

WEST TEXAS Country Trader

The West Texas Country Trader is a Supplement of:

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, February 3, 1994

The Slatonite
The Tulla Herald

Opportunities, challenges seen for ag sector

AgReview

EPA emission testing fears apparently stilled for now

CROSBYTON—The recent North American Free Trade Agreement holds promise for West Texas cotton producers, but environmental regulations and public perceptions will pose strong challenges, more than 300 farmers attending the two-day Caprock Cotton Conference here were told.

NAFTA means new opportunities for cotton farmers, Rick Perry, Texas commissioner of agriculture, told the group. "During the next 10 years (under NAFTA), Mexican tariffs against cotton will be phased out. U.S. exports of cotton to Mexico should increase," Perry said.

Perry said his Texas Department of Agriculture will focus on three strategies to help farm producers reach the consumers of Mexico. He said these include working with commodity groups to send trade missions to Mexico; encouraging Texas companies to pursue new markets in Mexico, and creating trade partnerships with Mexico.

Farmers need to actively combat the public misconception of agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Rominger. He said the streamlining of the

See CONFERENCE, Page 4



Gordon Zeigler/AgReview

Winter wheat: Will it measure up to '93?

This week's foot-deep blanket of snow in the Texas Panhandle is just what was needed to combat dry conditions on area winter wheat plots. With more timely moisture over the next six months, experts say, the wheat could turn in the same, respectable yields recorded last year. But, they add cautiously, time will tell. This photo shows excellent wheat development in 1993.

District making annual water depth measurements

LUBBOCK —High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 Technical Division staff are making annual depth-to-water measurements to determine the effect of 1993 pumpage on ground water

levels of the Ogallala Aquifer within the 15-county Water District service area.

Measurements are taken in more than 1,100 privately-owned wells in the District's observation well network. These wells are spaced at a density of about one well per nine square miles throughout the District.

"We have established observation well sites for the newly-annexed portions of Cochran and Lynn

Counties," says Don McReynolds, Technical Division Director. "In the portion of Hale County added to the Water District in August, we plan to measure depth-to-water in wells currently included in the State of Texas ground water monitoring program."

In future years, some of these wells will be dropped and new wells added as

efforts are made to build the best program possible to reflect representative changes in water levels for each area of Hale County.

Water District staff take the measurement by lowering a steel tape to the depth of the current static water level inside the observation well. The lower ten to fifteen feet of the tape is coated with blue

carpenters' chalk. When the chalked tape comes in contact with the ground water, it turns a darker shade of blue. This section of wetted tape is subtracted from the total length of tape lowered into the well to determine the depth-to-water from land surface.

The data is posted at the well-site and placed on file at the district office.

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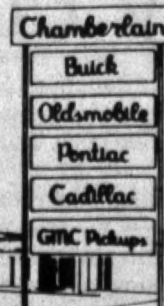
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AgReview



South Plains

Ag News

Jan. 22 — Feb 6

FARMERS MARKET CONFERENCE — The Texas Certified Farmers Marketing Association (TCFMA) will host a direct marketing conference in Austin at the Royce Hotel. The meeting will cover tactics to help market fruits and vegetables directly to the public. Information is available by calling Danny Russell at 817-894-3401.

Jan. 22 — Feb 6

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

Feb. 16-17

ABILENE BIG COUNTRY FARM & RANCH SHOW — Champion Farm Shows will present its second annual Big Country Farm & Ranch Show at the Taylor County Fairgrounds on Feb. 16-17.

Corn growers hold meet

■ Top state ag officials attend annual meet

Special to AgReview

DIMMITT — Pride in the survival of production agriculture and optimism about the future were expressed by some of the top leaders in agriculture recently during the 21st annual meeting of the American Corn Growers Association and the Texas Corn Producers Board.

A crowd of about 300 heard updates on activities in the ACGA by president Gary Goldberg of Nebraska and a TCGA update from Carl King.

