

# WEST TEXAS Country Trader

The West Texas Country Trader is a section of:

Thursday, June 17, 1993

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## Wheat harvest may top last year's by 14 percent

By ROBERT GREENE

AP Farm Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Near-record yields per acre will help push the nation's winter wheat harvest up 14 percent from last year, the Agriculture Department says.

In its latest forecast, the department estimated last week that this year's harvest

said. It reported Monday that as of May 9, only 19 percent of the crop in the top producing states was "headed" — the sign of maturity — compared with 48 percent a year ago and an average of 36 percent.

Winter wheat accounts for about 65 percent of the nation's wheat production. Harvest begins as early as May in southern states as Texas and wraps up in July in northern states such as Washington.

percent from last year and 5 percent below the 1991 crop. The forecast is 1 percent above last month's. Improved prospects in Texas offset poorer digging in Alabama and Arizona, the report said.

### Ag News Inside:

**CORN CROP:** Whether from rains or irrigation, corn needing lots of water now, *Pg. 2*

**SOLAR PUMPS:** Will windmill give way to 'Sunmills' for remote stock tanks on farms and ranches?, *Pg. 3.*

would reach 1.82 billion bushels, up 14 percent from the 1992 crop and 1 percent above the forecast of a month ago.

Farmers harvested 1.61 billion bushels in 1992.

Yields should average 41.2 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushels from the May 1 forecast and 2.9 bushels from last year, USDA said.

"If realized, this yield will be second only to the 1983 record high of 41.8 bushels per acre," the department said in its forecast, based on June 1 surveys.

Hard red wheat production is up 2 percent and white winter wheat is up 3 percent from the May 1 forecast. Soft red winter wheat is off 3 percent from a month ago, due largely to moisture-caused disease problems in Arkansas and several nearby states.

But in Kansas, the nation's largest wheat-producing state, cool, wet weather has kept the wheat from maturing on schedule, making it vulnerable to a sudden hot spell.

"With it being two weeks behind, we run the risk that the hot weather is going to hit us before the crop gets mature," said Merrill Nielson, a grower in Denmark, Kan., and president of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers.

The crop is mostly in good condition although late developing, the department

## Texas feedlots bulging in May

Texas feedlots were bulging with their largest numbers in inventory ever going into May, research figures indicate.

In fact, the cattle inventory was the largest on record for that date — 2.17-million head, according to the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service.

The total was 12 percent higher than the same date a year ago but down by 6 percent from April.

Feeders also marketed a record number of cattle for an April — 515,000 head, or 29 percent more than during April a year ago. Placements of cattle into Texas feedlots during April totaled 400,000, up 7 percent from a year ago, the report stated.

For the seven states making monthly estimates, cattle on feed totaled 8.35 million head, up 7 percent from a year ago.

April placements were 1.32-million head, down 8 percent, while marketing of 1.55 million head were up by 4 percent from April 1992, the service reported.

While the South Texas district ranked fourth behind the Northern High Plains (which contained 78 percent of the state's total), the southern High Plains and Central Texas, it ranked second among districts in fed cattle marketed during April, or 30,000 head; and in April placements with 27,000 head.

## Harvesters, farmers linked via hotline

By GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview Writer

**T**ULIA — More than 1,100 harvesters whose combines roll hurriedly through wheat fields across America this time of year know that help with a harvest problem is just a phone call away.

Or, at least, that's what the U.S. Custom Harvesters association, based in the Texas Panhandle town of Tulia, likes to think.

"We have an open line to each of our harvesters," explains Ellouise House, executive secretary of the 10-year-old group. "If they have a problem, in any state, we try to find an answer and help out in some way if possible."

That is just one of many support services afforded members of USCH, which is the only formal group representing harvesting firms of the nation's midsection, or harvesters anywhere in America for that matter.

Another of their services is a nationwide, free-to-the-farmer job referral service to help solve harvest bottlenecks, and add to harvest efficiency.

Shelley Cox is the fulltime job referral representative. Harvesters pay to subscribe to the service, but it is a free service to any grain elevator, farmer or co-op.

"This new service was formed after an outcry last year from farmers in need of harvesters," explained Mrs. House. "A farmer can call here, and we will refer him to several harvesters looking for work."

Another service is the monthly Harvest News which alerts the members on crop conditions, and issues affecting the profession.

So, as the nation's wheat harvesters wind their way from Central Texas to the nation's heartlands this week, many will be checking regularly with a Texas Panhandle office for help in keeping things rolling smoothly.

Many wonder just why a group like USCH came to choose Tulia as its headquarters.

The answer may lie in the history behind the group, first organized in 1983 in Canyon through the urging of George Weiss. Its first president, J.L. Pettiet is a Tulia harvester and served in that post for its first five years of existence.

Interest in the harvester group has grown tremendously this year. Going into their annual convention in March in Colorado Springs, the



**EARLY JUNE HARVESTING** — Steve Olson cuts through some Hale County wheat that was grazed through March as the Texas Panhandle wheat harvest kicks off.

membership stood at 900. But, after the convention it had grown to 1,100.

