Producer eligibility for 83 program benefits

The following information was released to the Headlight recently by Daniel C. Streckfuss, county executive director of the Colorado County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in reference to producer eligibility for 1983 program benefits:

The Agricultural and Food Act of 1981 requires that the Secretary provide adequate safeguards to protect the interests of tenants and sharecroppers.

This notice is to provide guidance effective for the 1983 programs to determine the eligibility of producers for program benefits for feed grain, wheat, cotton, and rice programs, especially when fixed or standing rent arrangements are involved.

Leases or rental arrangements providing for the payment to be in cash or in a specified quantity of production are fixed or standing rent arrangements.

Share crop arrangements where a producer shares in the total production based on a predetermined percentage of the total production are not considered a fixed or standing rent arrangement.

Program benefits are:

Price support benefits, including: price support loans and purchases; farmer-owned reserve program if applicable;

Program payments, including: deficiency payments; diversion payments; disaster payments if applicable.

Price support eligibility

In addition to meeting the requirements of the acreage reduction and diversion program, a person must be a producer of the crop. To be a producer, a person must have a specified percentage of interest in a specific acreage of the crop.

A person who receives cash or a fixed or standing commodity payment for rent or a lease is not a producer of the crop. A fixed or standing commodity payment includes arrangements such as: a total amount of production such as 10,000 bushels or pounds; an amount of production per acre, such as: 40 bushels or pounds per acre; the first 40 bushels or pounds per acre or the total production if less than 40 bushels or pounds per acre are produced; the first 40 bushels or pounds per acre plus 5 percent of the production in excess of 120 bushels or pounds per acre.

Deficiency and diversion payment eligibility

Generally, all payments are divided among producers as they share in the crop.

Producers eligible for price support benefits: are eligible for deficiency payments in proportion to their share of the crop; may be eligible for land diversion payments.

Producers who do not share in the crop and who are ineligible for price support benefits may be eligible for payments as follows: Producers may be eligible for a share of the land diversion or deficiency payment through their contribution to the conservation use acreage requirements. The contribution includes providing eligible land at low cost or no cost to the producers sharing in the crop, establishment or maintenance of the cover, etc.

For payment shares that differ from the shares of the crop, producers who share in the crop must agree to the payment shares. If producers cannot agree, COC shall: divide the payment in a fair and equitable manner considering the contribution by all producers; protect the rights of tenants and sharecroppers.

A representative of the COC shall approve all payment shares except that the COC shall approve any questionable cases.

Wyatt speaks in Eagle Lake

14th Congressional District candidate Joe Wyatt, left, spoke last week to a group of Eagle Lake citizens gathered in the community center. Wyatt, a Republican, faces Democrat incumbent Bill Patman for the seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Moreno in major exercises

Marine Sgt. George Moreno, son of Juan and Irene Moreno of Eagle Lake, recently participated in two major NATO exercises, "Northern Wedding-82," and "Bold Guard-82."

He is a member of Brigade Service Support Group Four, 4th Marine Amphibious Brigade, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

"Northern Wedding" was conducted in Denmark and "Bold Guard" in West Germany. Both exercises were designed to test the capacity of alliance forces to resist aggression in the North Atlantic Ocean, Baltic and Norweigan Sea areas.

More than 160 ships, and 250 aircraft from the U.S. Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the United Kingdom participated. The amphibious exercises also included more than 5,000 people in various ground forces.

Small engine maintenance short course

Small Engine Maintenance Short Course for interested adults will be held October 18 to 21 under the sponsorship of the East Bernard and Brazos High School Vocational Agriculture Departments, according to Charles Bright, Superintendent, East Bernard, and C. M. Jackson, Superintendent of Wallis-Orchard ISD.

Richard Pivonka, Tractor Maintenance Specialist with the Agricultural Education Specialist Program and the Department of Agricultural Engineering at Texas A&M University, will do the instructing.

Mr. Pivonka received his B.S. degree in Mechanized Agriculture from Texas A&M University in 1975. From June 1975 to April 1977, he worked for the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Inc. as a Mechanical Equipment Foreman. He was responsible for the maintenance of a wide variety of shop and field equipment.

The short course at East Bernard High School is scheduled to begin October 18 at 7 p.m. in the Vocational Agriculture Building. During the dates the short course is in progress, Mr. Pivonka will be available to assist participants with individual small engine problems at the High School or home visits.

Farmers or any adult interested in attending the short course should call or write the Vocational Agriculture teachers at East Bernard High School, Robert Hlavinka or Greg Fuller at 335-7519 or the Vocational Agriculture teacher at Brazos High School, Freddie Engelbrecht at 478-6832.

Free Immunization Clinic

The Free Immunization Clinic sponsored by the Texas Department of Health will be held this Thursday, October 14th from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Ugarte Clinic in Eagle Lake.