Texas House Speaker Pete Laney of Hale Center posed the question "how can farmers survive?" as he addressed the meeting.

"An important part of survival in agriculture is the ability to diversify and change," Laney said. "Changes are necessary to stay in business. Those of us involved in agriculture and business must understand that government action occurs in response to public concerns."

Laney said it is not enough to be the most productive and efficient producers in the world. In order to be successful, those in agriculture must be fully involved in shaping public opinion and forming public policy, he said.

Success today depends on producers' ability to work with environmental agencies, economic development groups, regulatory agencies and urban legislatures.

Harold Bob Bennett, a Hart native who is serving on the Texas Agricultural, Stabilization and Conservation Service



Woody Williams/Canyon News

Pastures extremely dry

Slim pickins on wheat pasture this year are a result of high temperatures, strong winds and dry conditions, according to Robert Devin, extension agent for Randall County. A crop can still be made with timely rains, but grazing is virtually non-existent and subsoil moisture for spring growth is lacking, he said.

board as State Director, also addressed the group.

Bennett quoted late President John F. Kennedy, saying, "Farmers deserve praise, not condemnation; and their efficiency should be a cause for gratitude, not something for which they are penalized."

"There's no sense for us to sit here and blame what has happened in the last 10, 12 or 20 years. We can't do a thing about what happened yesterday. Let's go forward from today on," Bennett encouraged.

ACGA President Goldberg said farmers are basically optimistic about the future.

"We are optimists," he said. "We look forward to the spring, the ability to plant, the ability to grow and hopefully, the ability to harvest. But there also must be the ability to make a profit. For without a profit, we lose the motivation to farm."

Goldberg said it doesn't do anybody any good to have the American farmer feed the world when he can't even afford to feed his only family.

Low interest loans for ag processors available

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Agriculture's Linked Deposit Loan Program has \$2.7 million available in low interest loans for companies involved in enhancing the production, processing and marketing of certain crops, Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry said.

The Texas Legislature also expanded the program last year to include assistance for crops that have dropped markedly in production due

to natural disasters and for water conservation equipment purchases used in crop production, Perry said. Until funds change, only projects involving ag processing and alternative crop or livestock production qualified for financing under the program.

"Low interest loans are offered by the Linked Deposit program at a minimal cost to taxpayers," Perry said. "And under the program's

expanded guidelines, we can encourage water conservation in agriculture and assist agricultural sectors that have been hurt severely by natural disasters."

The Legislature also increased the maximum loan amounts from \$100,000 to \$250,000 for production loans for alternative crops and \$250,000 to \$500,000 for processing and marketing loans. Production crops affected by a natural disaster and water

conservation loans are eligible for up to \$250,000 in loans.

Through the Linked Deposit Program, the state treasurer deposits funds at qualifying banks at less than prevailing rates, which enables banks to loan money at below market interest rates.

For more information about these loans write to: Linked Deposit Program, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711 or call (512) 475-1614

February computer course line-up given

HALFWAY—Area farmers and ranchers can learn easier ways to manage their finances and draw field maps during February at the Texas A&M Computer Training and Education Center in Halfway.

The courses are being Extension offered by the Texas Agricultural Service

On February 4, Record Keeping with Bell Farm Register will be offered at the training center. Bell Farm Register is a cash record keeping program written by Don Bell, an area farmer. The program calculates total income and expenditures per acre and can also calculate the totals of two commodities such as cotton and wheat. The savior keeps track of up to 99 farms or plots.

Bell Farm Register also allows you to adjust the last year's total expenditures to project a budget for the coming year. Bell will teach the class February 4.

Field Mapping is a program that draws individual field

maps to scale. From these maps, you can calculate acreages, keep notes on pesticide and herbicide applications and produce a multiple-year map that shows the history of an area.

"This software is a useful tool for ASCS certification because it calculates your total acreages," said Randy Wilmeth, representative from Computer Solutions in Plainview.

