County Budget

(Continued from page one

time work in their precincts without curtailment of projects due to a shortage of funds.

Mrs. Florence Zajicek of the county auditor's office, who attended the meeting Monday in the absence of Mr. Briscoe who was attending a funeral, contended that the general fund is running tight now and could hardly stand to have some of its funds moved. The matter is expected to come up for further discussion when the tax office and treasurer is not absent at the next budget hearing.

The budget recommendations included a 10% increase in the salary for all county employees and officials, with a few exceptions in excess of that figure.

One issue discussed Monday was a request from District Judges B. B. Schraub and W. W. Ellison to increase the county's share of payment to the two district court reporters in excess of 10%. The judges can under state law authorize increases up to 10% but the state courts pay, for instances in excess of 10%. They asked an increase in the county's share (based on population in the 4-county district, 20.3%) from $3880 to $4340 for the two reporters but the commissioners indicated they would like to see the salary held at the 10% level ($4268 for the two reporters) and the filed budget reflects thusly. The budget does give the district attorney's secretary the 10% increase but cuts the allocation for law books from $2400 as originally proposed to $800.

A new expenditure in the health and sanitation department is for salary for the sanitation inspector for the new sanitary landfill site, set in the budget at $7200. Also $250 is allocated to garbage dump expenditures.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Bill Stiles pointed out in Monday's discussion that fines are increasing greatly due to the work of the road patrol and requested that the anticipated income from justice of peace fines and fees be raised from $50,000 to $75,000 and county court fines and fees from $10,000 to $15,000 as a possible boost to the general fund revenue. This, he said, might help make moving the 2e from the general fund to road and bridge funds possible. This issue also will be discussed further Sept. 9th.

OFFICERS' SALARIES

In the officers' salary fund, the commissioners court decided Monday to go along with the 10% increase to officials with these exceptions: Tax Assessor and Collector H. J. Hajovsky's salary will go up from $10,509.60 to $12,560.40 which includes the 10% raise plus $1000 for collection of school district taxes. But an allocation for salaries to extra help was cut from $7,665 in 1974 to $6800 in 1975.

County treasurer Mrs. Martha Bochanen's salary is expected to increase by the 10% plus $1000 for handling the emergency medical service funds, raising her pay from $7302 to $9032.16.

Final approval of the $1000 increase for the District Clerk and treasurer is not decided until the next budget hearing, several counties officials commented. Allocations for salaries in the budget for raising the pay of the county judge Lester J. Cranek from $10,509.60 to $11,560.40 plus an increase for out of county travel from $500 to $1000. Pay of county clerk Lester Schneider is hiked from $10,269.60 to $11,296.56 of the district clerk from $10,269.60 to $11,296.56 but pay for a deputy is cut from $3120 to $2100; and for Sheriff George Doc Mueller, his pay is hiked also from $10,269.60 to $11,296.56. He had asked for a raise to $12,000. The budget provides for increasing the pay of four deputies from $575 to $675, in excess of the 10% approved for other county employees.

Allocations are also made for a 10% hike in the pay of the county attorney Jim Whitcomb from $10,269.60 to $11,296.56 but reduces his secretarial allowance from $3120 to $2100. Justices of the Peace will also get 10% increases and Justice of Peace Preinct 1 Richard Schmidt will be allowed a secretary two days per week and Justice of Peace M. M. Jones in Precinct 8, a secretary for one day a week.

It should be noted however that allocations for salary increases in the budget do not make them official. The court must set salaries for officials and deputies and approve allowances only at the January 1975 meeting. The budget only makes the funds available if the court decides to approve the salary schedules as discussed above.

Total expenditures in the officers salary fund are estimated to be up by some $140,000 over the 1974 budgeted figure due to the proposed increases.

The budget expects $230,054.00 in revenue sharing funds as compared to $256,326.05 in 1974 and $342,421 in 1973. Of the 1975 allocation the budget sets out $160,000 will go the commissioners road and bridge funds; $16,051 to the salary fund; and $54,003 to the general fund.

Rice FFA Members Buy Show Calves

Fifteen Rice Future Farmers of America (FFA) members have purchased Hereford calves to show at the 1976 Rice FFA Show and/or the Houston Fat Stock Show.

