

# Agriculture News

**★ AgTexas**  
**FARM CREDIT SERVICES**

121 W Broadway  
 Brownfield, TX  
 P: (806) 637-3589  
 F: (806) 637-7477

**FARM CREDIT**  
*Lending support to rural America™*

Livestock & Dairy Loans • Agribusiness Loans  
 Equipment Loans • Farm & Ranch Operating Funds  
 Real Estate Loans • Crop Insurance

WWW.AGTEXAS.COM

**Carter & Company**  
**Irrigation, Inc.**

Ronnie Rains  
 Sales

611 Seagraves Rd • Brownfield, TX  
 806-637-2053

Terry County Tractor, Inc.

Since **TCT** 1956

Brownfield, Texas

1105 Seagraves Road • (806) 637-4569

**Lyntegar Electric**

(806) 637-7029  
 Toll Free: (877) 218-2308

1807 Main St. • Tahoka, Texas

**South Plains Underground Water Conservation District**

PO Box 936  
 Brownfield, TX 79316

Use water wisely!

South Plains UWCD  
 www.spuwcd.org

**DIVERSITY IRRIGATION**

(806) 585-6505  
 www.diversityirrigation.com

2023 FM 1698  
 (Hwy 62/82 & FM 1698 Intersection)  
 Brownfield, TX 79316

Drip Systems  
**NETAFIM**

PRAY FOR RAIN !

**Brownfield Farmers COOP**

Seed • Fertilizer  
 Chemicals

902 West Main • (806) 637-4517

**Valley Irrigation & Pump Service, Inc.**

Valley Irrigation & Pump Services, Inc.  
 1804 Lamesa Hwy.  
 Brownfield, TX 79316

Tommy Gilliam  
 (806) 637-7654

**Clint Williams Company - Western Division**

Purchasing, Handling and Storing Peanuts for The Clint Williams Company. Locations in Levelland, Plains, Welch, Meadow and Brownfield, Texas

Lance Richolson  
 Buying Point Manager  
 Plains and Welch

Chris Elkins  
 Area Manager  
 West Texas High Plains

Debbie Cox  
 Area Office Manager  
 West Texas High Plains

Brownfield Office  
 902 West Broadway  
 Brownfield, TX 79316

Phone: (806) 637-1422

## USDA Authorizes Emergency Grazing of CRP Acres for 34 Counties in Texas

(Brownfield, TX) – November 29, 2012 - Terry County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, Josh Reames today announced that Terry County was authorized for emergency grazing use of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres for fiscal year (FY) 2013.

The following Texas counties are approved for emergency grazing: Armstrong, Bailey, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Crosby, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Floyd, Gray, Hale, Hardeman, Hemphill, Hockley, Kent, Lamb, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Nolan, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Scurry, Sherman, Swisher, Terry, Wheeler and Yoakum.

CRP emergency grazing authoriza-

tions for the above counties will begin no earlier than December 1, 2012 for a 90 day period, not to exceed February 28, 2013.

Based on a decision made by the Texas FSA State Committee, CRP emergency grazing approval will only be available for those CRP lands that were not utilized for haying or grazing during fiscal year 2011 or 2012. FSA's fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30.

"Eligible producers who are interested in emergency grazing of CRP must request approval before grazing eligible acreage and obtain a modified conservation plan from the Natural Resources Conservation Service that includes grazing provisions," said Reames. "Current provisions allow

grazing on 100 percent of a field, up to the 75 percent stocking rate," he said.

Additionally, there will be a 25 percent CRP payment reduction for CRP acres used for grazing under these emergency provisions.

To take advantage of the emergency grazing provisions, authorized producers can use the CRP acreage for their own livestock or may grant another livestock producer use of the CRP acreage. The eligible CRP acreage is limited to acres located within the approved county.

For more information and to request approval for emergency grazing use of CRP acres contact the Terry County FSA office at 806-637-7666.

## Texas farmers are unintentional victims of FDA closure of Sunland

LUBBOCK, Texas – This week, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration suspended Sunland, Inc.'s registration as a food facility – an execution of the Food Safety Modernization Act of 2011 to ensure the safety of food products for Americans. However, yet to be acknowledged are the many Texas farmers still waiting for payment on the peanuts they have contracted and delivered to the company.

Sunland is the country's largest organic peanut butter manufacturer and specializes in processing Valencia peanuts – a low-yielding variety that requires extra attention to ensure the crop's success.

