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Columbus Livestock Market

The market this week was steady in most areas with little strength noted in spots from last week's market. Steer calves were steady on 200 lb. to 500 lb. classes and heavier weights \$1 to \$2 a hundred higher, says George Hagan and Don McAlister.

If we can be of any assistance in marketing or hauling your livestock, call collect 409-732-2622 or 409-732-5841. We have top market sales at Columbus Livestock Market every Thursday.

Cattle on hand, 1386; hogs, 12; sheep, 6; horses, 4.

Packer Cows: higher dressing utility and cutter cows, 37 to 40 cents per pound; lower dressing utility and cutter cows, 31 to 36 cents; light weight canner cows, 28 to 35 cents.

Packer Bulls: heavyweight bulls, 48 to 50 cents per pound; utility and cutter bulls, 44 to 48 cents; light weight canner bulls, 40

Prospective football players pickup shoes on August 6

On Wednesday, August 6, all prospective Rice High School football players are urged to be at the Rice High School field house between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. to pick up football shoes and any other information needed to be finished.

Coch Cliff Darden announced that all football players should be at the Rice High School field house on Monday, August 11 at 8 a.m. to begin practice.

For the freshmen football players, practice will start at 8 each morning and the upperclassmen will practice at 6 p.m.

Buses will pick up players in Eagle Lake at the Post Office and at the schools in Garwood and Sheridan throughout August at 7:15 a.m. for the freshmen players and 5:15 p.m. for the upperclassmen.

Now's the time for hunter safety course

Hunter education officials of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department advise hunters planning out-of-state hunts this fall to plan now to attend a hunter education course.

Many states, including Colorado, require completion of a certified hunter safety course as a prerequisite for issuance of a hunting license.

Steve Hall, assistant hunter education coordinator, said the course also is advisable for Texas hunters although not required by law.

The course is taught by volunteer instructors across the state. To locate an instructor in your area, contact your local game warden or call toll-free 1-800-792-1112.

Farmers must comply with land conservation rules

New proposed rules contained in the 1985 farm bill that relate to conservation of erodible lands and wetlands and conservation compliance provisions will have a major impact on Texas farmers.

The rules concern "sodbuster," "swampbuster," and "conservation compliance" provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985.

Sodbuster applies to any land newly cultivated for crop production since December 23, 1985 while Swampbuster deals with farmers who convert wetlands for crop production after December 23, 1985.

Conservation compliance requires farmers who benefit from USDA programs and who are farming highly erodible land to plan and apply locally approved conservation plans.

"Farmers who fail to meet these rules will not be eligible for commodity price support and other program payments, disaster payments, crop insurance, FmHA loans, farm storage facility loans and other farm program benefits," points out Dr. B.L. Harris, soils specialist with the Texas A&M University System.

"The rules are aimed at removing inconsistencies between soil conservation goals and traditional farm commodities," Harris says. "This means they cannot convert cropland to highly erodible land without following a locally approved conservation plan and they cannot produce crops on converted wetlands without being disqualified for certain farm program benefits."

However, a number of exemptions are outlined that allow crop production on erodible land or on wetlands until January 1, 1990 or until two years after the Soil Conservation Service has prepared soil maps for a particular area.

Details of the provisions are published in the June 27 Federal Register, and producers have until August 26 to provide written comments to the Director, Cotton, Grain and Rice Price Support Division, ASOS, USDA, Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013.

"With these new rules relating to erodible land and wetlands, farmers may want to take a close look at the Conservation Reserve Program that also was created in the 1985 farm legislation," says Harris. "Some 3.8 million acres nationwide have already been accepted into the program farm program benefits."

Another sign-up period has been set for August 4-15.

The conservation compliance provision could have a major impact in areas of Texas where soil erosion is a problem, particularly in the South Plains," says Harris. "With the proposed rules, farmers would likely have to change their cropping systems from a low residue crop such as cotton to crops which produce more residue and thereby help keep erosion in check. Cotton production in some counties could be reduced 75 percent or more."

Control white grubs in lawns now

By Leroy J. Hajdik, County Extension Agent

May or June beetles are emerging from the soil and swarming late in the evening. Females are laying eggs and white grub worms that hatch will soon be feeding on the soil. Bermudagrass and St. Augustine grass in home lawns. Once grubs begin feeding, control measures should be taken.

