according to Teh.

Proof of demand is the increase of goat meat imports. The

amount of frozen goat meat from Australia zoomed almost four-fold since 1989, Teh says. The bulk of the goat meat goes to the East Coast.

Goat meat is a source of optimism for raisers of Angora goats, who have had little to cheer about with the phaseout of the federal mohair program, says Frank Craddock, a sheep and goat specialist for the Texas A&M University Extension Service.

Texas Limousin sale in Lubbock Saturday

LUBBOCK — The Texas Limousin Association's "Top of Texas" Limousin Bull & Female Sale is scheduled for Saturday at the Lubbock Stockyards in Lubbock. The sale will begin at 1 p.m. and will feature 80 working age, red and black bulls and 30 Limousin females.

Bulls sell fully guaranteed, structurally sound, fertility tested and have met all health regulations for shipment. All bulls are registered, top performing individuals that are sired by

many of the top bulls in the Limousin breed.

"This set of 80 Limousin bulls are true beef bulls. Our Texas Limousin breeders have topped their individual herds and have consigned quality bulls to the sale," states Lee Pritchard, Executive Secretary, Texas Limousin Association, Crowley.

A special sale feature will be the consignment of 30 replacement Limousin females. The offering will consist of bred females and cow-calf pairs that are sired by the leading Limousin

bulls in the breed. The Lubbock Stockyards is located at 120th Street & South University in Lubbock. Motel accommodations are available at the Carriage House located at 910 Slaton Highway 84. Phone 806-745-8483 and ask for Texas Limousin room block for special rates.

To receive a Top of Texas Limousin Bull Sale catalog or additional information, contact the Texas Limousin Association, P.O. Box 239, Crowley, 76036 or phone 817-297-2462.

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Prices of oranges, grapefruits higher

WASHINGTON (AP) — Smaller supplies of oranges and grapefruits have brought higher prices for growers in the 1993-94 marketing year.

"Following bumper crops in 1992-93, California-Arizona navel orange production is off 13 percent, Florida orange production is down 5 percent, and the U.S. grapefruit crop is down 9 percent," the Agriculture Department's Economic Research Service said in a report on fruit and tree

QUIZ, From page 2

have a ROPS on your tractor, do NOT wear a seat belt.

3. False. Your reaction time would be too slow to avoid injury. Always shut off the engine and remove the key from the ignition before you attempt to clear an obstruction.

4. True. Your tractor is a one-person machine. Never permit riders. Never allow anyone to ride on the tractor, implements, or other equipment, including wagons.

5. False. Use a piece of cardboard or wood to find leaks. Never use your hand or arm. Wear safety goggles for eye protection. Diesel fuel or hydraulic fluid under pressure can penetrate the skin or eyes and cause serious personal injury, blindness, or death.

6. False. Work clothes are usually too strong to tear away safely — and the accident happens so fast that there is little time to react. Do not wear loose-fitting clothing when operating on or working around machines. Keep all shields and guards in place and replace damaged or missing ones.

7. True. All equipment manufacturers that follow the ASAE (American Society of Agricultural Engineers) lighting and marking standard are required to provide a flashing yellow-light system that includes turn signals which use the steady illumination/faster flashing rate to indicate direction of intended turn.

8. False. Gasoline can still form an explosive or flammable mixture with air in cold, winter months. Do not smoke or work near heaters or other fire hazards when working around fuel. Store all flammable fluids away from fire hazards.

9. True. Driving forward up steep inclines, hitching above the drawbar height, starting a heavy load quickly, and immobilizing the rear wheels are all practices that can cause a tractor to overturn to the rear.

10. True. According to recommended speed-weight ratio guidelines, 20 mph is the maximum speed when towing a load not equipped with brakes that weighs the same or less than the tractor. Reduce maximum speed to 10 mph when towing a load up to double the tractor weight. Do not tow loads that exceed twice the tractor weight. Reduce speed and use additional caution when towing loads under adverse surface conditions, when turning, and on inclines.

nuts.

Because of the smaller Florida crop, U.S. orange juice production is forecast at 1.12 billion gallons in 1993-94, down 7 percent from a year earlier.

But, the report said, "the outlook calls for stable orange juice prices in the months ahead."

It said increased lemon supplies from Arizona and the California desert and weak domestic demand led to lower shipping point prices for those commodities from mid-December through February.