"Farmers are the unintentional victims of FDA's closure of the plant," TPPB Executive Director Shelly Nutt said. "The men and women who worked hard nurturing their peanut crop this past year are left wondering when or even if they will be paid."

"I know farming is uncertain," Haldon Messamore, a farmer in Sudan, Texas, said. "I plan for drought, wind, hail, early freeze and fluctuating markets. But I didn't plan on getting caught in the middle of a battle between a big food company and big government agency."

The situation needs to be resolved in a timely fashion,

according to Brent Nelson, another farmer from Sudan.

"There seems to be a major disconnect between FDA and Sunland in resolving this issue," Nelson said.

Though Sunland may have insurance or reserves to sustain itself through the coming months until the situation is resolved, farmers cannot continue waiting to be paid for their peanuts.

"What other business or household could continue if one-third of their revenue is in limbo?" Messamore said.

The financial burden this is placing on farmers doesn't just stop with them and their families; it goes on to the businesses and communities supported by them.

"There's a ripple effect of who is impacted by this," Brent Nelson, a farmer from Sudan, explained. "It may start with the farmers, but it goes on to the people we do business with and the causes we donate to. From equipment dealers and bankers to restaurants and churches, there's no part of the community that remains untouched by this situation."

"I'm getting calls from nervous landlords and lenders who want answers, and I have none," Messamore said.

While we need to have measures in place to ensure

a safe food supply for consumers, the process needs to move at a pace that will relieve the farmers' financial burden soon.

"I know FDA was aiming at Sunland but their shot

hit the farmers too," Nutt said. "Something needs to be done soon to address the economic hardships this has caused for farmers in the region."

## West Plains Ag Conference set for December 11 in Levelland

From AgriLife TODAY

This year's West Plains Ag Conference, conducted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, is set from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Dec. 11 in the Sundown Room of the Student Center at South Plains College, 1401 South College Ave., Levelland.

"We'll again be looking at our area's traditional crops of cotton and grain sorghum, but we'll also have a substantial amount of information on alternative crops such as corn and vegetable production," said Kerry Siders, AgriLife Extension integrated pest management agent in Hockley and Cochran counties. "The topics we've selected are those we get the most questions on, so I think this program will be time well spent for anyone farming on the South Plains."

Five Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units – one laws and regulations, one integrated pest management and three general – and five Texas Certified Crop Advisor continuing education units will be offered.

The program's topics and speakers will include:

- Pesticide Laws and Regulations, Casey Summers, Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide inspector, Lubbock.
- Sorghum and Corn Production, Dr. Calvin Trostle, AgriLife Extension agronomist, Lubbock.
- Cotton Variety Trial Update, Dr. Mark Kelley, AgriLife Extension agronomist, Lubbock.
- Vegetable Production Opportunities, Dr. Russell Wallace, AgriLife Extension vegetable specialist, Lubbock.
- Managing Disease and Nematodes in Cotton, Dr. Jason Woodward, AgriLife Extension pathologist, Lubbock.

Registration will be \$35 at the door. The fee includes lunch.

For more information contact Siders at 806-894-3150 or k-siders@tamu.edu.

## High Plains Ag Conference set for December 7 in Lubbock

From AgriLife TODAY

A wide range of agricultural topics will greet participants to this year's High Plains Ag Conference set from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, 1102 East Farm-to-Market 1294, Lubbock.

"This year's conference will address traditional crops for our area such as corn and grain sorghum, but we'll also be taking a look at strawberry production and pigweed control," said Robert Scott, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent in Lubbock County. "The topics are timely and I think it will be a day well-spent for those wanting to catch up on the latest developments in High Plains agriculture."

The program conducted by AgriLife Extension will offer five Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units – one laws and regulations, one integrated pest management and three general; and five Texas Certified Crop Advisor continuing education units – three crop management and two pest management.

Individual pre-registration is \$35 by Dec. 3 and \$45 thereafter. The fees include lunch. For more information and to preregister contact Scott at 806-775-1680, rj-scott@tamu.edu.

**Texas & AG Plus**

Pump Sales  
 Irrigation Supplies

OFFICE  
 806.637.4590  
 FAX  
 806.637.4599  
 EMAIL  
 texasagplus@yahoo.com

1670 US Hwy 62-385  
 Brownfield, TX 79316

South side of  
 B.E. Implement on 385

LIFE • AUTO • HOME • CROP INSURANCE  
 LONG-TERM CARE • MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT

**David Downs**

**FARM BUREAU INSURANCE**

**Terry County Farm Bureau**

521 West Main • Brownfield • (806) 637-2504