Those purchasing calves were Kurt Payne and Darrell Austin of Eagle Lake; Regina Brisco of Sheridan; Joe West, Michael Koenig, Gerry Lasoby, Charles Delin, Terry Kreher, Anthony Fribbds, Paul Kallina, Gerald Popp, Gregory Popp, Eugene Lange, Kenneth Dickies and Kirk Engstrom of the Garwood-Nada area.

CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY

Mrs. W. C. Elkins had as her guests on the occasion of her birthday anniversary Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Hutchins, Mr. and Mrs. Alston Ors, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Cox and Mrs. Mildred Elkins and daughter, Judy, all of Houston; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Tate of El Campo; Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Paul of San Antonio and grandsons, Kenneth and Mike Reading of Austin.

Soil District Report

District cooperator Hollis Massey is constructing a pond for livestock water on his farm at Ramsey.

Dr. C. R. Margurger, a district cooperator of the Columbus area, has completed construction on a pond for livestock water and has also shaped gullied areas to control erosion.

Herbert Popp of the Garwood area has completed construction of a pond for wildlife use.

George Zurywich, a district cooperator of the New Ulm area, is constructing a pond for wildlife use.

D. W. Harrison has completed construction of a pond for livestock water on his farm at Alleyton.

IN HOUSTON HOSPITAL

Friends will be happy to learn that Mrs. C. A. Brewer is recuperately nicely from a cornea transplant operation at Center Pavilion Hospital in Houston August 22nd. She is in Room 421 of the hospital.

HOSPITAL NEWS NOTES

Patients this week (Aug. 26):
Mrs. Katie Farthing, city
Eddie Nohavitz, city
Mrs. Ola Davis, city
Monroe Johnson, city
Mrs. Marta Torres, city
Mrs. Frances Kovivka, city
George C. Andel, city
Mrs. Lillian Davis, Altair
Mrs. Laura Kula, Rock Island
Mrs. Vera Alford and baby girl, Eagle Lake
A. T. Zapp, Schulte
Abbie Taylor, Hallettsville
Mrs. Minnie Smith, Hallettsville
Mrs. Effie Grant, Hallettsville
Miss Betty Jackson, Alleyton
Mrs. Alice Hale, Kerrville

Dismissals:
Mrs. Kittie Johnson, city
Master Matthew Gunn, city
James L. Adkins, city
Mrs. Nettie Chisum, city
Mrs. Ida B. Williams and baby girl, city
Mrs. Beatrice Pope, city
Mrs. Wilma Shorter, city
Raymond Guerra, city
Mrs. Donna Stephens, city
Thomas C. Watson, Yampa, Colorado
Mrs. Frieda Witt, Rock Island
Mrs. Mary Schmidt, East Bernard
Mrs. Annie Drymalla, Alleyton
George Loner, Pinehurst
Clay Spears, Kendleton
Mrs. Anna Bell Stubblefield, Bloomington

REFLECTIONS ON International Sunday School Lesson

(Genesis 1:26-31; 2:15-17; 3:22-24.)

Modern literature expresses a gloomy view of mankind. One author graphically portrays man as the "descendant of prehistoric ocean ooz". A philosopher declares that we "are nobodies from nowhere going no place". Some more flattering essays leave us with the conclusion that we are "upright apes" or at the best, "cool seeking, intelligent animals". Only the Bible elevates man to the position of being a unique creation of God.

The biblical account pictures man as "the crowning creation of God". Like the rest of the animal creation, he was created from the dust. But God gave him the unique characteristic of being created in "the image of God". Some relate this to intelligence, some to personality. Martin Luther decided that we could never know for sure all that it meant. Man was so marred by the fall that contemporary man cannot fully portray any characteristic that will reveal what God's image in man might have meant.

God created man for fellowship with Himself. He gave man a unique position among creation. He possessed dominion over the rest of creation. He remained responsible to God. The writer of the eighth Psalm summarized his role by stating: "Yet thou hast made him little less than God and dost crown him with glory and honor. Thou hast given him dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet. . ." God meant for man to demonstrate dominion over creation and obedience toward God.

Man's obedience to God found its test in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God gave man the right to eat everything the trees and herbs produced except for this one tree. The tree demonstrated man's right to choose. He could eat the fruit but God had told him not to. God desired man's love and loyalty but knew it could never be voluntary unless man had a choice. Man perverted his freedom by choosing to disobey God.