Steve Berry, a Lenora, Kan., harvester, is currently serving as president. The group represents harvesters in 16 states. The bulk of the membership is from Kansas, followed by Texas, Colorado and Oklahoma.

Besides their assistance line, the USCH is a lobbying organization that monitors legislation that would affect its membership.

It shares a lobbyist with the National Wheat Growers Organization and works closely with the wheat group and the Corn Growers Association.

The group has worked tirelessly for several weeks making known their opposition to the proposed Btu tax. The membership is elated that has been abandoned.

"We mounted a lot of letter writing campaigns over the past two or three months. Everybody is thrilled they are getting away from the earlier proposal," commented Mrs. House. "We think the new plan will be more agriculturally sensitive. But we don't know for sure whether we can say 'yea' to the new plan. The other one, however, was really going to put a stangle hold on

farming and agriculture."

Harvesting in Texas this year got off to a slow start, since cool temperatures had caused a delay in the ripening of wheat. Rains in early June seemed at one point to be creating a situation reminiscent of last year — when heavy rains caused the harvest to literally bog down in the mud of Northern Texas.

This year, however, a larger percentage of wheat has already been cut and many harvesters are beginning to move north.

"In a normal year, they would already be getting through down there," she said.

Though the harvest starts up in May, the office sees its busiest activity from November through April. It plans an annual Christmas convention, then the annual gathering in March. It also attends the conventions of the National Wheat Growers and National Corn Growers.

The rest of the year, the group sends persons to Washington as needed to make their views known to Congress.

"We can kind of catch our breath this time of year," said Mrs. House. "We look forward to these days."

The harvest group's job referral hotline number is 806-995-4664.

# AgReview



## Calendar Ag News

June 27 - July 2

**4-H SHOOTING SPORTS OLYMPIC** — The 4-H Shooting Sports Junior Olympic Camp at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio.

July 3

**HALE CENTER CENTENNIAL ROPING** — A Centennial Team Roping contest — coinciding with the city's 100th birthday — has been set for July 3 to benefit the Hale Center FFA.

It will be a 15x15 Round Robin tournament, \$100 per man/progressive after one head.

Information is available from Brian Patterson or Danny Ivy.

July 3

**HALE CENTER JULY FOURTH CENTENNIAL** — A tractor show will be the highlight of Independence Day events, with a parade set at 10 a.m.

July 3

**ANNUAL WEBB TRACTOR SHOW AND PLAYDAY** — Donald and Sallie Webb will host a tractor play day 3 miles northeast of Amarillo on FM 136. A parade, tractor pull, slow race, wheat threshing and log sawing mwill be held. Also, a Baker fan demonstration, feed grinding and other activities.

July 10

**LEVELLAND CELEBRATION & TRACTOR PARADE** — A parade featuring tractors at 10 a.m. in the downtown area will highlight the day's festivities. Contact is Preston Reeves, 562-4381.

## Corn would benefit from some timely rains

By GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview Writer

**AMARILLO** — The Texas Panhandle corn crop would benefit from good rains to help the soil catch up from a drier-than-normal spring, according to Texas A&M corn specialist Dr. Brent Bean.

But rain or no rain, most area corn producers are getting down to the serious business of irrigating.

"Now is the time to start watering," commented Bean. "Once it has been up for four to five weeks, it starts growing rapidly and needs more water."

Bean said this is a key time to stimulate growth and get the plant's root system established.

"I have visited a few fields where the farmer planted shallow, the roots are not developing and the plant is falling over," Bean said. He also has had calls that some corn had developed a purplish color — a condition Bean blames on roots not having developed as they should.

Overall, however, corn is in good shape and yield potential is still intact.

"Our corn, I think, is looking good," Bean reported. "But, I have seen some corn that has had a little trouble getting rooted down. The top inch to inch and one-half of soil is dry. So, we really need a good rain on a lot of corn in a lot of areas."

Bean said the region was slightly late getting the corn crop planted, primarily due to cool temperatures. It didn't grow fast at the beginning, but in the last couple of weeks it began picking up and starting to grow.

Comparing crop conditions this year to those in 1992, Bean indicated the biggest difference this season has been available rainfall.

"Most years we have plenty of



**CORN WATERING CONTINUES** — Panhandle producers are pouring the water to irrigated corn as it enters the critical water use stage. Some timely rains would help now, ag experts say.

rain in May and June, but this year it has been pretty spotty," Bean said. "We just haven't gotten it."

The situation is not critical yet, since corn can stand lots of stress in the first five to six weeks after it has emerged, Bean said. But it soon will be.

"What we want is to get the soil profile full of water before we get into the active growth stage," Bean said. "Once it gets into silking stage — eight to nine weeks after emergence — it needs plenty of water."

Ideal corn weather for June and July would include temperatures around 90 degrees, with an

advantageous rain every seven or eight days.

Bean also commented on grain sorghum, which is now being planted, and on the approaching wheat harvest.

Wheat harvest will likely be in full tilt across the Panhandle within a couple of weeks, Bean predicted.

