

...Good Planting Habits

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4. A weed eater or mower damaged the tree trunk. Be careful when doing yard work around trees.

3. Roots over dried while waiting to be planted. Make sure tree has adequate water if you are unable to plant after purchase.

2. Leaves dehydrated while being transported. Remember to cover limbs and leaves for the ride home.

1. Lack of water or over watering during the first growing season is the #1 killer of trees. Especially in heavy, clay soils. Use weekly soil wetness tests to ensure proper watering.

USDA announces 2018 farm safety net enrollment

Farmers and ranchers with base acres in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) safety net program may now enroll for the 2018 crop year.

The enrollment period will end on August 1, 2018.

“Since shares and ownership of a farm can change year-to-year, producers must enroll by signing a contract each program year,” Farm Service Agency (FSA) Acting Administrator Steve Peterson said. “I encourage producers to contact their local FSA office to schedule an appointment to enroll.”

Farmers who are not enrolled for the 2018 enrollment period will not be eligible for financial assistance from ARC or PLC programs for the 2018 crop should commodity prices or farm revenues fall below the historical price or revenue benchmarks established by the program.

Farmers who made their elections in previous years must still enroll during the 2018 enrollment period.

“This week, FSA is issuing approximately \$850 million in rice payments,” Peterson said. “These payments are part of the \$8 billion in 2016 ARC and PLC payments that started in October to assist enrolled producers who suffered a loss of revenue or price, or both. Over half a million producers will receive ARC payments and over a quarter million producers will receive PLC payments for 2016 crops.”

The ARC and PLC programs were authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill and offer a safety net to agricultural producers when there is a substantial drop in prices or revenues for covered commodities.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice (which includes short grain and sweet rice), safflower seed, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. Upland cotton is no longer a covered commodity.

For more details regarding these programs, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

farmers are encouraged to visit their local FSA office. To find a local FSA office, visit <http://offices.usda.gov>.

School trains next generation of sheep-shearing professionals

by Gary Joiner

TFB Radio Network Manager Training the next generation of shearers by offering the most cutting-edge technology available to harvest wool is the goal of the Third Annual Sheep Shearing School in San Angelo January 13-15.

The school is a collaborative effort among the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the American Sheep Industry Association and the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association.

Registration is open for the school, which will be held in San Angelo.

Individual registration is \$150 for Texas residents and \$250 for non-residents. The minimum age is 16 years old. Students will receive a sheep shearing handbook and DVD. Previous students will receive a \$100 discount.


Applications must be submitted by December 1.



Trick or Treat! These cute kids visited the Coke County Courthouse and downtown Robert Lee businesses for candy and goodies on Wednesday, October 25, 2017.

Apply online at <http://agrilife.org/sheepandgoat/> registration or call 325-653-4576.

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- Age 40 or older
- Currently uninsured, co-pay of \$100+, or yearly deductible of \$1000+
- West Texas resident
- Typically have a difficulty qualifying for income-based help programs
- 39 and younger if symptomatic

Cervical Exam


Do you meet the following:

- Age 21-64
- Currently uninsured, co-pay of \$100+, or yearly deductible of \$1000+
- West Texas resident
- Typically have a difficulty qualifying for income-based help programs



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