

Homemakers' Reflections

(By Donella R. Pantel,
County Extension Agent)

Clothing Budget Is 'Strained At The Seams'

Clothing budget "strained at the seams" may be your wardrobe is too-high quality. That may sound "funny", but it's true. All clothing need not be of the same quality - high quality - to give good value. Several factors can help you decide quality levels for various clothing items.

Before looking for high quality or lower quality, it's wise to understand a basic quality-price fact of life: quality and price are not always related. For example, an expensive fabric or garment may be of poor quality but costly because of some unique characteristics. You can't always rely on a manufacturer brand name, either. Although the maker may have a reputation for a certain quality level, it still varies from garment to garment. And everyone can make a mistake now and then.

Wearable Time Span
In deciding on quality needs, consider "wearable time span" as a major factor - how long the item will be worn. This depends, also, on who will wear it and for what kind of activities. Then you can determine how "good" the quality must be to meet your needs. For example, a pre-school child's play clothes receive hard wear. The child's activities strain every seam and button and grind soil into the fabric. So, even though children outgrow play clothes quickly, the wear, tear and many washings make high quality in these items a good value. That means high-quality construction and high-quality fabric.

On the other hand, adult party clothes may not require such high quality. These items usually are not worn often, and they're worn in dimly lit rooms in many cases. So the best buy in formal wear (usually) may be the least expensive, even if that means poor construction and not very durable fabric. Fashion trends are another major factor in deciding quality level for various wardrobe items. A garment that is faddish or highly fashionable today may not be so tomorrow. Buy knowing that these will need replacing more quickly than the more basic styles in your wardrobe.

Rule Of Thumb
Finally, here's a rule of thumb:
Invest more time, money and effort in searching for good quality when it comes to clothes you'll wear the most. Select lower-quality items - usually less expensive - for special variety. When you follow this rule of thumb, your clothing budget will "fit" better.

Costs of Producing Farm Crops Rose 15.4% In 1980

The costs of producing 11 major U.S. crops rose by an average of 15.4 percent per acre (excluding land costs) in 1980, and are projected to rise about as much in 1981. Increases in fuel prices (up 38 percent), fertilizer prices (up 24 percent), and interest rates (up 20 percent) led the 1980 cost increases but, except for interest rates, abated somewhat in 1981, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service.

The average costs per acre, excluding land, increased by 20 percent for corn, 12 percent for sorghum, 14 percent for barley, 15 percent for oats, 15 percent for wheat, 26 percent for rice, 14 percent for soybeans, 15 percent for sunflower, 6 percent for peanuts, 13 percent for flax, and 8 percent for cotton. Costs per acre were relatively unaffected by the 1980 drought, which reduced yields and harvests significantly for all 11 crops. The percentage declines for 1980, furthermore, may appear more severe than they otherwise would because most crops had record yields or above average yields in 1979. Yields in 1980 declined by

more than 10 percent for all the crops but rice (down by 5 percent) and the declines ranged up to around 30 percent for cotton, sorghum, and sunflower, and 41 percent for peanuts. Total production declined by similar amounts. If harvested yields return to their historic trends, the 1981 yield increases should offset somewhat the higher production costs.

If yields rise to trend in 1981, the higher yields per acre will reduce increases in nonland costs per unit of production. Per unit cost increases in 1981, again based on long-term trend yields, are currently projected as follows: 1 percent per bushel for corn and oats; 6 percent per bushel for wheat; 11 percent per hundredweight for rice; and 6 percent per pound for cotton. The projections cited are based on data available through April 1981. Weather conditions so far this year have been better than in 1980.

Condition of many stocker-feeders were changing too. High temperatures worked on the calves like it did on the cows. In late August, calves met a new demand. Rains met the winter wheat crop look good. This resulted in many Texas calves going West because of a stocker-feeder order.

Steer calves found themselves usually \$67 to \$77, choice ones up in the low \$80's. Bigger calves were \$60 to \$70, some barely over \$70, while heifers were \$56 to \$63.

Exporters have changed their outlooks for fed slaughter cattle this fall and are not so down in the dumps like they have been. One of the pluses for fed cattle was the cost of grain going down causing cost of gain to go down too.

Also, the cattle on feed report told of fewer cattle in feedlots, down 6 percent from a year ago. Marketings were up 6 percent while placements on feed, a record low for July, down 28 percent less than last year's near-normal level.

August's hog market peaked early in the month then crawled downward. South, Central and East Texas top hogs closed the month at \$49 to \$51, with good lean shows \$40 to \$45. Experts still hold to the forecast of top hogs holding around \$50 for September as pork supplies nationwide stay short.