"Wheat looks good all across the Panhandle for the most part," Bean said. "There are some areas that have been dry. Dryland wheat doesn't look as good as we like it. But in the far Northern Panhandle, wheat looks great. Overall, we will have some good wheat yields."

## Market ran rampant with record prices

The market is on a rampage! Given current supplies of beef and pork, livestock producers are receiving record prices for fed cattle and market hogs.

Through May 15, 1993 fed cattle prices in the Texas Panhandle had averaged \$81.39 per hundredweight (cwt).

That was \$4.78 cwt above 1992 prices for the same period. Fed cattle prices, therefore, were up 6 percent from a year ago, while beef production through April was down 3 percent.

Pork producers are just as happy as cattlemen! Through May 15, market hog prices averaged \$44.72 cwt. Also up \$4.78 above year ago prices.

Through April, pork production was down 1 percent from a year ago, but market hog prices increased by 12 percent.

What makes this so incredible is "...the rest of the story." Over the same period total U.S. poultry production has been up 4 percent from a year ago. So, this market must be driven by increased exports of U.S. red meat, right? Wrong! Through the first quarter (January-March) of 1993, U.S. beef and veal exports were down 16 percent from a year ago and U.S. pork exports were down 8 percent from a year ago.

Ok then, U.S. red meat imports are down, reducing total red meat supplies available to the domestic U.S. popula-



## LIVESTOCK MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Ernie Davis

tion, right? Wrong! Through the first quarter of 1993, U.S. beef and veal imports were 17 percent greater than a year ago and U.S. pork imports were up 14 percent. Also, imports of cattle and hogs into the U.S. were greater than a year ago.

Yes folks, it appears there has actually been an increase in the demand for red meat in the U.S. Wholesale and retail beef prices are above year ago levels. Boxed beef, Choice 1-3, 550-700 pounds, have average over \$127 cwt. during May. That is up from an average of \$119.18 cwt. during May 1992. April retail Choice beef prices averaged \$2.99 per pound this year compared to \$2.88 in April 1992.

It is inconclusive yet, if there has been an increase in the demand for U.S. beef or not. But, the price strength we have seen the past five months certainly points in that direction. If not an increase in demand for beef, we at least are on a major bull market. The May "Cattle on Feed" report released last recently indicated there were 7 percent more cattle on feed in the 7-States feeding area than a year ago and the report was called bullish.

This is certainly not true for the near term (June-July), but with 8 percent fewer cattle and calves placed on feed during April, it could be interpreted as bullish for the August-October period. In fact, in comparing cattle and calves placed on feed during the January-April 1993 period to the five year average of placements during that period, we find that 1993 feedlot placements thus far are down 9 percent.

Feedlot marketings have been down during 1993, even though we began the year with 8 percent more cattle on feed. Due to the winter weather, many cattle have been marketed at lighter than normal weights, further reducing the total supply of beef. Through April 1993, 7-State feedlot marketings were 4 percent less than the 5-year average.

See DAVIS, Page 10

**South Plains**  
**Ag News**

**Label for mintweed**

The Environmental Protection Agency has approved a supplemental label allowing a pre-emerge treatment of PROWL 3.3 EC herbicide in cotton for suppression of mintweed, also known as lanceleaf sage.

The supplemental label recommended the pre-emerge treatment as a part of a sequential program in which PROWL or a trifluralin product is used at standard rates preplant incorporated. The label applies only to mintweed in cotton.

Prowl is a product of American Cyanamid.

**Beets look good**

The 1993 sugar beet crop on the High Plains is off to a good start, despite winter's cold that lingered into spring, according to the Texas Sugar Beet Growers Association.

The cold weather, plus extended periods without rain, forced some 4,000 acres to be replanted.

About 40,000 Hereford acres are under contract with Holly this year. That's the normal acreage for the Panhandle-South Plains.

**Grange history**

A new book, *People, Pride and Progress* chronicles the 125 years of the Grange in America. It traces the origin and growth of America's first general farm organization, which is still active today in many states.

**Castro 4-H fun**

DIMMITT — Castro County 4-H will hold a family fun day Tuesday, June 29. It will include an outing to Wonderland Park in Amarillo.

**Sun pump perks worldwide interest**

By GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview Writer

**C**LARENDON — The dependability and as well as the romance of the windmill have been an integral part of farming and ranching for more than a century.

But well drillers like John Morrow believe that harnessing the sun to pump water may one day make just as much sense as harnessing the wind.

He doesn't advocate doing away with windmills. Instead, one of his favorite concepts is to create a hybrid design — teaming up a windmill and a solar pump working side by side. And in many cases, he believes, a solar pump could keep an ample supply of water flowing to stock tanks on its own.

"I've been putting in solar for about three years," explained Morrow. "While the Aeromotor windmill is the most popular you can buy, it's getting more expensive to buy and repair." In addition, its design has remained virtually unchanged for almost 100 years.

Morrow certainly believes in the dependability of the windmill. He's worked on mills on farms and in remote and rugged ranch country of the Texas Panhandle for years.

The 40ish father of six has a flair for technology and experimentation. He's successfully sold around a dozen clients on the idea of installing solar systems and his successes have led him to believe that solar pumps just may be a wave of the future.

