

WEST TEXAS Country Trader



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Ag Secretary Espy invited to 1994 cotton meet

By JOE BRYANT
A&M Journalist

CROSBYTON — Ag Secretary Mike Espy may make his first visit to the Texas High Plains if he accepts an invitation to attend the 1994 Caprock Cotton Conference.

Espy, who was to confirm he will attend or not in the next few weeks, is one of numerous key governmental leaders invited to take part.

The future of Texas agriculture under governmental guidelines and methods of improving cotton production will be the focus of the 1994 conference.

The conference will be held Jan. 25-26 at the Crosby County

Pioneer Memorial Museum in Crosbyton.

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, said Crosby County Agent Rick Smathers. 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.

Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry will kick off the conference 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. Harold Bob Bennett, state executive director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, will conclude the morning session with an overview of the future of government farm programs.

The future direction of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and restriction impacts on farms will be topics of discussion by 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 farming 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 Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service faculty and researchers discussing a variety of cotton topics. The morning session will consist of presenta-

tions on cotton physiology, weed control, and cotton pest management.

Afternoon sessions will cover:

The future of pest management, Dr. Kater Hake, Extension Service cotton agronomist, Lubbock;

Soil moisture conditioning, Dr. Rosemary Seymour, Extension Service agricultural engineer, Lubbock;

Center pivot management, Dr. Bill Lyle, Experiment Station professor of irrigation engineering, Lubbock; Station.

Soil fertility, Dr. Michael Hickey, Extension Service soil chemist, Lubbock, and Managing early maturing crops, Dr. James Supak, Extension Service cotton

agronomist, College

Registration for the conference should be mailed to the Crosby County Extension Office, Room B-110, 201 West 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 will be \$45. Attendance is limited to 300. Registration forms are available from Smathers or Floyd County Extension Agent Kerry Siders at Floydada.

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

"Where's the Beef?" is topic of Dec. 3 seminar

By SHAE DODSON
WTSU Journalist

CANYON — A joint agriculture seminar established by the Division of Agriculture at West Texas A&M University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) at Bushland, the Texas Agriculture Experiment Station (TAES) and the Texas Agriculture Extension Service (TAEX) will conclude its fall seminar series on Dec. 3.

Dr. Andy Cole, acting lab director at the USDA-ARS,

will present "Where's the Beef?" at 3 p.m. Dec. 3 in Room 102 of the Agriculture and Natural Sciences Building on the WTAMU campus.

"Beef is a nutrient-dense food that does fit into a healthy diet," Cole said.

Cole has been with the USDA-ARS for 17 years. He received a bachelor of science degree in animal science from WTAMU. He earned his master's degree in animal science and a doctoral degree in beef cattle nutrition from Oklahoma State University.

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AgReview



South Plains
Ag News

Jan. 10-11

IRRIGATION CONFERENCE
— A two-day conference sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association and the A&M Extension Service will include discussion of critical issues impacting irrigated agriculture.

Monday begins with a session on energy regulations. Tuesday highlights a program on ag commodities with a morning session devoted to peanuts, corn and sugar beets and afternoon program on cotton, wheat and grain sorghum.

Jan. 22-23

AUSTIN'S ECO-FAIR TEXAS — ECO-FAIR '94, to be held in the Austin Convention Center, will highlight sustainable agriculture.

Man's software firm gets UPS okay

By GORDON ZEIGLER

AgReview Writer

CLARENDON — The age of home-based computing is helping folks like Terry Bernabe have it both ways — he can live in a small town and engage in daily business with the world at large from the keyboard of his PC.

Bernabe's one-man Clarendon software company, in fact, has reached out and touched the likes of the UPS shipping system.

Thanks to an almost one-of-a-kind new computer product, the market at large is responding with orders.

Targeting the UPS shipping network, he found a ripe market for his product — over 1 million ship via UPS, most of whom have some type of computer system and are prospects for a simple system to computerize the process.

"What we found in the last two years is that less than one to two percent of shippers use a computer to aid in shipping at this time," Bernabe revealed. "There is no widespread computer usage by UPS at this time."

His software program was aimed at that market, and its secret to success has been its simplicity.

