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May Egg Production Down Slightly

May 2009 egg production in Texas totaled 394 million eggs, down 2 percent from May 2008 and down 1 percent from April 2009, according to the monthly report released by the Texas Field Office.

The number of layers during May averaged 17.6 million, down 3 percent from last year and down 3 percent from April 2009.

Egg production per 100 layers averaged 2,235 eggs, up 1 percent from last year's 2,202 eggs and up 2 percent from last month.

Texas hatchery production of broiler-type chicks totaled 57.1 million, up 1 percent from last year.

United States egg production totaled 7.60 billion eggs during May 2009, up slightly from a year ago.

Production included 6.51 billion table eggs, 1.02 billion broiler type hatching eggs and 73 million egg-type hatching eggs.

Nationally, the total number of layers averaged 337 million during May 2009, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Production per 100 layers was 2,256 eggs, up 1 percent from May 2008.

The U.S. monthly hatch of egg-type chicks totaled 37.8 million, down 10 percent from May 2008.

The hatch of broiler-type

chicks, at 786 million, was down 5 percent from May of last year.

The leading U.S. breeders placed 7.40 million broiler-type

pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during May 2009, down 10 percent from May 2008.



Jesse Ross and Gabrielle Matocha of Colorado County, students representing the Texas Electric Cooperative, join Congressman Lloyd Doggett during their trip to Washington, DC to visit sites like the U.S. Capitol and Library of Congress and discuss America's transition to a clean energy future at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour. The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students from Washington, DC every June since the late 1950s to show them the importance of learning about the political process, interacting with members of government, and understanding the power of each individual to make a difference in the world. The students discussed opportunities in Washington, DC to get involved, such as the Congressional Internship Program.

Sales Tax

Continued from front page occurred in April.

Checks sent to area cities, with changes from last year, are as follows:

-Columbus- \$88,401, up 7.06 percent; for the year, \$575,162, up 9.84 percent.

-Weimar- \$26,833, down 9.17 percent, for the year, \$156,683, down 0.15 percent.

-Schulenburg- \$39,385, down 13.79 percent, for the year, \$292,336, up 4.49 percent.

-La Grange- \$115,031, down 21.30 percent, for the year, \$704,942, down 8.36 percent.

-Flatonia- \$14,785, up 6.26 percent, for the year, \$92,254, up 7.43 percent.

-Hallettsville- \$68,746, down 5.93 percent, for the year, \$466,276, up 6.38 percent.

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced on June 12, that the state collected \$1.77 billion in sales tax revenue in May, a 5.2 percent decrease compared to May 2008.

"Weakness throughout most sectors of the economy resulted in a significant decrease in May sales tax collections," Combs said.

Views Around The Lake

by Cindy Klopsteck

"Summertime, and the livin' is easy." Ben Quick, "The Long Hot Summer"

How could it have just been the first day of summer this past Sunday, June 21st, and it already feels like we are living in the heated 1958 movie version of a William Faulkner novel?

I remember having read some film reviews of that popular movie version starring Paul Newman. Critics complained that there were just too many people looking way too sweaty throughout the movie. Perhaps they had never experienced a "long hot summer" in the south.

It's hot. It's dry, but humid (a condition that can only happen in certain parts of the world, and we're there).

We sweat... or may even get a little crazed from the heat. Lately I've noticed the animal and insect world getting a bit crazed at the beginning of this "long hot summer."

First there was the bird I startled from the hanging basket on my patio as I was watering my dry, drooping plants. That should be rephrased because the bird actually frightened me more than I ever did her.

She was apparently in the midst of nest building when I poured water into the basket. Wings and feathers flapped and flew, and there was some pretty strong bird language coming from that small creature.

What surprised me most was the way the offended bird remained sitting on the basket edge, peering at me indignantly, chirping away at me ferociously, with no immediate plan to flee the scene.

She sat there drenched, feathers literally ruffled, as she then — with a considerable display of effort — shook her body to scatter the offensive water drops.

After I finally ousted her from my patio, I peered into the basket to make sure I hadn't actually watered any eggs. There were only a few carefully placed twigs.