Homeowners in Colorado County will need to treat between mid July to mid August. Timing of application is critical for adequate control.

White grubs in excessive numbers can heavily damage lawns. Check for white grubs by cutting a square foot section of sod with a shovel and examine the roots and soil to a depth of four inches. Examine at least one square foot of sod for 1,000 square feet of lawn area. Chemical treatment is needed if there are more than four grubs per square foot of sod.

Diazinon, Dursban or Dylux provide adequate control and should be used at recommended rates given on the chemical container label.

If granular formulations are used, drag the grass with a tow sock or water hose to knock the granules down to the soil. Then apply enough water to soak the granules into the soil.

Apply sprays at the rate of 25 gallons of water, including the insecticide, per 1,000 square feet to wash the insecticide into the soil. Wetting the lawn before spraying also helps. Always keep children and pets off the treated lawn until the grass is dry.

Foods preserved without sugar

Foods can be preserved at home with less sugar, but the results may or may not be acceptable to your tastes, says a Texas A&M University specialist.

Before trying no-sugar recipes on your produce, nutritionist Marilyn Haggard advises experimenting with small batches first to see if you are pleased with the results. Recipes for canning fruits call for the addition of sugar or a sugar syrup to maintain the texture, shape and color of the fruit and to improve the flavor, she explains.

Omitting the sugar will primarily affect the fruit texture and flavor. When canning without sugar, the specialist says to use only firm ripe or slightly under-ripe fruit so it won't become too soft from canning. By adding ascorbic acid or a commercial anti-darkening agent, fruit will retain better color. "If you plan on using artificial sweeteners, add it when the fruit is served," says Haggard. "The heat of processing can cause some artificial sweeteners to become bitter and others to lose their sweetening power."

Pink Ladies cookbook to be on Today Show

Louise Spalinger sent an Eagle Lake Hospital Auxiliary, sequenential cookbook to the Today Show at Channel 2. She was told by Channel 2 the cookbook would be mentioned on the show, but did not know when.

The Pink Ladies report there are only a limited supply of cookbooks left for sale.

Shorter addresses packed house at FFA conference in Amarillo

(Reprinted from the July 18th issue of the Amarillo Daily News. The article was written by D. Kent Pangel, Globe-News Farm and Ranch writer.)

Coby Shorter, Future Farmers of America's national secretary, Thursday said FFA has changed his life.

Shorter, a former Texas FFA president from Eagle Lake, addressed a packed house of FFA delegates, parents, instructors and guests at the 58th annual Texas FFA conference in Amarillo.

The speaker, clad in black pants and the traditional blue and gold FFA jacket with a gold watch chain glimmering beneath walked across the stage with the smooth style of an evangelist.

Shorter occasionally would pause to emphasize a spoken thought, with the ease and grace reminiscent of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In the next breath Shorter would bend his head over a microphone and pull laughter from the audience not unlike comedian Bill Cosby.

But he delivered a serious, emotional message to more than 4,000 Texas FFA members.

"Now more than ever before is the time for FFA to be innovative by choice," he said. "This is still America. You still have the right to choose."

The leader described events from his life that had influenced him to pursue athletics.

Shorter told the group that his duties as an FFA officer had taken him through miles of travels. He said he had been to Japan to study their agricultural industry.

"In Japan, one pound of beef costs \$75. One melon costs \$45. Thank God, I'm an American," he said.

And stressing the downturn in America's agricultural economy, he said, "If you criticize America, don't do it with your mouth full."

Shorter received standing ovations throughout his speech.

After a closing prayer Shorter returned to the conference organ and gently stroked the keyboard.

The audience leaped to their feet as he ended his presentation with a vocal and organ solo of "God Bless America."

Dr. Victoria Bergin, deputy commissioner of the Texas Education Agency in Austin, originally was scheduled to make opening remarks before Shorter's address.

Bergin canceled after a request to appear at a meeting in Austin.

After Shorter's speech, FFA members and guests were introduced to the four finalists in the Texas FFA sweetheart contest.

The four finalists were Sheri Davidson of Van, representing FFA area six; Shana Sill of Medina, area seven; Shannon Kimes, Hardin, area nine; and Julie Cave, Sinton, area 10.

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