It's name is apropos to that concept, and is called "KISS UPS" — a combination of his KISS software line logo (which stands for keep it simple, stupid) plus UPS.

"We took on this idea of KISS software, because it is user friendly, all our software is. We as software developer don't think simple is a bad word."

KISS UPS is now being shipped from Clarendon to area, regional and national customers. A KUPS system will be used in the near future to automate shipping within a West Texas-based utility company, he says.

His software, though neither marketed nor endorsed by UPS, got its launch when it received a stamp of approval from the shipping giant. Now Kiowa Creek Resources can provide its system for use by UPS shippers throughout the country.

He considers it a real coup for his company — but admits his focus on the UPS software has diverted his attention from just about every other



FIRM HITS PAYDIRT — Terry Bernabe, a Clarendon software developer, has developed a program that has national marketing possibilities.

avenue of computer programming recently

"To tell you the truth, this process with UPS has been so demanding for last two or three year, it has taken precedence over everything else," Bernabe said.

Though not the only program of its type available, Bernabe's is becoming a popular one. He has pushed it in at least one regional business fair in Houston, and orders are coming in steadily now.

Now he is looking at more opportunities for software in the immediate Texas Panhandle area — mostly ag-based enterprises.

"I think feedlots are in dire need of software," Bernabe said. "There are quite a few feedlots I have been in contact with who run with spread sheets. I know we could put something together that would be marketable."

He has also considered doing work on a custom system for agricultural crop sprayers. He attends the Amarillo Farm and Ranch show regularly, and has used the experience to talk with potential customers about the current needs of agribusiness computer users.

He has other software enterprises underway, such as putting the nearby city of Howardwick on computer.

He plans to exhibit at the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Expo in May.

Now that he has the UPS project behind him, he intends on widening his horizons and tackling some new programming challenges.

Bernabe says his secret in selling his systems to businesses has been to take the normal office routine and adapt a computer system to it, not forcing the office routine to change.

"We take what a client is doing with pencil and paper and put it into a computer routine," Bernabe said. "That way, rather than having them change a lot of what they do, it makes the transition alot easier. We simply automate the repetitive routines they are doing."

Such was the case with the UPS software.

"The manual UPS system is based on use of a handwritten manifest book," explained Bernabe. "We just took what you do by hand and put it in the computer."

The program is a zip-code driven system. By inputting a zipcode, the program figures the zone. You then put in the weight of the package and type of shipment and the price is instantly computed.

Another popular feature is that Kiowa Creek's program gives a quick display of prices of all the dif-

ferent way sof sending UPS — from overnight to second day and normal service, with a comparison of costs.

"Those receiving your shipment always want it yesterday," he said. "But sometimes you can't always justify the cost of sending it by air."

A self-taught programmer, Bernabe got into the business five years ago and has done consulting work all over the United States.

He decided to move to Clarendon recently because his parents lived there — his father is a retired Pantex employee — and because he simply liked the people and surroundings.

"I live here by choice," said the Waterloo, Iowa, native. "I love the Texas Panhandle weather, the small community, and I like not having to lock my doors."

His wife is a registered nurse at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo. The couple has a newborn son, Reed James, who arrived Sept. 30.

Bernabe plans to continue showing KUPS to retail merchants and plans a vigorous newspaper advertising campaign, he says.

KUPS sells for \$799, but Bernabe is currently selling it at \$499 as an introductory offer.

Other products in development include a checkbook program and a labeling program — all designed for the off-the-shelf software market.

Cotton market hits positive plateau

The cotton market is beginning to show signs of positive support. Prices often bottom in November.

Export shipments are increasing; the expected large U.S. crop and stocks have been decreased; the Chinese now indicate that they may buy some U.S. cotton and Russia wants cotton to be included in the upcoming U.S. Credit Package; foreign stocks are smaller than last year; and, the preliminary U.S. set-aside acreage (ARP) for 1994/95 was raised substantially from this year to cut government costs and increase market price.

The 6.63 cent per pound user certificates that were qualified by cotton shippers last April on about 5 million bales are boosting exports. Exports are already moderately ahead of levels a year ago.