Solar pumps may sound complicated, but they're really simple and contain few parts to worry about.

"It's just like the rancher who knows his windmill like back of hand," explained Morrow. "If you learn these, which are a lot simpler to learn, you don't need a rig, anything fancy to install them, just a box of tools."



**SOLAR-POWERED PUMP** — John Morrow, a Clarendon well driller, has sold solar pump systems for stock tanks for several years. Like windmills, they are popular where no electricity exists.

One of Morrow's early customers was his high school science teacher, who bought one for a stock tank.

"He was very sold on the idea," Morrow remembers.

He later took on an ambitious project to power a pump to draw water from a 300-foot well. It required numerous solar cells to deliver power, and a hefty, high-amp pump. But the system is working well, Morrow reports.

Another well project combined wind pumping by night with solar pumping by day. On one piece of property, a solar-fed earthen tank and a metal tank fed by a windmill are running neck and neck in maintaining their water levels in an average month.

Morrow's success has so impressed one of his wholesale suppliers — Sun-Belt Pump and Supply of Amarillo —

that the firm recommended Morrow as a key contact for one of its Danish pump suppliers wanting to develop and market an improved solar pump.

Grunfos, a well-known pump supplier to the U.S. market, sent its pump product line manager Jan Heegaard of Bjerring, Denmark, to Clarendon in late May and to other sites around the Panhandle.

Heegaard accompanied Morrow to Donley County wells where Morrow has seen both success and failure with some of the current solar designs.

Morrow says he learned that Grunfos seems to have solved many of the problems that formerly plagued solar pumps — pumps corroding in the well, early pump wear-out, etc.

It wasn't clear when Grunfos might

See SOLAR, Page 11

**USDA to poll soybean producers about promotion**

By MARGARET SCHERF

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department is seeking comment on a proposed referendum among soybean producers to determine if the soybean promotion program should

continue.

Producers will decide in the referendum if they want to continue to pay the current assessment of one-half of 1 percent of the net market price of the soybeans they sell. The money pays for the promotion program.

General procedures governing the referendum are contained in the soybean act, which provides that registration and voting will be conducted at USDA's county extension offices.

The department is proposing to use Agricultural

Stabilization and Conservation Service personnel to count referendum ballots, determine eligibility of challenged voters and tabulate results.

The Agricultural Marketing Service monitors activities carried out under the

act by the United Soybean Board.

"The referendum, which must be held by July 9, 1994, is authorized by the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act," said L.P. Massaro, acting administra-

tor of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

Comments, in duplicate, should be sent by June 29 to Marketing Programs Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS, USDA, Room 2624-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

**Cotton market remaining sluggish**

The cotton market has steadily eased lower to below the 60-cent resistance level during the last half of May.

However, acreage and yields in the major foreign producing countries are unclear. Both China and the former Soviet Union areas are experiencing bad weather in getting their crop started. But, because foreign consumption remains stagnant, foreign prices are weak. Also, U.S. exports are moving slow.

As a result, U.S. exports will likely account for only 26 percent of world shipments this season, down from 30 percent from last year. While foreign stocks are slowly decreasing, the forward delivery certificates, valued at more than 6 cents per pound to exporters on about 5 million bales for delivery after September 30 from the 1993 crop, may keep world prices on the weak side.

In other words, U.S. exporters will have considerable room to negotiate lower prices than the market prices when they are ready to finalize shipment of their 1993 cotton. This could weaken the "A" Index and lead to a lower



**COTTON MARKET UPDATE**

Dr. Carl Anderson

adjusted world price (AWP) than it would be under normal supply/demand situations. Thus, the marketing loan gain or "POP" payments may be slightly larger than they would have been without the sizable forward user marketing certificates.

The 1993 cotton market may follow price movements

typical of a "big" crop season. That is, when the market expects a large crop and plentiful supplies, it peaks early. Futures prices may have peaked in March. Low prices early in the harvest season tend to encourage domestic use and provide a more competitive price that leads to higher export volume. Exports that are now expected around 6 million bales for the "new" crop could turn out to be much larger.

With the potential for a little more usage, the market may move sideways for several months. During a sluggish market, implementing a pricing plan is difficult. Price changes are gradual and not very favorable.

Pricing alternatives such as forward contracts, options, futures and grouping or pooling cotton for market are still viable. If the market continues soft and near the loan rate, then, using the CCC loan may turn out to be the main pricing alternative. Forward contracts are scarce.