Field Mapping can be used for other drafting purposes such as layout and landscaping projects. Wilmeth will teach the course February 8.

Farm Record Keeping with Tellwriter Plus will be taught February 15. Tolerator Plus is a commercially available accounting software package developed by South Plains CPA for South Plains farmers. It keeps a double-entry set of books that generates reports useful for financial planning, tax work and lending institutions. No computer

or bookkeeping experience is necessary to take the course.

"The software was developed from the point of view that accounting software is not used very often," said Jerry Cosper, the course instructor.

All classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Registration is \$75 each and lunch is included in the registration. Couples are encouraged to attend and pay only one fee if they use the same computer. There are 14 positions available for each course.

For more information or to register for a course, contact Dr. Jackie Smith, extension economist at the Texas A&M University Research and Extension Center in Lubbock, at (806) 746-6101.

The training center is in the Moody Building at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station facility 14 miles west of Plainview on U.S. Hwy. 70.

Many Texans are 'clogging' their way to fitness

By LANA ROBINSON

Texas Agriculture

Hundreds of Texans are now clogging their way to fitness!

"Jogging is a chore. Clogging is fun," says Jean Moeller, a Waco clogging instructor and member of the Brazos Valley Cloggers club. Clogging is an excellent aerobic and weight-bearing exercise, she advises.

Moeller, who is also secretary of the Texas Clogging Council, indicates there are some 100 clubs in

the Lone Star state, 65 of which are TCC affiliates. "Clogging is really pretty new to the state, but it's really gaining popularity," she reports.

According to Moeller, the folk dance originally spread from England to the Appalachian Mountains, where different cultures influenced the form it was to take. Pioneers brought steps with them that resembled the Irish Jig and Scottish Highland dancing. Black improvisation and Cherokee Indian steps were added, making modern clogging a uniquely American dance.

In the last few years,

clogging has evolved by taking on a definite touch of modern tap. Shoes with taps that are loose and jingle are worn.

The most common form of clogging now features a precision team, usually in costume, performing routines in unison to the strains of bluegrass and fiddling music. Moeller says C&W, hoe-down and traditional music is most popular, but some teenage clubs clog to rap music.

The Brazos Valley Cloggers club, which meets weekly to practice, traces its beginnings back to 1981, when a Baylor University

student from Tennessee began giving lessons.

"When I took over in 1987, there were eight adults. Now, we have 45 on the roster," Moeller states.

Moeller also teaches private lessons. All routines are combinations of eight basic steps, she notes.

"My goal is to try to dance for enjoyment, have a good time and learn at least two numbers. Those should be practiced at least 10 or 15 minutes each day to reaffirm and work on rhythm," she advises.

Good posture, familiarity with routines and a big smile are clogging assets,

Moeller notes. Everyone makes a mistake now and then. What's important is to recover and keep clogging, she says.

Helen Cassady of Denver City clogs almost every day of the week. She coaches about 60 in three clogging clubs in Snyder, Midland and the Seminole-Hobbs, N.M. area.

Cassady, who has taught clogging since 1984, says her cloggers are from eight years old on up and "come for exercise, hobbies and to socialize."

"We do have some men, not as many men as we'd like, but my husband dances

with us. He helps me a whole lot," she says.

Was there life before clogging? Both women wonder.

"That's almost all I do anymore," Cassady admits.

Cassady, who will be 58 in May says clogging keeps you young. "It keeps your mind occupied. Otherwise, you could sit at home and almost dwindle away."

For information about a clogging group near you, write: Texas Clogging Council, c/o Jean Moeller, 2225 Lake Ridge Circle, Waco, TX 76710.

Beekeepers to feel sting if subsidies are cut

By LOUISE PALMER

C. '93 States News

WASHINGTON —In May, it looks like a cloud of pink cotton candy-colored snow has settled on the fields of Tom Ross' 3,000-acre farm.

But by then, the snow has long since melted, replaced by the white and pink "king" blooms of the blueberry. And with the blooms come the bees. Millions of bees.

