

Sheep and Goat Validation and Showmanship Clinic set for October 18

There will be a Sheep and Goat Validation Saturday, October 18, 2014, at the Coke County Show Barn starting at 8 am.

All sheep and goat that need to be validated for the county show or majors will need to be tagged.

Please call the extension office with any question 325-453-2461.

Immediately following the sheep and goat validation there will be a Sheep and Goat Showmanship Clinic held at the Coke County Show Barn.

This clinic is open to anyone that is interested in improving their showmanship skills. Hope to see you there.

Texas Beef Checkoff begins

Beef has a strong history in the Lone Star State and Texas cattle producers recently voted to further invest in their business.

That investment—the Texas Beef Checkoff - began October 1.

"Amid the consecutive years of severe drought, the U.S. cow herd dropped to the lowest it's been since the 1950s," said Coke County Farm Bureau President John Ross Copeland. "As cow numbers fell, so did the annual funds collected to support the beef industry."

That triggered cattle industry organizations to ask the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) for a referendum, creating a state beef checkoff administered by the Beef Promotion and Research Council of Texas.

The dollar-per-head ranchers will pay into the state checkoff program will allow Texas producers to conduct beef promotion, marketing, research and education programs for consumers in Texas and around the globe.

"Lack of rainfall, extreme temperatures and the need for ample forages are risks Texas cattle producers face every day," said. "But the state checkoff will help alleviate those risks by driving the demand for beef and bringing profitability back to the cattlemen."

The state-level checkoff program is financed through a refundable assessment at each point cattle are sold in Texas. The state dollar will supplement the national checkoff program, which producers approved in 1988.

Search for longest tenured Farm Bureau member concludes

Coke County Farm Bureau is reliving a bit of history this month as its search concludes for the longest tenured member.

"Efforts of our county organization are being replicated across the state as we search for the member with the deepest roots in the state," said Coke County Farm Bureau President John Ross Copeland. "For more than 80 years, members have been dedicated to the organization and Farm

Bureau wants to recognize those longtime members."

Three members have been designated by the Coke-Sterling County Farm Bureau in the search. They include: LeDrew Arrott, Edward M. Cumbie, and Lora Belle Brown.

Each county Farm Bureau had the opportunity to designate five of their longest tenured members and submit them to the state office. A special certificate will be issued for each tenured member. TFB will recognize the top 25 longest-tenured members in the state based on the county submissions. Each will be presented a plaque.

The winner will receive a special memento, plaque and recognition at the 81st TFB Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi.

21st Annual Mesquite Show coming to Fredericksburg

The 2014 Texas Mesquite Arts Festival returns to Fredericksburg, Texas on October 10, 11, and 12.

Juried artists from around Texas and beyond will gather in Fredericksburg Marktplatz for a three-day celebration of the exquisite and attractive mesquite.

"Besides seeing the absolute best selection of mesquite, visitors will enjoy the largest mesquite show in the world," show organizer Al Carr said.

The festival, like mesquite wood itself, has come a long way since the first event in 1992. Fourteen mesquite woodworkers gathered then for a seminar. According to Carr, they weren't

the only ones showing interest in mesquite.

"So many local people dropped in to see what we were doing and to try to buy our work, we realized Fredericksburg was the best place on earth to have a Texas Mesquite Arts Festival," Carr said.

The Mesquite Arts Festival has become one of the top events in Fredericksburg. Organizers expect over 10,000 visitors during the weekend.

Visitors will be treated to collections of sculpted wood from the world's absolute finest mesquite craftsmen. Items range from large furniture items such as beds, dressers and chairs made entirely from mesquite, to unique craft and gift items such as beautifully turned lamps, delicate scroll work, handsome pen and pencil sets, unique Christmas tree ornaments, sturdy gun stocks, and sculpted vases, all carefully crafted of mesquite.

Once viewed as a nuisance, mesquite has become the darling of architects and retailers. Mesquite's growing appeal comes in part from the high profile offered from this festival, according to Carr. Additional articles praising mesquite's quality and value have appeared in such magazines as AAA's Texas Journey, Texas Highways, Veranda, and Fine Woodworking.

"Architects now vie to install mesquite accents in upscale homes," Carr said. Mantles, doors, flooring, art items, dining sets, tables, and other furniture are increasingly requested in mesquite. Prices for raw wood as well as finished pieces have

soared. The Texas Mesquite Arts Festival is free and open to the public. Hours are Friday, noon to 6 pm; Saturday, 10 am-6 pm; and Sunday, 10 am-3 pm. Items are available for purchase, with food and drink sold on the grounds. Free parking surrounds Market Square in downtown Fredericksburg.

24th Fredericksburg Food & Wine Fest set

The best of Texas wines, food, and entertainment will be showcased at the annual Fredericksburg Food & Wine Fest on Saturday, October 25, 2014. All of the fest's activities are located on Fredericksburg's beautiful downtown Marktplatz (Market Square).

More information on the event is available by contacting the Fest Office at 830-997-8515 or at www.fbgfoodandwinefest.com. Proceeds from the fest go towards the continued beautification and upkeep of Marktplatz.

Texas wineries will be on hand with over 100 types of wine. Guests will have an opportunity to visit with some of the wine makers. A wide variety of Texas made products will be available for sampling and purchase as well.

The ever-popular Grape Expectations Cooking School will be held starting at noon on Saturday and seating is limited.

More information on the

event is available by contacting the Fest Office at 830-997-8515, or by visiting www.fbgfoodandwinefest.com. Proceeds from the fest go towards the continued beautification and upkeep of Marktplatz.

EPA extends comment period on Clean Water Rule

Coke County farmers and ranchers should make their voices heard on new and highly burdensome clean water rules, according to Coke County Farm Bureau President John Ross Copeland. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has extended the time available to comment on their "Waters of the U.S." proposal until Oct. 20, and until July 7 to comment on the accompanying interpretive rule.

"The regulated community has been misled by EPA about the rule's impact on land use," John Ross Copeland said. "Local farmers and ranchers will be outraged when they find out regulators want to require permits for everyday activities on dry land, or penalize farming families for not getting them."

John Ross Copeland said the latest rule broadly expands federal jurisdiction and threatens local land-use and zoning.

"It's time to ditch this rule," John Ross Copeland said. "Farm Bureau, together with dozens of other farm and industry groups, is fighting this EPA overreach."

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*Come help us Celebrate
Joyce Wilcox*

upon her retirement

Saturday, October 11

4:30 pm

Tennyson Baptist

Church

Refreshments will be served.



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HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

*All facilities of this bank
will be closed*

Monday, October 13.

In°Observance°Of



**Columbus
Day**

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