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## Alligator tag insurance boundaries, rates set

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials have announced general boundaries within which alligator tag insurance may be legally hunted during the September 5-21, 1986 hunting season.

Alligator tags for the 1986 season will be issued on a quota basis to landowners or their authorized agents. Tag quotas are based on estimated alligator populations. Some 1,150 tags will be available for insurance this year, compared to 925 available for the 1985 there were 790 tags issued and 747 alligators taken.

The areas to be hunted and numbers of permits in each are as follows:

Atascosa County: Metate Creek, Harrison Ranch (1), Brazoria County: Amoco Chocolate Bayou Marsh (1), Manor Lake (25), Mallard Lake and Brazos River Club (3), Big Slough (6), Harris Reservoir (1), W.H. Black Lake and Reservoir and Slough (5), Bar X Lakes and Slough (2), Eagle Nest Lake (3), Tennessee Hunting Club (3), Mann Lake (3), Austin Bayou Reservoir (2), Calhoun County: Guadalupe Delta Marsh (3), Powderhorn Lake (1), Jones Bayou (1), Colorado County: Eagle Lake (12), Eagle Lake Gravel Pit (1), Fort Bend County: Dry Creek (2), Worthington Lake (4), Pecan Bend Subdivision Lake (2), Harrison and

Anderson Oxbow Lakes (4), Lake Olympia (1), Kitty Hollow Lake (2), Henderson County: Koon Creek area (8), Matagorda County: Donaldson Lake (3), Big Boggy (3), Peyton Creek (4), Canoe Bayou Lakes (5), Mad Island Slough (15), Robbins Slough (24), South Texas Nuclear Plant Reservoir (3), Tenney Creek (1), Victoria County: Adler Lake (2), Linn Lake (2), McDonald Lake (1), and MacFaddin Marsh (2).

Additional areas in Chambers, Jefferson, Galveston, Liberty and Orange counties will be eligible for tag insurance and hunting.

Thompson said tag quotas are established based on summer survey data, and they may vary among different types of habitat, and possibly within single-ownership tracts.

"These quotas will determine the number of tags available for all tracts of alligator habitat within the insurance area," said Thompson.

Alligators must be taken from the area for which specific tags are issued.

"The quota of 1,150 tags is calculated as a percentage of the estimated population of alligators four feet and longer within the designated hunting areas that may be removed annually," said Thompson.

"The alligator harvest is designed as a sustained yield harvest rather than a control program. Although alligators are numerous in much Texas habitat, alligators four feet and longer (legal harvest size) represent only an estimated 13.5 percent of the alligator population."

Thompson reminds hunters that alligators must be taken and retrieved

When it's August it must be time for high school football.

That is exactly the case at Rice High School as members of the freshman, junior varsity and varsity football teams turned out for the opening day of practice last Monday despite the afternoon's heavy rains.

Coach Clifton Darden, the returning coaches and a few new to the staff welcomed 24 members to the freshman squad for their first practice Monday morning. Monday evening, 26 varsity players and 28 members of the JV team reported to school.

This is the year for the school to switch districts again as it moves back to the east with cross-county rival Columbus. They will face old rivals Brookshire, Sealy, Belville and Hempstead, with the latter two considered the teams to beat.

However, just because someone else thinks two of the other teams are better it doesn't mean that Coach Darden isn't preparing. When Monday's weather kept the team inside most of the practice time, they headed straight for the classrooms to study the 1986 version of the special offensive and defensive playbook.

Coach Dusty Lowrie will be

heading the freshman football team efforts, assisted by new coaches Kirk Ellis and Jack Sanders. Shannon Hooker is expected to report Monday to assist with the JV efforts.

Returning coaches include Jesse Russell, Dennis Jackson, Lee Politich and Gary McNeal. Jackson and Politich also are the returning coaches for Eagle Lake Middle School.

During part of the classroom session Monday, Coach Darden began showing a video tape of a speech given to coaches by Jim Wacker of Texas Christian

University. Attitude and ability, Wacker said on the tape, are two traits a team has to have to make any football program fun.

He also said that to be successful people should be happy with who they are and what they are doing. "Take what he said," Darden told the JV and varsity players, "for our school and especially for yourself."

Darden said the JV and varsity teams probably would continue joint practice sessions this week before splitting up and working toward the opening of the season the first Friday in September.

## Columbus Livestock Market

The market this week was steady in most areas with lots of demand throughout. Steer calves were steady to stronger on the light weights. Heavier weight steer calves continued to sell particularly good. Heifer calves were fully steady on the better kinds and a little slower on the plainer type, 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 409-732-8841. We have top market sales at Columbus Livestock Market every Thursday.

Cattle on hand, 1394; hogs, 25; sheep, 10; horses, 6.

Packer Cows: higher dressing utility and cutter cows, 34 to 39 cents per pound; lower dressing utility and cutter cows, 29 to 35 cents; light weight canner cows, 27 to 33 cents.

Bulls: heavyweight bulls, 45 to 49 cents per pound; utility and cutter bulls, 42 to 45 cents; light weight canner bulls, 38 to 42 cents.

Calves and Yearlings: good and choice, 53 to 56 cents per pound; standard, 48 to 53 cents.