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

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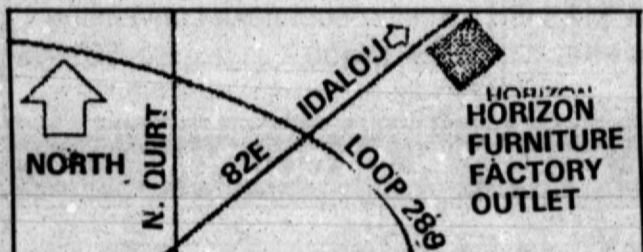
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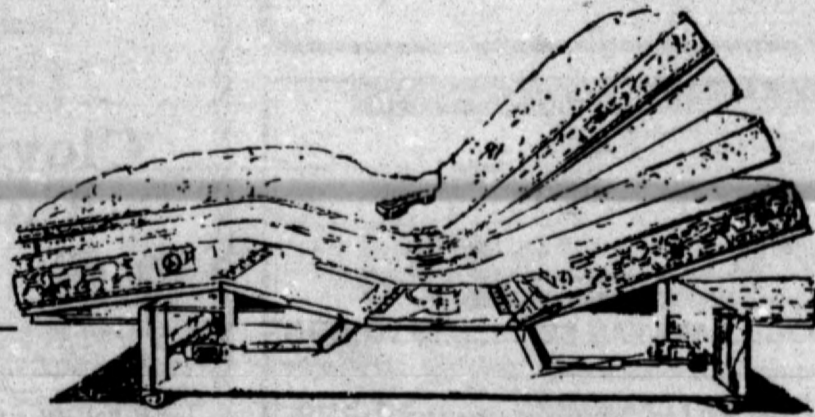
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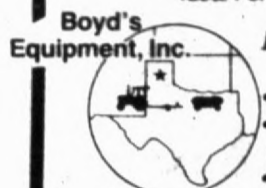
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# Riley to head State ASCS Committee

Ray Joe Riley of Sunnyside has been appointed chairman of the Texas Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Committee.

His appointment was announced June 3 by Sec. of Agriculture Mike Espy.

Riley earned the appointment through recommendations from US Sen. Bob Krueger; Congressman Kika De La Garza, chairman of House Agriculture Committee; Congressman Bill Sarpalis; and the Texas Democratic Congressional Delegation in Congress.

Riley says he will continue to live at Sunnyside and will travel to College Station and other places across the state for one or two weeks per month.

The State ASCS Committee has total, overall responsibility of administering ASCS programs in Texas. In addition to Riley, others appointed to the state committee are Raul Tijerina of Brownsville, Ed Lehman of Vernon, Vera Harrington of Sulphur Springs and Gerald Clark of Edna.

"We're coming into this about six months after the change in Administration," said Riley. "We realize there's a lot of work that needs to be caught up on, and we intend to work as many days as necessary to get caught up."

Riley was born near Hart and has lived in Castro County most of his life. He is a graduate of Springlake-Earth High School. He attended Texas A&M Uni-

versity and graduated from Texas Tech University. He did graduate work in crop production and plant breeding at Texas Tech and was an instructor of agronomy there before returning to the family farm in the latter part of 1958. He's been farming ever since.

Riley said his family has farms in Castro, Deaf Smith, Fannin and Lamb Counties and they raise corn, cotton, sugar beets and wheat; have a hybrid forage sorghum seed production; and pasture and feed lambs.

As chairman of the State ASCS Committee, Riley said he hopes to streamline ASCS to make it more cost-effective and efficient in its work for Texas producers. He said the committee will be prepared to answer any requests from the Secretary of Agriculture or Congress during organization of the 1995 Farm Bill.

"I'm looking forward to working with county offices and committees — they're the backbone of ASCS," Riley said.

He said the committee "intends to meet Texas farmers' needs and work with farmers in Texas as partners, delivering services to farmers in a manner which they can use to better their farming operations."

In addition to his hands-on farming experience, Riley has served on several agricultural boards and committees through the years.

He served three terms on the US Cotton Board, earning an initial appointment from Sec. of Agriculture Bergland during the Jimmy Carter Administration. He was reappointed to the board two times under succeeding ag secretaries.

He served as a director of the American Sheep Producers Association for a few years and was president of Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. for two terms.

He was one of the founding directors of Texas Corn Growers Association and

served as a director until resigning upon his appointment as chairman of the State ASCS Committee. He also served on the Texas Corn Producers Board.

Riley also served two terms on the State Seed and Plant Board of Texas, earning that appointment from Gov. Mark White.

Riley said he has talked on the telephone with other members of the committee,

and says he "looks forward to working with them."

"They're good people and all are actively engaged in farming, raising rice, vegetables, cotton, wheat or operating dairies."

"I really appreciate the strong backing I've received from people in Castro and surrounding counties as well as from all over the state," Riley added.

## Miscellaneous

**FOR SALE:** Kemp Land Boss Chipper/Mulcher. 540 RPM, like new, used only 10 hours, \$1,600. Automated log splitter, \$500. Decorative yard windmill, 8', \$60. 647-4201, Dimmitt. 9-2tc

## VEHICLES

**MUST SELL!** '92 Chevrolet Lumina APV, 7-passenger van, power windows, power door locks, cruise control, tilt steering wheel, AM/FM stereo cassette, anti-lock brakes. No old contract to assume, no back payments to make. Just need responsible party to make reasonable monthly payments. Call Doug Bolt in the Credit Dept., Friona Motors, 806/247-2701. 9-1tc/ccn