Immunizations for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTP), Polio, Measles, Mumps and Rubella will be given to infants, preschoolers, and school age children. Tetanus and/or Diphtheria will be given to adults.

CPR instructor course

A CPR Instructor Course will be held at the Fire Station in El Campo Campo beginning Tuesday, October 12. The course will consist of 16 hours of instruction on October 12, 13, 19 and 20.

Cost will be $15 ($10 for the course and $5 for the manual).

Anyone who is interested in becoming a CPR instructor should contact June or John Mahalitc at 234-2678 as soon as possible. An approximate class size must be decided so that the manuals can be ordered.

Salt buildup in farmland

Salt buildup in the soil due to saline seeps is becoming a growing problem on Texas farms and is affecting crop production. The problem results mainly from certain farming practices and the natural movement of water through soil, said an agronomist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University System.

Water moving through the soil dissolves any salts present and moves them down to a compacted layer. The water and salts then move laterally to the lowest level in the soil and come to the surface.

Cleanup

Continued from Page 1

free access to the dump sites. "We're talkingabout trash that two men can handle," Pilkington said, not garbage or abandoned vehicles.

This first effort by the revitalization committee will be followed by beautification projects for visual aid for the city and by other projects designed to have a positive economic impact here.

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★ Mr. & Miss Contest - 4:00 P.M.

★ Fairest of the Fair Contest - 6 P.M.

★ Drawing for Prizes - 8:00 P.M.

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Baker says museums meant to help teach

Retiring to Eagle Lake soon

Rollin Baker, an "almost native" of Eagle Lake and Colorado County, plans to retire here soon, according to friends in the city.

At present, he is on one year's leave of absence from the Michigan State University Museum where he is director, and plans to officially retire June 30.

According to a story in a recent Michigan State publication, Baker gets his professional rewards in many ways, even consulting with the youngster who arrives at the museum with what he or she thinks might just be a dinosaur bone.

"It's usually just a horse bone," the museum director grins, since burial of domestic animals was once common. "But I can take him upstairs and show him skeletons of different animals so he can compare each one. That way he learns something."

And to Baker, "that's what museums are all about. Here we can use exhibits to interpret what we have learned."

Baker came to MSU in 1955 as museum director, professor of zoology and professor of fisheries and wildlife.

That was the year the University celebrated its 100th birthday and "the museum rode the crest of development," he says. Under Baker's guidance, the museum has become one of "less than 20 first class university museums" and is among only about 12 that combine research with exhibits. Its mammal research collection ranks among the 20 largest in North America.

Baker's expertise is in field studies of animals. "Most people think all museum people do is dig Indian remains — and I don't," he laughs.

Then there are other misconceptions, those dealing with plants and animals. "There are all kinds of folklore about how animals do things. As an example, there's a Mexican lizard, a cute little rascal called 'skink.' He's considered highly poisonous and dangerous, but that's just part of lore."

The story of Rollin Baker starts in Illinois. Although he calls himself a "naturalized Texan," he was born in Illinois because, he says, "my mother was in the late stages of her pregnancy when she visited there."

He earned his B.A. in zoology from the University of Texas, his master's in entomology from Texas A&M and his PH.D. in zoology from the University of Kansas.

He was a mammal collector on an expedition to Coahuila, Mexico, before taking a job as field biologist in Colorado and Harris counties in Texas. It was there that he met the game warden's daughter, who he eventually married.

Among other things, he lauds wife Mary for her patience. "I'd be gone for three or four months a year on field trips. If you're going to study animals, you have to go out and see them. They won't come see you."

He also learned about one of life's little tricks. "I'd be home and the kids would be healthier than hell. As soon as I would leave for some place like Mexico, they would get assorted diseases — bubonic plague, beriberi," he quips. "It always happens when there's only one parent around."

Evidently, Mary became a fellow expeditioner and "she became a real good trapper. She even picked up a rattlesnake once."

Baker contends he's been lucky, always "in the right place at the right time," and has applied for only two jobs in his life — as a student wildlife technician at the proposed Big Bend National Park in 1937 and for the Navy, where he was one of only two mammalogists in the service from 1943-44.

He was associate professor of zoology and assistant curator of mammals at University of Kansas when MSU called, and he's been here ever since.

He gives the University administrations a great deal of credit for the museum's evolution into a top-notch facility.

He's proud of the development of programs that focus on human encroachment into the earth's environment, coordination of museum expertise with teaching programs by use of joint appointments for curators and training graduate students, development of strong associations with other school systems, proposal of the first major fund drive to build Abrams Planetarium, publication of many scholarly works, initiation of the MSU Archives and Historic Collections and assistance in fund drives for the now-completed Wharton Center for Performing Arts and for the partly funded Exhibits Museum.

As for the new Rollin Baker Endowment Fund, he modestly says the title is a "gimmick," but the purpose is real, "to make the program more flexible and more inviting to outside donors." It is used to finance projects, such as expeditions, which can't come out of the University's general appropriations.

