

WEST TEXAS Country Trader

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Abernathy
Weekly Review
The Canyon News

The Castro County News
The Clarendon News

The Lorenzo
EXAMINER
HEREFORD BRAND

Plainview Daily Herald
Ralls Reporter-News

Thursday, January 13, 1994

The Slatonite
The Tulla Herald

Key ag leaders to attend 1994 Cotton Conference

■ A few seats still available

By DANNA RYAN

A&M Extension Journalist

CROSBYTON — With the 1994 Caprock Cotton Conference less than two weeks away, there are still a few seats left for interested producers. Only 300 reservations are being accepted, however.

The conference — whose purpose is to put area farmers on the cutting edge of the latest developments in the cotton industry — will be held Jan. 25-26 at the Crosby County Pioneer Memorial Museum in Crosbyton.

Those wishing to register may contact the Floyd County extension office at 983-2806 or the Crosby County extension office at 675-2347.

Leaders of key USDA and state agencies, as well as top speakers from across the Cotton Belt and South Plains area will discuss their role in Texas farming, current research and production trials.

The conference is sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Crosby County Extension Crops Committee, Floyd County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and the Crosby-Floyd Pest Management Committee.

Texas Ag Commissioner Rick Perry will kick off the conference Tuesday, Jan. 25 with remarks on the North American Free Trade Agreement and the effect it will have on Texas agriculture.

U.S. Rep. Charles Stenholm (D-Texas) will discuss USDA consolidation.

See COTTON, Page 3



Kodak Photo CD digital image/Courtesy Eastman Kodak

'Gi'me' cap color

These gi'me caps are of the travel and not the farm variety, yet they mirror the same colorful display typical of headgear worn by farmers and ranchers of the South Plains area.

Winter ag crops enter 1994 needing moisture

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Although 1994 is a new year, some problems from last year have carried over for agriculture. With only one cutting of hay last spring, Texas livestock producers are facing a hay shortage.

A high pressure system that moved into the state the first week of the year brought little relief for winter pastures, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service reports.

Producers are trying everything to keep their herds physically strong into the calving season. However, most patches of winter wheat have been adversely affected by the dry conditions of this winter.

Harvey Buerhing, Nueces County Extension agent in Robstown, said weather has been a major factor in the hay shortage.

"Last spring, the rain was too heavy and this fall, there wasn't enough rain," Buerhing said. "By November producers were

supplementing their cattle and that usually doesn't start until December."

Winter wheat is behind schedule and because of rain shortages in early fall, there wasn't any hay harvested.

Buerhing said producers will be lucky to raise forage in April before it gets too hot.

"We're 60 days behind schedule for winter pasture. And because there is no hay, that means a lot of producers are starting to cull herds and sell calves and cattle that they normally wouldn't," he said.

Dr. Don Dorsett, Extension forage specialist in College Station, said producers are mixing concentrates, feeding cattle salt meal and molasses, and planting other grasses.

"There has been more rye grass planted this year than in the past five years," Dorsett said. "There is no hay available and the producers are trying to stretch what they bought last

year." Joe Taylor, Comal County Extension agent in New Braunfels, said pastures there are not yielding enough to put cattle on continuous grazing.

"Producers are having to rotate pastures," Taylor said. "We're at about 25 percent of our normal pasture capacity right now and each producer is turning his herd out for four to five hours at a time to keep them from exhausting the

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resource." Because hay is short, Dorsett said prices are rapidly climbing to \$15 to \$20 higher than they were last year.

"The price has been steadily escalating since August," Dorsett said. "If a man had a full barn of hay right now, he would make a fortune in no time." Most producers are going

to try to plant and harvest hay this year so they won't be in the same situation next year, he said.

Buerhing said some cattle are in poor condition

and won't sell well when it comes time to market them. "Late re-breeding is a possibility, but not many

See CROPS, Page 5

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AgReview



South Plains Ag News

Jan. 18

HEREFORD VEGETABLE CONFERENCE — Vegetable producers gather in the Hereford Civic Center. A reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Hereford Country Club on Jan. 17 prior to the meeting on Jan. 18.

Jan. 22-25

HALE COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW — Animals arrive in Ollie Liner Center on Friday for weighing, with the lamb show to begin at 8 a.m. Saturday followed immediately by the heifer and steer judging. Pig show is Sunday beginning at 1 p.m. The auction sale is at 6 p.m. Monday preceded by the buyers dinner.

Jan. 22-Feb. 6

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

Jan. 25-26

CROSBY COUNTY CAPROCK COTTON CONFERENCE — Ag leaders to meet with area producers in the Crosby County Pioneer Museum

Feb. 23-25

HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK Congress will feature keynote speaker James A. Baker III,

Vegetable meet aims to hone marketing tools

HEREFORD — Ways of adding value to a crop by marketing directly to the consumer, and things the marketer must consider, will get special attention at the annual High Plains Vegetable Conference here Tuesday, Jan. 18.

