

...Texas lamb and goat market

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 From January and February, goat prices fluctuated between \$3.50-\$3.80 per pound compared to a five-year average of \$2.50-\$2.75 for the same time of season. January-March is typically when prices are the best. Kidding season is just now getting started and most market goats are sold in the summer and fall.

Goats are lighter, slower-growing animals compared to sheep, Redden said. Market kid goats tend to be lighter than lambs - typically averaging 35-65 pounds - but are achieving comparable prices per head due to higher prices. Some goats have brought over \$4 per pound at market.

"There was one down week last year when buyers were worried about the COVID-19 pandemic, but as soon as the orders kept coming in, prices took off and have continued to climb," Redden said. "There just aren't enough goats to meet demands."

Redden said it was noteworthy that even the cull nanny market was very strong, meaning buyers are willing to pay top dollar for less desirable goats. They were selling at \$2.20 per pound in February, 85 cents per pound above the five-year February average for 100-pound nanny goats of \$1.35 per pound.

Redden said goats, like Texas lambs, are in high demand in major population centers across the state and country. While lambs are more adaptable to other production conditions, western parts of Texas are ideal for goat production due to browse requirements and low internal parasite load.

About 40% of U.S. goat production is located in West Central and West Texas, Redden said. About 30% of goats consumed in the U.S. comes from imports. Australia has been a major player in the import market, but their goats are primarily feral herds, and they aren't able to increase production to meet the growing demand. As such, imports have very little impact on domestic goat prices.

"You see people with a few hobby goats here and there, but the major producers who are experienced with the infrastructure and know-how to handle a commercial goat herd are generally located in Texas," he said. "There's interest in goat production because prices have been so good, but they are a lot of work, and I don't predict large increases in goat production outside the state."

Since 1889, newspapers have served Coke County beginning with the Coke County Rustler. In the 1980s, the Bronte Enterprise and the Robert Lee Observer combined to become The Observer/Enterprise. The history told in these publications is fascinating and we want to share it with our readers of today. Each week, we will include items from the archives.

Robert Lee Observer

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It's Official Now

County's Population 3,087



BEEF CATTLE JUDGES — Robert Lee Future Farmers Livestock Judging Team won second in beef judging during the Houston Livestock Show. Members of the team are, from left, Wibby Millican, Bubba Duncan, Neil Calder and L. R. McDaniel, vocational agriculture teacher and FFA Chapter advisor.

4-H Girls Enter District Food Show

Coke County 4-H Club members will be in Brady Saturday participating in the annual District VII Food Show. The show will be held in the Brady School Cafeteria from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Senior participants are Deone Derrick, Future Leaders Club, Robert Lee, and Mary Cervenka, Bronte Senior Club. Mary Elaine Lackey of Robert Lee and Karen Blair of Bronte are the junior representatives. These girls won the right to represent Coke County in the District Show by being winners in the local show held March 6.

Adults planning to accompany the 4-Hers are Misses. Kenneth Lackey, Carl Blair, E. S. Derrick, Jack Cervenka and Fay C. Roe. Coke County home demonstration agent.

Mrs. James E. (Daphne) Brown of San Angelo, former Coke County 4-H Club member, will also accompany the group and will serve on the judging committee.

Girls Take Third In Track Meet

Things were a little bit tight at the top Saturday as there was only a six point spread among the first three places in the Robert Lee Girls Track Meet. The visiting team from Garden City won the top spot with 74 points; Eldorado girls came in second with 70; and the Robert Lee lassies were third with 68.

Jackie Conley broke her own record of last year in the 60 and 100 yard dash events and another in the long jump. Her time on the 100 yard dash was 11.6, compared to 11.8 last year; she clocked a 7.3 on the 60 yard dash, a tenth of a second better than last year's 7.4. Jackie broke the record of Gann of McCaulley on the long jump, going for 16 feet, 11 inches, compared to last year's jump of 16 feet, two inches.

The 440 relay team came in second with a 52.2. Members of the team are Conley, Sheri Pitcock, Linda Blair and Pam Heck.

Another second place was claimed by Cookie Hinnard, who threw the shot put 34 feet and two inches.

Debra Hendry won a fourth place in the triple jump with 31 feet 5 1/2 inches.

In the 220 yard dash, Blair took sixth place with a time of 28.3.