The temptation experience provides a target for men's speculation. They say the fruit was attractive, the devil was insistent, and our original parents were weak. The cards seem to have been stacked against us. The truth is that men have no one but themselves to blame for this failure. Our original parents submitted to the "unjust desire to be gods". The temptation could have been resisted, and God provided Adam and Eve with the strength to choose successfully. Independence from God is not our own way in life, even if it means rejection of God's plan.

The fall came as no surprise to God. He knew what the choice would be. He was willing to take that risk because He wanted people who would be free to have fellowship with Him because they wanted it. He would allow them to face the consequences of their wrong choice also. "Another option was also available. God offered a plan of redemption. The word means "to buy back". The Book of Revelation mentions that Christ was "the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world." This means that God intended to provide "redemption" as man's way of having fellowship with God. Christ also failed to let creation do it. This is the only way we can enter that fellowship, and should we choose to reject it, then the option would be eternity out of fellowship with God. Accepting the redeeming death of Christ makes this fellowship available through faith.

Kay Brunner Teaching at S.A. School

Miss Kay Beth Brunner, a May graduate of Trinity University in San Antonio, is now teaching social studies in the sixth grade of the Neil Armstrong elementary school in the Alamo City.

Miss Brunner received her BS degree majoring in elementary education. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] Brunner of this city.

ATTENDED WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Martin and son, Rob of Dallas were here this past weekend to accompany Robert S. Martin to Kingsville, Saturday to attend the wedding of Miss Linda Ann Wallace and Donald Behrens of Brighton, Colorado in the First Baptist Church of Kingsville.

Miss Wallace is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Frazar Wallace of Kingsville.

To Place Headlight Classifieds call 234-2783

Free Pizza

Mrs. James Cash, this is your free ticket for free pizza at the Eagle Lake Dairy Delite, where you get the finest foods — and now delicious pizza. Clip this off and present at the Dairy Delite for your free pizza not later than Sept. 8, 1974.

VISIT HERE

Jerry Henske and son Kevin of McAllen spent last week Wednesday through Friday in Eagle Lake visiting with their parents and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Henske and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schmidt, other relatives and friends.

PAY RENT EVERY DAY!!

Alpha Delta Phi Has Summer Social

Members of Alpha Delta Phi Sorority met in the home of honorary member Mrs. J. R. Thomas on July 25th at 11:30 a.m.

Each member brought a delicious salad to be enjoyed at the brunch.

This was the first opportunity for some to visit with other members since the adjournment of regular meetings in May.

After brunch was served, members enjoyed swimming and relaxing around the pool.

The chapter began its new year of beginning last August 25th in the home of Martha Lockhe.

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COUNTY AGENT'S NOTEBOOK

By P. JOHNNIE COOPER
Colorado County Agricultural Agent

Stretch Food Dollar With Fall Garden

A fall garden can provide vegetables that are less costly, fresher and often more nutritious than those you can buy.

Many vegetables that do not grow satisfactorily during the late spring and summer are better adapted for fall and early winter production in all but the colder areas of Texas. By starting with transplants now, warm season vegetables such as tomatoes, eggplant and peppers can be grown with reasonable success for harvest, especially when the plants are protected from the first killing frosts.

If you still have live tomato plants left from the spring that show signs of new growth, rejuvenate them rather than starting from transplants. Cut off all the old stems above the new growth. Spray the stems and new growth with a fungicide, such as maneb, and an insecticide, especially a miticide such as dicofol for spider mites. Keep the plants watered and fertilize them with about one tablespoon of a balanced fertilizer per plant once a week for three or four weeks.

August and early September is the time to make the last planting of summer squash and cucumbers for slicing and pickling.

Green beans planted during August or early September usually produce the highest quality for freezing and canning, since the harvest occurs during cooler weather when the fiber content is low.

Additional information on fall vegetable gardening is available from the county Extension office.

Shade Your Patio

A hot, sunny patio or deck can be turned into a cool place for afternoon relaxation.

Manufacturing shade can solve the problem. Overhead shade structures can be easily and inexpensively constructed and will provide needed shade as well as overhead enclosure resulting in a more intimate space.

Before building the structure, carefully study the sun angle and location at the times of day when you use the patio the most. This will aid in determining the right size and location of the structure.

Redwood or cedar, commonly used in building overhead shade structures, require less maintenance. Canvas stretched over a wood or metal frame can be both colorful and provide excellent cover, but it can be rather noisy on windy days.

