

Wharton County Offers Reward In \$200,000 June Farm Vandalism Case In Lissie Area

One or more vandals left four tractors damaged or destroyed and damaged crops with the final bill approaching \$200,000 in a pair of what are believed to be related incidents happening last June in the Lissie and Hungerford areas.

Wharton County is still looking for suspects in the case and wants your help.

A Wharton County Sheriff's report said a call was received from what is thought to be the first of

the two locations involved at 8:56 a.m. on Monday. Sheriff's Deputy Javier Garza met with Harry Anderson at his farm located off County Road 260 about a mile west of CR 281 about an unauthorized use of a vehicle report.

Anderson said his farm workers called him about the damage that morning. He told the deputy he arrived at the location and found a 2001 John Deere tractor "parked" on top of a 2002 Terex Rice Tractor.

"It looked like the two vehicles had been driven into each other," Sheriff's Lt. Daniel Marek said. "It looked like they took the Deere and ran it through the rice field and then drove the two tractors into each other. The impact caused the Terex to flip over on its side."

Anderson told Garza the tractors had last been seen in good condition around 8:30 p.m. on Sunday.

He gave a rough estimate of \$10,000 to repair each of the tractors as well as \$5,000 damage to the rice crop.

Anderson said that he was also missing a 1991 farm pickup truck from another property he farms near CR 279 and 260 valued at \$3,000.

While Garza was taking the initial report, vandalism at a second location was called in from CR 211 near Bernard Creek at 10:28 a.m. Upon arriving at that location, Garza met with Raymond Rabius, who farms the location.

He told the deputy that he had a damaged Case MX 110 tractor, a damaged Deere 4020 and an unknown pickup damaged and parked in a rice field. The investigation determined the unknown was the vehicle taken from the first location.

"The Case had a connected plow and disc," Marek said. "It looked to have been driven around the property causing damage and then run into the wall of a barn owned by William Ansley. The person then drove the Case into the Deere, which had an attached shredder that was also damaged."

Rabius said both the Case and Deere were probably damaged

beyond repair and estimated their replacement values at \$150,000 and \$10,000, respectively. In addition, \$2,500 in damages were done to the plow, \$3,000 to the shredder and \$2,000 to the rice crop.

The combined values of either replacement, repair or crop damage totals \$175,600, not including the damage to the Ansley barn.

"Because of the pickup, these incidents are probably related," Marek said. "It is under investigation."

West Wharton County Crimestoppers is offering a \$1000.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the suspects. The

property owners have also raised an additional \$5000.00 reward thus totaling \$6000.00.

Story courtesy of the Wharton Journal-Spector and was first published in June 2009



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Texas Crop Weather Report

The Texas Field Office released the following report regarding Texas agriculture for the week of Sept. 14- 20.

Agricultural Summary

The eastern part of the state received up to ten inches of rainfall and the southern part of the state observed up to five inches of moisture.

The rest of the state observed scattered showers.

Winter wheat planting was in full swing, cotton was in need of more heat and dry weather, and sorghum was turning color in the Northern High Plains.

Sorghum progressed well and winter wheat planting had begun in the Southern High Plains.

Recent moisture improved wheat growing conditions in the Edwards Plateau and South Central Texas.

Cotton harvest continued in southern areas of the state.

Cotton ginning was active in parts of South Texas. Producers prepared to harvest peanuts in the Southern Plains.

In the Trans-Pecos, hail caused severe damage to pecan trees.

Supplemental feeding of livestock continued in localized areas of the state, however, livestock were grazing the greener pastures due to the recent rainfall.

Range and pastures progressed well due to the recent rainfall across most of the state, however, the southern part of the state continued to be in need of moisture.

Topsoil moisture was mostly short to adequate across the state.

Small Grains

Winter wheat planting was in full swing in the Northern High Plains.

Winter wheat planting had begun in parts of the Southern High Plains.

Recent rainfall provided adequate moisture for planting in the Southern Low Plains.

Recent rainfall in the Northern Low Plains and the Cross Timbers delayed wheat planting.

Recent moisture improved wheat growing conditions in the Edwards Plateau and South Central Texas.

Cotton

In the Northern High Plains, cotton was in need of more heat and dry weather to continue maturing.

Early planted cotton was opening and dropping fruit in the Northern Low Plains.

Cotton harvest was delayed due to rainfall in the Blacklands and Eastern Texas.

Cotton harvest continued in southern areas of the state.

Cotton ginning was active in parts of South Texas.

Cotton condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Corn

Corn harvest was active in the High Plains, however, moisture caused delays.

Corn condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Sorghum

Sorghum was turning color in the Northern High Plains.

Grain sorghum in the Southern High Plains progressed well.

Grain sorghum harvest neared completion in the Northern Low Plains.

Rain delayed sorghum harvest in the Blacklands.

Sorghum condition was mostly very poor to fair statewide.

Peanuts

Producers prepared to harvest peanuts in the Southern Plains.

Producers applied fungicides due to peanut diseases in the Northern Low Plains.

Peanuts progressed well in South Texas as producers prepared for harvest.

Peanut condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Rice

Rice condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Soybeans

Soybean condition was mostly fair to good statewide.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Sunflowers and peas were in the final growth stages in the Southern High Plains.

Fall vegetable planting had begun in the Edwards Plateau.

Sunflower and sesame harvest was delayed due to very wet fields in parts of the Coastal Bend.

Bed preparation continued for spinach, onions, and carrots in South Texas.

Pecans

In the Trans-Pecos, hail caused severe damage to pecan trees.

Pecans progressed well in the Edwards Plateau.

Livestock, Range and Pasture Report

Supplemental feeding of livestock continued in localized areas of the state, however, livestock were grazing the greener pastures due to the recent rainfall.

Stock tank levels in some areas of the state were replenished due to the recent rainfall. Weaning and selling of livestock continued in localized parts of the state.

Hay cutting was delayed in parts of the state where rainfall was received.

Army worms and feral hogs caused hay meadows to suffer in East Texas.

Range and pastures progressed well due to the recent rainfall across most of the state, however, the southern part of the state continued to be in need of moisture.

Range and pasture condition was mostly fair to good statewide.