Vegetable growers and shippers from West Texas and adjoining states also will hear the latest science-based information on production methods, new crops from biotechnology and intensive culture for high value vegetables.

The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Hereford Community Center, 100 Avenue C at Park Avenue. It is sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, High Plains Vegetable Growers and Shippers Council, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas Tech University, Deaf

Smith County Extension Vegetable Development Committee, Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce and Texas Department of Agriculture.

The program has been approved by TDA for five continuing education units for private, commercial and non-commercial pesticide applicators. Applicators are required to obtain five CEUs of training each year to retain certification. The \$25 registration fee includes lunch.

"The conference theme is 'Preparing for Change,'" said Dr. Roland E. Roberts, extension vegetable specialist who has coordinated the conferences since 1971. "Our goal is to improve the competitive position of Texas vegetables and increase family farm profitability and sustainability."

Growers interested in

direct marketing to the consumer will get a special bonus. They will receive a copy of a handbook by Dr. Charles Hall, extension economist and vegetable marketing specialist. A new handbook, Texas Vegetables, will also be given to those registering at no additional charge.

The afternoon session will focus on direct marketing. Hall will discuss basics. Dr. Dean McCraw, Oklahoma State University; Sue Malaman, marketing specialist with M&W Carrot, Inc., and Willie Wieck, Weick Farms of Dumas will also be on the program.

Morning session will open with instruction on complying for the continuing education units. Compliance with worker protection standards will be addressed. Updates on chemical registrations and

laws and regulations affecting growers will also be given.

Transgenic methods of improving potato quality will be reported by Dr. Creighton Miller of Texas A&M and Doug Smallwood of the Lubbock experiment station.

Dr. Frank Dainello will discuss dynamics and opportunities.

During the noon lunch, directors of the South Plains Food Bank and Breedlove Dehydrated Foods will report on a new food dehydration plant. After that, 4-H members Karen Harder and Cady Auckerman will present a method demonstration on pumpkin use which placed first at the 4-H roundup.

In addition to direct marketing, the afternoon session will look at production strategies and biotech-

nology. Dr. David Bender, vegetable research specialist, will discuss use of row covers to help producers hit market windows and reduce pest damage.

Advances in biotechnology to produce new products which enhance crop sustainability and producer profit will be covered by Dr. Eleln Peffley, associate professor of horticulture at Texas Tech and David Drews, regional manager of Asgrow Seed Co., McAllen.

Irrigation of high value, multiple harvest crops to assure top quality, yield and water conservation will be discussed by Dr. Rose Mary Seymour.

Dr. Roberts and Dr. Jackie Smith will explain "Sweetpro," a new flexible cost-return computer program for specialty vegetable budgets.

Organic farms finding more acceptance

NY Times News Service

WATER MILL, N.Y. — Larry Halsey clomped around the land that his family has been farming for 12 generations, stepping over rows of purple arugula, red oak-leaf lettuce and pale-green Boston lettuce.

Halsey, who with his father and brother operates the Greenthumb Farm in Water Mill, grows more than 200 varieties of vegetables, including 20 varieties of tomatoes, 3 kinds of beets and 14 types of lettuce. But unlike recent generations of Halseys, he has returned to the farming first practiced on the land in 1640.

"A conventional farmer comes in, plants, cultivates, sprays pesticides and then waits to harvest," Halsey said as he inspected a head of lettuce. "But I honestly believe that organic products are better and feel

safer by not using chemicals."

Halsey, who decided to move to totally organic farming in the last two years, is not alone. With fears about the use of pesticides — a half-million tons are used annually in the United States — on health and the environment, demand for pesticide-free food is growing.

In 1980 national sales of organic food totaled \$174 million. In 1991 sales soared, to \$1.25 billion. Today there are 3,000 more certified organic farmers than in 1990. Long Island reflects that trend.

The number of conventional farms has decreased 25 percent in six years, from 800 in 1987 to 600 today. Organic farms have steadily increased. There are now five "certified organic" farms and a handful of uncertified ones like

cooperative community farms and small intensively cultivated plots to larger farms growing specialty items.

Although organic produce is more expensive, because in large part of its greater emphasis on labor, organic farmers say consumers are willing to pay extra.

"The consumer is the one who is helping organic farming to grow," said Reginald Farr, who owns the Farm, a 55-acre organic spread in Calverton whose customers include Dean & Deluca and Elaine's restaurant in Manhattan. "More people are researching what they buy, reading labels, deciding that perhaps this ingredient that has 12 letters in it and is unpronounceable may not be what they really need."

Increasing awareness about pesticides is helping organic farming to grow.