Every year, Ross' Cherry Field Foods farm in Cherry Field, Me., imports 10,000 bee hive colonies to pollinate the blooms which, later in the summer, yield the berries.

But the farm, which pays five different beekeepers a total of about \$30,000 for the use of their winged drones, may be facing rising prices for the bees they rent if Congress and President Clinton

follow through with threats to cut a government subsidy for beekeepers.

"The basic concern of Maine blueberry and apple farmers is over time, that they may lose access to pollination services if the subsidy is cut," said Russell Libby, director of research for the Maine Agriculture Department.

The Clinton administration budget calls for the reduction of the honeybee program by \$23 million. The budget proposal slashes the honeybee subsidy for qualifying farmers every year until 1997 from \$125,000 to \$50,000.

Under the program, the government buys honey from farmers if they are unable to sell it at a certain price per pound. Only four percent of all beekeepers in the U.S. rely on the subsidy. Lawmakers have joked for years

about the 43-year-old honey subsidy, but it wasn't until President Clinton singled out the price support program during last fall's campaign that it became, for many, a symbol of government waste.

Some are now watching the subsidy's fate as a gauge of how Clinton's other budget cuts will fare.

"If we can't cut this program, what can we cut?" said Rep. Dick Armey, D-Texas, chairman of the House Republican Conference.

The estimated 4,000 beekeepers who receive federal support, however, are not enjoying their newfound celebrity.

Removing the price support, they say, would force hundreds of honey producers out of business, surrender the market to foreign competitors, and have untold effects on commercial farmers.

"Destruction of an industry is a big price to pay for the sake of symbolism," said Richard Adey, the president of the American Honey Producers Association.

The numbers of beekeepers has dwindled since 1976, when there were 212,000. In 1992, there were an estimated 125,000 beekeepers, according to the American Beekeeping Federation.

Honey bee farms, or apiaries, provide work for thousands in rural communities and small towns across the country, Adey and other industry representatives point out.

The subsidy is crucial, industry representatives say, because farmers have been hard hit by inexpensive Chinese honey flooding the U.S. market. The American Beekeeping Federation warns that the subsidy cut also means beekeepers will not have

strong, vigorous bee colonies to pollinate crops like apples and blueberries in Maine.

But many of the apiaries now renting their hives to Maine farms do not foresee the end of business without the subsidy. Rather, they warn their prices will have to go up — or their profit margins will shrink.

"The Fishers were surviving as beekeepers before the subsidy program and I think we'll continue to survive even if it's cut," said Dyson Fisher who inherited his beekeeping enterprise in McVeytown, Pa. from his father.

Fisher loads his beehives in several trucks every spring, and drops them off at several Maine farms.

Like many others in the industry, Fisher believes beekeepers are being unfairly singled out.

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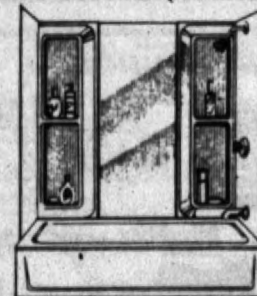
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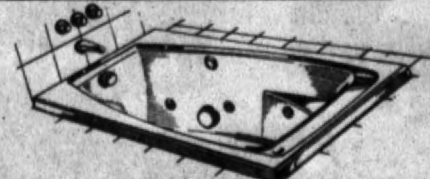
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CONFERENCE

From Page 1

USDA, now being fashioned by Congress and the department, is aimed at making it more cost effective and service driven. Rominger said criticisms of USDA's \$53 billion annual budget—fourth largest among the federal departments—as something making farmers rich "is ridiculous". "Ben you hear in the coffee shop about all

this money spent on agriculture," the former California farmer said, "be sure to point out that over half of that budget is for the federal food and nutrition Program" which includes food stamps, school lunches and assistance to women, infants and children.

Rominger also noted that 40 percent of the USDA employees ate in the U.S. Forest Service, which he said is the nation's largest provider of

recreational facilities.