The overhead gructure can be either solid or partially open. Partially open structures usually produce adequate shade, are easier to construct and rain runoff is a little concern. They can be built of lighter materials, which makes them less costly and less bulky in appearance than solid roofed structures.

Many different ideas and styles of patio covers are available, but the most successful types will look as though they belong to the site. The structure should relate architecturally to the house or to the patio or deck that it protects.

House Flies Perpetual Pest

The house fly is a perpetual and persistant pest. Although this fly does not bite or cause direct harm to animals such as does the mosquito or screwworm fly, it is still an important pest of domestic livestock. One importance of the house fly is the annoyance it causes, resulting in nervousness, restlessness and reduced feed intake and efficiency. Another importance is its ability to transmit diseases and parasites, both to animals and to man.

The house fly's habits of regurgitating upon and leaving droplets of excrement on foodstuffs makes it a very good vector of many pathogens. Flies are capable of transmitting a number of eye infections, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, anthrax, cholera, diarrhea, dysentery, infectious hepatitis and numerous other diseases. They transmit salmonella, hookworms, pinworms, tapeworms and many other parasites.

House flies breed in decaying organic matter and require areas of high moisture for development. Most prefer to deposit their eggs in animal manure. Each female lays about 500 eggs. The entire life cycle requires from 6-20 days. The eggs hatch in 8-12 hours. The larvae then feed from 5-14 days before pupating. The pupae develop into adults in 3-10 days.

In order to prevent population build-ups, collections of manure from dairy barns, stalls or in poultry houses should be eliminated within 4 or at the most 5 days. Even in cooler weather large collections of manure generate enough heat to enable house flies to complete their life cycle very rapidly. Spreading manure in fields allows the manure to dry out, thus, eliminating a suitable breeding site and destroying larvae present in the manure.

Beans Are A "Winner"

Snap beans are a "winner" in fall vegetables gardens. They're easy to grow and produce a high yielding and high quality crop in the fall.

In Colorado County beans can be planted in or early August to produce a good fall crop.

For top yields, pick the beans before large seeds develop.

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400 POUNDS MARIJUANA SEIZED, 5 MEN ARRESTED

By J. B. (Buddy) YODER, Editor, Weimar Mercury

All the stuff that the TV shows are made of—secret agents, unmarked vehicles with a homing device, a high-flying helicopter spying in the sky, and a generous share of danger—was present at Columbus Saturday, Aug. 17 as agents of the DPS narcotics officers made a marijuana and cocaine "bust" worth $50,000 to $100,000 depending on the packaging.

The purchase was made by Department of Public Safety undercover agents at a motel just east of Columbus. The 350 to 400 pounds of marijuana being sold was found at a house just across the interstate highway, near the auction barn.

SOLD IN THREE STATES

As it happened, that was in the precinct of Alleyton Constable Billy Joe Schindler, who had worked with the state agents for about two months gathering information from North Texas to the Rio Grande Valley to enable the "take-up" to be sprung at Columbus, which had long been suspected as a transfer point of marijuana coming from Mexico and going to New Orleans, Oklahoma and Tennessee buyers. None was sold locally, that might have revealed the hiding place.

The officers believe the stuff they recovered was only part of at least 2,000 pounds ready for sale. They had hoped to find it all before having to close in.

Schindler said it is estimated the marijuana ring has been handling 1,000 to 2,000 pounds a month out of Columbus, bringing it in cars from Mexico. They learned after Saturday's arrest that this batch had been hauled in seven cars only last week.

Five men were arrested, ages ranging from 21 to 30 and all giving Rio Grande City, in the Valley, as their addresses.

Dennis McCrory and Frank Minchew, who the officers said made the sale at the motel Saturday, and Efrain Durand, who was said to have arranged the details at a recent meeting in Austin, were charged with two counts—delivery possession of marijuana and sale of marijuana.

The other two, Jose Garza, Jr. and Robert Neal Jones, were charged with felony possession.

Bonds of $100,000 each were set on McCrory, Minchew and Durand, Garza and Jones were placed under $10,000 bonds.

State Ranger Hollis Sillman also worked with the DPS agents throughout the period preceding Saturday's meeting, and there were six police units at various points in the neighborhood, plus the helicopter overhead ready for a chase.

The pickup driven by one of the undercover agents was fitted with a "beeping" bug so it could be followed by its "mother" unit some distance away (at the time the officers didn't know the place the marijuana was stored was going to be just across the highway.)