Many studies have shown that many types of cancer, including leukemia and cancers of the prostate, stomach and brain, are higher among farmers who use large quantities of pesticides.

In a report in 1989 the U.S. General Accounting Office found that some pesticides could change genetic material. Others can cause sterility or impair fertility. Many pesticides persist in the environment over a long time, accumulating in the tissues of people, animals and plants.

DDT, which was banned in 1970, remains present in a variation in the bloodstreams of most Americans, because it is passed through breast milk from generation to generation.

There is growing medical evidence suggesting that DDT causes breast cancer. In the 1940s, when DDT first was applied to crops,

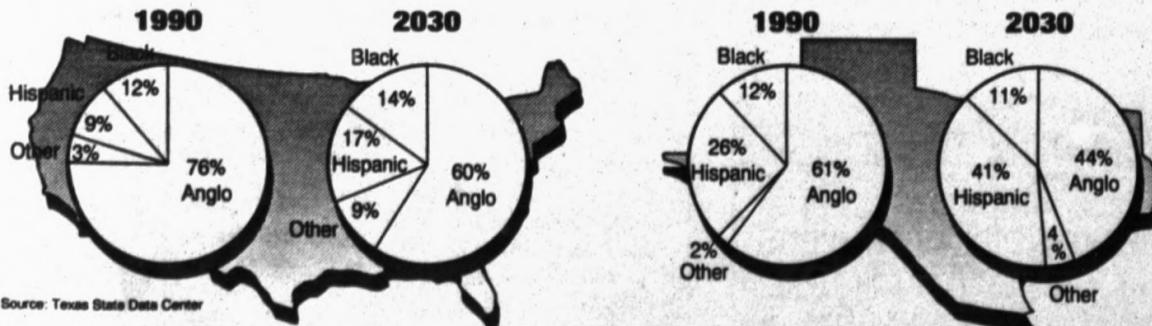
the lifetime breast-cancer rate was 1 woman in 20. Today it is closer to 1 in 8, with pockets on Long Island, a region that was heavily sprayed with DDT, as high as 1 in 4.

"Pesticides cost the nation \$8 billion annually in public-health costs, ground-water contamination, destruction of natural enemies, fish kills, bird kills and domestic animal kills," said Dr. David Pimentel, an entomologist at Cornell University who has studied the effects of pesticides.

According to Pimentel, pesticides are applied to 62 percent of all agricultural cropland. Since 1945, even though the use of pesticide rose 33 times and the toxicity of insecticides increased up to 100-fold, the share of crop fields lost to insects has nearly doubled to 37 percent annually.

More Diverse Population

- ◆ By 2050, the U.S. population will be 47 percent minority groups and 53 percent Anglo.
- ◆ The Texas population is projected to be more than half non-Anglo by 2015 and 56 percent non-Anglo by 2030.



A&M center offering ag computing courses

HALFWAY — The Texas A&M Computer Training and Education Center will offer its first course of the year on Monday, Jan. 17.

Computerized Ag Loan Preparation is the first in a series of 12 short courses to be offered through June at the training facility west of Plainview.

The developers of Tell Ag Loan Software will teach Computerized Ag

Loan Preparation to farmers and ag lenders from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tell Ag Loan Software creates and fills in all forms required for a guaranteed or direct FmHA operating or farm ownership loan.

Registration for the course is \$75 which includes lunch. Only 14 positions are available, but couples are encouraged to attend and pay only one fee if they share a computer.

To register for the course or for more information contact Jackie Smith at the Texas A&M University Research and Extension Center in Lubbock, 746-6101.

Other courses to be offered this month are Beginning Quicken3 for Windows Jan. 24-25 and Beginning Quicken7 for DOS Jan. 26-27.

COTTON

From Page 1

Harold Bob Bennett, state executive director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, will conclude the morning session with an overview of the future government farm programs.

The future direction of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and restriction impacts on farms will be topics of discussion of Dr. Stan Meiburg, director of Air, Toxics and Pesticides Division of EPA, and Peggy Garner, commissioner of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. Wes Oneth, state conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service, will discuss farm-

ing within the guidelines.

Dr. Zerle Carpenter, director of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, will conclude the session with information on that agency's role in educating the producer.

Sessions on Jan. 26 will begin at 9:30 a.m. and center around improving cotton production on the Texas South Plains. The day's sessions will be highlighted by the faculty of the ag experiment station and extension service, discussing a variety of cotton topics.

The morning session will consist of presentations on cotton physiology, weed control and cotton pest management.