"A smaller crop is being harvested in Southern California, which could provide some support to prices during the remainder of the season," the report said.

The harsh winter in some noncitrus-producing states may have damaged fruit buds or even the wood of peach and cherry trees.

"It is too early to tell what effect the cold weather had on 1994 noncitrus

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fruit crops," the report said. "Chile's fruit production and exports likely increased this winter."

Preliminary estimates indicate 1993 U.S. apple, peach and pear production was about the same as in 1992, while grape, plum, and cherry output declined, it said.

"Higher prices prevailed, and the total value of U.S. noncitrus fruit production rose," the report said. "Higher prices in 1993 raised the value of U.S. apple production 9 percent from 1992."

It added that a large, high-quality Washington apple crop boosted exports and supported grower prices.

The value of U.S. strawberry production reached a record \$747 million in 1993, due to a larger California crop and higher prices.

"More cultivated blueberry output brought lower prices, while cranberry output dipped in 1993," the report said.

VEHICLES

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There's power in 'them thar skies'

By EDUARDO MONTES

Associated Press Writer

FORT DAVIS (AP) — There's power in the skies above Texas.

It's there for the taking for anyone who knows how to bring it down to earth. And around the state, utilities are getting increasingly more interested in learning how.

The motives range from a government push to develop alternative energy technology — like wind and solar power — to the anticipation conventional generating plants won't always be enough to meet the country's power needs.

But whatever the reason, they're serving to push Texas toward a day when two of its potentially richest resources, the wind and sun, will no longer go untapped.

"I think there's a lot of reason for optimism," said Andrew Swift, a professor at the University of Texas-El Paso who studies wind power.

Renewable energy technology is still very young, however. Although wind and solar power have been used around the country for years, in many cases they haven't been cost effective enough to become commonplace.

"Wind is not a major player, like nuclear or coal or gas or hydro," said Peter Goldman, a wind program manager for the U.S. Department of Energy. "There's a long way to go."

The same goes for solar power.

So utilities are mostly beginning with small projects to familiarize themselves with the technologies involved. The most popular proving ground so far is sun-baked and wind-scorched West Texas.

During the next three years, Central and South West Corp. (CSW) and a separate venture involving the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and the Texas General Land Office will construct two of the state's largest renewable energy projects.

CSW, a Dallas utility holding company, is building a solar park in the Davis Mountains, just below the McDonald Observatory.

The park, projected for completion in early 1995, will be capable of producing 300 kilowatts of electricity which will be funneled into the power grid operated by West Texas Utilities Co., a CSW subsidiary in Fort Davis. An industry rule of thumb says 2 kilowatts is enough for one household, so the project should generate enough power for 150 households.

As part of the same project, CSW will install solar panels at three homes and two businesses in Fort Davis.

CSW also is studying the area to find a site for a planned wind farm, which would use 20 wind turbines — modern wind mills — to

produce 6 megawatts of electricity, or enough for 3,000 households.

A much larger wind project is planned to the north in the Guadalupe Pass region by the LCRA, an Austin-based wholesale power supplier, the state land office and San Francisco-based Kenetech Windpower.

Kenetech, which operates several wind farms in California, plans to bring a 150- to 170-turbine wind farm on line by mid-1996.

The plant, planned for a site about 100 miles east of El Paso, will be capable of generating 50 to 60 megawatts of electricity, which the river authority will buy for resale to customers throughout Central Texas.

A second phase is planned that would use about 750 turbines to generate as much as 200 megawatts.

The Alternative Energy Institute at West Texas A&M University in Canyon estimates there are 250,000 megawatts of capturable wind power in Texas, equivalent to about five times the total installed electrical generating capacity in the state. About 130,000 megawatts can be generated in the Panhandle alone, according to the institute.

"We see alternative technology as the wave of the future," said LCRA spokesman Bill McCann.

"When it's competitive, it not only provides some diversity for our (generating) resources, it's also a clean technology."

Researchers and government officials say the need to diversify and to produce clean power are the primary reasons utilities are delving into renewables technology.

UTEP's Swift and others say data shows Texas is on the verge of becoming a net energy importer, meaning power production is not keeping pace with increasing consumption.

"Texas has abundant solar and wind resources that can be developed to change the situation," Swift said.

At the same time, increased environmental awareness has spotlighted the need for non-polluting energy sources, Swift said.

Other motivation is coming from government and regulatory agencies.