**MUST SELL!** '93 Mercury Sable GS, 4-door automatic transmission, air conditioning, power mirrors, power windows, power door locks, power seat, AM/FM stereo cassette. No old contract to assume, no back payments to make. Just need responsible party to make reasonable monthly payments. Call Doug Hulderman in the Credit Dept., Friona Motors, 806/247-2701. 9-1tc/ccn

**MUST SELL!** '92 Ford Thunderbird, air conditioning, automatic transmission, power seat, power windows, power door locks, tilt steering wheel, cruise control, power mirrors, AM/FM stereo cassette. No old contract to assume, no back payments to make. Just need responsible party to make reasonable monthly payments. Call Doug Hulderman in the Credit Dept., Friona Motors, 806/247-2701. 9-1tc/ccn

**MUST SELL!** '91 Ford Explorer XLT, 4 x 4, 4-door, leather seats, power windows, power door locks, tilt steering wheel, cruise control, AM/FM stereo cassette, luggage rack. No old contract to assume, no back payments to make. Just need responsible party to make reasonable monthly payments. Call Doug Bolt in the Credit Dept., Friona Motors, 806/247-2701. 9-1tc/ccn

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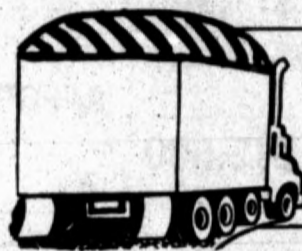
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To Be Given Away at 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Each Day  
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**Farm market opens July 6**  
By GORDON ZEIGLER  
AgReview Writer

**CANYON** — Area produce growers who wish to participate in the Canyon Farmers Market may pick up an application for membership at the Randall County Ag Extension office before the market opens July 6. The Canyon Farmers Market was expected to meet and elect officers this month, according to Katie Hamblen, spokeswoman for the organization.

**YELLOWHOUSE BAR-B-Q RESTAURANT** for Sale in Littlefield on Hwy. 385. FARM-South & East of Hart Camp, partly irrigated, old house, could be repaired. **WE HAVE BUYERS** for farmland in Lamb County and for 2 or 3 labors grassland. Let me list your farms. G.D. Harlan Real Estate 103 E. 4th Street Littlefield, Tx 385-4265

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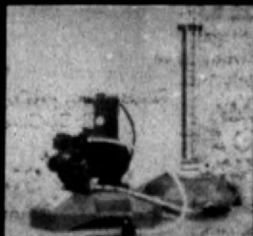
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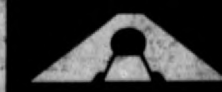


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# DAVIS

From Page 2

but only 1 percent below a year ago.

Total commercial beef production, however, for the January-April period was down 3 percent. This indicates that fed cattle slaughter weights were significantly lighter than a year ago because total cattle slaughter through April was nearly the same as a year ago as reported in the May "Livestock Slaughter" report. Through April, steer and heifer slaughter was down only 1 percent. Also, for the January-April period, dairy cow slaughter was up 4 percent from a year ago and beef cow slaughter increased 7 percent.

From the information of weight groups of cattle on feed in the April Quarterly 13 States "Cattle On Feed" report and the May 7-States report, it appears there will be ample supplies of fed cattle during June and July. With such supplies, fed cattle prices would normally be expected to decline to \$70-\$72 cwt.

With the current market strength, however, fed cattle prices probably will not drop below the \$74-\$75 cwt. level. With the smaller number of feedlot placements this year, marketings for the August-October period could be below last year's levels.

Fed cattle prices averaged \$75.10 cwt. for the August-October period last year, ranging from \$73.65 to \$76.60. This year fed cattle prices could average \$76 to \$77 cwt. for that period.

Cattle and calves on feed May 1 in the 7 monthly reporting states totaled 8.3 million head, up 7 percent from year ago counts but down 3 percent from 1991. Texas feedlots had 2.17 million head of cattle and calves on feed, 12 percent above year ago numbers.

Cattle and calves placed on feed in the 7-States during April totaled 1.32 million head, down 8 percent from last year and down 8 percent from April 1991. Texas feedlots placed 400,000 cattle and calves on feed during April. This was 7 percent above April 1992 placements.

Marketings of fed cattle from the 7-States during April totaled 1.55 million head up 4 percent from last year and 6 percent below April 1991. Marketings from Texas feedlots during April totaled \$400,000, up 7 percent from last year.

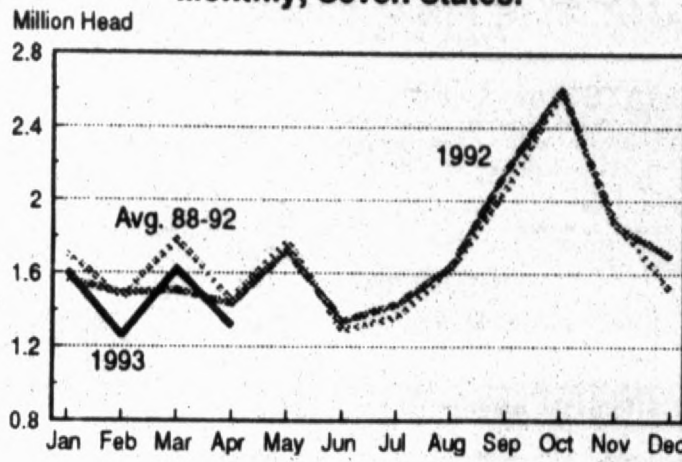
Feeder cattle and calf numbers outside feedlots on April 1 were estimated at 27.39 million head the largest number since 1987, but less than 1 percent increase from a year ago.