For September with school lunch programs needing to be filled slaughter cows will find a firm footing. With the fed cattle market looking better, stocker-feeders appear to be able to find more stability but no galloping higher prices.

Lewis, Bay City; Dr. Charles McDonald, Richmond; H. Moore, Richmond; Caudy Munson, Angleton; J. D. Sartwell, Jr., Sealy; W. Ed Schultz, Waller; Dennis Williams, Victoria; and Reuben Neitsch, Gonzales. Moore is chairman.

"Purpose of the area brucellosis advisory committee is to establish better communication between the Texas Animal Health Commission and the Texas livestock industry pertaining to brucellosis regulations and the disease itself," Armstrong said.

"OVER MY SHOULDER"

(By Rodney R. Kruse,
Fort Clay Stockyards Co.
Sealy and Brenham)

August's cattle market was favorable.

Hot summer weather ruled the roost through much of South, Central and East Texas. Conditions, however, were not at emergency levels. The countryside was just not as lush as it was a month or so ago.

During August of last year, lingering drought conditions resulted in an increased flow of cattle to market. For this year the weather has not put cowboys in a big bind. Some folks still talk of holding calves, especially lighter weight ones, because of the adequate supply of grass.

Packer cows ended the month fairly active. Few were, only 9 to 11 percent, in the market receipts helped cow prices stay in the action. It seemed in August that some folks concentrated on shipping calves and not cows.

By the close of August big slaughter cows were mostly \$44 to \$48, few to \$50, with the rest of the cows showing a range of \$39 to \$44. Fewer and fewer gobble, fat cows were seen because of the hot weather helping them to slim down.

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\$12.52 Cwt. Top Bid For Rice Last Wk.

Rice offices in Garwood and Eagle Lake held sales last week with prices offered only slightly improved. Top bid of the week was offered at the Eagle Lake office of the American Rice Growers Cooperative Assn. on Wednesday of last week when Riviana Mill offered \$12.52 per hundredweight (cwt.) for a Belle rice grown by Melvin Graham on Dixon Farms and for La Belle rice grown by Henry Sunderman. The top bid at Garwood Rice Sales Co. on Tuesday of last week was \$12.35 offered by P&S Mill for five lots of rice grown by Burke Farms.

The top lot offered by the Burke Farms milled 62-70-1. Nine of the twenty lots offered at Garwood last week received bids of \$12 or better. The bids scaled down to a low of \$8.06 for a lot which milled 60-70-SG.

The Eagle Lake office offered forty-one lots of rice for bids last Wednesday. The top bid of \$12.52 went to three Graham lots, the top lot milled 65-70-1.

Top bid of the day at the Eagle Lake office of the American Rice Growers Cooperative Assn. was \$12.52 offered by Riviana for 6 lots of LaBelle rice grown by Henry Sunderman and also for three lots grown by Melvin Graham on Dixon Farms. The top Sunderman lot milled 65-71-1 and the top Graham lot milled 63-71-1.

Twenty-six of the forty-one lots offered at the Eagle Lake office brought bids of \$12 or more. The bids scaled down to a low of \$8.82 for a lot which milled 60-70-SG.

Donald Oberhaus, manager of the Eagle Lake office, said that 9 of the lots were sold on bids offered or on negotiated prices.

New Grass Strain Lometa Is Released
A new grass strain, 'Lometa' Indiangrass, has been tested and released for use by livestock producers by the USDA Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the Agricultural Research Service and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Connie Fair, district conservationist for SCS at Columbus, said 'Lometa' is a superior Indiangrass strain selected for use in range seedings in Central and South Texas. Present varieties available commercially are adapted only to North Texas; in central and southern parts of the State, stands are difficult to obtain and are short lived.

"Other Indiangrass varieties bloom and set seed in mid-summer," Fair said. "Lometa blooms in late October, extending the forage production period by a couple of months. Because of its late blooming trait, however, Lometa does not produce seed abundantly in North Texas."

Fair said Lometa appears to be best adapted to medium heavy to light textured soils in areas receiving 22 inches or more of rainfall. West of this zone, the grass should be irrigated or planted on overflow bottomland sites. Seedling rates are about 5 pounds pure live seed per acre broadcast or drilled and 1.7 pounds in 36 or 42-inch rows.

Seed should be available from commercial seed producers in early 1982.

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West Main Area Flooded

The West Main area received another three inches of rain Tuesday morning, but the Lavaca River was reported to have crested at around 11 a.m. Tuesday and water was expected to recede quickly, provided further rains do not plague the area. Hallettsville and Shiner reportedly received anywhere from 18 to 18 inches of rain. The Columbus area reported just over five inches; Welmar had seven inches Monday and 2.2 inches Tuesday.