Baker still spends much of his time at the museum but is writing, too. A book, "Michigan Mammals," is nearing the final stages and he has submitted for publication a report on a trip to Mexico. That "interesting adventure" took him to a mountain visited only once before by a mammalogist, in 1898.

It's a cinch that his future activities won't take him too far away from other people, particularly students. "You learn so much from them and you energize yourself by the presence of eager young people," he says. "We have a lot to learn about this planet...and we need to make some basic contributions to human knowledge."

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Many individuals who enter into highly technological and scientific fields frequently find a need for skills learned in vocational classes. The famous heart surgeon, Dr. Michael DeBakey, developed the hand skill which is so vital to his surgical success, in a knitting class.

Vocational skills played a vital role in the development of America into the most industrialized nation on earth. Vocational skills will play an important role in helping America sustain her industrial superiority.

Eagle Lake Middle School art and craft classes are planning some big "nailing jobs" during the school year 1982-83. Along with an advanced curriculum, art and craft classes are planning a few major jobs outside the classroom...on the job training, more or less.

In the photo above, Eagle Lake Middle School craft students are reconstructing the concession stand in the gym. Shown in front are Ernest Lemons, Chad Miller, Elida Moreno, the three shop foremen and others. ELMS Photo.

Eagle Science

The Eagle Lake Middle School is again using science students to assist in the science program for the school year 1982-83.

As lab assistants, students must maintain an average of 75. Along with maintaining a passing score, lab assistants must exemplify leadership, the ability to get along with others, a sense of responsibility and competence in the subject area.

The assistance program will provide students, who display a high interest in science, an opportunity to explore more in detail those areas of interest. Also, assistants will have an opportunity to perform science demonstrations for the lower grade science classes which should reinforce the lab technique learned in their class activities.

We are anticipating another exciting year in science at Eagle Lake Middle School, say students and instructor.

Lab Assistants

Shown in the photo above are the Eagle Lake Middle School science lab assistants for 1982-83 including: front row, left to right, Michael Canaris, Lena Castillo, Sharri Frnka, Noe Belmares; second row, left to right, Nora Sosa, Stacy Causey, Ventrese Tillman, Patty Stephens; third row, from left, Michele Meitzen, Leslie Matthews, Debra Soto, Rhonda Hodde, Beth Ferguson; back row, from left, Johnny Lamascus, Louis Bencomo, Frank Adkins, Wendy Taylor, Elida Moreno and Delores Soto. ELMS Photo

Silver Wings celebrates National Skate Week

The Silver Wings Skating Rink in El Campo celebrated the end of National Skate Week with free skating for a huge birthday party on October 3 from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

Skating has a 120 year span of growth in industry and has become an accepted sport and recreation with the young people and even some of the older citizens. Over 2300 skating rinks nationwide participated in the festivities; hosting approximately 39 million skaters.

Among the many programs Silver Wings offers has been free book covers to the many students in the area. One of the first letters read was an appreciation letter from Rice High School.

Tony Hosman, Rice High School student, participated in couple dancing with partner Melinda Borak of El Campo, in solo pattern skating, and skate jumping.

Cori Gertson has first birthday

Little Miss Cori Ann Gertson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gayle Gertson of Eagle Lake, celebrated her first birthday at a family dinner on Sunday, October 3rd, 1982 at the home of her paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gertson, in Eagle Lake. Her actual birthday was September 30th.

The birthday girl enjoyed opening her presents with the assistance of her mother as her little cousins looked on before a barbecue chicken wish all the trimmings meal was served.

For dessert, there was birthday cake, a round layered, white confection decorated with pink and red sugarspun roses and inscribed with "Happy Birthday Cori."

Celebrating the occasion with the one year old were: her parents and brother Clint; grandparents; paternal great grandfather, A. A. Gertson of Eagle Lake; aunts, uncles and cousins including Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gertson, Jr., Sunny and Ralphie, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Gertson, Kristi and Sammi, and Andy Gertson.

UDC to meet

The United Daughters of the Confederacy, Shropshire-Upton Chapter No. 361, will meet Thursday, October 14th at 2 p.m. at the Nesbitt Memorial Library in Columbus for a regular meeting.

The program, "Sally Scull", legendary lady of the Confederacy, will be given by Mrs. Truman McMahan.

Hostesses will be Mrs. Roy Burt, Mrs. Sue Imbornone and Mrs. Claude Hardy.

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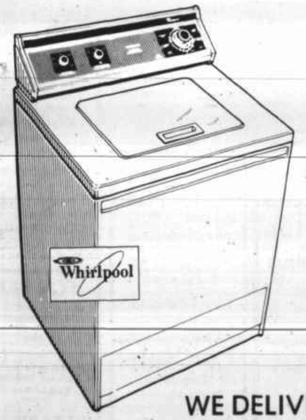

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