

Farm receipts steady but income declines

Texas farmers sold about the same level of agricultural commodities in 1985 as a year earlier, but net income continued to decline, says an economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&M University System.

Cash receipts from the sale of farm and ranch products totaled about \$10.1 billion last year while net income dropped to about \$1.4 billion, down from just over \$2 billion in 1984. Large crop and livestock supplies and reduced exports again resulted in low prices to farmers and ranchers during 1985. At the same time, costs of energy, chemicals, interest and other production inputs remained high and pushed farm income lower.

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Brucellosis control making progress in Texas

Great progress is being made in the control of brucellosis throughout the state. This is evident by the considerable decrease in the cumulative number of infected herds found each year since 1983. Livestock producers are to be commended for their contribution to the progress the Texas Brucellosis Program has made; however, there is much work yet to be done.

Pressure is being applied to Texas livestock producers as well as producers in other Class 'C' states and areas to "clean up" their herds. This pressure is coming from state authorities and livestock associations in states that receive the bulk of Texas cattle shipments. If this state does not achieve Class 'B' status by October 1988, the Class 'C' area

County Extension Agent By Leroy J. Hajdik

74; total number of herds, 1,362; herd infection rate, 5.43. The most heavily infected counties numbered 33 in 1984, but four have less than 1.5% herd infection rate today. In addition, 14 counties have exceeded the state average annual decline of infected herds.

Livestock producers are being solicited to help in developing a countywide program that will meet the needs of Colorado County's cattle industry and will help in maintaining the movement of

Texas cattle with the fewest restrictions. Dr. Lindstrom, area director located in Hallettsville, and others from the Texas Animal Health Commission, are ready to work with producers in determining how they can develop a brucellosis management program that best fits their particular livestock herd operation.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting: Dr. Lindstrom (512) 798-4329, Richard Grobe (409) 732-3952, or the Colorado County Extension office, 732-2082.

Dieters' dilemma: eat less, still gain

It's only March, but thousands of dieters have already gained back the pounds they lost after making a New Year's resolution to shed excess weight. According to Texas A&M University Agricultural Extension Service (TAEX) nutrition and health education specialists, going on a low-calorie diet to drop a few pounds in a hurry may only compound the dieter's weight problem.

TAEX nutritionist Dr. Alice Hunt explains that between 20-50% of weight lost on very low-calorie diets can be water and lean muscle tissue, rather than fat. "Muscle tissue burns 2 1/2 times the calories as fat tissue," Hunt says. "So as the percent of body fat increases, the metabolism slows down and burns fewer calories." That's why a dieter can actually gain weight while eating less, she adds.

According to TAEX health education specialist Dr. Mary Ann Heusser, combination of a balanced diet with moderately reduced calories and exercise to lose weight gradually is the most effective way to achieve a permanent weight loss.

March 31 is last day to apply for crop insurance

March 31 is the last day to apply for crop insurance for corn, cotton, grain sorghum, peanuts, rice and soybeans in Colorado County, according to Marcus Kocich, a representative of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC).

Crop insurance covers unavoidable loss of production resulting from adverse weather conditions, wildlife, earthquake or fire.

Three coverage levels (50, 65 or 75 percent) are available for

protection. Rates have been developed to offer reduced premium for producers with above-average yields. "With the increased cost of producing a crop, it makes good sense to take a look at this new concept," said Kocich.

To find out more about the APH plan, producers should contact a local, authorized agent. To select an agent, producers may check the list of agents at their local ASCS office. March 31 is the final deadline for applications.

Garwood News By Mrs. J.F. Struska

Mrs. Alton Smith went to McKinney this past week to visit Mr. and Mrs. James Stevenson and to get acquainted to her new granddaughter, Natasha Anne Stevenson. This is Mrs. Mollie Hunt's first great granddaughter. Miss Dana Struska from Wharton County Junior College in Wharton visited with her grandmother, Mrs. Ella Struska, on her birthday bringing with her a German chocolate cake and a nice gift. After lunch, she returned to Wharton.

The women of the Garwood Lehrer Memorial United Methodist Church met in the home of Mrs. Minnie Lee Conner last Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. with Mrs. Conner as hostesses.

The roll was called with Mrs. Marsha Priemeyer, president,

presiding over the meeting. She asked the group to repeat with her the purpose of the women in the church which is "the organization of United Methodist Women shall be a community women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ to develop a creative supportive fellowship and to expand concept of missions through participation in the global ministries in the church." Then a prayer, old business, new business, treasurer's report and card report was discussed.

Mrs. Catherine Berger and Mrs. Minnie Lee Conner gave a very interesting reading in costume. After the reading, a teacher in the Nada Catholic school, who had

Stock ponds in April and May

Ponds are full of water and temperatures are rising, which means now is the time to stock fish. By June, water temperatures are usually too warm to safely handle fish. Fish farmers have been preparing all winter for the spring stocking season. Place your order now while the selection of species and sizes are good. Later, the species you want may be unavailable.

The USDA Soil Conservation Service normally recommends channel catfish, or blue catfish in ponds less than one surface acre. A commercially available catfish ration can be fed, or flathead minnows can be stocked for the catfish to eat. If largemouth bass are already in your pond, stock catfish that are at least 8 inches long and do not stock flathead minnows. You can feed your catfish a commercial ration which largemouth bass will not eat.

In larger ponds, several combinations of fish may be suitable. Species often recommended include largemouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, redear sunfish, channel catfish, threadfin shad, golden shiner, and flathead minnow. For larger ponds and lakes, stocking recommendations

should be tailored to each water body.

SCS personnel at 316 Spring Street in Columbus can help you with most aspects of pond management, including construction, stocking, fertilization, weed control, and harvest. The county extension agent and game warden can also provide helpful information.

Egg clinic set for March 26

Egg producers will want to make plans to attend the Texas Commercial Egg Clinic March 26 at the Ramada Inn in College Station. The clinic is a joint effort of the Texas Egg Council and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service of the Texas A&M University System. Clinic topics will deal with improving management operations and laying house environmental conditions. A special industry seminar the afternoon preceding the clinic will focus on "Rewarding Performance Through Incentives".



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