The Department of Energy and the Electric Power Research Institute, for example, have contributed \$5.3 million to CSW's wind farm project under a program intended to make wind power attractive to utilities.

"There was a recognition by both EPRI and DOE that support for new product programs typically ends just about the time when something is ready to go commercial," said Earl Davis, EPRI's manager for wind power integration.

"In the case of wind turbines, if we don't carry it a little bit farther than it's not going to get to the field," he said.

While such projects are helping utilities become familiar with alternative

energy equipment, the Texas Public Utility Commission is trying to get companies to consider renewables technology to start with.

The commission is considering implementing an "integrated resource planning rule" that will mandate utilities consider alternatives before constructing new power plants.

The rule could have utilities delay new construction by making operations more efficient, promoting conservation and by using renewables.

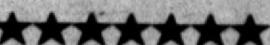
"In promoting renewables in West Texas, particularly solar and wind, there seems to be an ideal marriage that will benefit a utility and the customer," said PUC spokesman Guillermo Garcia.

Researchers and utility officials note, however, that renewables technology has not advanced to the point that a utility can rely solely on something like the wind to

generate all of its electricity.

"It's a supplemental source, not an end all," said Vaughn Nelson, director of the Alternative Energy Institute in Canyon.

But, he also pointed out, "the potential is quite large."