The November crop estimate placed the U.S. crop 2.2 million bales lower than expected in August. Thus, what earlier appeared to be a glut in cotton supplies has now turned to an possible slight decrease to less price depressing levels.

The Chinese may buy some U.S. cotton to improve trade relations. Also, their crop size is questionable and may not be as large as the 19



COTTON MARKET UPDATE

Dr. Carl Anderson

million bales estimated in November. China remains a key, but uncertain, player in the U.S. market. Too, Russia has indicated that they want U.S. cotton to be a part of upcoming U.S. Agricultural Credit Package.

Foreign carryover stocks that at the end of the 1991/92 season stood at a large 36.9 million bales are estimated to be 29.1 million by the end of this season. In terms of ending stocks/use ratio, the percentage has dropped from 49% two years ago to a projected but ample 38% for the current crop.

The decrease in foreign and world stocks adds positive support to the cotton market. Be ready to adjust your marketing plan to benefit from a higher world price. That means you may need to "lock-in" the marketing loan gain or Producer Optional Payment (POP). Then, either hold cash cotton or sell and buy a May or July call option.

Remember, you gain little by holding cash and not taking POP because as cash goes up, POP tends to go down and vice versa. Fundamentally, the reduction in world stocks is sufficient to boost the "A" Index by 5 to 10 cents per pound when based on past supply and demand relationships.

Because of the sizable crop decrease in November, the preliminary 17.5% ARP, up 10% from this season, has cast doubt as to the final ARP for the 1994/95 season. Expectations of a large crop and abundant stocks are fading. The possibilities of increasing exports, reduced stocks and higher prices next year are surfacing.

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

Panhandle man crafts dozens of wooden clocks

By GARY WESNER

THE HEREFORD BRAND

HEREFORD (AP) — Take a walk around A.E. McBride's property in south Hereford.

It sure doesn't look like a house in the middle of town. In fact, it looks much more like a residence that would be found in the middle of the country.

There is an old wellhouse, a pump attached to a large barrel, a large garden and several antique farm tools.

They are all part of McBride's collection.

Inside the well house is a compact workshop. That is natural for a man who worked much of his adult life as a cabinet maker and builder.

But it is inside the small nearby shed and in the house that the true purpose of McBride's workshop is known.

There, hanging from walls, standing in corners and sitting on shelves are literally dozens of wooden clocks that he has crafted over the last quarter-century.

"I started in 1967. The first clock I made is in the house. I've been making them ever since," he said. "It kind of gets in your

blood." Stand quietly in the shed for a moment and listen to the soft ticking of the seven-day wall clocks.

None of the clocks are set to the same time — that becomes perfectly clear at the hour, when chimes sound out one after another in a melodious cacophony of time.

"Every time I build a clock, it's to use different wood," McBride explained.

"This one here is made of ironwood out of Mexico," he said, holding up a mantle clock. Another one — dated March 1990 — is crafted from elm wood.

"I dug a root out of a tree — one of those old elm trees — and I made this clock out of a root that had been underground," he went on, handling each clock with the loving care that only a craftsman can have.

On another shelf stands a clock crafted from an old cedar fence post.

"I make it piece by piece," he said, only purchasing the numbers and works.

Although the 78-year-old McBride has only been making clocks for 26 years, he has been working with wood

a lot longer than that.

"This is the first piece of woodwork I ever did," McBride said, holding up a small, open square frame with a round ball rolling around inside.

It was carved, he said, in March 1929, when he and his brother-in-law were snowed into the family home with only a path to the barn (where they would feed the chickens).

That brother-in-law vowed to make McBride a carpenter, but died before he could teach his prodigy.

Still, wood was in McBride's blood and he worked 20 years in the lumber business in Amarillo before changing careers.

"During the war, a fellow said, 'You reckon if I buy you some power tools, you could build me some doors and window screens?'" McBride recalled.

That was all it took to change from lumber sales to cabinetmaker.

He worked in Amarillo from 1940 until 1960, working for the same man until he decided to go solo.

For 10 years, he worked in Amarillo, then, since he had been building cabinets in Amarillo and driving them to

Hereford, he decided to move here permanently.

He then joined with his son and a friend and began building homes, a profession he kept until retiring several years ago.