Afternoon sessions will cover:

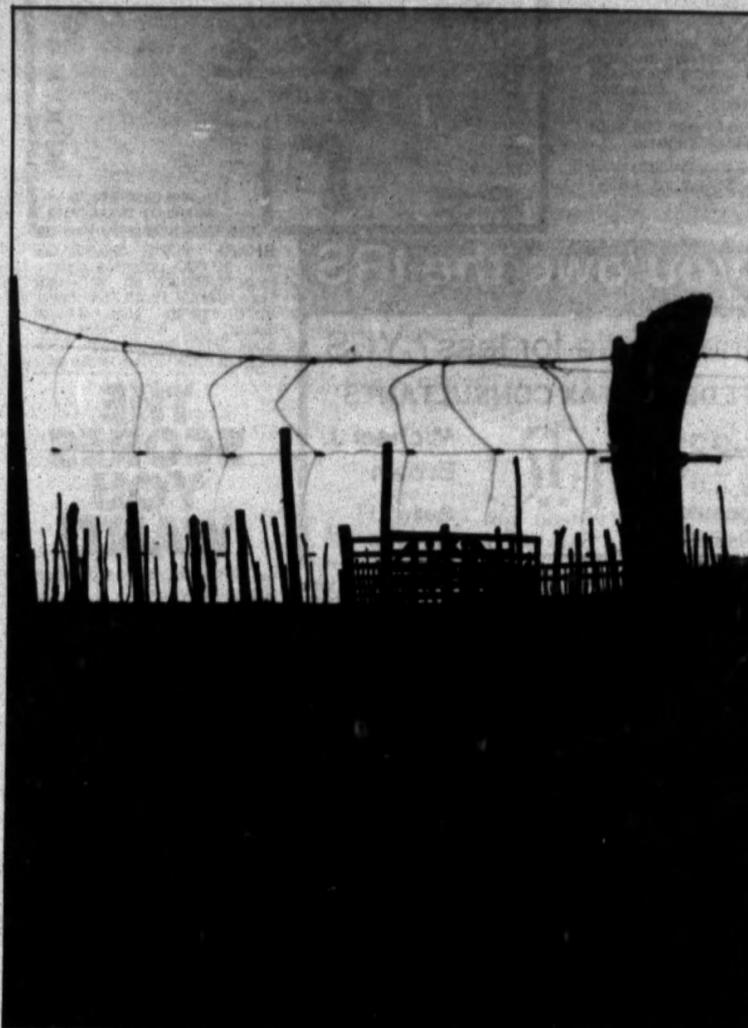
The future of pest management, Dr. Kater Hake, cotton agronomist; soil

moisture conditioning, Dr. Rosemary Seymour, ag engineer; center pivot management, Dr. Bill Lyle, professor of irrigation engineering; soil fertility, Dr. Michael Hickey, soil chemist; and managing early maturing crops, Dr. James Supak, cotton agronomist, College Station.

Registration for the conference should be mailed to the Crosby County Extension Office, Room B-110, 201 W. Aspen, Crosbyton, TX, 79322. The \$35 full two-day registration fee includes both days' technical sessions, lunch both days, refreshments, a conference cap and access to exhibits. Late registration is \$45.

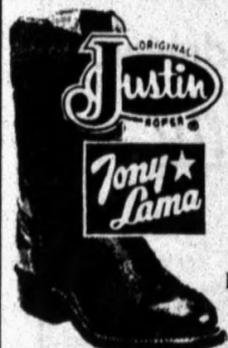
The conference will provide eight continuing education units for private pesticide applicators wanting to fulfill state requirements

Sundown silhouettes . . .



Woody Williams/Canyon News

The Doug Marshall Ranch, on the edge of Palo Duro Canyon in Randall County, looks stark in the evening light. Doug has retired from active ranching but he still leases and maintains the native pasture.



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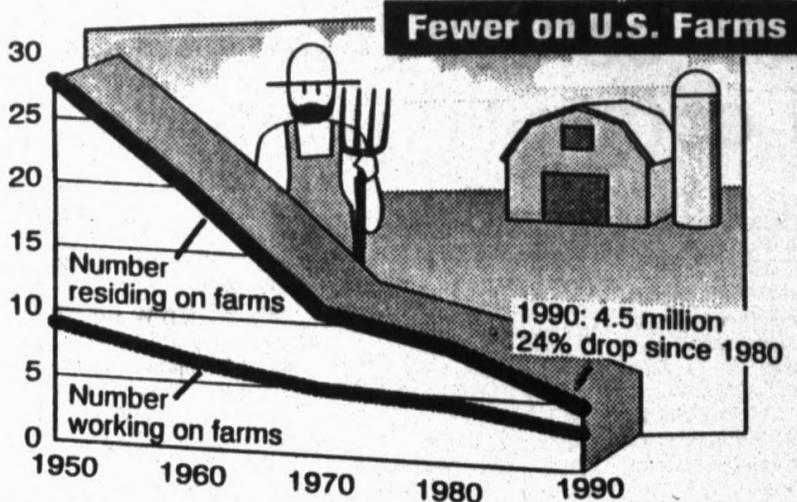


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Cotton marketing increases up the weighted average price

By **SHAWN WADE**
Plains Cotton Growers

A significant rise in cotton marketings for the month of November increased the weighted average price received by producers to 53.26 cents per pound.