Highways in the county remained open but water was reported across FM 360 to Garwood, FM 1083 to Chesterville, FM 102 to Ramsey, and in several spots on IH-10 west of Columbus. The National Guard was called out to patrol in the Hallettsville and Shiner areas to prevent looting of the damaged homes and businesses. Both communities are expected to have a huge clean-up and restoration ahead from the heavy damages caused by the worst flooding in recent years.

Heavy Rain At La Grange
The La Grange area received more flooding as over five inches of rain fell within a short time Tuesday afternoon. This is expected to cause even heavier flooding to the Colorado River through this area.

Oldtimers in the community can't recall seeing as much water as there was passing through the creek crossing West Main Street and across Eagle Lake Recreation Center and across McCarty, next to Lake Motors following the extremely heavy rains Monday. Eight inches or more fell during the day with three inches coming in less than an hour Monday afternoon. The creek caused a huge lake on the Canaris Nursery property and reached a depth of over three feet on West Main, something rarely ever seen before by residents of the area.

into at least two of the apartments with minor damage.

Also the high water got into some areas of the nearby Heritage House. Also some flooding was reported in some homes on West Main; and at the W. A. Virnau shop on FM 3013; and sewer lines were flooded and several backed up into several homes, according to city manager Robert Klockman.

Dan Thornton, president of Lakeside Irrigation Co., Inc., said that considerable damage was done to a canal north of town and minor damage to other canals.

3 Brothers Die In Shiner
Three young brothers were drowned in Shiner when their house floated downstream. A fourth brother, Greg Hights, 16, an all-district halfback for the Comanches football team, managed to climb a tree and was rescued. Reported as drowned were Glenn Hights, 17, John Hights, 13, and Bradford Hights, 12. The parents reportedly were out of town at the time of the flooding.

Two persons were drowned in Hallettsville Monday when their car was washed downstream by rampaging Rocky Creek. They were identified as Herman Reyna of Yoakum and Sam Goode, Jr. of Hallettsville.

Water reached a depth of four to five feet in the area surrounding the Lavaca County courthouse and extensive damage is expected to the stores in that downtown area.

The Lavaca County jail was also flooded and some prisoners - evacuated to the Colorado County jail until the water receded.

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3 Die In Shiner, 2 In Hallettsville In Flooding After Heavy Rains

[Continued from page one]

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Burglars Hit Two Homes In Columbus Fri.

Columbus Chief of Police Tom Wine reported that two more house burglaries were reported in Columbus last week, adding to the growing list of burglaries which has been plaguing that community in the past months.

The Columbus police department received a call from the John Meisner family which resides at 555 Wallace at 3:45 p.m. Sat. their home had been burglarized. Investigation showed that a back door was pried open and once inside the burglar or burglars ransacked the home and took a large quantity of jewelry and silver.

The second entry was reported to the department at 6:30 p.m. Saturday and was at the Charles Holcomb home at 1521 Milam Street where entry was also made by prying open a back door. Again the home was ransacked and firearms and jewelry were taken.

Chief Wine said that both burglaries apparently occurred Friday evening while the families were out of town. He said the method of operation was similar to that used in the burglary of the Seymour and Schobel homes in Columbus several months ago.

Investigation of the recent burglaries continues and the department has called on residents of Columbus to report suspicious looking persons or happenings to the Columbus P.D. or to the Sheriff's department.

A benefit dance will be held in the Eagle Lake Community Center from 8 p.m. to 12 midnight this Sunday, Sept. 6th with proceeds earmarked for the benefit of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church.

The event is being staged by Taco Tony's Mexican Restaurant, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Garcia, owners, and promoted by Rudy Lopez. Featured entertainment and providing music for the dance will be Al Chavarria & Mayo '81, an outstanding band which has won "most prominent orchestra" honors in San Antonio and Corpus Christi.

Tickets are on sale in advance for \$8.00 per person and will be \$10 at the door Sunday night. The public is invited to attend this outstanding entertainment event, said the sponsors.

The director of the Texas Department of Public Safety has warned that as many as 48 persons may die in traffic accidents during this Labor Day weekend on the state's highways and highways unless drivers are especially cautious.

"Otherwise," said Colonel Jim Adams, "the 78-hour period could be a repeat of the most recent holiday. Traffic accidents during the last July 4th weekend took a total of 60 lives, 16 more than had been estimated," he said.

Drunk-driving and excessive speed were the major contributing factors in the fatal accidents recorded over the July 4th holiday, according to data furnished by the DPS Statistical Services Division.

