

# Colorado Soil And Water Marks Ag Week

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

The grocery store is not where food comes from – it's just from where it's 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's no longer the case.

That's why we're writing, because agriculture is responsible for providing the necessities of life...food, fiber, clothing, and shelter. And it's about time American's recognize 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 State is dramatic. Agriculture is this nation's #1 export and vitally important in sustaining a healthy economy.

And it's not just the 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's easy to take agriculture for granted in America. Our food is readily accessible and safe. For this, doesn't mean we don't have an obligation to recognize how it's made possible.

March 16 - 22, 2008 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.

The Colorado SWCD has been assisting landowners for 60 years. "Locally led conservation" is the basis of the organization with local landowners serving on the SWCD board guiding local conservation efforts in Colorado County.

The District partners with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board in Temple and the Regional Office in Wharton

to protect the natural resources in this area.

The Colorado County Farm Bureau promotes agriculture. On an average, American families spend approximately 10% of their income for food. Farm Bureau wants the people of Colorado County to know where and how the agriculture industry produces their goods and how it is made available to them

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 AgriLife Extension Office - Colorado County has been providing quality outreach and continuing education programs and services to county citizens for 90 plus years.

The Extension office is a member of the Texas A&M System and operates in cooperative partnership with the USDA and the Colorado 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 ordered 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 – Colorado County is a customer-driven agency with a diverse and multitiered work force, dedicated to achieving an economically and environmentally sound future for American agriculture.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Columbus Field Office has assisted landowners in Colorado County for 59 years to improve and protect their soil, water and other natural resources. While farmers and ranchers remain the primary customers of NRCS, the agency also provides technical assistance to groups and units of state and local government.

Agriculture brings money to the County. The Colorado County production numbers include beef cattle – 9,000 cows were sold that generated \$9,100,000 while 70,000 calves were sold that generated \$54,621, rice – 26,053 acres planted, \$16,267,541 was generated, corn – 10,669 acres of corn was planted which generated \$5,801,269, cotton – 2,634 acres were planted, \$1,145,790 were generated, grain

sorghum – 2,079 acres of grain sorghum were planted, \$648,000 was generated plus other areas of agriculture that generated thousands of dollars to the county included soybeans, hay, nursery crops, wildlife, eggs, pecans, horse and turf.

We invite the residents of Colorado County to join us in celebrating National Ag Week – March 16 – 22, 2008.

Sincerely,  
 Mary Ulbricht, President  
 Colorado County Farm Bureau

W. J. Kleimann, Chairman  
 Colorado SWCD #333  
 Tonya Britton, Executive Director

Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau

Columbus Community Industrial Development Corp.

Dale Rankin, Ag/NR County Agent

Texas AgriLife Extension – Colorado County

Sally Garrett, FCS County Agent

Texas AgriLife Extension – Colorado County,

Royce Jurries, Biologist  
 Texas Parks and Wildlife

Lawrence Brown, Jr., Program Supervisor

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board – Wharton Regional Office