With him on that move came an antique tool collection that had started when he had his own shop in Amarillo.

Around 1967, he had some old tools that he hung on the wall of his Amarillo shop.

"Some of my customers kept coming in and hanging tools on the wall," he said. Thus a collection was born.

Today that collection is relegated to McBride's garage.

Soon it will be gone.

McBride is in the process of moving back to Amarillo with Pearl, his wife of 13 years. Each has children in Amarillo and the city is more convenient to their doctors.

So, the collection of tools — as well as some of the clocks — will be auctioned off on Saturday.

Although McBride does not want to part with the collection, he realizes it is time.

Much of the collection was gathered by McBride and his first wife, Elsie, whom he married in 1940. She died in

1979 and is buried here.

"This stuff is just like parting with her," he said, but "I had to part with her," so he feels he can part with the tools.

McBride and Elsie moved to the house on South Julian in 1975 when it was a "little, bitty two bedroom house" with a basement.

He built another bedroom and living room himself, then added a two-car garage.

Then, a number of years ago, McBride recalled he had a conversation with God.

"Seven years ago, I told the Lord, I said, 'This is your house, your property. I can't afford the insurance. You're going to have to protect it. When you're ready to sell it, bring a buyer.'"

Then, earlier this spring, a couple came with Realtor Marn Tyler to view the property.

"They came in the front door, came in, looked around a little," looked at the kitchen, bedroom and bathroom, then went outside.

As rain began falling, Tyler and the woman retreated to the car and McBride showed the man the rest of the property.

As the rains intensified, the man left. The group sat in

the car for a while, then drove off.

McBride said he didn't think he'd hear any more from them, but "about 30 minutes (later), Marn Tyler came back with a contract. I signed the contract" and the sale was complete.

Even though the deal has been closed and McBride no longer owns the property, he has mixed feelings about leaving.

"The 18 years I've spent on this place were the most enjoyable time I've spent in Hereford," he said sadly.

"Hereford's been good to me. I'm not all that enthused at all about moving back to Amarillo."

Still, McBride said, God told him that, "You're getting about to the end of your life now, so you have to get rid of everything you've got and start over."

So, the tools will be sold, the clocks will be packed up and moved to Amarillo and McBride will move his workshop into the garage of his new home in Amarillo, where he can keep making his clocks — and remembering.

Dyed fuels are confusing, ag group claims

In order to comply with the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency is requiring that high sulfur diesel be limited to off-road use.

In order to police usage, a blue dye was added to the fuel at the refinery level beginning Oct. 1 to distinguish it from low sulfur fuel, which can be used leg-

ally on or off the road.

In addition to increased cost — perhaps a 3- to 4-cent per gallon increase — Ned Meister, regulatory affairs director for Texas

Farm Bureau, said he foresaw several problems prior to the date the regulation went into effect.

Confusion, Meister said is the first one that comes

to mind.

"Those farmers who have both off- and on-road equipment are nearly going to have to use two tanks unless they buy only low

sulfur," Meister pointed out. "And they're going to have to have them marked. The only other option

See DIESEL, Page 5

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NAFTA sewed up, South America getting on board

MEXICO CITY — The North American Free Trade Agreement addresses only trade and investment among Mexico, Canada and the United States.

But when the U.S. Congress gave its final approval last week, the rest of Latin America celebrated, too. The enticing prospect of hemispheric free trade, put

forth three years ago in President George Bush's Enterprise for the Americas trade-investment-aid initiative, seemed tantalizingly within reach. "What triumphed in the

United States is a vision of how the countries of the world and particularly in our region should grow," proclaimed Chilean Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley.

More than hard economics lies behind that enthusiasm. Most Latin American countries are pushing through difficult economic reforms: slashing subsidies, removing regulations and lowering trade barriers.

Inevitably, these changes have meant painful adjustments, as long-coddled businesses collapse and workers lose jobs by the hundreds of thousands. Latin America's leaders are dangling NAFTA as a reward for all the pain and suffering. The implicit political message: if we stick to the course we've set and modernize our economies, the Americans will finally treat us as something more than banana republics.

That hope has led to some unseemly pushing and shoving. Chile has hired a Washington public-relations firm to press its claim to join NAFTA.

