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Coke County receives needed moisture this week

Coke County received much needed moisture Sunday, Monday and overnight into Tuesday morning. This moisture fell as snowfall in much of the county with reports of up to 6" of heavy wet snow. Snow was heavier on the west side of the county. Fortunately, as snow fell in some areas, rain was falling on the rest of the county. North of Bronte, the moisture was mainly rainfall with reports of just over 1.5".

Last year, 2011, was one for the record books in more ways than one. Record heat and record drought led to a hopefully once in a lifetime record fire season.

The average rainfall of the *Observer/Enterprise* rainfall contributors for 2011 was only 9.51" for the entire year. The average yearly rainfall total for these same contributors over 2008, 2009, and 2010 was 24.31" per year. This reflects a deficit of 14.80" for 2011.

There is an upside to all this depressing news. Admittedly, Coke County received much less than half of its normal rainfall total in 2011. However, half or more

of that yearly total fell in the last quarter of the year - October, November and December.

Looking at the rainfall totals of 2010, it is apparent that the serious deficit began in the last quarter of 2010. We can hope that the last quarter of 2011 reflects the beginning of a season of normal to above average precipitation levels.

County Livestock Show set for next weekend

Next week will be the 73rd edition of the Coke County Junior Livestock Show, held at the Sterling Lindsey Memorial Exhibition Building in Robert Lee. This year's show will feature animals in the Market Lamb, Market Goat, Market Swine and Market Steer shows, but more importantly, 47 youth exhibitors from around the county.

The county stock show offers the youth of Coke County an opportunity to exhibit their livestock projects which they have worked with for more than 11 months, in many cases. Besides being a worthwhile



Snow! Tom Sawyer captured the beginning of this welcome snow event on Monday night and also the final result on Tuesday morning. He reported just over 3" of snow. Although the moisture was welcome, it did delay the start of the Robert Lee pipeline. Boring under Highway 158 should begin by the end of this week, with staging of the pipe scheduled to begin on Monday. City officials are looking for the groundbreaking to occur the middle of next week.

educational activity for our youth in teaching them responsibility, working with others and numerous life skills, it is an important economic endeavor when you consider the animals purchased from county producers, feed purchased locally and the premium sale monies that come in from county and other areas. The total amounts of monies generated by these exhibitors amounts to over \$150,000 per year

that is circulated in the county.

The show will begin Friday, January 20, at 6:30 pm with the Market Lamb show, followed by the Market Goat show. These will be judged by Ross Benson, Texas AgriLife Extension Agent from Mertzon. Saturday, January 21, the Market Swine show gets underway at 8:30 am, followed by the Market Steer show at 11 am, judged by John Osburne Vocational

Ag teacher in Menard. Showmanship judge is Jett Mason Vocational Ag teacher in Stamford.

The Buyer's appreciation barbecue will be served at 12 noon. Following the barbecue, the premium sale will be held at 2 pm to honor the prize winning animals and exhibitors. Persons wishing to donate to the Coke County Livestock Show can contact either the County Extension

(Continued on Page 3)

County Rainfall Totals

	October	November	December	Total for Year
Dee & Dessie Kendall • Edith Area				
2010	0.60	0.00	0.80	29.90
2011	4.30	0.30	0.90	9.59
Bobby and Jeffie Roberts • Valley View Area				
2010	0.90	0.00	0.70	28.22
2011	3.67	0.37	1.45	12.39
Fran Sonnenberg • 3 miles E. of Bronte				
2010	1.25	0.05	1.00	30.21
2011	3.00	0.35	1.30	8.35
Paul Sheffler • 7 Mile Hill				
2010	0.94	0.00	1.10	33.56
2011	3.28	0.39	1.54	10.02
Charles & Dorris Sonnenberg • Bronte Area				
2010	1.13	0.00	1.25	29.87
2011	3.25	0.64	1.47	9.78
Wayne & Melinda McCutchen • 3 miles N. of Bronte				
2010	1.34	0.00	1.02	30.39
2011	2.56	0.36	1.20	7.91
Wellborn Ranch • 12 miles W. of Robert Lee				
2010	1.25	0.00	1.10	25.45
2011	3.15	0.20	1.75	8.55