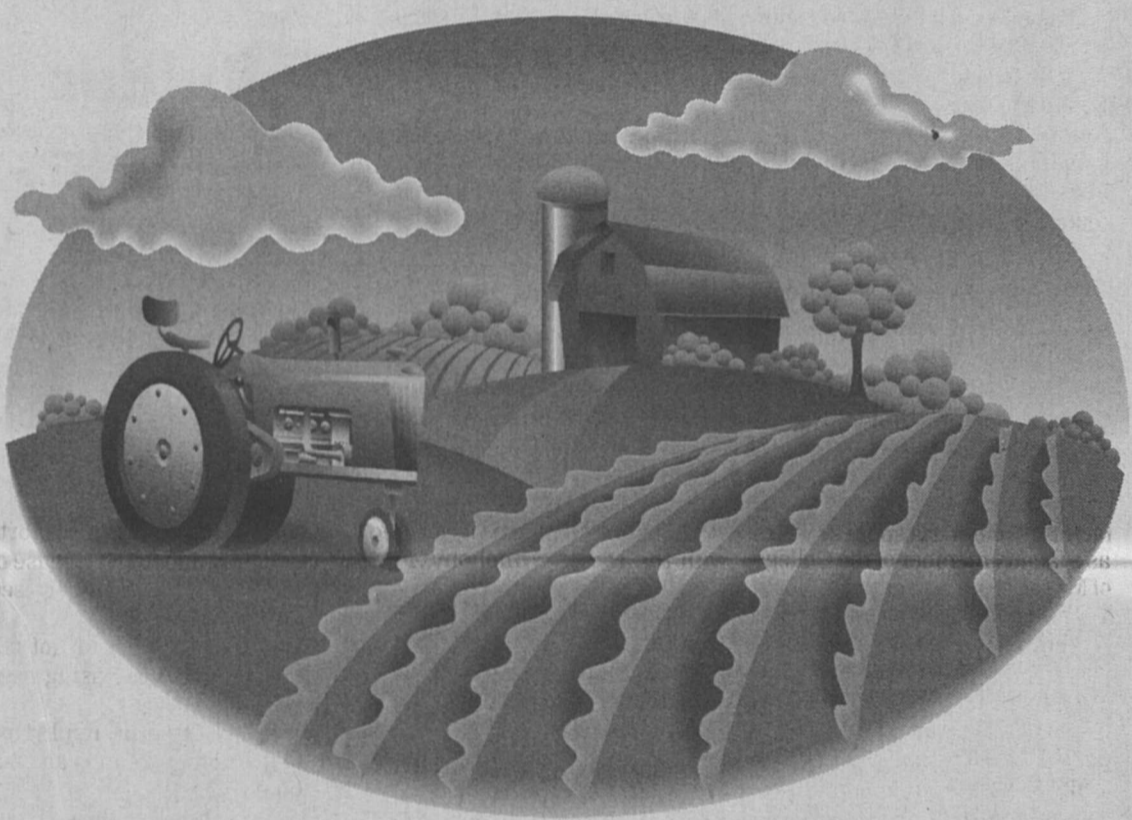
Mary Parr, CED

USDA Farm Service Agency – Colorado County

Dennis Neumann, District Conservationist

USDA – NRCS Columbus Field Office

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**National Ag Week**  
 will be observed  
**March 16–22, 2008**  
 across the Nation

One of Colorado County's top agriculture commodities is row crop production. Colorado County Row Crop Production for 2007 was:

10,669 acres of corn were planted in Colorado County generating \$5,801,269.

2,634 acres of cotton were produced generating \$1,145,790.

2,079 acres of grain sorghum were produced in Colorado County generating \$640,000.

Compliments of Colorado County Row Crop's Committee

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University Systems, U.S. Department of Agriculture and County Commissioners' Courts of Texas Cooperating.

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 # OF SELLERS - 200  
**PACKER COWS**

Higher dressing utility & cutter cows	54-64
Lower dressing utility & cutter cows	46-53
Thin Cows	33-45

**PACKER BULLS**

Heavyweight bulls	65-76
Utility cutter bulls	57-64

**STEERS**

150-300 lbs	#1	#2
300-400 lbs	135-150	115-130
400-500 lbs	125-135	110-122
500-600 lbs	118-127	98-110
600-700 lbs	108-118	98-107
700-800 lbs	98-107	86-95
	88-98	76-87

**HEIFERS**

200-300 lbs	#1	#2
300-400 lbs	110-130	95-109
400-500 lbs	107-118	95-106
500-600 lbs	102-112	92-102
600-700 lbs	96-105	86-95
700-800 lbs	88-98	80-87
	82-88	75-81

**STOCKER COWS**

Good Stocker Cow/Calf Pairs	950-1100
Medium Cow/calf Pairs	800-925
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