Argentine officials claim that President Clinton told their president, Carlos Menem, that Argentina is first or second on the list of potential members. Bolivia hopes it might come first, as its tiny economy makes it no threat to U.S. interests.

By 2005, predicts Colombian President Cesar Gaviria, "The countries of the Andean Pact will be solidly linked to the other countries of the Americas in a regime of free trade and financial integration."

Guatemala and El Salvador are waiting to hitch onto NAFTA, too. "We are convinced

that our participation would reap enormous benefits for our nations," the six Central American presidents intoned when they formed their own trade bloc last month. Their wait may be a lengthy one. While NAFTA does contain rules for admitting new members, no one is distributing application forms. After struggling to convince the public that closer economic ties with Mexico are vital to U.S. security, no one in Washington wants to repeat that feat with Bolivia — and, besides, the Bolivian lobby doesn't count for much in Washington or Ottawa. From the U.S. viewpoint, the farther south the country, the weaker the geopolitical case is for free trade. In any event, a reading of NAFTA's finer points suggests that it would be a poor vehicle for Latin America's hopes. Carlos Ardila Lulle, who owns one of the world's most efficient sugar mills in Colombia's rich Cauca Valley, grouses that "The U.S. limits its sugar imports to protect its industry." He's right, but joining NAFTA wouldn't change that: the treaty contains intricate language to keep Mexico from driving Florida's sugar growers out of business. For all the rhetoric, Latin America's enthusiasm for hemispheric free trade is a bit of a charade. The real drive has been for modest regional agreements that will bring many of the benefits of freer trade while giving local products an edge over imports from North America.

Veteran researcher new head of dryland institute

Special to AgReview

CANYON — Dr. B.A. Stewart, a 25-year veteran of the USDA conservation and production research team at Bushland, has been named director of West Texas A&M's newly-created Institute for Dryland Agriculture. His \$82,000 per year appointment became effective Oct. 1.

Stewart began his professional career in 1953 as a research soil scientist in Stillwater, Okla., while completing baccalaureate and master's degrees at Oklahoma State University (1953 and 1957, respectively). He then moved to Fort Collins, Colo., where he worked for the USDA Agricultural Research Service and received his doctorate from Colorado State University in 1961.

Stewart accepted what evolved into a 25-year appointment as research soil scientist and director of the Conservation and Production Research Laboratory, USDA Agricultural Research Service at Bushland, in 1968.

His contributions, however, are not limited to Bushland. He served on the

1981-82 Dryland Agriculture Work Group for the Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress, as part of a study on Water-Related Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture in U.S. Arid/Semiarid Lands and was a member of the Committee on Long-Range Soil and Water Conservation, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences from 1991-93. The committee's final report, "Soil and Water Quality: An Agenda for Agriculture," is soon to be released.

Stewart also served as a Scientific Liaison Officer for the U.S. Agency for International Development to the International Center for Agriculture Research in Dryland Areas (Aleppo, Syria) and has conducted special assignments for the United Nations and The World Bank.

He has shared much of his knowledge and experience with colleagues through his writing and active participation in professional organizations. He has authored or co-authored more than 160 published journal articles and book chapters, served as co-

editor of eight books, edited 17 volumes of *Advances in Soil Science* and was associate editor (1967-72) and editor-in-chief (1974-79) of the *Soil Science of America Journal*.

Stewart was president of the 6,000-member Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) in 1981 and served on the boards of the SSSA (1971-72, 1975-82) and the American Society of Agronomy (ASA, 1979-82).

Stewart's professional expertise has not gone unnoticed or unrewarded. He was named a Fellow by the SSSA, the ASA and the Soil Conservation Society of America, received the USDA's Superior Service Award in 1985 and was recognized by *Fortune Magazine* in 1990 for his contributions to dryland agriculture.

"I am confident that Dr. Stewart and the Institute for Dryland Agriculture will make valuable contributions to the University and the area we serve," Long said. "The teaching, the grant-supported research and the service projects will all be very closely tied to the concerns of the region."