He said that decisions on 36 million acres of land which will soon begin coming out of the Conservation Reserve Program "will be a major part of the debate in the 1995 federal farm bill.

Comments by an Environmental Protection Agency official from Dallas on provisions of the Clean Air Act, worker promotion standards and food safety drew pointed questioning from the audience. Asked

about wording in the clean air act as it applies to emissions from irrigation pumps, Dr. Stanley Metberg replied, "In my opinion, the irrigation engines we are talking about do not emit sufficient (toxics) to come under the enhanced monitoring requirement" of the act. Meiberg is director of the air, toxics and pesticides division of EPA at Dallas.

Several producers questioned the wording of the rules, which they say would total the emissions from all the wells on a farm, not individual pumps, thereby requiring them to purchase expensive monitoring devices for each engine.

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Meiberg said education is the key. He said EPA has received reports of 10,000 to 20,000 incidents of pesticide poisoning in the U.S. each year. When he said he believes, therefore, them ate thousands more incidents which simply haven't been reported or not identified, he was challenged by one farmer to let producers "be presumed

innocent until proven guilty."

The second day of the conference, sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in Crosby and Floyd counties, featured specialists from the extension service and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station with crop production strategies and information.

U.S. consumes more veggies

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fruit, vegetable and garden plant farms' share of all U.S. farm labor expenses is growing due in part to American concerns about healthy eating, the Agriculture Department says.

Although comprising only 7 percent of the nation's farms, these operations accounted for 41 percent of all labor expenditures in 1987, the latest year available, up from 34 percent in 1974.

Fruit, vegetable and nursery crops require hand processing that is more expensive than machines

used at other farms. Since the work is intermittent and temporary, these farms typically draw from domestic and migrant workers, foreign nationals and illegal immigrants, a USDA report said.

These farm owners spend on average six times per farm what others spend on hired and contract labor.

The average seasonal farm worker is more likely to be young, male, married, Hispanic and foreign-born with a low education level, according to the report, "Hired Farm Labor Use on

Fruit, Vegetable and Horticultural Specialty Farms."

Wages for fieldworkers tend to be lowest in the Southeast at just at or above \$4.80 an hour and highest in the Northeast at \$6.29 an hour.

Changes in trade policy, immigration reform and legislation benefiting farm workers could have all have a major impact on these farms' ability to find an adequate supply of workers, the report said.

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Nebraskan wins 1993 sorghum yield contest

PLAINVIEW — Tom Shane of Fairfield, Neb., won the non-irrigated division of the National Grain Sorghum Producer Association's 1993 Yield and Management Contest.

The farmer's winning entry of Asgrow Topaz — distributed by Plainview-based Asgrow Seed Company, yielded 162.21 bushels per acre.

"I'm a little surprised the yield was that high," said Shane. "We had a cool, wet season and milo was better suited to hot, dry weather. I've had similar yields on irrigated land, but because of all the rain in 1993, irrigation was not needed," he said.

Shane estimates 40 inches of rain fell during the growing season, about twice the normal amount. He planted the crop on May 14 and harvested on Oct. 28.

Using conventional tillage, he planted in 30-inch rows at a population of 120,000 seeds per acre. For weed control, he applied Lariat pre-emergence and 2-4,D post-emergence.

