

...Texas History

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Like many other Texas towns and cities, Anton, in Hockley County about twenty-five miles northwest of Lubbock, traces its origin to the arrival of the railroad, which fixed Texas urban development in a spatial pattern that remains little altered today. Anton was located in the center of what had been the Spade Ranch’s north pasture at the site of Danforth Switch, a spur of the Pecos and Northern Texas Railway. The town was named in honor of J. F. Anton, a Santa Fe railroad executive. By 1926 several churches hadbeen established; by 1929 the town had a bank. Grain, cotton, and later oil were central to the economy. The town, which bills itself as the “Rabbit Capital of Texas,” also had a large rabbit-processing plant for a time, though by 1982 it had closed down. In 2016 the town’s population was estimated at 1,133.

NRCS sets easement program funding date

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Texas is accepting applications for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). While NRCS accepts easement applications on a continuous basis, applications for the next funding consideration must be submitted by December 31, 2021.

“Easements are sometimes a perfect fit for a landowner who is looking to protect their land from future development or to protect and improve wetlands or provide critical habitat for wildlife,” said Kristy Oates, NRCS state conservationist for Texas. “We encourage Indian tribes, state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations and private landowners to call their local NRCS office to find out how to apply.”

ACEP Agricultural Land Easements provide financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land. In the case of working farms, the program helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture.

ACEP Wetlands Reserve Easements allow landowners to successfully restore, enhance and protect habitat for wildlife on their lands, reduce damage from flooding, recharge groundwater and provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities. Tribal landowners also have the option of enrolling



Robert Lee Steers & Lady Steers vs Eden Bulldogs

in 30-year contracts.

To learn about ACEP and other technical and financial assistance available through NRCS, call your local USDA Service Center offsite link image or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Texas Farm Bureau opposes Build Back Better Act

By Jennifer Whitlock
TFB Field Editor

The Build Back Better Act in Congress promoted by President Joe Biden would be harmful to agriculture and rural America, according to Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) and the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF).

Worrisome provisions in the bill include \$555 billion in “clean energy and climate investments.”

Although \$90 billion of that funding is supposed to be earmarked for agriculture in the form of conservation program increases and the creation of new sustainability programs, Boening noted the bill does not include any funding to enhance or protect the existing farm safety net.

Farm and ranch families are suffering from unchecked inflation, skyrocketing input costs, supply chain issues, volatile markets and other obstacles which make profitability extremely uncertain. The absence of funding for production agriculture is concerning, according to TFB President Russell Boening.

And many middle-class Americans are wondering who, exactly, will be left to foot the bill. Despite Democrats backing away from a proposal to eliminate stepped-up basis and other changes to inheritance taxes, AFBF President Zippy Duvall said the totality of increased federal spending in this proposal, coupled with burdensome tax increases leveled on small businesses and individuals to pay for it, will stifle economic growth and destroy jobs—particularly among populations who can least afford to lose ground.

Ultimately, the result could be the consolidation or sale of family farms and ranches, he noted.

“The massive amount of spending and tax increases required to pay for the plan outweigh the gains we would see in rural America. Also, the manner in which they were crafted is concerning,” Duvall said. “The agriculture industry



and the committees of jurisdiction have held to a long tradition of bipartisanship that we have seen erode over this past year.”

Transparent, bipartisan policy development is not a hallmark of the Build Back Better Act, Duvall added.

Discussions about a bill of this magnitude should be open and include input from a variety of stakeholders, Boening noted, not just factions of a political party determined to further their agenda at the expense of everyday Americans.

“As farm and ranch families suffer from inflation, supply chain issues, volatile markets and other obstacles, they cannot afford additional burdens to be placed on them,” he said.

Prepare your home in advance of the next winter freeze

Snow and cold weather resulted in billions of dollars in damage and hundreds of

thousands of insurance claims last winter.

Tips for preparing your home in advance of another freeze:

Get your chimney inspected and cleaned. Creosote buildup can start a fire.

Test your carbon monoxide and smoke alarms. Replace alarms that are 10 years old or more.

Trim trees hanging over your house and cars.

Seal leaks or cracks around bathroom and kitchen pipes.

Wrap outdoor pipes and indoor pipes in unheated areas (like a clothes washer in your garage).

Drain lawn sprinkler lines and house fire sprinklers.

Find your water shut-off valve. It’s usually under a metal lid near the street.

If you leave your house before a freeze, turn off the water at the shut-off valve and leave your heat on.

Have a question about insurance? Call the Texas Department of Insurance at 800-252-3439 or visit www.tdi.texas.gov.

Emergency Siren Signals

Cities of both Bronte and Robert Lee

1 Long Ring - Wind Advisory over 60 mph

2 Rings - Fire or VFD Meeting

Another 2 Ring - Call for Additional Firefighters

3 Rings - Tornado Warning

1 Long Continuous Ring - All Clear for Tornado

Please Pray for our Communities,
Our County, Our State and Our Country



And Don’t Forget to Pray for Rain!