



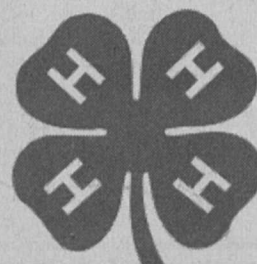
The Airport and Museum sign was recently completed.

4-H Celebrates 100 Years In Texas

Colorado County 4-H members will be celebrating the Centennial of 4-H in Texas throughout the 2008 year. The 4-H Council kicked off the celebration in December by sponsoring a take-out Christmas dinner for the elderly and shut-ins throughout Colorado County. 4-H members delivered 215+ take-out dinners to residents within the county.

The 4-H Council is also sponsoring Easter bags for the clients of the Wharton County Junior College Senior Citizens program in Colorado County. 4-H members donated 100+ Easter bags to this program. Members of the Frelsburg 4-H Club helped to fill and deliver the bags to the WCJC office in Colorado County.

Several of the 4-H clubs in the county are also participating in community service projects to celebrate this Centennial year.





TEXAS SNO-TREATS

NOW OPEN AT DAIRY DELITE



Over 40 great flavors of shaved ice Including 5 sugar free flavors!!!

Stop by for a burger and stay for a SNO-TREAT!

New Hours of Business
Sunday – Thursday 10am to 10pm
Friday – Saturday 10am to 11pm

Come try our NEW Seasalt and Pepper Shrimp Salad or our Fried Pickle Spears!



We would like to thank our loyal customers and those of you who continue to spread the word that Dairy Delite is back and better than ever!!! Sincerely, Oscar & Kymbra Owen

Sno-cones not available through the drive-thru - sorry!

Texas Crop Weather Report

The Texas Field Office issued the following report regarding Texas agriculture for the week of March 10 to 16.

Agricultural Summary

Most of the state received much-needed rainfall after being faced with dry conditions for the last few weeks.

Small grains continued to benefit from the mild temperatures and moisture.

Cotton field preparation continued in the High Plains, while planting continued in the Lower Valley and Coastal Bend.

Corn planting continued in South Central Texas, while planting was delayed due to wet fields in the Blacklands and North East Texas.

Sorghum planting was wrap-

ping up in the Coastal Bend.

Soil moisture was mostly very short to short across the state.

Trans-Pecos and the High Plains received little to no rainfall.

The rest of the state received 0.01 to 2.0 inches of rain.

Some producers experienced some improvement in pasture condition, but supplemental feeding for livestock continued.

Field Crops Report

In the area of small grains, wheat conditions continued to improve in Northern High Plains and the Low Plains due to the combination of warmer temperatures and recent moisture. Wheat condition was mostly poor to fair statewide.

Oat condition was mostly fair

to good statewide.

Regarding cotton, field preparation continued in the High Plains, while planting continued in the Lower Valley and Coastal Bend.

Corn planting continued in South Central, while planting was delayed due to wet fields in the Blacklands and North East Texas.

Sorghum planting continued in the Coastal Bend.

After the rain last week, sorghum producers resumed planting activities in South Texas.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Sugarcane, citrus, and vegetables continued to be harvested in the Lower Valley.

Peach trees started to bloom and potato fields continued to develop in North East Texas.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Some producers experienced some improvement in pasture condition, but supplemental feeding for livestock continued.

Hay consumption slowed some in East Texas as pastures began to green up.

Range and pasture condition was mostly poor to fair statewide.

TPWD Talks Turkey

Annual reproduction is critical to wild turkey populations.

Because of this, nesting and brood rearing habitat are possibly the most important components of turkey habitat.

In order to better understand the habitat requirements for wild turkey, behaviors of the turkey need to be understood.

Turkeys are ground nesters, and they nest during the spring.

After mating, hens actively start looking for nesting habitat.

Once a hen finds a suitable area, she will start laying one egg per day and will average 10 to 12 eggs on her first attempt.

During this process, the hen will only visit the nest for short daily periods to lay one egg.

She may lightly cover the nest before leaving.

After the laying process, the hen will begin incubation, which takes 28 days.

During incubation, the hen will only leave the nests for very brief periods.

A successful nesting attempt averages 40 to 50 days.

Within the Oak-Prairie District, most nesting occurs in April and May.

A common characteristic of nesting habitat, regardless of location or subspecies of turkey, is the presence of knee high grasses and weeds.

Hens seek out areas such as fallen limbs, shrubby fence rows, road sides and edges of pastures and woodlands to nest.

The eastern subspecies prefer to nest under small shrubs within or adjacent to wooded tracts.

The Rio Grande subspecies will nest in pastures with scattered mesquite or other types of shrubs, often near drainages.

Once again, the most critical factor is knee-high grasses.

The abundance of nesting habitat in the Rios territory can easily be correlated with the amount of winter and spring precipitation.

Dry winters normally mean poor nesting habitat and poor reproduction.

Easterns are not as dependent upon rainfall.

Brood habitat is very similar to nesting habitat, since knee-high herbaceous cover is also critical.

Remember, turkey poult live almost entirely on insects their first eight weeks of life.

Because of this, brood habitat

must be able to provide three important factors.

These are: adequate herbaceous coverage to support high insect populations, cover must allow hens and poult efficient foraging and cover should enable turkeys to detect and escape predators.

Basically to check for brood habitat, kneel down.

If you can see 40 to 60 feet through the grass but not much more, that is ideal.

