

**Farm bill decision aids now available online**

Coke County farmers and ranchers who are struggling to understand the 2014 Farm Bill and the options it affords them can now find help online, thanks to a number of ag-oriented agencies and organizations.

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency(FSA) and the Agricultural and Food Policy Center (AFPC) at Texas A&M University have both posted valuable information online explaining the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs,” said Coke County Farm Bureau President John Ross Copeland. “There’s a wealth of information available to help farmers make educated decisions regarding their futures.”

Other farm organizations are also hosting meetings in their respective service areas to help farmers and ranchers understand the decisions they’ll be asked to make in the coming months.

“We encourage Coke County farmers and ranchers to do their research before choosing either the ARC or PLC program as you’ll have to stick that program throughout the life of the farm bill,” John Ross Copeland said.

USDA will release additional information about the programs afforded through the farm bill as it’s interpreted and implemented.

To access AFPC’s data on the commodity title of the farm bill, visit [www.afpc.tamu.edu](http://www.afpc.tamu.edu) and click on the appropriate link on the right-hand side of the page.

FSA’s 2014 Farm Bill resources

can be found by clicking the “2014 Farm Bill” graphic at the top of [www.FSA.USDA.gov](http://www.FSA.USDA.gov).

**Check Out Coke County Library**

The Coke County Library appreciates all those who participated in the semi-annual book sale on April 4 & 5. There were some nice books donated for the sale. The remaining books will be delivered to the Adult Learning Center in San Angelo for their fundraiser.

The Library has received a flyer from Texas Tech University Office of Community Engagement. They are sponsoring an online “Reading Skills and Speed Reading Programs for Preschoolers through 10th Grade.” Because it is a non-profit organization, tuition is less than half the cost of similar programs, the flyer states.

For four-year-olds the program offers letter recognition, beginning phonics, motivation and love of reading. For 6-8 graders and 9-10 graders will gain skills in “comprehension while doubling reading speed. Study skills are included in this training.

The library has copies of the flyer or call 800-978-3839 for more information. One 9th grader was quoted as saying, “I liked tracking my reading speed online and seeing it go up. It’s easier to finish a book now and I like reading more.” Sounds good to librarians, parents, and teachers alike.



**Winning Coach!** Robert Lee native, Lori Wink McDonald, has been named Girls Basketball Coach of the Year in tough Austin area basketball District 25-4A. Lori is varsity girls basketball coach and English teacher at Leander Rouse High School. A graduate of Robert Lee High School and Texas Tech University, Lori has a lifelong love for basketball competition and has been Varsity Girls Coach at Rouse since its inception, helping build the Lady Raider tradition.

Under Coach McDonald’s guidance, the Lady Raiders Girls Basketball team made history at Rouse High School this season. The squad had a 26/9 win loss record, winning its first ever District Championship in strong 4A competition. The Lady Raiders went on to win Bi-District and Area, playing in the regional quarterfinals. This strong team of players put together the most successful season ever, representing Rouse High School with honor, ability, and dedication.

According to Coach McDonald, her life as a coach would not be possible without the love and support of her family pictured with her - husband Matt, daughter Ryan, and son Karson. Lori is the daughter of Robert and Marsha Wink and the granddaughter of Joyce Dodson, all of Robert Lee, Texas.

**Remember to “Render!” Taxable Property Renditions are due April 15th.**

**Does this apply to you?**

If you own tangible personal property that is used to produce income, such as equipment or inventory owned by a business, it does.

**What is a rendition?**

A rendition is a report to your county appraisal district that lists all of the taxable property that you owned or controlled on January 1 of this year. This often applies to furniture, fixtures, equipment or inventory owned by a business.

**What are the advantages of filing?**

- You give your opinion of your property’s value.
- You record your correct mailing address so your tax bills will go to the right address.
- If your property’s value depreciated, you can file a report of decreased value.

**What is the deadline?**

- THE LAST DAY FOR FILING RENDITIONS IS APRIL 15.
- An Automatic extension to May 15 is available if requested in writing by the April 15 deadline
- The chief appraiser may grant an additional 15 days to an owner who shows good cause in writing.

**REMEMBER!!**

Filing is your responsibility. If you render late, don’t render or file an incomplete or false rendition, you may face a 10 to 50 percent penalty.

**File renditions at your local appraisal district:**

<p><b>COKE CAD</b> Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor W Robert Lee, TX 76945 325-453-4528</p>	
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**Or Contact:**  
Texas Comptroller Susan Combs  
Property Tax Assistance Division  
P.O. Box 13528  
Austin, Texas 78711-3528  
Or call: (800) 252-9121 and press “2”  
to access the menu and then press  
“1” to contact the Information Service  
Team.

**On The Web at:** [www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax)

**“Productivity Appraisal” may lower the property taxes on your farm, ranch or timberland!**

Texas law allows farmers, ranchers, wildlife managers and timber growers to pay property taxes based upon the productivity value of their land rather than on market value. This means qualified land is taxed based on its ability to produce crops, livestock or timber - not on its value on the real estate market. And it can mean substantial property tax savings.

**When is the application deadline?**

If your land has never had a productivity appraisal or you are a new owner, you must apply to your local appraisal district before May 1 to take advantage of this benefit on your 2014 property taxes. You may get up to 60 extra days if you have a good reason and ask for it before May 1. If you miss this deadline, you may still be able to apply, but you will pay a penalty. Check with your appraisal district office.

**Do you need to reapply annually?**

If your land already receives agricultural or timber productivity appraisal, you normally do not need to reapply unless the chief appraiser requires you to do so. If a new application is required, the appraisal district will notify you by mail.

**For more information, call or come by your local appraisal district:**

<p><b>COKE CAD</b> Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor W Robert Lee, TX 76945 325-453-4528</p>	
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A public service announcement courtesy of your county appraisal district.