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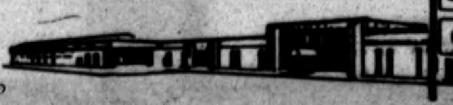
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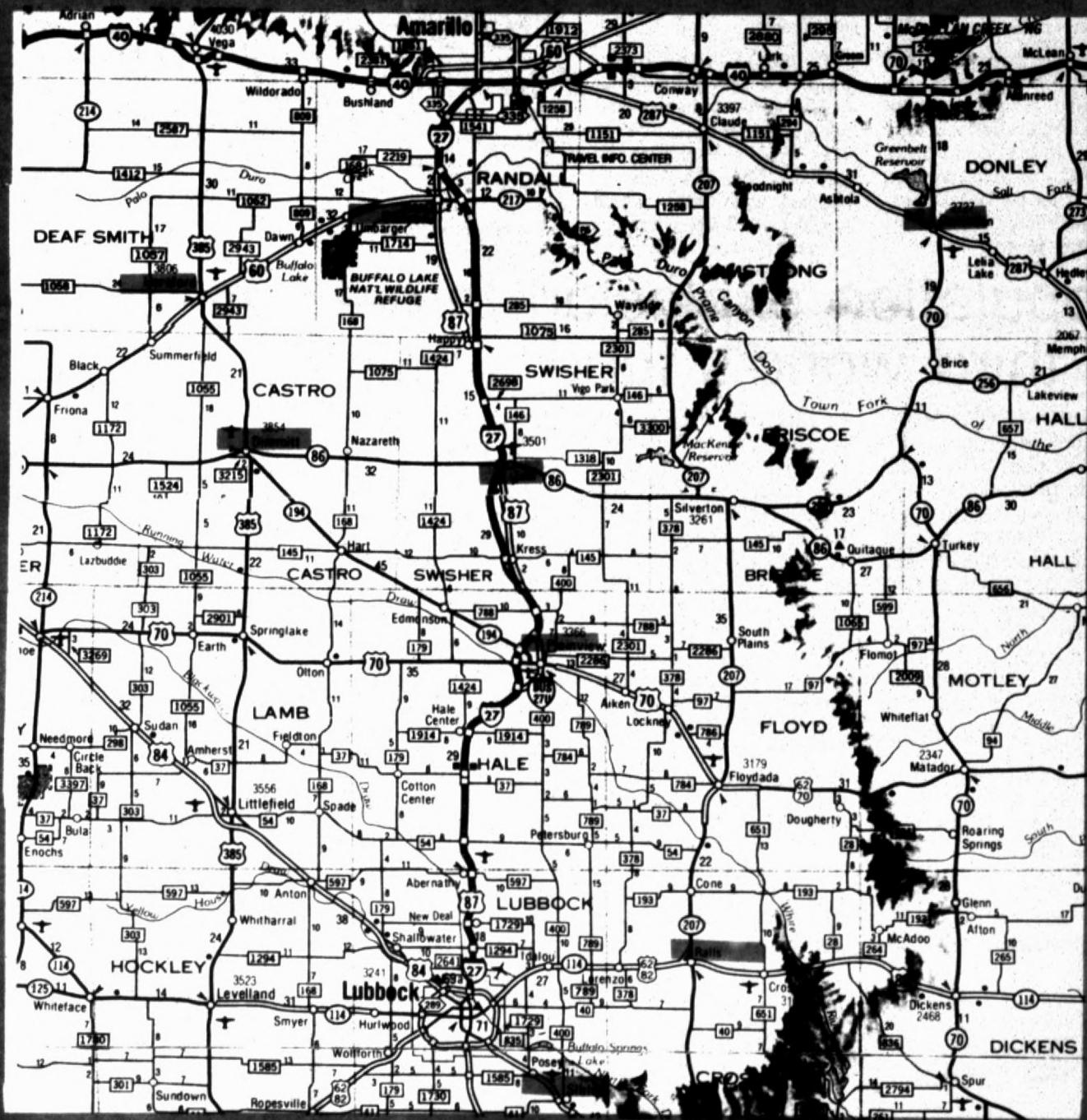
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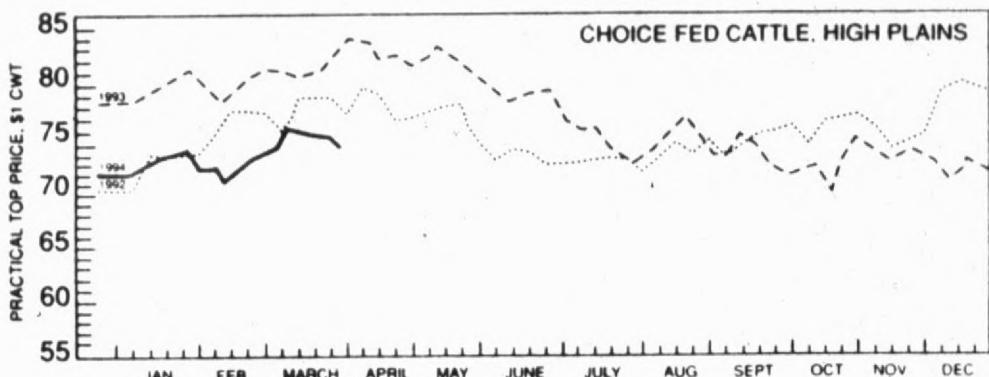
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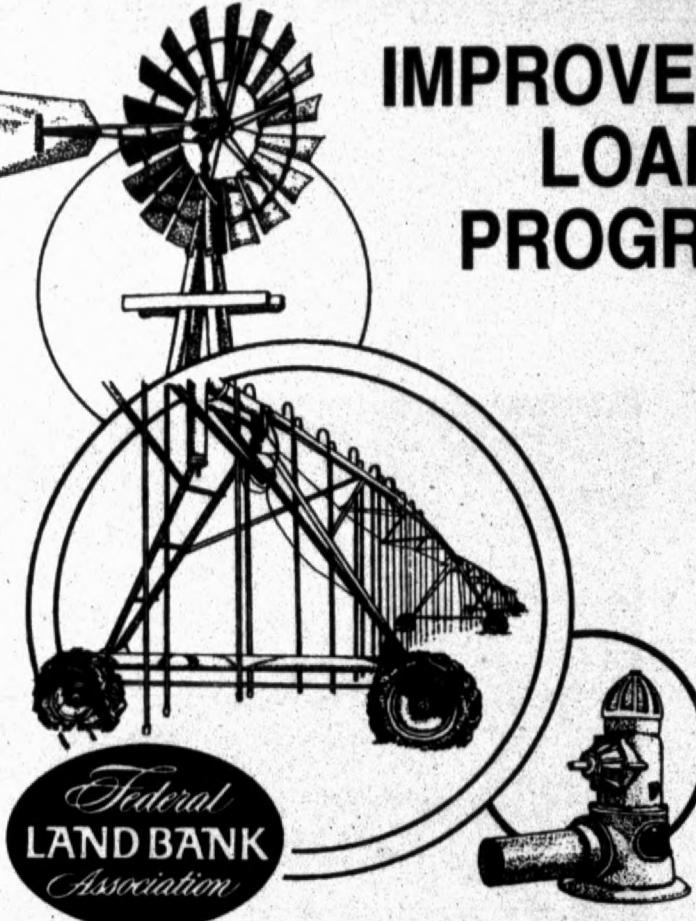
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