The 880 yard relay team placed fifth with a time of 1:58.4. Team members are Blair, Hendry, Pitcock and Jan Hughes.

In the 80 yard hurdles, Pitcock took fourth with a 12.2, and Hendry was sixth with 13.5.

The girls track team will go to Wink next weekend. The team is coached by Sam Bean.

List of teams participating included San Angelo Central, Rising Star, Ira, Asperment, Rankin, Blackwell, Lake View, Wink, Eldorado, Wall, McCaulley, Winters, Garden City, Coahoma, Water Valley, Baird, Jim Ned, Sterling City, San Saba and Robert Lee.

VOTERS TURN DOWN TAX RATE PROPOSAL

Voters of the Robert Lee Independent School District turned down a proposition Saturday which would have allowed the school board to increase the tax rate for maintenance and operation to a maximum of \$1.50 per \$100 valuation. The vote was close, with 83 voting for the proposition and 104 against.

The election Saturday was the second time voters of the district have turned down the proposition.

Boys Track Team 8th at Ballinger

Robert Lee Steer track team took eighth place Saturday in a track meet at Ballinger. Sonora was first place winner in the meet. Robert Lee accumulated a total of 73 points.

Mike Mumford was the only member of the Steer team to hit the blue ribbon mark. He topped the high jump event with a leap of 6 feet and 3 inches.

Harvey Wink came unclosely behind with the honors as he took a second place in the grueling one mile run with a 4:58.4.

In the shot put competition,

Golf Tourney Set for Friday

Fourth Annual Robert Lee High School Golf Tournament will be held here Friday with 11 teams entered.

Teams coming will be Iraan, Rankin A and B, Robert Lee A and B, Eldorado A and B, Bronte Forsan, and Sonora A and B.

Golfers for Robert Lee will be Mark Matlock, Buzzy Mumford, Edwin Lindsey, Bobby Mumford, Steve Meadows, Mike Mumford, Bubba Duncan, Bill Rowaldt, Jim Jacobs and Terry Wojtek.

Play will begin at 1 p.m. Sonora won last year's tourney.

JUNIOR TRACKMEN PLACE AT COAHOMA

Junior high trackmen went to Coahoma Saturday for competition in a track meet.

The 440 relay team placed fifth. The team is made up of Bobby Large, Doug Herford, Don Sparks and Lyn Seckwell.

Lyn Seckwell also placed fourth in high jump and Don Sparks tied for sixth in pole vault.



ALL-DISTRICT GUARD—Rebecca Walker was selected a member of the second team when coaches of District 9-A chose the All-District players. She was on the first team last year. Rebecca also has been on the girls track team three years, FFA three; pep squad four, class officer one, and FFA officer two. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Walker Jr.

New Farm Program Outlined

Under both the 1971 and 1972 farm programs, the set-aside acres on each farm must be of at least average productivity for the farm. This announcement from Frank Perciful, chairman of the Coke County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, provides farmers with a guideline for next year as well as this year.

at least one of the three previous years," Perciful said.

This will have meant a hardship for some farmers; for instance those with good potential cropland in permanent cover. Also, it would have limited a farmer's freedom to make his own farm management decisions just at a time when farm programs are being changed to give far-

that set-aside acreage must be of at least average productivity for the farm," the ASC Committee chairman said.

"Now it has been announced that the same ruling will be in effect next year also.

"I want to emphasize that the average productivity rule will be closely followed. If a producer

RL School Hosts Teacher Workshop

The Region 15 Education Center's Small Schools Inservice Program held its final meeting of this year Monday in Robert Lee School.

Specialists brought in for the program included Dr. Verna Mae Crutchfield, Dr. Bernard Young and Dr. John Duke, all of Angelo State University; Mrs. Margaret Baker of the University of Texas at Austin; Mrs. Judy Johnson of IBM Company; and Bill Allen of Robert Lee State Bank.

In addition, Mrs. Louise Korona, San Angelo merchant, and Will Long of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department were called in for the session.

Sectional meetings were held in agriculture, band, business, English, homemaking, math, music, physical education, science, social studies and Spanish. Other sectional meetings were held for administrators and teachers in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Schools participating in the inservice meeting were Bronte, Carlisbad, Esda, Grape Creek, Melvin, Mosselle, Novice, Pearl Rock, Robert Lee, Santa Anna, Talpa, Verthost and Water Valley.

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