Yearling cattle, or those cattle weighing over 500 pounds on Jan. 1, 1993, outside feedlots on April 1 numbered 9.47 million, 4 percent above a year ago and the largest number recorded since this data series began in 1979. Calves weighing less than 500 pounds on Jan. 1 and not in feedlots by April 1, were estimated at 17.9 million head, 1 percent less

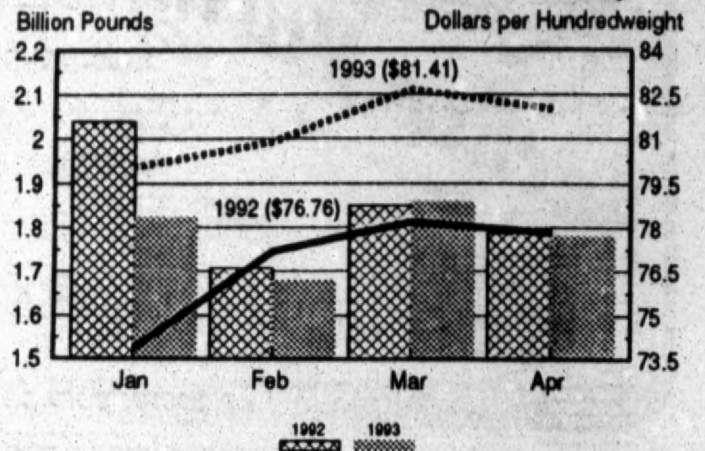
than a year ago. This number of calves under 500 pounds has been steadily declining since 1981, as a larger percentage of the feeder cattle and calves supplies have been trending to the over 500 pound category. Much of this trend is probably a result of larger frame cattle being produced in the U.S.

(Dr. Ernie Davis, Livestock Marketing Specialist with the Texas A&M Extension Service, is an authority on the livestock markets.)