According to Lubbock-based Plains Cotton Growers, Inc. (PCG) the increase moved the expected 1993 cotton deficiency payment down to 19.64 cents. Producers who received advance deficiency payments when they signed up to participate in the 1993 cotton program can expect a final payment rate of 9.37 cents based on the marketing information collected through November.

Upland cotton deficiency payments are calculated as the lesser of the difference between the 52.35 cent 1993 cotton loan rate and either

the weighted average price received by producers from January through December or 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.

So far 1993 marketings have mirrored closely the way the 1992 cotton crop moved to market. If this trend holds, December marketings will increase as will the average price received by farmers. Should this occur, final 1993 deficiency payments are likely to drop slightly from the 19.64 cent level indicated through November.

November marketings totaled a healthy 2.994 million bales, bringing cumulative marketings up to 11.156 million bales. This figure is only 215,000 bales

short of 1992 marketings during the same 11 month period.

Through November the weighted average price is one cent higher than was seen through November 1992. This means that the potential 1993 deficiency payment is that much lower than was expected through November of 1992.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced January 4 that the 1994 Upland Acreage Reduction Program would be 11 percent. The announcement reflects a reduction from the preliminary ARP of 17.5 percent announced Nov. 1.

PCG officials note that the 11 percent set-aside figure is good news for producers who can now get on with the business of making plans for the 1994 crop year.

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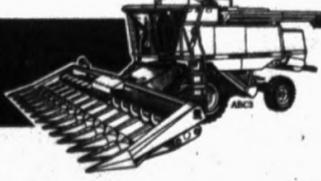


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Spreading news: Old papers benefit soil, environment

By J.T. SMITH

Abilene Reporter-News

COLORADO CITY (AP) — It is said two people look at the same thing. One sees a problem. The other sees opportunity.

"Yesterday's newspaper" soon may mean better farming and a cleaner environment, too.

A USDA RESEARCHER has devised paper "pellets" that can be incorporated into the soil just like a broadcast fertilizer. A farmer can even use the same fertilizer spreader that he has now.

Dr. Jim Edwards of USDA's Agricultural Research Station at Auburn University came more than 1,000 miles from southern Alabama in early December to demonstrate the newspaper pellets in West Texas.

Russell Erwin, who farms four miles west of Colorado City, volunteered to try out the pellets.

WITH THE HELP of Edwards and local members of the Soil Conservation Service, Erwin put the bluish-colored pellets down on part of a cotton field

while using an old fertilizer spreader.

Another portion of the field did not receive pellets. Erwin, whose family has farmed in Mitchell County for generations, will plant cotton on the entire field in 1994 and compare the cotton on ground that received the paper pellets with the check plot that did not.

The work is being sponsored by the Big Country Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc., of Sweetwater. The RC&D had requested assistance from Edwards.

Edwards is the only researcher in the United States who is working on paper as a direct land application. He is excited about extending his studies to West Texas.

JIMMY APEL, Big Country RC&D coordinator in Sweetwater, says paper accounts for 41 percent of the solid waste stream.

"All across the state, landfills will be closing due to strict new laws from EPA and the Texas Water Commission," Apel said.

Another part of the new law requires mandatory reduction of solid waste by 10 percent in 1995, 25 percent in 1997, and 40 per-

cent by 2000.

Now there appear to be only two viable options for waste paper — transport it to a paper recycler at a large expense (most paper recyclers are on the Gulf Coast) — or handle the paper locally.

BUT EDWARDS believes that the paper pellets will improve farming — and the environment — especially in spacious, and often dry, West Texas.

With an initial \$20,000 a-year grant from Auburn University, Edwards began his work by getting waste copies of his local newspaper at Auburn. Meanwhile, telephone books were collected in a special curbside project in his county.

Edwards tested the waste paper in growing corn, soybeans, and cotton.

Newspapers also were mixed with chicken litter. Waste from urban lawns and local cotton gins also was used as part of Edwards' composting mix of solid waste pellets.

The pellets are about three-eighths of an inch in diameter.

One day after the pellets were demonstrated on Erwin's field outside Colorado City, Edwards did similar work on a farm at Post.

THE 12-COUNTY Big Country RC&D has three priorities: reducing erosion, improving water quality, and recycling burdensome waste materials.

"Paper pellets hits all three," Apel notes. "We expect to have less soil blowing away when it's dry, and less sediment carried in the streams when it rains."

