



## New Members Join Lions Club

President Len Matula welcomes three new Lion members, from left to right, Lion President Len Matula, David Haas, Scarlett Owens and Steve Taylor. (Steve was past president in 1995 and has rejoined the Noon Lions Club).

## Texas Reaches Drought Milestone

Texas has been hot and dry for months, and a recent drought assessment by Texas Forest Service confirms what most farmers, ranchers and firefighters have already seen.

Thanks to persistent hot, dry weather, the average Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) for the state has now climbed into the top three percent of the historical average drought readings, according to Tom Spencer, fire risk assessment coordinator with Texas Forest Service.

"This situation does not bode well for agricultural interests or firefighters in the state," declared Spencer.

"In recent history, there have been only two other years that the average state KBDI index reached this same level: 1998 and 2000. In both of these years, Texas experienced severe summer fire sieges."

Wildfire responses in the state since June support the growing concern among firefighters.

From June 1 through Aug. 20, Texas Forest Service fire per-

sonnel battled 578 wildfires that burned an estimated 101,774 acres across the state.

Fire departments using the Texas Forest Service on-line fire reporting system to record their fire responses reported 2,884 fires that burned an estimated 70,587 acres over this same period.

The average drought index value for the state has continued to climb, even though recent rains have lowered the KBDI drought index for counties in the Texas Panhandle and Trans-Pecos regions.

The continued climb of the drought index shows how extremely dry the rest of the state is getting, said Spencer.

Information about fuel (vegetation) dryness across the state is available on the Internet at [webgis.tamu.edu/tfs/rawsd/dryness.png](http://webgis.tamu.edu/tfs/rawsd/dryness.png). KBDI drought averages for counties can be accessed at [webgis.tamu.edu/tfs/kbdi\\_daily/kbdicounty.png](http://webgis.tamu.edu/tfs/kbdi_daily/kbdicounty.png).

A 30-day precipitation deficit map available at [www.tamu.edu](http://www.tamu.edu).

[edu/ticc/precip\\_def\\_map.jpg](http://www.tamu.edu/ticc/precip_def_map.jpg) also helps visually portray why and where drought conditions are most severe in the state.

As hot and dry as it is, it doesn't take much of a spark to start a wildfire, and it doesn't take much wind to increase the risk of home losses and the danger to firefighters and residents alike, said Gary Laco, wildfire prevention chief for Texas Forest Service.

"It is absolutely imperative that everyone — and I do mean everyone — take every possible precaution to prevent wildfires from occurring," Laco stated.

The fire prevention chief urged strict compliance with outdoor burning bans and proper disposal of smoking materials.

He also said that use of welding and grinding equipment around dry vegetation should be avoided if possible and closely monitored for accidental fire starts.

Even driving through tall, dry grass and weeds should be avoided, as hot catalytic converters could ignite wildfires.

## Cattle On Feed Up Three Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in Texas feedlots with capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled 2.97 million head on Aug. 1, up three percent from a year ago.

According to the monthly report released by the Texas Field Office, the estimate was down slightly from the July 1 level.

Producers placed 480,000 head in commercial feedlots during July, up 20 percent from a year ago, but down nine percent from the June 2006 total.

Texas commercial feeders marketed 480,000 head during July, up seven percent from last year but down four percent from

last month. On Aug. 1, there were 2.50 million head of cattle and calves on feed in the Northern High Plains, 84 percent of the state's total.

The number on feed across the area was up four percent from last year, but down slightly from the July total.

July placements in the Northern High Plains totaled 417,000 head, down eight percent from the June total.

Marketings were down two percent from last month to 417,000 head.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United

States in feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or more totaled 10.8 million head on Aug. 1, 2006. This inventory was seven percent above Aug. 1, 2005.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.96 million head, 17 percent above July 2005.

July placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds totaled 570,000 head; 600-699 pounds totaled 403,000 head; 700-799 pounds totaled 490,000 head; 800 pounds and greater totaled 500,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.96 million head, two percent above 2005.

## 4-H Archery Program Starting Soon

The Colorado County 4-H Shooting Sports Club is sponsoring an archery project beginning on Tuesday, September 5, at 7 p.m. at the Columbus Junior High School Cafeteria.

The archery project is open to boys and girls, ages nine years old, or eight years old and in the third grade, through eighteen years, throughout Colorado County.