## Feedlot Placements, Monthly, Seven States.



## Commercial Beef Production, Tx. Panhandle 1100-1300 Lb. Fed Steer Prices, Jan-Apr

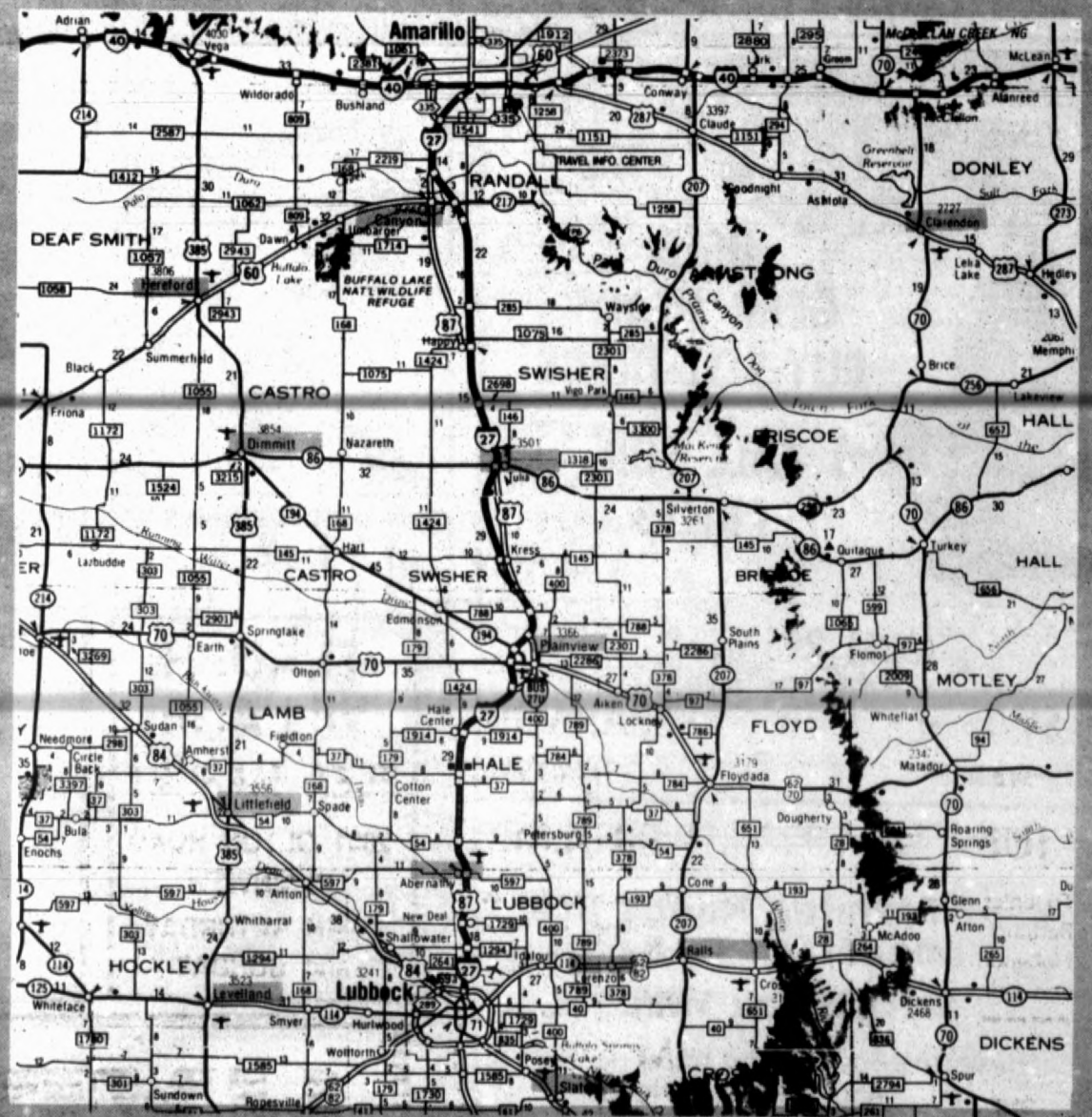


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## SOLAR

From Page 3

introduce a solar pump, but there was a hint it may be soon since one of the major questions posed to Morrow was: at what price would such a pump become widely marketable?

"The efficiency of solar panels has gone way up," Morrow said. "And, Grunfos says it can provide an affordable inverter to convert direct current from solar panels to AC, and power a more conventional pump design."

Morrow said he and the Grunfos engineer agreed on one thing -- that there are plenty of applications around the world where solar would be the perfect alternative.

"There's a lot of territory around the world that isn't like West Texas," explained Morrow. "You might have a remote location and water source, but not enough wind to run a windmill dependably."

But then, the wind doesn't blow all the time in the Texas Panhandle, either. In fact, the wind blows here less in August, just the month when ranchers need it the most. Yet, sunshine in August is usually dependable as clockwork.

That keeps Morrow con-

stantly on the lookout for a better design, and a chance to one day bring solar down on the farm in bigger numbers.

It is estimated that about 90 percent of solar installations are for stock water, in cases where no electricity is available.

Solar is an alternative when a windmill goes down

and repairs would be too costly. In those cases, solar has been an option.

Most solar applications are able to pump from a gallon to two gallons per minute.

Solar has been sold throughout the area. In a recent year, Sun-Belt supply moved 200 solar pumping units through 70 retail dealers within a 200-mile

radius of Amarillo, including dealers in Plainview, Clarendon and Texline.

Morrow and wife, Vickie, have children Anessa, Aliseaia, Deborah, Jason, Katie and Brandon. They also have a grandson, Lyndon Chad, 3, and are active in the First United Methodist Church at Clarendon.

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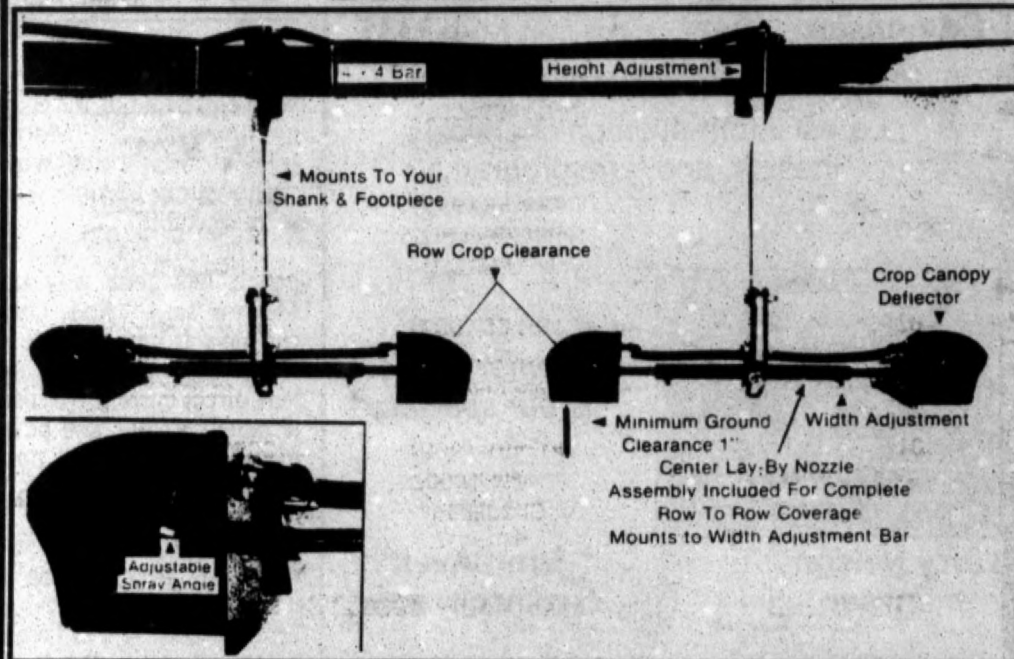
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