And for some reasons scientists don't yet understand, the pellets also help

fight winter annual weeds. But it could just be that the fall-applied pellets cheat the weed seed of moisture during the winter, preventing germination. Scientists just aren't sure.

But in field studies in the Southeast by Edwards with R.H. Walker and C.C. Mitchell, USDA agronomists, the pellets also showed dramatic control of crabgrass in cotton with a spring application of newspaper.

THIS SPINOFF benefit of pellets could mean less herbicide use — again helping the environment and cutting expense for farmers.

Apel is hoping that paper pellets eventually can control erosion on a million acres of farmland in his RC&D Area of West Texas.

Dr. Donald D. Kaufman, ARS microbiologist at Kutztown, Penn., says newspaper pellets just make good sense.

"Instead of trying to find scarce municipal land for more landfills or composting sites," Kaufmann suggests, "why not preserve nearby farmland for on-farm composting of safe waste?"

Kaufman says that composted paper with yard wastes improves the soil condition by adding carbon and loosening soil particles. The carbon feeds and increases the number of beneficial bacteria.

EDWARDS SAYS that the highly compressed pellets will "swell" as they take on water after a rain — or some snowfall. Water retention will be key for West Texas crops, he notes.

The pellets have other big advantages over shred-

ded paper. The compacted paper takes longer to decompose and is easier to transport, allowing far more pounds of newspaper or old telephone books per truckload.

Apel feels the pellets will not only be an enormous help to Texas farmers — who by law, must have an approved conservation measure on fragile land — but cities as well. He sees the pellets being used nationwide with cities buying portable equipment to grind paper and extrude it as pellets.

As a result, the newspaper pellets may simultaneously help cities and farms at the same time. In addition to newspapers and phone books, many paper food cartons could be used in the pellets, Edwards feels.

The Big Country RC&D, as sponsor, will provide Edwards with a random selection of waste paper from this area to conduct his tests. Edwards will work with area farmers to provide information on the paper pellets.

THE RC&D WILL secure enough recycled paper

pellets to conduct Wind Tunnel Evaluation tests, field test plots, and field demonstrations.

Donald Fryrear, USDA-ARS scientist at Big Spring, wants to determine if materials from paper will bond with sand particles for controlling wind erosion.

"Using paper pellets to control wind erosion could significantly affect sandy soils in many parts of the United States," Fryrear says.

The dust storm expert will do wind tunnel tests to see how many paper pellets will be needed to control wind erosion. He will provide space for field tests if the paper passes toxicity tests.

Apel says that after toxicity and wind tunnel tests are done, test plots will be established with funds from a \$6,500 grant awarded to the RC&D.

From the simple 1-acre sites, the work will be expanded to 40 and then 100-acre fields.

"Then, we will meet with farmers and interested organizations to show them how to use recycled pellets," Apel said.

CROPS

From Page 1

calves will go to market unless there is a warm spring," he said. "This is a bottom-line, nip-and-tuck deal. If the mothers aren't getting enough protein, calves' weights are going to be down and that's a loss of money."

The following specific livestock, crop and weather conditions were reported by district Extension directors:

PANHANDLE: Soil moisture is short. Range cattle good, receiving supplemental feed. Wheat dormant and making little growth. Land preparation for spring planting moving ahead of schedule.

SOUTH PLAINS: Soil moisture short to very short. Livestock still requiring supplemental feed. Dry weather limiting pastures, small grains. Beet harvest winding up this week. Preparing land for next year's crops.

ROLLING PLAINS: Soil moisture is short. Cattle fair to good. Supplemental feeding continues. Wheat pastures fair to good depending on moisture. Cotton harvest complete, producers are shredding stalks.

NORTH TEXAS: Soil moisture surplus to adequate. Livestock fair to good; supplemental feeding continues. Pastures, ranges

excellent to poor. Wheat 80 to 100 percent planted; excellent to fair. Oats 25 to 100 percent planted. Peanuts 100 percent harvested. Pecans 75 to 100 percent harvested.

EAST TEXAS: Soil moisture adequate. Cattle good; being supplemented. Hay short. Good progress in winter pastures. Wheat 100 percent emerged. Active grazing in small grains. Land preparation continues for spring. Pecan harvest complete.

FAR WEST TEXAS: Soil moisture very short to adequate. Livestock fair to good; some supplemental feeding. Pastures, ranges, wheat very poor to good. Land preparation and irrigation beginning. Pecans are small and under-harvested due to low prices.

WEST CENTRAL TEXAS: Soil moisture short to adequate. Livestock being fed heavily because of hay shortage. Grazing, ranges declining. Wheat continuing to suffer from dry conditions. Oat stands are poor to moderate. Pecan harvest complete, yields poor.

CENTRAL TEXAS: Soil moisture adequate. Livestock good, but continue to be fed hay. Hay supplies short. Small grain pastures providing grazing for cattle. Pecan harvest slowing down; yields have been low.