Attendance at the first meeting is mandatory and there will be no exceptions.

Both the participants and parents should attend. The aspects of archery safety will be discussed along with equipment and targets.

A shooting schedule will be determined as well. A \$1 fee will be charged for insurance that all participants are required to take.

Live archery instruction and participant shooting will begin

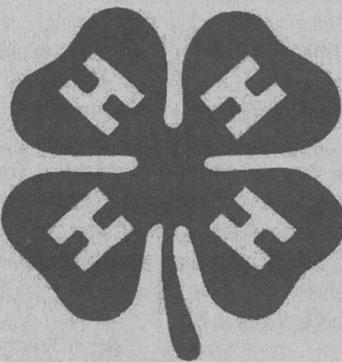
after the Colorado County Fair.

Participants will shoot once each week under the supervision and instruction of certified archery coaches serving as volunteer 4-H leaders.

For additional information, contact the county Extension of-

fice at 979-732-2082 or 732-2530.

Educational programs conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic levels, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.



## Milk Production Up Nearly Eight Percent

Texas milk production totaled 590 million pounds during July, up 7.9 percent from last year's production of 547 million pounds. June 2006 production totaled 606 million pounds.

The number of milk cows during July averaged 335,000 head, up 15,000 head from last year and up 2,000 head from the June 2006 number.

Production per cow averaged 1,760 pounds during July, up 2.9 percent from last year.

Milk production in the 23 states participating in the monthly survey totaled 13.9 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from production in these same states in July 2005.

June revised production, at 14 billion pounds, was up 1.9 percent from June 2005.

Production per cow during July averaged 1,686 pounds, three pounds above a year ago.

The average number of milk cows in the 23 states was 8.26 million head, 107,000 head more than last year, but 11,000 head less than June 2006.

## Dove Hunting Season Outlook

Continued from front page

monitor movements of mourning doves, some birds have been marked with metal leg bands containing a unique number and a toll free telephone number (800-327-BAND or 2263) that hunters can call to report the band.

Bands may also be reported on the Internet at <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/>.

Hunters may keep the bands. It only takes a minute and doesn't cost a cent and hunters receive a certificate of appreciation that identifies when and where the dove was banded.

"We've banded about 1,000 mourning doves per year for last three years," said Roberson.

"The return rates in Texas have been disappointing, less than 100 bands last year and only half of those were from Texas banded birds. The information we gain from band returns is valuable and we're urging hunters to call when

they take a banded dove."

Hunters are also cautioned that a valid Texas hunting license and this is the second year that a state migratory game bird stamp is also required for doves, waterfowl and sandhill cranes.

When buying licenses and stamps, hunters are also reminded to tell the license agent to provide the "HIP" (Harvest Information Program, a federally mandated survey of migratory bird hunters) certification required to hunt doves.

Hunter education certification is also required, depending on your age; check the Outdoor Annual of hunting and fishing regulations booklet for details.

Dove hunters should note they may only use "plugged" shotguns capable of holding no more than three shotshells.

For \$48, the price of an Annual Public Hunting Permit from

TPWD, hunters can access more than a million acres of public hunting lands, including 147 units ranging in size from 50 to 2,000 acres and covering more than 55,000 acres leased primarily for hunting dove and other small game.

TPWD's public hunting program leased the land using money generated by permit sales.

While public hunting lands can be found throughout the state, most of the dove and small game leases occur along the I-35 and I-10 corridors within easy driving distance of the major metropolitan areas. Some areas offer special hunting opportunity for youth.

For the latest dove hunting conditions across Texas, check out TPWD's Weekly Migratory Game Bird Report on the Web at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/> starting Aug. 31.

## COLORADO COUNTY COURTHOUSE REPORT

### Nineteen Indicted By Grand Jury

Nineteen individuals were indicted by the Colorado County grand jury on Tuesday, Aug. 22.

Ten of the cases involved drug offenses.

Following are individuals:

--Elvin Y. Aparicio, 24, of Houston, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle on July 11.

--Johnny C. Brewer, 64, of Austin, possession of a controlled substance on July 9.

--Jose Luis Castilleja, 32, of Pasadena, felony DWI on July 23.

--Jarred L. Doyle, 26, of Austin, possession of a controlled substance on July 24.

--Adrian C. Garcia, 25, of Sheridan, aggravated assault on June 28.

