

Slew Of Activities Planned For National Ag Week March 19-25

Where does your food come from? If you are like many Americans, the answer is the grocery store. And frankly, that disturbs us.

The grocery store is not where food comes from - it is just from where it is distributed.

In reality, far too many people are unaware of the role of American agriculture in their daily lives...and what it really takes to have food on their dinner table.

Just a few generations ago, most people were a part of -- and had friends or relatives involved with -- agriculture.

Today, that is no longer the case. That is why we are writing, because agriculture is responsible for providing the necessities of life...food, fiber, clothing, and shelter.

And it is time that Americans recognized that contribution!

American farmers are working harder than ever, and it shows. Today, each American farmer feeds more than 120 people.

And the need for food produced in the United States is dramatic. Agriculture is this nation's number one export and is vitally important in sustaining

a healthy economy. (Colorado County is second in the state of Texas in rice production and ninth in beef cattle production.)

And it is not just farmer who makes our food possible. The entire agriculture industry, all the way to the grocery store, are vital links in a chain that brings food to every citizen -- and millions of people abroad.

Frankly, it is easy to take agriculture for granted in America. Our food is readily accessible and safe.

This does not mean we do not have an obligation to recognize how it is made possible.

March 19-25, is National Ag Week, hosted by the Agriculture Council of America. Ag Week is a good time to reflect - and be grateful - for American agriculture and to share that message with others, especially young people.

This year, Colorado County Farm

Bureau, Colorado Soil and Water Conservation District, Columbus Convention and Visitor Bureau, Texas Cooperative Extension - Colorado County, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board - Regional Office, and USDA Farm Service Agency - Colorado County in

a cooperative effort, have organized National Ag Week activities for you, the residents of Colorado County so that you may see what ag related services are available to you.

The Colorado County Farm Bu-

reau promotes agriculture. On an

average, American families spend

approximately 10 percent of their

income for food.

Farm Bureau wants the people

of Colorado County know where

and how the agriculture industry produces

their goods and how it is made available to them.

Colorado Soil and Water Conserva-

tion District #333 have been assisting

landowners for 57 years.

"Locally-led conservation" is the

basis of this organization with local

landowners serving on the SWCD

board guiding local conservation ef-

orts in Colorado County.

The District partners with the

Texas State Soil and Water Conserva-

tion Board in Temple and the Regional

Office in Wharton to protect the natu-

ral resources in the county.

Columbus Convention and Visitors

Bureau is a destination marketing

organization whose primary role is to

serve as an economic catalyst through developing and promoting tourism opportunities that bring overnight visitors from destinations that are 50 or more miles from the city of Columbus, Texas.

The CCVB takes a leadership role in marketing the city of Columbus as a tourist destination by building internal organizational excellence and external strategic partners.

Texas Cooperative Extension Of-

fice in Colorado County has been pro-

viding quality outreach and continuing

education programs and services to

county citizens for 50-plus years.

The Extension office is a mem-

ber of the Texas A&M University

System and operates in cooperative

partnership with the USDA and our

county Commissioner's Court, along

with community based committees

to address the relevant needs of our

community.

Informative articles can be found

in the newspapers, heard on the radio

or you may attend an educational

workshop, publications may be or-

dered through the county office or

educational tips received with just a

phone call.

Texas Parks and Wildlife works to manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

USDA Farm Service Agency - Colo-

rado County is a customer-

driven agency with a diverse and

multitalented work force, dedicated

to achieving an economically and

environmentally sound future for

American agriculture.

Agriculture brings money to Colo-

rado County. The Colorado County

2005 agriculture (approximate) produc-

tion numbers include beef cattle

- 6000 cows were sold that generated

\$5,112,000 while 53,500 calves were

sold that generated \$31,297,500, rice

30,903 acres of rice were planted,

\$14,796,356 was generated, corn

- 10,688 acres of corn was planted which

generated \$2,511,680, grain sorghum

- 1001 acres of grain sorghum were

planted, \$281,531 was generated, soy-

beans -1254 acres of soybeans were

planted which generated \$172,425 plus

other area of agriculture that gener-

ated thousands of dollars to county

includes hay, nursery crops, wildlife,

eggs, pecans, horses, and turf.

We invite the residents of Colorado

County to join us in celebrating Na-

tional Week on Thursday, March 23,

at the Colorado County Courthouse

from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Educational information booths

will be set up and personnel will

be available to visit with you about

agriculture and programs that are

available to you.

COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

Five Civil Suits Filed In Colorado County District Court

Five civil suits were filed in the last week in Colorado County District Court.

On March 7, a case was transferred from county court to district court. The suit involves a dispute between Mark A. Robinson and Kaylee Robinson Brune as executor of the estate of Sandra Robinson. The suit seeks to set aside a judgment admitting the will of Sandra Robinson to probate.

Also on March 7, Palisades Acqui-

sition V LLC filed suit against Jack

Schnake in a dispute over a credit card

debt. The suit claims that \$14,498 is

due on the account.

On March 10, Lionel Lewis, on

behalf of minor children, Zacharias

Lewis, Ausia Lewis, and Lionel Lewis

III, filed suit over injuries received in

a motor vehicle accident.

The suit names John Kwame

Ackah, and Swift Transportation Co.

Inc. as defendants.

The suit claims the three minors

were injured when the vehicle in

which they were riding was struck by

a tractor-trailer, operated by Ackah

and owned by Swift.

The accident occurred on Inter-

state 10, westbound at Columbus on

June 30, 2004.

Divorces Granted

Hortelina Glenn and James R.

Glenn, March 9.

Will Tyler and Joann Tyler, March

9.

Scott Jones and Tiffany Jones,

March 9.

The Eagle Lake Jr. High has an-

nounced that the following students

had perfect attendance for the 4th-six

weeks of school.

Sixth grade: Jamy Adams, Jono-

van Allen, McKinley Boutte, Felicia

Casas, Abraham Castillo, Dominic

Castillo, Raenisha Colson,

Christopher Escamilla, Jonathan

Fore, Natasha Frazier, Jasmine

Govea, Dylan Grace, Takeshia Hodge,

Christina Lopez, Chesley McGrew,

Alejandra Mendoza,

Ugo Mendoza, Veronica Mendoza,

John Morales, Preston Moreida,

Michael Navarro, Rachael Navarro,

Yessica Rivera,

Brooke Rodriguez, Yadira Ro-

driguez, Adrianna Ruiz, Cristian

Samaniego, Mitsu Samaniego, Felice

Smith, Johnathan Soria, Mark Sosa,

Sandra Vega.

Seventh grade: Michael Aguilar,

Alexandra Castillo, Deon Dabney,

Araceli Esquivel, Katerina

Huffman, Christopher Ledezma,

Gerald Martinez, Destinee Mason,

Jacquelin Vazquez, Annicia Wil-

liams, Marneikwa Woods.

Brittany Parker, Jontrell Pratt,

Sharae Pratt, Kathryn Salazar, Carlos

Sosa, Derrick Stredick, Guadalupe

Torrez,

Amber Tristan, Jonathan Tristan,

Sarael Valdez, Zachary Vasquez,

Francisco Vazquez,

Jacquelin Vazquez, Annicia Wil-

liams, Marneikwa Woods.

The U.S. Department of Energy

(DOE) has selected an LCRA project

to test a method of sharply reducing

mercury emissions from coal-fired