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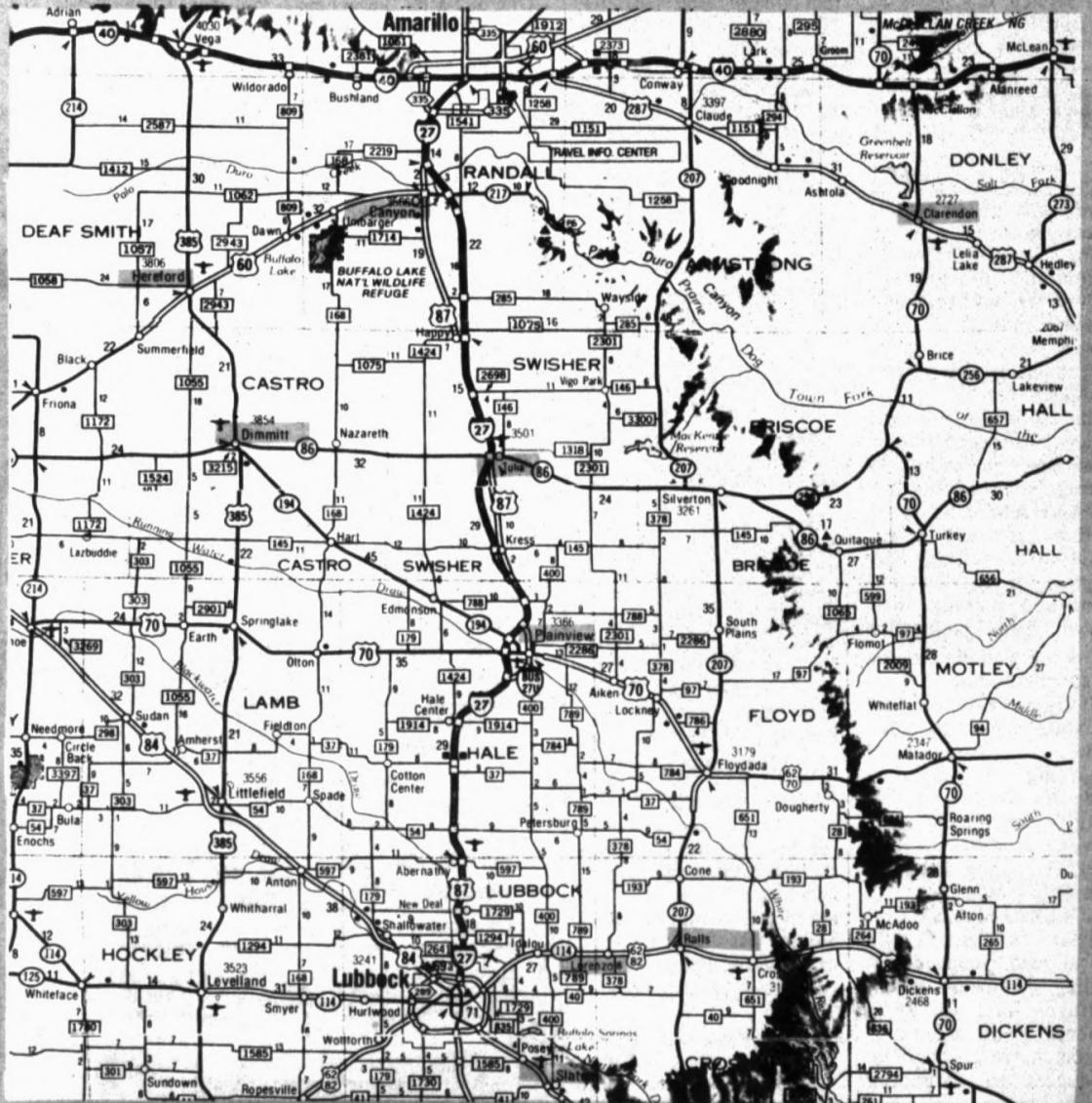
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Saudi Arabia is 12th largest consumer of U.S. ag products

MARGARET SCHERF
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. agricultural exports to Saudi Arabia totaled \$460 million in 1992, making the Persian Gulf kingdom this country's 12th-largest market, the Foreign Agriculture Service says.

Shipments of U.S. wood and seafood products brought the total to nearly \$500 million, said a report in a recent issue of Agricultural Trade Highlights, published by the

Agriculture Department agency.

The United States is the second-largest supplier of agricultural goods to Saudi Arabia, capturing about 13 percent of the market. That is second only to the European Union countries, which account for one-third of Saudi agricultural imports and virtually half of the market for consumer foods.

"The largest supplier of bulk commodities, the United States accounts for one-quarter of bulk sales," the

report said, "but its share of the market for high-value intermediate products and consumer foods is considerably smaller."