Columbus Police Chief Ed Potter was in on the closing in, along with Game Warden Leo Kohleffel, a number of state officers and one federal officer. Plans were to call in some sheriff's units too, but as it turned out there was no time; things moved swiftly after the motel meeting.

ARRANGED AT AUSTIN

That meeting was set up at Austin about three weeks ago with one of the DPS narcotics agents posing as a buyer. Durand told them there would be a supply at Columbus last weekend and told them to check in at the motel, which he named.

Two of the agents checked in Saturday and Schindler and three of the other state men took a nearby room.

Shortly afterward the agents were dealing with the seller, who asked to see their money. They showed him $34,000 in cash in their room and said the rest was in their car.

One of the sellers took one of the agents to the house where the marijuana was kept. He showed him seven gasoline sacks full of compressed marijuana, about 5 pounds each and each packed with its actual weight. In this shape it is worth about $200 a pound. In lids (about 6 ounces) or smaller packages it could bring up to $400 a pound, Schindler said.

The agent and seller went back to the motel and the seller told the buyers to come back to the house in five minutes. When they went back, they also tried to deal for cocaine, but the seller wanted the marijuana money immediately and it was necessary to go ahead and make the arrests.

From there the group went to a house McCrory had rented in Columbus and arrested the other three. There they found some cocaine and a small additional amount of marijuana, along with smoking paraphernalia.

The men said they had been careful to be as inconspicuous as possible while living in the McCrory house. They had dressed well but not too well, kept their hair at a moderate length, bought only the bare necessities, and stayed away from the bars and fun places.

MARKET REPORT

WHARTON CO. LIVESTOCK

The feeder calf market died all over the world it appears. Fat cattle market is dropping several cents and the futures market was down to the legal limit due to uncertain feed costs as the main factor.

At the sale Aug. 21, the Wharton County Livestock Market, Inc. handled 850 head of cattle. 450 to 550 pound choice steers sold 28 to 30; 500 to 600 pound standard steers 22 to 25; 350 to 450 pound choice heifers 28 to 33; utility slaughter cows 22 to 25.5; utility slaughter bulls 30 to 32; and choice stocker cows brought $200 to $225 per head. Feed lot calves in the 700 pound range sold 32 to 35 and fat slaughter calves 40 to 600 pounds went at 28 to 33.

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RICE DISTRICT SCHOOL MENUS

Thurs., Aug. 29: Frito Pie, Pinto Beans, Buttered Broccoli, Cracker Jacks, Hot Rolls/Butter;

Fri., Aug. 30: Pigs-in-Blanket/Mustard, Pinto Peas, Sauerkraut, Banana Pudding.

Mon., Sept. 2: "Labor Day"

Tues., Sept. 3: Chuck Wagon Steak, Au Gratin Potatoes, Harvard Beets, Orange Rolled Wheat Cake, Hot Rolls/Butter;

Wed., Sept. 4: Bar-B-Que on Bun, Baked Beans, Finger Salad, Fruit Cobbler;

Thurs., Sept. 5: Tuna Salad, Whole Kernel Corn, Buttered Carrots, Doughnuts, Lunchroom Bread;

Fri., Sept. 6: Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Buttered English Peas, Strawberry Jello, Butter Bread.

Friendship Club Has Luncheon In Rosprim Home

Mrs. Carolyn Rosprim was hostess to a covered dish luncheon given by the Eagle Lake Friendship Club on Wednesday, August 21st. Following lunch, the ladies present played a few games of "64" before the meeting adjourned.

This was a "fun day" for the club and no bandages were made during the afternoon.

The next meeting will be on September 18th in the home of Mrs. Cora Mae Reese with Mrs. Lucille Reese as co-hostess.

$13,049 Bonds Sold In July

Series E and H United States Savings Bond sales in Colorado County during the month of July totaled $13,049, according to County Bond Chairman E. G. Miller. Sales for the seven-month period were $75,000 for 33% of the 1974 sales goal of $225,000.

Sales in Texas during the month amounted to $19,640,596, while sales for the same period last year totaled $17,185,499—an increase of 14%. Year-to-date sales amounted to $136,083,685 with 57% of the yearly sales goal of $236.8 Million achieved.

LET WANT ADS WORK FOR YOU

Tommy Balusek Continues To Add To Youth Rodeo Titles

Tommy Balusek, son of Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Balusek of Garwood, attended the Nueces County T.Y.R.A. Youth Rodeo, in Robstown, Aug. 7-8-9-10, and continued to pick up more titles and more prizes on the youth rodeo circuit.