--Ryan Scott Guerra, 19, of Richwood, possession of a controlled substance on July 9.

--Jacques O'Neal Henderson, 19, of Columbus, possession of a controlled substance on June 19.

--Christina Elissa Hopson, 31, of Dale, possession of a controlled substance on July 18.

--Joy Lynn Jezek, 42, of Columbus, theft of a motor vehicle

on July 13.

--Milton D. McMath III, 35, of Oakland, Calif., possession of a controlled substance on Aug. 5.

--Scywillow M. Middleton, 27, of Manor, possession of a controlled substance on July 29.

--Lorenza Ortiz Mireles, 38, of Houston, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle on June 21.

--Cruz Martin Molina, 22, of Eagle Lake, three counts of sexual assault on April 26 and May 23.

--Matthew A. Moore, 35, of Glidden, possession of a controlled substance on June 9.

--Wayne D. Morgan, 20, of Eagle Lake, forgery on May 23.

--Jeffrey Louis Rogers, 19, of Houston, evading arrest on July 1.

--Ernest Wayne Torres, 39, of Eagle Lake, burglary of a building on Dec. 29, and evading arrest on March 28.

--Jermaine L. Williams, 20, of Austin, possession of a controlled substance on July 29.

--Eduardo M. Woods, 23, of Oakland, Calif., possession of a controlled substance on Aug. 5.

### Three Lawsuits In District Court

Three lawsuits were filed in

Colorado County District Court in the last week.

On Aug. 16, Mabel Silverstein filed suit against Michael Scott Bapp and Melton Truck Lines Inc. for damages she said she received in a motor vehicle accident on Aug. 2, 2005.

She claimed that she sustained \$12,374 in damages. She states that Bapp was driving a truck in the employment of Melton Truck Lines at the time.

On Aug. 18, Citibank South Dakota filed suit against James C. Conner in a dispute over a credit card account. The suit claims \$9,296 is due.

On Aug. 21, CACV of Colorado filed suit against David New in a dispute over a credit card account. The amount in dispute is \$7,248.

**Divorce Filed**  
Mary Katherine Martin and Charles Henry Martin III, Aug. 18.

**Marriage Licenses Issued**  
Justin Wade Schneider and Michelle Leigh Carey, Aug. 15.

Vernon James Rerich Jr. and Carrie Lynn Pesak, Aug. 16.

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**Colorado County Funded SEPTIC TANK Replacement Grant Program NOTICE OF APPLICATION INTAKE**

Colorado County has received a Texas Community Development Program grant (TCDP Contract No. 725025) to provide SEPTIC TANK replacement assistance for low- to moderate-income applicants residing in Colorado County. Eligible applicants must: (1) Live in the following areas of Colorado County: Altair, Rock Island, Sheridan, Garwood or Nada. (2) Own and occupy a home with a substandard on-site sewage facility (septic tank, cesspool). (3) Have a total household income AT OR BELOW the following income limits:

Income Limits by Family Size							
1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons	7 persons	8 persons
\$27,700	\$31,700	\$35,650	\$39,600	\$42,750	\$45,950	\$49,100	\$52,250

Program information sheets and a one-page application form are available at the Colorado County Services Facility, 305 Radio Lane, Columbus, TX 78934, or the Colorado County Courthouse, 400 Spring Street, Columbus, TX 78934. Completed applications will be accepted on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE basis beginning September 7th at the location listed below:

Thursday, September 7th	Friday, September 8th	1:00-7:00 PM	8:00 AM-Noon	Colorado County Services Facility	Colorado County Services Facility
Please bring the following: (1) Proof of income: Letter from Social Security stating benefit amount or last three pay stubs from employer for all members of household. (2) Proof of Homeownership: Warranty Deed, Contract for Deed, or other proof. (3) Property Tax receipts: verifying ALL property taxes paid and current. (4) Proof of Occupancy/Physical Address: water, electric, trash collection, gas or phone bill dated within last 3 months. (5) Photo I.D.					

Incomplete applications cannot be accepted. Applications will not be accepted prior to September 7, 2006.

Questions? Call the Colorado County Permit Office at (979) 732-2435 or Regan Lenehan or Elizabeth Nguyen at GrantWorks, Inc. (888) 480-3009.

Assistance available for disabled persons—An Equal Opportunity Program