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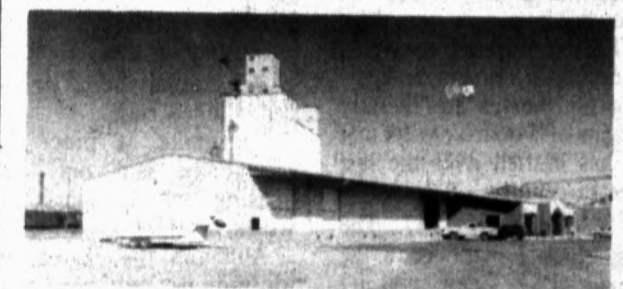
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DIESEL

From Page 3

would be to buy all on-road fuel at a service station.

Jim Naylor, general manager of Double Circle Cop, a Waco-area fuel supplier, agreed that trying to keep up with what type of fuel is in which piece of equipment could be troublesome.

"High sulfur diesel ranges from clear to light yellow in color when manufactured, so the result when the dye is added is going to be aqua to brownish purple. The inconsistent color can confuse the end user," he said.

And it could become even more confusing. The Internal Revenue Service is implementing a 4.3 cent tax, effective Jan. 1, 1994, in which the idea of using a dye to distinguish taxable fuel from tax-exempt fuel is being entertained.

It remains to be seen what the final decision will be. But two dyes used by two different agencies for different purposes could really complicate things, according to TFB's Meister.

"For this to work, it will be imperative that all fuel suppliers make sure their

patrons know what they're doing out there," he said.

The Double Circle general manager said his company is leaning toward going strictly with low sulfur fuel. Liability is the primary reason the fuel supplier is shying away from the high sulfur variety.

"I call it downstream liability," Naylor said. "If there is some comingling of fuels, we will know it wasn't anything we did if we only sell low sulfur."

Like Naylor, other sellers of fuel may decide to eliminate the potential for problems by selling only the low sulfur fuel, which will cause the demand for high sulfur to drop to the point that it will no longer be available.

"It's just a matter of time, I believe, before they phase out the high sulfur altogether," Naylor stated.

Another reason is that Double Circle, for years, has been enhancing the quality of high sulfur fuel with an additive. The additive is red, which would interfere with the blue identifying dye.

"If they (EPA) had simply said no more high sulfur fuel after Oct. 1, it would be easier. Instead, it's going to be one big mess," Naylor commented.

A person can be fined as much as \$25,000 per day for deliberately using high sulfur fuel, such as 4015, on the road, Naylor said. However, Naylor's understanding of the information he has received is that EPA's conclusions will not be reached necessarily by color, but by actual tests to determine sulfur content.

"The bottom line is no one wants to get caught on the road with dyed diesel," Meister stated.

PROS AND CONS EXPLORED

According to Naylor, the

sulfur content by weight for on-road fuel must not exceed .05 percent, which is a significant reduction over the current level of .50 percent.

On-road fuel must meet two additional standards. First, it must be clear or dyed a color other than blue, to distinguish it from high sulfur fuel. Second, it must have a minimum of cetane of 40 or aromatic content of 35 percent or less.

In addition to being cleaner burning, there are other distinct advantages of the low sulfur fuel, Naylor noted. The quality is better and with additives, engines run better — "you get more bang for your bucks," he said.

Unlike high sulfur diesel, the fuel specialist said low sulfur diesel does not need cetane enhancers to prevent starter problems in cold weather. However, additives are crucial for restoring lubrication that will be lost due to the required reduction in sulfur content. Otherwise, the fuel can cause wear on the injector pump.

"It's like when we went to unleaded, the old leaded gasoline engines had some valve problems. Eventually, engineers changed the motors. Engines were upgraded. This will happen in the diesel circle, too, but I don't know when," he said.

Farmland, a Double Circle fueler, indicated a farmer who currently uses 4,000 gallons of high sulfur fuel annually can expect to pay \$160 more, at a 4-cent differential, for lower sulfur fuel.

A problem that could add more cost down the line, according to Naylor, is that Double Circle and other sellers of diesel will now have to pay tax on fuel at the rack. Since the farmer cannot be charged the tax, the distributor must apply for reimbursement.

"The Comptroller is interested that all taxes are being paid and that you are not using tax-free fuel running up and down the road. But we are going to have to have some means of recovery for money that's tied up for 30 to 45 days," he said.

