

...More Classifieds

**NOTICES**

Brand, Marks, Identifying Characteristics - 2 Black Horned Cows C on Left Shoulder and 6 on Left Side  
WITNESS my hand, this the 17th day of January, 2019.

Wayne McCutchen Sheriff of Coke County, Texas SWORN to and subscribed before me by Wayne McCutchen, this the 17th day of January, 2019.

Misti Hayes, Notary Public  
Coke County, Texas  
28-2tc

**NOTICE OF FILING DEADLINES**

The East Coke County Hospital Board of Directors hereby gives notice of filing deadlines for the May 4, 2019, Election. Two Directors will be elected for a term of two (2) years each. Candidates may file applications for inclusion on the ballot between January 16, 2019, and February 15, 2019. Applications and petitions may be obtained at Bronte Health and Rehab Center during normal business hours, 8 am to 4 pm, Monday through Thursday. Any questions may be addressed to Fran Sonnenberg, Filing Officers.  
28-2tc

**EPA proposes clarifying water rule**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now accepting comments on a proposed rule designed to keep U.S. waterways clean while also clearing up prior water rule confusion.

“The 2015 Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule created unnecessary regulatory burdens for landowners,” John Ross Copeland, Coke County Farm Bureau president, said. “Under that rule, it was difficult to know if you needed a special federal permit to do normal things like put up a fence or plow a field.”

The proposed replacement rule clearly identifies which areas would be under federal jurisdiction.

Those areas include: traditional navigable waters; tributaries to navigable waters; certain ditches, such as those used for navigation or those affected by tides; certain lakes and ponds; impoundments; and wetlands that are adjacent to a water of the U.S.

“This rule provides the much-needed certainty farmers, ranchers and all landowners need,” John Ross said. “We’re thankful EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have listened to our input and ensured farmers and ranchers can continue to do their work while also ensuring safe, clean waters for generations to come. That’s what’s important—clean water and clear rules.”

According to Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, the following will not fall under federal jurisdiction: features that only contain water during or in response to rainfall; groundwater; most ditches, including most roadside or farm

ditches; prior converted cropland; storm water control features; and wastewater and waste treatment systems.

EPA will accept comments on the proposed rule on regulations.gov for 60 days after notice is published in the “Federal Register.”

**...Commissioners Court minutes**

(Continued from page 3)

Commissioner Sefcik moved to approve the payroll and was seconded by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve resolution on County bank accounts. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Sefcik, carried.

Commissioner Sefcik moved to approve the bond on Therese Emert and was seconded by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve and accept the insurance check on the wrecked sheriff’s office vehicle. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Sefcik, carried.

Commissioner Sefcik moved to approve construction of a three-phase line on the row of Wildcat Road. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Williams, carried.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the purchase of additional panic buttons for the courthouse. The motion, seconded by Commissioner Sefcik, carried.

Commissioner Sefcik moved to

approve updating the workstation and software for the courthouse camera and lock system. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and carried.

Judge Blair reported on the inspection of equipment.

Commissioner Sefcik moved to approve the payment of bills and was seconded by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried.

Judge Blair adjourned the meeting at 9:28 am.

**USDA to reopen FSA Offices during Government Shutdown**

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced that all Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices nationwide will soon reopen to provide additional administrative services to farmers and ranchers during the lapse in federal funding. Beginning January 24, all FSA offices will open and offer a longer list of transactions they will accommodate.

Additionally, Secretary Perdue announced that the deadline to apply for the Market Facilitation Program, which aids farmers harmed by unjustified retaliatory tariffs, has been extended to February 14. The original deadline had been January 15. Other program deadlines may be modified and will be announced as they are addressed.

“At President Trump’s direction, we have been working

to alleviate the effects of the lapse in federal funding as best we can, and we are happy to announce the reopening of FSA offices for certain services,” Perdue said. “The FSA provides vital support for farmers and ranchers and they count on those services being available. We want to offer as much assistance as possible until the partial government shutdown is resolved.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has temporarily recalled all of the more than 9,700 FSA employees to keep offices open from 8 am to 4:30 pm weekdays as of January 24. President Trump has already signed legislation that guarantees employees will receive all backpay missed during the lapse in funding.

For the first two full weeks under this operating plan (January 28 through February 1 and February 4 through February 8), FSA offices will be open Mondays through Fridays. In subsequent weeks, offices will be open three days a week, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, if needed to provide the additional administrative services.

Agricultural producers who have business with the agency can contact their FSA service center to make an appointment.

FSA can provide these administrative services, which are critical for farmers and ranchers, because failure to

perform these services would harm funded programs. FSA staff will work on the following transactions:

Market Facilitation Program; Marketing Assistance Loans; Release of collateral warehouse receipts; Direct and Guaranteed Farm Operating Loans, and Emergency Loans; Service existing Conservation Reserve Program contracts; Sugar Price Support Loans; Dairy Margin Protection Program; Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage; Livestock Forage Disaster; Emergency Assistance Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program; Livestock Indemnity Program; Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program; Tree Assistance Program; Remaining Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program payments for applications already processed.

Transactions that will not be available include, but are not limited to:

New Conservation Reserve Program contracts; New Direct and Guaranteed Farm Ownership Loans; Farm Storage Facility Loan Program; New or in-process Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program applications; Emergency Conservation Program; Emergency Forest Rehabilitation Program; Biomass Crop Assistance Program; Grassroots Source Water Protection Program.

(Continued on next page)

**The market changes. Are you prepared?**



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