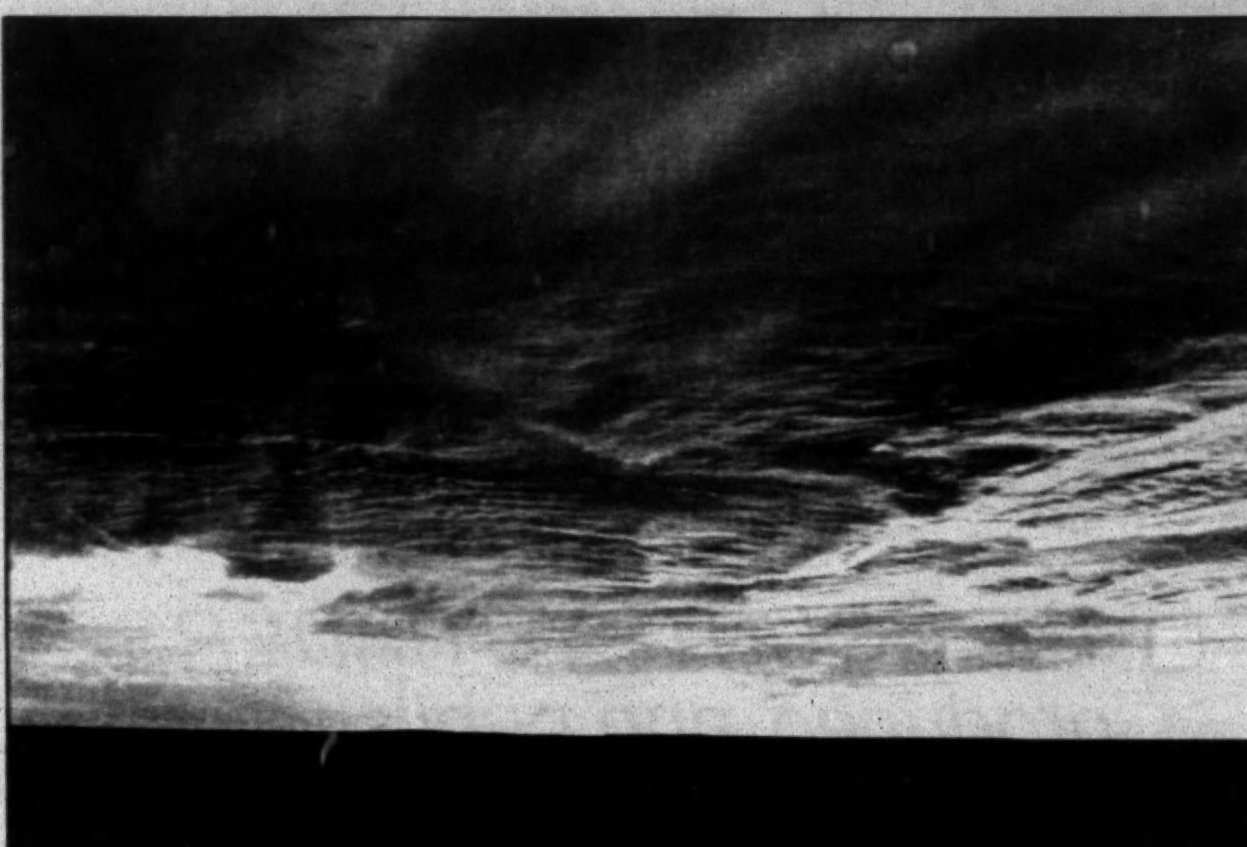
According to Geoff Thomas, Ph.D., and manager of Asgrow Seed Company's new Southwest business unit in Plainview, Asgrow hybrids have been among the national contest winners twice in the last three years.

Thomas pointed out that about 90 percent of all U.S. sorghum is dryland produced.

Shane, an Asgrow dealer, won the Nebraska state contest on the way to his national title. Topaz is a variety he has planted for several years, he says.

Previous winners include the Brown family of Boot Leg, Texas, who finished first in the contest's non-irrigated division with a yield of 156.190 bushels per acre from Asgrow hybrid A504.

Asgrow is a subsidiary of Upjohn, worldwide, research-based provider of human health care products.



Woody Williams/Canyon News

All clouds and no rain

It's been all clouds and no rain on the High Plains and that needs to change, according to ag experts. Until the Texas Panhandle received more than a foot of snow this week, soil moisture was very low at all depths and made even dormant, deep-rooted perennials vulnerable to freeze damage. All this is creating concern about spring planting of crops in the area.