None of the drivers or passengers killed during the July 4th holiday were wearing seatbelts. In addition, 35 percent of these fatalities resulted from the person being ejected from the vehicle.

"DPS patrol officers will be enforcing the laws and assisting motorists by watching for drivers who exceed the speed limit and those impaired by alcohol or drugs," Adams said. They will also be on the lookout for vehicle defects.

Adams said Operation

Miss Salinas is the bride-elect of Mario Villafuerte and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Salinas.

The wedding is calendared for Saturday, September 26 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church.

Miss Jeanie Gold, Allan Janak Wed in St. Mary's Church Aug. 22

Miss Jeanie Annette Gold of Nida and Allan Ray Janak of Palacios were united in marriage in a double-ring ceremony at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon Saturday, August 22, 1981 in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nida.

Rev. Paul Raaz of St. Stephen's, San Antonio, officiated at the ceremony assisted by Rev. Brian Crookes of St. Anthony's, Palacios; Msgr. Victor Schmidtinsky and Msgr. Aloysius Leopold of St. Mary's, Nida.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gold of Nida and parents of the groom are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Janak of Palacios.

The church was decorated with arrangements of orchid tinted gladioli on the back altar and baskets of matching gladioli on either side of the main altar. Arrangements of white gladioli and mums were placed by the communion rail adorned with baskets of ferns and greenery placed on the side altars, the communion rail and the main altar of the church with two candelabras flanking the sanctuary.

Mrs. Clarence Martin, organist, played for the High Mass sung by the St. Mary's Choir under the direction of Mrs. Joe L. Popp and accompanied Mrs. Anthony Kalina and Mrs. Popp who sang "Our Father" and "Ave Maria." Also, Don Boonsgaarden, cousin of the groom, played selections before Mass.

Miss Linda Gold and Tom Gold, sister and brother of the bride, carried the gifts at the Offertory of the Mass.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, selected a princess silhouette gown of white chiffon designed with a cameo neckline and full Bishop sleeves ending in ruffled cuffs. The traditional gown was trimmed with Venetian lace and Schmitt embroidered lace on the neck, sleeves, cuffs, waist and hemline and scattered motifs over the skirt accented the attire. The chapel train fell from a matching band of lace. She wore a fingertip length veil of imported white illusion with matching lace secured by a Juliet cap.

The bride carried a cascading bouquet of white and orchid roses and other small flowers accented with fern and greenery. Entrained in the bouquet was her grandmother's gold rosary.

Serving the bride as maid of honor was Julie Epps of Eagle Lake, friend of the bride, and matron of honor was Mrs. Steve Paas of Edna.

A reception was held at the KJH Hall in Nida following the ceremony. Guests registered in the bride's book at a table covered with a cloth of white sheer nylon skirted with beaded roses and held a candle and a basket of different shades of orchid flowers.

The bride's table was covered in a matching tablecloth accented with light orchid ribbon. The table held a three-tiered white cake with pineapple filling topped with a bride and groom and towering over it a lavender-colored water fountain. Leading from the center tier were two tiered white cakes on either side. Stairways with lavender flowers connected the tiers and another set of stairs led from the lower tiers down to the table where the bride's bouquet was displayed.

The groom's table was covered with a white burlap tablecloth and held a red velvet cake with figures depicting the groom's many sports and hobbies - the way it was before marriage and the way it will be after.

The reception table was decorated with a matching tablecloth and decorated with a gold candelabrum entwined with greenery and a bouquet of orchid roses and baby's breath.

A white sheer nylon tablecloth covered the champagne table which held the personalized champagne glasses for the couple.

Additional serving tables held the attendants' bouquets and votive light candelabra entwined with greenery.

Ferns and baskets of greenery were set at vantage points in the hall for decoration.

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The houseparty consisted of Mesdames Richard Lesak, Mike Douth, Mark McClure, Howard Wilkerson; Fred Houshelt, Roy Seaman, and James Moore, and Misses Becky and Janice Fick, Tammy Saha, Janice Waligura and Debbie Korenek.

After their wedding trip to Cancun, Mexico, the couple will make their home in Palacios.

The bride, a 1979 graduate of Rice High School, graduated from Wharton County Junior College of this year and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

The groom, a 1976 graduate of Palacios High School, graduated from Texas State Technical Institute in 1977 and is employed at Texas Eastern in Bessing.

A rehearsal dinner was held at the home of the bride's parents. Hurricane lamps and greenery decorated the tables on the patio and backyard. A delicious supper of fresh fish and shrimp from Palacios was prepared by friends of the groom's and bride's families.