

Drought Relief Announced For Central Texas

U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett announced that Central Texas farmers and ranchers can now visit their local Farm Service Agency to sign up for payments through the Livestock Forage

Disaster Program, a disaster aid provision contained in the Farm Bill, which passed Congress last year.

"Texas farmers and ranchers have finally seen a few drops of rain. Now, they'll finally see a few drops of federal aid," said Rep. Doggett. "These dollars have not arrived soon enough, but I am pleased that our local producers will get the drought relief they desperately need and deserve."

For ranchers who have opted into the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for their pasture or grazing land, payments will begin to be made immediately, and will be made for both 2008 and 2009 losses.

For 2008, the maximum payment is \$53.70 per adult beef cow.

For 2009, the maximum payment is \$72.07 per adult beef cow.

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program provides much more than the previous Livestock Compensation Program that assisted those affected by drought in 2005-07.

While a rancher with 75 head of cattle was eligible for less than \$800 under the old program, the same rancher can qualify for more than \$4,000 for 2008 losses through the new program, and an estimated \$5,400 for 2009 losses.

In August, during a House Budget Committee hearing, Rep. Doggett pressed Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to provide prompt drought relief for Central Texas ranchers and farmers, who have experienced the worst drought in the nation.

Agriculture losses are estimated at more than \$3.6 billion and are continuing to rise.

Contact your local Farm Service Agency for more information:

Colorado County
FSA Service Center Office
Colorado County Farm Service Agency
2209 Walnut St.
Columbus, Tx 78934-5008
(979) 732-8306 ext 2

Fayette County
FSA Service Center Office
Fayette County Farm Service Agency
255 Svoboda Lane Rm 130
La Grange, Tx 78945
(979) 968-5894 ext 2

Lavaca County
FSA Service Center Office
Lavaca County Farm Service Agency
300 S La Grange St.
Hallettsville, Tx 77964-2975
(361) 798-3277 ext 2

NEWSBRIEFS

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performance will be held in the Horton Foote Theatre, Dusen-Hansen Fine Arts Building, Wharton Campus. There is no charge for this great night of talent. For more information, please call 979-532-6300.

Singing Women Concert at First Baptist

The Singing Women of Texas will perform Sunday, October 4 at 6 p.m. in a free public concert at the First Baptist Church (FBC) of Eagle Lake. The repertoire of this noted traveling choir includes contemporary and traditional sacred music, with a few southern gospel and patriotic selections. Learn more at www.singingwomen.com or call 979-234-2571. FBC is located on the corner of Lake and Prairie, 527 N. Lake Ave.

Class of 1969 to hold reunion

The Eagle Lake High School Class will hold their 40th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 24. For details or more information email Gardner Seaholm at drgas@earthlink.com or Robert Locklier at robertlocklier@yahoo.com.



Colorado County Fair Membership Queen

Kylee Werland was crowned the 2009 Colorado County Fair membership queen last Thursday night on the Main Entertainment Stage at the Colorado County Ag Complex and Fairgrounds in Columbus after she generated \$5,420 in ticket sales. Also honored were first runner-up Koree Robinson, left, with \$3,930 in ticket sales and second runner-up Jessica Boehn with \$2,250 in ticket sales. The queen candidates' total tickets sales was \$19,360. Banner Press Photo by Chad Ferguson

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Pictured above is a tall Uncle Sam at the fair parade on Saturday, September 12.



Eagle Lake General Store

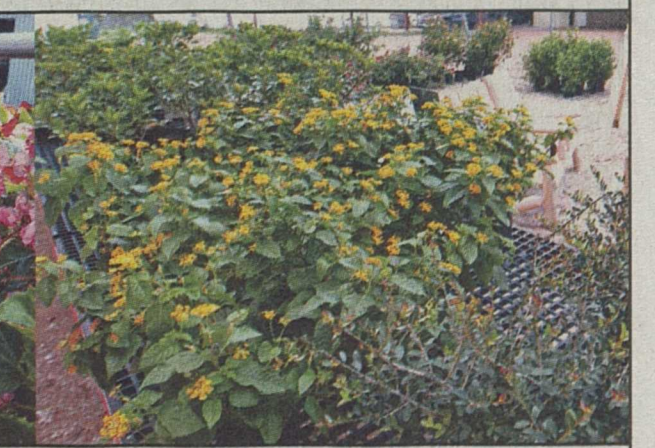


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1 gal. Hibiscus \$9.99!!!!

979-234-2191-Ph. • 979-234-2187-Fax

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