Wood controversy continues

WASHINGTON (AP) — Major trade associations representing U.S. home builders and lumber dealers have aligned themselves with Canadian timber producers in urging an end to a 2-year-old trade dispute over softwood lumber.

The National Association of Home Builders and the

National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association urged the Clinton administration on Tuesday to abandon any thoughts of further appeal in the fight over lumber import duties.

Leaders of the groups said in letters to U.S. Trade Representative Mickey

Kantor that the 6.5 percent duty on Canadian lumber imports is contributing to rising lumber prices in the United States.

"This countervailing duty is counterproductive," said Roger Glunt, president of the 100,000-member home builders group.

VEHICLES

MUST SELL! '91 Pontiac Grand Am LE, four-door sedan, automatic transmission, air conditioning, AM/FM stereo, tinted windows. 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. 42-11c/ccn

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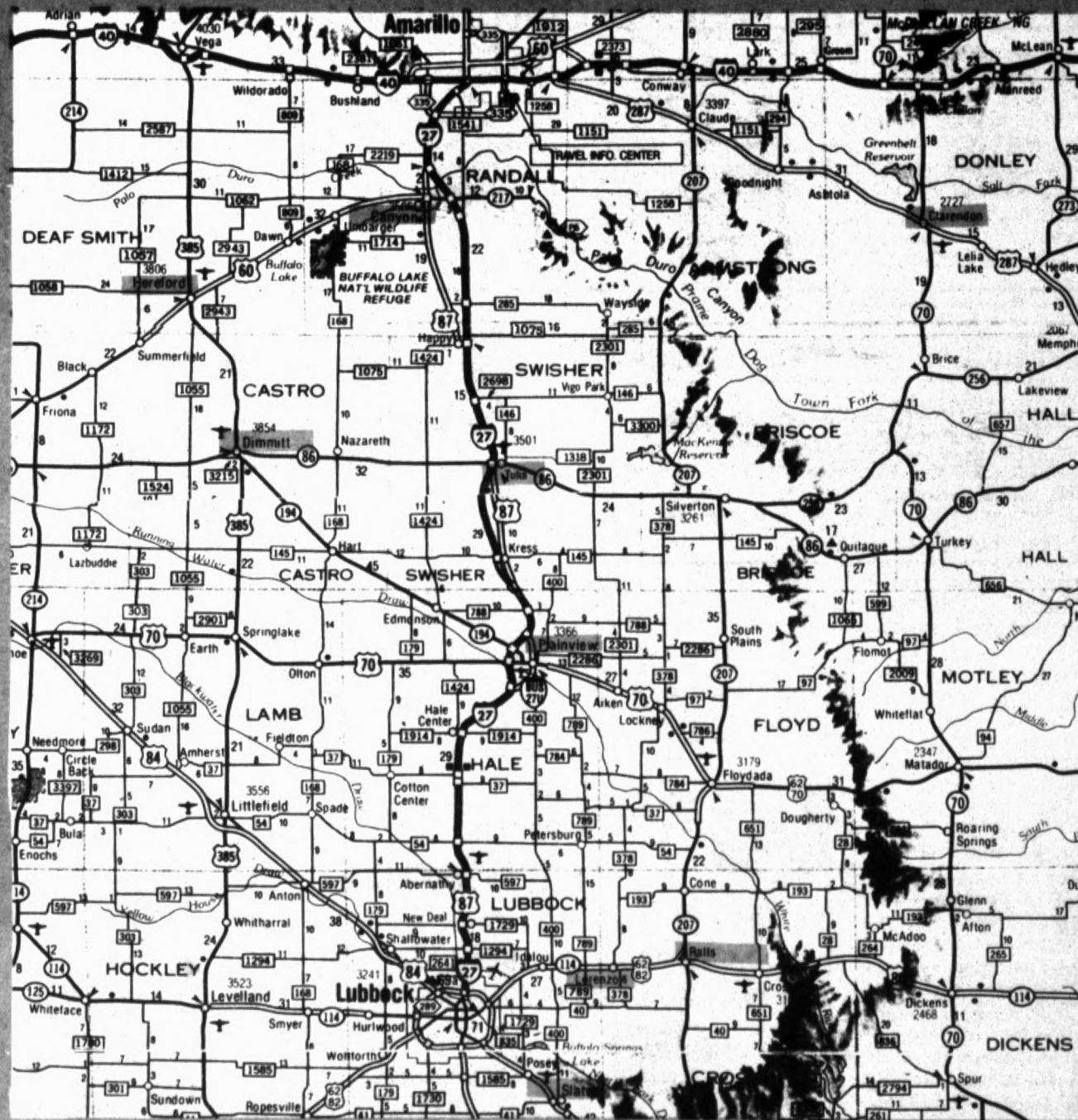
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USDA moves to regulate trafficking in pets