Stock and Feeder Calves and Yearlings: steer and bull calves 200-300 pounds, 70 cents to \$1; 300-400 pounds, 65 to 80 cents; 400-500 pounds, 58 to 73 cents; 500-600 pounds, 56 to 66 cents. Heifer calves 200-300 pounds, 58 to 75 cents per pound; 300-400 pounds, 55 to 63 cents; 400-500 pounds, 52 to 58 cents; 500-600 pounds, 50 to 60 cents; replacement heifers, 55 to 60 cents.

Stocker Cows: good stocker cows and heifers, 40 to 48 cents per pound; medium stocker cows and heifers, 35 to 40 cents; good cow and calf pairs, \$525 to \$600; medium cow and calf pairs, \$475 to \$525; common cow and calf pairs, \$400 to \$475.

Hogs: No. 1 butchers, 57 to 59 cents per pound; No. 2 and 3 butchers, 55 to 57 cents; feeder pigs and shoats, 50 to 75 cents; sows, 45 to 50 cents.

Sheep: ewes, 20-21 cents per lb.; lambs, 50-60 cents; bucks, 14-18 cents; pairs, \$25-\$50 per pair.

Wade Miller shows grand champion

Congratulations to Wade Miller for showing the Grand Champion Simmental progress steer at the 1986 Lone Star Classic in Brenham.

Other winners included: Mitchell Miller, 4th place, Charolais steer; Tara Stephens, 5th place, Charolais steer. Tara exhibited a Charolais heifer which she placed 6th and she also was called back for showmanship competition.

First-sized baits of cattle spleen, heart or lung are recommended. Game animal parts, protected birds and furbearers are not legal bait, except nutria carcasses may be used by holders of trapper licenses.

At least 10 pounds of drilling salt is suggested for each alligator hide to be processed. A table, wash tubs and fresh water are needed for dressing the carcasses, and cold storage should be provided for the highly palatable meat.

Prospective alligator buyers and parts dealers are reminded they must have valid federal permits for any planned commercial activities involving alligator. Contact the alligator program staff in Austin, (512) 479-4979, for further information and necessary forms.

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## Dove hunting seasons adopted by Parks and Wildlife Commission

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission has adopted season dates and bag limits for dove hunting, including provision for a two-weekend special white-winged dove season in a portion of the South Zone.

The commission met July 24 in Austin and adopted a whitewing season of September 6-7 and 13-14 after hearing staff reports indicating that whitewing populations have recovered from reduced numbers during the past two years.

Last year's whitewing season was cancelled by the commission after surveys indicated the December 1983 freeze severely reduced citrus groves which provide important whitewing nesting habitat in the Valley.

The regulation framework provided by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for migratory game bird seasons does not allow opening of any season before September 1 because of international treaties. Therefore, the department was not allowed to open the whitewing season or the mourning dove season on Labor Day weekend which begins on August 30 this year.

The bag limit for whitewing season in the Special White-winged Dove Hunting Area is 10 white-winged, mourning and white-tipped doves, to include no more than two mourning and two white-tipped doves. As in previous seasons, shooting hours will be noon to sunset during the whitewing season in the special whitewing area, and 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset during the mourning dove season.

The mourning dove season in the state's North Zone will be September 1-November 9, the Central Zone season dates are September 1-October 30, 1986, and January 3-12, 1987; the South Zone season (which includes Colorado County) is September 20-November 18, 1986 (September 20-November 14 in the Special White-winged Dove Area), and January 3-12, 1987.

The mourning dove bag limit is 12 per day, to include no more than two white-winged doves and two white-tipped doves.

White-tipped doves, a common species in Mexico, increased dramatically in number and expanded their range throughout an eight-

year period. The mourning dove bag limit is 12 per day, to include no more than two white-winged doves and two white-tipped doves.

As during past seasons, all whitewing hunters participating in the special whitewing season will be required to have a \$6 White-winged Dove Stamp to legally take white-wings anywhere in Texas. These stamps can be obtained from Parks and Wildlife Department offices or retail hunting license outlets.

Except for sora and Virginia rails, possession limit for all early-season migratory game birds is twice the legal daily bag limit.

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## FEDERAL LAND BANK OF TEXAS LOWERS INTEREST RATES

BELLVILLE — The Federal Land Bank of Texas will lower its variable interest rates on August 1 to farmers and ranchers who finance with the bank.

Variable interest rates on farm and ranch loans will decrease to 11 percent and rural residence and farm-related business loans will decrease to 11.5 percent. According to Clifton Mahon, president of the La Grange-Bellville Federal Land Bank Association of Bellville, the reduction will save Texas farmers and ranchers almost \$12.5 million in interest cost annually.

The Land Bank, which provides more than \$2.5 billion in rural land financing, had been locked into an interest rate freeze for more than a year. The bank's board of directors first asked the Farm Credit Administration (FCA), its regulator in Washington, D.C., for an interest rate reduction in September 1985. The Texas board had asked for a 1 percent across-the-board decrease for the Federal Land Bank. However, FCA would not allow more than a one-half of one percent reduction at this time.

Mahon noted that the Texas Land Bank was one of the first of 12 Federal Land Banks nationwide

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