Apparently she had just begun her nest building, so I placed a good-sized seashell in the spot where her nest was taking form, to discourage her from future visits.

My next encounter was the following day when droving insects seemed to be everywhere in my backyard.

They are some type of insect that drills small holes in the ground, mostly in my flowerbeds, then swarms noisily in the area.

It's not easy to drag soaker hoses around shrubs and flowerbeds when flying insects are circling you, alerting you in unpleasant and frightening ways that you are treading near their territory.

Hey, wait—it's my flowerbed and I was here first, so it's MY territory. They ran me off anyway.

The next morning I was backing my car out of the driveway and came too close to my hedge.

While sitting in the car, talking on my cell phone, a female red bird pops out of the bushes and sits on my seldom-used windshield wiper, peering at me through the car windshield.

Like the nesting bird two days earlier, this redbird was not intimidated by human presence or an idling car.

She remained on the wiper blade, fluffing her feathers, perhaps waiting for her mate — the lovely male redbird I had recently seen flying through my yard.

She was in no hurry to leave, and I felt no hurry to back out of the drive and frighten her off.

So for a few minutes we sat facing each other, beautiful red head of nature vs. fading, wilting blonde.

It only took a quick fly-by from her colorful male counterpart to distract her away from me. But I had never experienced a bird peering so closely at me through a sheet of glass.

Today I'm at my desk pondering the movements of a hungry spider. He is on the inside of my large office window trying desperately and impossibly to capture a small bug on that same pane of glass, but OUTSIDE the office window.

Of course, we all know he's not going to catch that bug that's dancing and prancing on the secure side of his vision.

The spider is probably seriously questioning his bug-capturing abilities about this time. He may wonder if the heat is affecting his physical stamina and God-given hunting talents.

Or he may just turn to the crazed blonde human watching him and wonder if the heat is af-

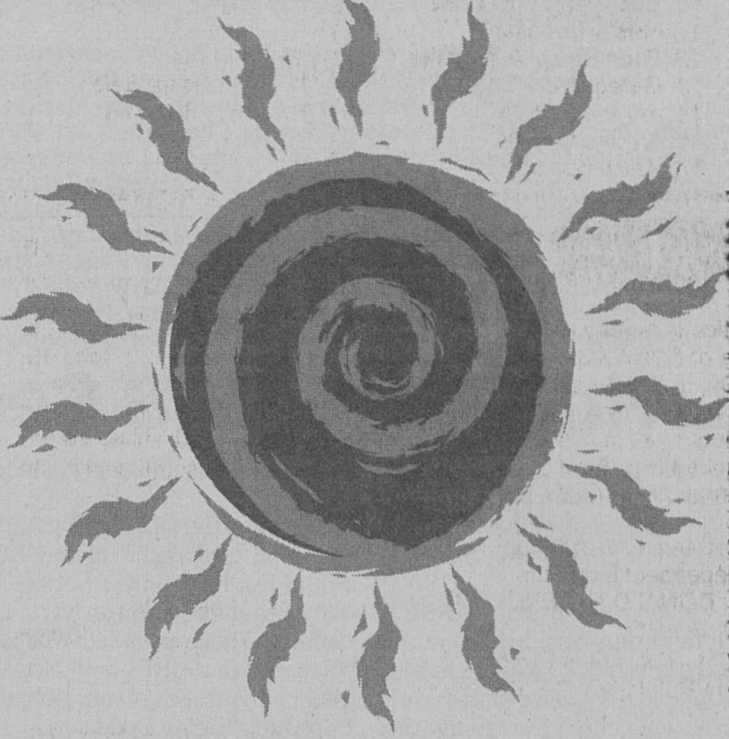
fecting humans also — maybe that's why the woman is sitting motionless, not working, and quite lazy on this hot afternoon of blazing heat and drought.

Yes, hungry spider, the heat


of the "long hot summer" affects humans also.

"I walk without flinching through the burning cathedral of the summer."

—Violette Leduc "Mad in Pursuit"



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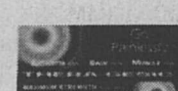
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