(This story was written by Lana Robinson for the Texas Farm Bureau monthly publication, Texas Agriculture. She is assistant editor.)

Efforts underway for safety program

Two county women are leading an effort to establish a chapter of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids in Castro County.

Cindy Gerber, an LVN from the Nazareth area, and Laura Hart, who works at Cargill Grain Division at Hart, are attempting to form a county-wide chapter.

"We hope also to serve other counties through our chapter here, since the movement is just now getting underway in Texas," Gerber said. The program is active in 43 states, and is coordinated nationally by the University of Iowa NIOSH Center.

Farm Safety 4 Just Kids was formed in 1987 after the death of 11-year-old Keith Algreen in an accident on the family farm in Earlham, Iowa. Keith's mother, Marilyn Adams, began the effort to help educate children and increase awareness of hazards to children and adolescents around farms.

Farm Safety



The objectives of Farm Safety 4 Just Kids also include providing individuals, families and communities with appropriate skills and resources to make the farm a safe and healthy environment, and to motivate and empower individuals, families and communities to make positive changes regarding farm safety and health issues.

According to farm safety statistics, about 300 children died from farm-related injuries in 1990, and 95% of boys age 7 to 9 are allowed to be extra riders on tractors, a very unsafe practice.

Gerber, mother of three children age 11 and under,

and her husband, Stanley, live on a farm near Nazareth. She first became involved with the program through the Tri-State Trauma Symposium in Amarillo in September.

Hart became involved with the program through Cargill's sponsorship of the Farm Safety 4 Just Kids program this year. Other national sponsors are DowElanco, Nationwide Insurance Foundation and Farmland Insurance Companies.

There are currently only two chapters in Texas, in Hale and Floyd counties.

Gerber said 10 members are needed to form a local chapter. Annual dues are \$15 for a family and \$25 for a business. Gerber may be contacted at 945-2506, and Hart at 938-2178.