Tommy was declared Junior Breakaway Roper, with a time of 3.1, placing third in the first Go-Round, winning a first in second Go-Round, winning a beautiful, silver buckle. He was declared Champion Junior Breakaway Roper and presented a beautiful, hand tooled saddle and inscribed on the skirt was "Nueces County Youth Rodeo, Jr. Breakaway, 1974." Donated by the Stonewall National Bank in Robstown.

Also he won the second Go-Round in Junior Ribbon Roping, with a time of 8.4, was presented a beautiful silver buckle. Molly Strunk of Weimar was his Ribbon Runner and she also got a beautiful silver buckle.

Tommy and Hicks Harris of Agua Dulce, tied for Junior All-Around Cowboy, each accumulating 380 points. Each was presented a beautiful gold and silver buckle.

Tommy attended the Refugio T.Y.R.A. Youth Rodeo, in Refugio, Aug. 1-2-3.

He was declared Champion Junior Ribbon Roper with times of 16.02 and 15.14. He was presented a beautiful silver Nelson buckle.

MARKET REPORT

COLUMBUS LIVESTOCK CO.

The owners of the Columbus Livestock Commission Company report that the market last week was lower on all classes of cattle both at their sale and all major markets. Lots of buyers were on hand with cheaper orders. Feed prices continue to go up and cattle prices down, observe George Hagan and Dempsey Calhoun.

At their sale last Thursday, 942 head of cattle went on the auction block. Good to choice butcher calves sold 32 to 36, heifer-it packer cows 24 to 27; commercial packer bulls 32 to 36; heavy Hereford and Angus steer calves sold 28 to 34 and heifers 25 to 30 while crossbred steer calves brought 25 to 33 and heifers 25 to 30. Good stocker cows and heifers went at $200 to $275.

Butcher hogs went from 37 to 38.5 and lambs 15 to 30.

CALLING ALL HOMEMAKERS

(By Nora Galley, Asst. County Extension Agent)

"Free Set of Cookware," "Free Trip to Anywhere."

The ads sound alluring, but the deals behind them often involve land promotions.

Such lures are commonly used to interest people in visiting new land development sites or housing projects.

The dealers maintain that you can take advantage of such offers without buying. But, it takes strong sales resistance to refuse to buy. Many people feel obligated to buy after they have accepted trips or prizes.

Before agreeing to be entertained by land promoters, find out what the obligations will be. Sometimes earnest money is required to assure the developers that you are seriously interested in buying a home or property.

Free dinners, cookware or trips may be enticing, but the objective is always to persuade people to buy.

Another consideration is that the cost of these attractive offers is usually absorbed into the price of the land or house.

two previous crops and also less than last year's total corn usage figure. In contrast the Texas corn crop should be up almost nine million bushels.

As far as sorghum is concerned, national production is expected to be only about two-thirds of last year's crop, down some 318 million bushels. That same outlook echos the Texas sorghum picture, where production is expected to reach only 295 million bushels, just over 70 percent of last year's crop.

The nation's wheat crop is estimated at 139 million bushels short of last year's production, with the Texas crop down 46 million bushels short of the 1973 crop, or down 47 percent.

The U. S. soybean crop is also estimated as some 252 million bushels short of last year's production.

The USDA estimates appeared to be below those expected by a majority of the grain trade despite the fact that much of the country's midsection has been hard hit by drouth. Recent rains in some parts. should help late crops, but for the most part the moisture came too late.

The short-run price situation for feedgrains is weather-oriented while the late-season price picture depends on the ultimate demand.

FEED GRAIN CROP TO BE DOWN

When the latest crop report was issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the feedgrains would be short this year. Yet, despite drouth in the Midwest, the estimates for feedgrain crops were surprisingly low.

The short crop conditions will put the pressure on prices through much of 1975. Feedgrain prices have moved up some in recent weeks in anticipation of the short crop outlook, so I don't expect a drastic jump in prices until the demand picture changes. Total usage of feedgrains should be off sharply from last year due to the drop in cattle feeding from poor economic conditions and a better feedgrain balance abroad that may reduce our exports.

The national corn crop is expected to be less than five billion bushels, down more than 25 percent from March estimates. This would make the 1974 crop less than the

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