Nesting and brood habitat can be created and maintained in various ways.

Areas should be set aside around woodlands and pastures to allow the growth of small thickets. These areas are good for nesting.

Leaving buffers of at least 30 feet around meadows would be ideal.

A major problem with nesting is that it coincides with the first hay cutting in the spring.

Hopefully by maintaining buffers around hay meadows, turkey hens will avoid nesting in the middle of the meadow and will seek the buffers.

If you have woodlands on your property, for turkeys they need to be somewhat open in the midstory and have a well-developed herbaceous forest floor.

In order to have a herbaceous understory, dominant tree canopies should only cover 60 to 70 percent.

When opening up the canopy, you basically have to walk a fine line to keep the stand open enough for turkeys but not turn into an overgrown thicket.

Prescribed burning of the woodlands on a three to five year rotation is probably the best maintenance method.

Lastly, grazing can be integrated with turkey management.

Once again, the key is to maintain knee high grasses through mid-June and to leave scattered brush throughout the property for nest sites.

Ideal grazing would consist of rotational grazing.

This would help all species of wildlife as well as your cattle herd.

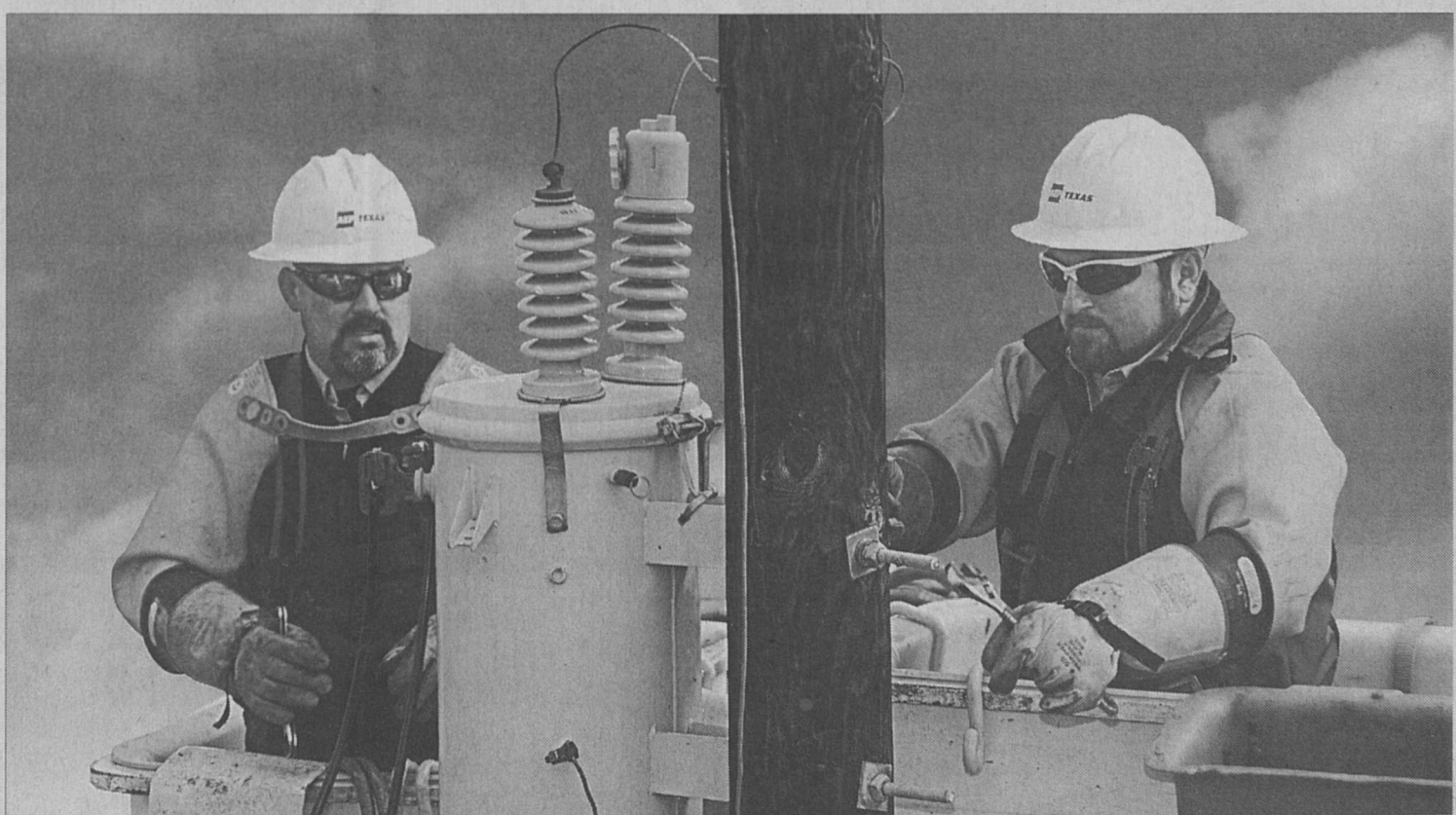
If you would like to contact your local biologist, see tpwd.state.tx.us/wildlifebiologist.

Contreras Family & Friends Relay For Life BAKE SALE

Friday, March 21 • 8 a.m. - ?
In front of First National Bank



For Special Orders call 979-234-2654 leave a message call by 6 p.m., Thur., March 20 Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society



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