



**Overnight Storms!** Severe storms rolled through Coke County in the early morning hours of Tuesday, March 8, 2016. Rain totals ranged from .40" to right at an 1" with the rain getting heavier as the storms moved northeast. Major roof damage was reported in Bronte, with one mobile home in northwest Bronte losing its roof entirely. Because of the defined damage trail, some have said it may have been caused by a small tornado.

**Time is Running Out to Sign-up for CSP**

By Traci Bruckner, Center for Rural Affairs

Time is running out for farmers and ranchers to participate in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) this year. This year's deadline for producers to apply at their local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office is March 31.

The CSP is a voluntary stewardship incentives program that rewards farmers, ranchers, and foresters for maintaining existing conservation and adopting additional conservation measures that provide environmental benefits. CSP rewards producers for improving water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat, reducing soil erosion, increasing energy efficiency, and other natural resource benefits. Since the program began in 2009, nearly 70 million acres of farm and ranch land have been enrolled in the program.

CSP is a continuous sign-up program, and producers can apply to enroll at any time of the year. NRCS applies a cut-off date for applications to be considered during a particular fiscal year. Once the cut-off date is past, producers may continue to apply, but they will not be considered for entry until the following year. To enroll in 2016, you must file your application by March 31.

March 31 is also the deadline by which initial applications are needed from farmers with expiring 2012-2016 contracts if they want to renew them for another five years. Some 12

million acres already in the program are eligible for renewal this year.

To sign up, farmers and ranchers should visit their local NRCS center.

**I-10 Closed at Texas-Louisiana Border**

Due to continued flooding from excessive rainfall along the Texas-Louisiana state line, the Texas Department of Transportation has closed Interstate 10 near the state line. All motorists who are driving eastbound to Louisiana should use I-20 as an alternate route. For those traveling on I-10 from:

- El Paso take I-20 East of Van Horn
- San Antonio take I-35 North to I-20 East to Shreveport
- Houston take US 59 North to I-20 East to Shreveport
- Beaumont take US 96 North to US 69 North to US 59 North to I-20 East to Shreveport

**Farm bill safety net program enrollment now open for COKE County farmers**

It's time once again for Coke County farmers to enroll in farm bill safety net programs at the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

The enrollment period for the 2015 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs opened Dec. 7 and will remain open through Aug. 1, 2016.

"Many Coke County farmers already made their safety net program selection, but it's important for all of them to go back to the FSA office to enroll their acreage into the program



**VP Volunteers!** Members of Robert Lee's Vision with a Purpose work together to remodel the group's headquarters building on Austin Street in Robert Lee. Photo courtesy of Leta Caston.

for the new year," John Ross Copeland, Coke County Farm Bureau president, said.

FSA officials encourage farmers to call their local FSA office to make an appointment to enroll before the deadline.

"If Coke County farmers

don't enroll, their farms and crops won't be eligible for financial assistance should crop prices or farm revenues fall," John Ross said. "These safety nets are important to ensure

American farmers have something, if only the

percentage of a crop's original value, to make ends meet in bad years. Without it, many farmers and ranchers would go out of business in times of drought or excessive rain."

For more information, farmers need to visit the local FSA office.

**Farm-Ranch, Commercial, Recreational & Residential Real Estate**



**EDGE OF TOWN!** Large remodeled manufactured home sitting on almost 1/2 acre in Bronte! Due to wood remodel, home is now permanent to property. Quiet neighborhood on outskirts of rural community.



**PRICE REDUCED!** Cute home on two lots in rural community with many updates and metal roof only a couple of blocks from the school! A large fenced-in backyard with pecan trees and reasonable price make this an excellent option for first-time home-buyers or rental property investment! Many extras including a storm shelter!



**MANY UPDATES!** Large older home is just perfect for family. Hardwood floors in living room, dining room, and two bedrooms. Numerous built-ins throughout home, huge closets, woodburning stove in den, 2 car attached carport. Potential efficiency apartment or guest house on property includes full basement and 2 car attached carport. Loads of character in this home on 1.91 acres.



**BEAUTIFUL LOCATION ABOVE ELM CREEK IN BALLINGER!** Lovely home in excellent neighborhood with tons of character! Move-in ready with new roof put on in 2015 and new paint throughout! Large lot on hill above city park! Beautiful views from backyard patio!



**BRAND NEW TO MARKET!** Wonderful home in established Bronte neighborhood, just blocks from school! Well maintained and perfect for a starter home or investment property! Priced to Sell!



**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY!** Wonderful investment opportunity in rural community. Easy access is a plus with this twenty unit storage facility in bustling oilfield town of Sterling City!



**PRICE REDUCED!** Beautiful views just add to this great ranch. Perfect for hunting, livestock, or just getting away! Electricity, well and rural water onsite. Rolling terrain with good interior roads for easy access to all areas of ranch. Good cover for wildlife with cleared areas for that perfect shot! 713.1 Acres +/-; \$1,150/acre.

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