Before the 1970s, it said, Saudi Arabia was almost entirely dependent on imports to supply its domestic needs for food and other agricultural products. However, the country's agricultural policies since then have significantly reduced dependence on imported bulk and many intermediate high-value products.

"As a result, the market for consumer foods emerged as the area of greatest sales opportunity in the 1980s," the report said.

From 1984 to 1992, consumer foods grew to \$2.3 billion, or nearly 60 percent of total agricultural imports. Total imports of agricultural products by Saudi Arabia today are valued at just over \$4 billion.

U.S. bulk commodity exports peaked at \$338 million in 1987, the report said. "Although the United

States remains the dominant supplier of bulk commodities, U.S. sales have fallen nearly 50 percent from their record 1987 level," it said. "This is due to Saudi agricultural policies and increased competition from various countries."

U.S. barley and feed corn shipments made up nearly half of U.S. bulk sales in 1992.

"With the exception of certain snack foods, the growth in sales to Saudi

shoppers of retail convenience foods like frozen entrees and foods sold in smaller portions is not expected to rise rapidly," the report said.

"Saudi shoppers have become increasingly quality and price conscious, and a growing interest in new products often translates into a greater demand for western-style foods," it said. "More interest in healthful and dietetic foods is also evident."

Houston Livestock Show has new, guaranteed premiums

HOUSTON — Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo officials this season have announced a junior market auction guaranteed premium program that will enhance the auctions for both the exhibitors and the auction buyers.

Junior market livestock exhibitors at the 1994 Houston Livestock Show will know in advance the minimum amount of money they will receive for animals sold at auction through the guaranteed premium program.

All lambs, barrows and poultry, along with steers whose exhibitors elect to sell in the auction, that win ribbons while competing in their individual classes will become the property of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in return for a guaranteed premium paid to the animal's exhibitor.

These animals will then be sold by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in their respective junior market auction sales.

In accordance with recent tax legislation, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (a nonprofit charitable organization) will provide each auction buyer with a record of the

animal they purchased from the Show. This documentation also will inform buyers of the fair market value of the goods and services provided by the Show. This disclosure shall allow buyers to determine what amount of the excess payment above fair market value is a charitable contribution.

As in the past, all junior market auction sales proceeds will be paid to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. All guaranteed premiums will be disbursed after the livestock show is completed.

Total money committed by the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for this

new guaranteed premium program exceeds \$3.21 million, an increase of more than \$340,000.

These cap amounts were taken into account in determining the guaranteed premium for each animal. For example, the winning exhibitor of the grand champion steer at the Houston Livestock Show will receive a guaranteed premium of \$50,000, the same amount

as the cap.

Additionally, any money that is bid for animals that exceeds the guaranteed premium amount yet falls short of the cap amount could result in additional premiums for the youngsters. Any and all additional premiums will be paid evenly to all eligible junior market show exhibitors who receive a guaranteed premium that is less than

the cap amount. Therefore, the potential exists for the youngsters to receive even more money than the guaranteed premium amount.

"We feel the guaranteed premium program will provide youngsters with strong incentives to raise and develop superior livestock while becoming involved in a tremendous learning

See HOUSTON, Page 8

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Woody Williams/Canyon News

Ag-accent for the holiday

The Mercers family in Canyon likes to decorate for the holidays in style. Tractor and stuffed animal are lighted at night. The tractor returns to more mundane duty following New Year's Eve.

HOUSTON

From Page 7

experience. We leave no doubt as to the minimum amount of money young exhibitors will receive for their animal project," said Don Jobes, assistant general manager of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

SCHEDULE OF GUARANTEED PREMIUMS BY PLACE -- STEERS:

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Reserve Grand Champion Lamb: \$17,500
All Remaining Placing Lambs: \$7,500

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All Remaining Placing Lambs: \$7,500

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Chinese shrub heading for U.S. floral market

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Chinese flowering shrub with colored petals — a close relative of the witch hazel — is being introduced to the United States by the U.S. National Arboretum here.

Two types of the bush, called the Blush and Burgundy Loropetalum, bear pink flowers and their foliage starts off reddish-brown and matures to olive green. Loropetalum previously cultivated in the United States bears only white flowers and has green foliage.

"The process of intro-

ducing pink-flowering Loropetalum is similar to that when the first pink-flowering dogwoods were introduced after only white ones were available," said chief horticulturist Sylvester March. "Although not as commonly used as the dogwood in landscaping, Loropetalum really should be used more, as it has many favorable traits."

The shrub can grow as high as a small tree and has graceful arching branches, closely resembling the witch hazel, he said.

March said he first noticed the pink-flowering

strain in 1989 in a Japanese horticulture magazine and asked a former director of the National Arboretum to bring back samples after a visit to Japan.

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