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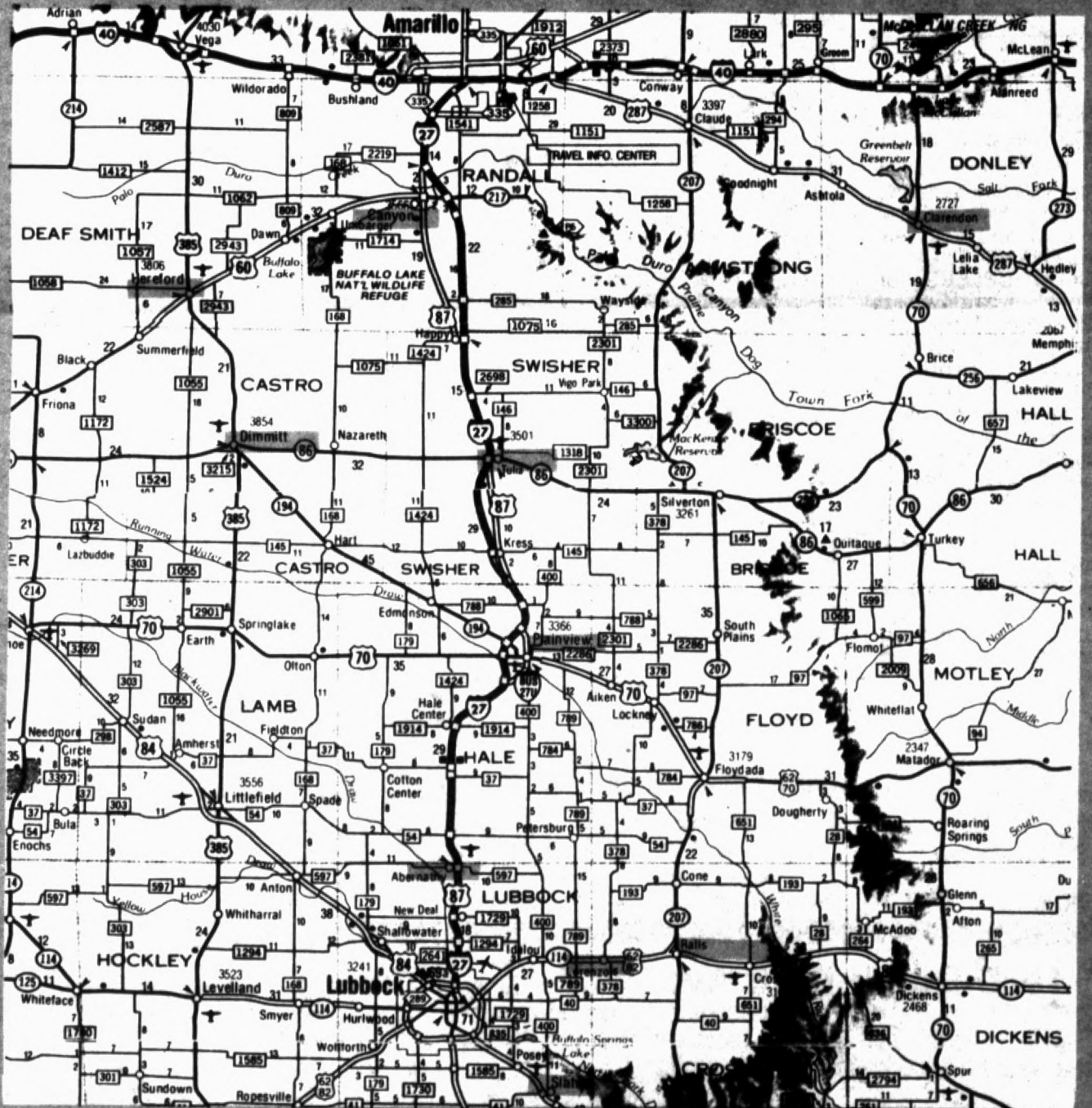
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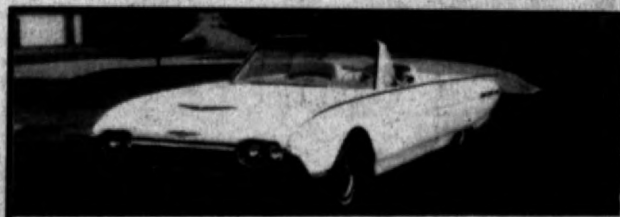
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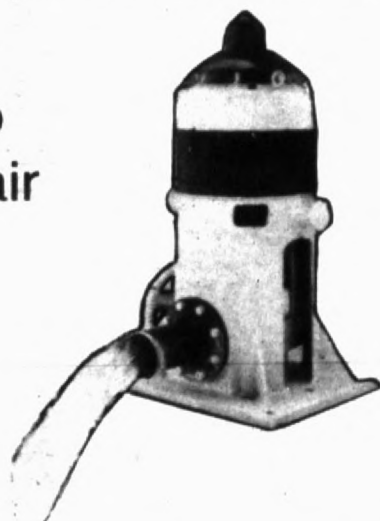
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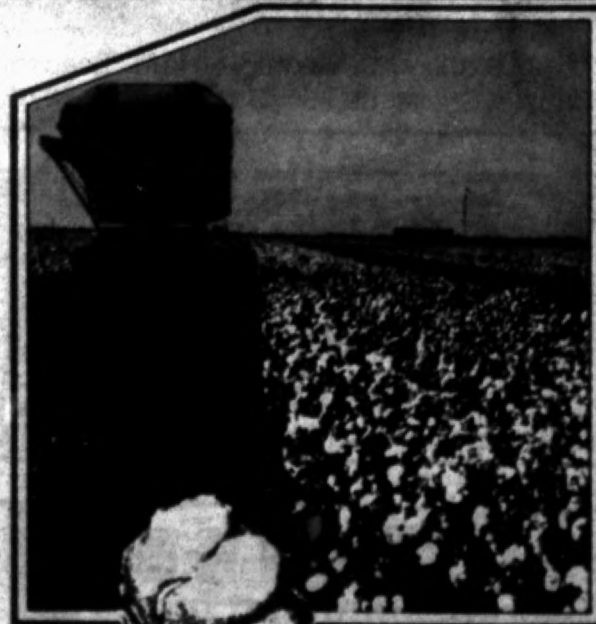
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