By MARGARET SCHERF
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Concerned about protecting animals, the Agriculture Department wants to make it easier to control trafficking in pets.

Its proposal would require that licensed animal dealers, exhibitors and auction operators maintain standardized animal identification records on USDA forms. This would affect about 6,000 licensees. Although some form of animal identification record is currently required, there is no standardized form.

"We need this change to strengthen enforcement under the Animal Welfare Act," said Patricia Jensen,

deputy assistant secretary for marketing and inspection services. "We want to better equip the inspectors in the department's Animal and

Plant Health Inspection Service so they can control pet trafficking."

Under the proposed change, licensees would have

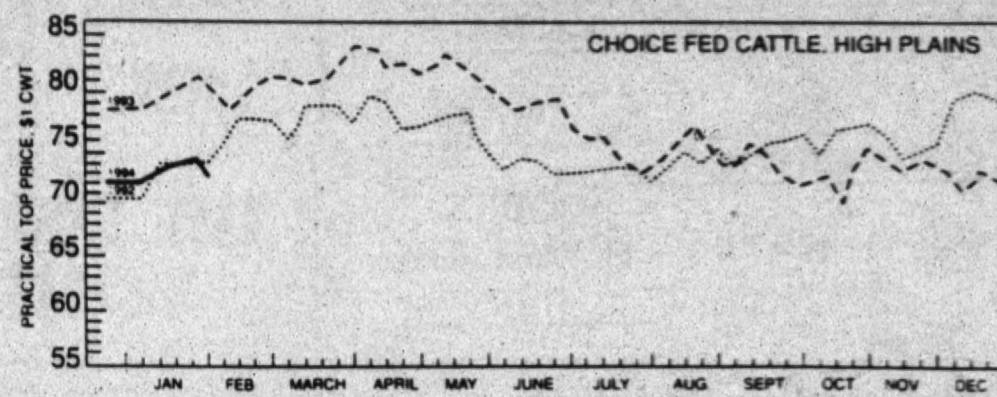
to certify that they are in compliance with the new identification requirements, as well as other requirements of the act, before their license

is renewed.

Under the Animal Welfare Act, animal dealers, exhibitors and auction operators must be licensed or registered with APHIS. The act requires that regulated individuals and businesses provide animals with care and treat-

ment according to standards established by the inspection service.

"Animals protected by the law must be provided with adequate housing, handling, sanitation, food, water, transportation, veterinary care and shelter," said Jensen.



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The above report reflects market activity through Jan. 28.

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1988 FORD TRA-TEC VAN - Loaded, TV, VCR, Cassette Player And More. **\$11,000. 296-9228.**



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1979 Subaru Brat pickup. 4-Wheel drive, mag wheels, new paint. **\$800. 293-5477.**



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For Sale: Entertainment Center. Country blue sofa sleeper, love seat and rocking chair. 655-8555.

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Bedroom suite, living room suite, grandfather clock, buffet, large stand-up freezer, wheat drill, harrow. 655-0475 or 488-2490.

2 microwaves (one Sears, one 1/2 Pint Sharp), exercise trampoline for sale. Call 655-7546.

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