

CRP sign-up slated

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This period began May 20 and will end June 14.

Additional sign-ups for continuous CRP programs will be announced in spring 2013.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP, which is a voluntary program available to agricultural producers to help them safeguard environmentally sensitive land. Producers enrolled in CRP plant long-term, resource-conserving covers to improve the quality of water, control soil erosion and enhance wildlife habitat. Contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire on September 30, 2013. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

Producers that are accepted in the sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years). Producers also are encouraged to look into CRP's other enrollment opportunities offered on a continuous, non-competitive, sign-up basis and that often provide additional financial assistance.

For more information on CRP and other FSA programs, visit a local FSA service center or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Camp Arch 2013 to be held

The College of Architecture at Texas A & M will be hosting Camp Arch this summer July 7-12. The resident summer camp is designed to give students who have competed the 9th grade or higher and incoming freshmen college students an opportunity to experience the professions of architect, construction science, landscape architecture and urban planning.

For more information on this camp or to apply, visit <http://camparch.tamu.edu>.

FSA Conservation Loans available

Nolan County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Farm Loan Manager Justin B. Holland, announced that funds are now available for Guaranteed Conservation Loans. Conservation loans allow farmers and ranchers to implement conservation practices on their land that will help protect natural resources.

"Guaranteed Conservation Loans are a useful alternative to help operators implement any

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) approved conservation practice including, but not limited to, waste management systems, conservation structures or water conservation measures," said Holland.

Unlike other FSA guaranteed loan programs, Conservation Loans are not limited to family size farms. Operators who may not normally qualify for an FSA guaranteed farm operating or ownership loan could be eligible for a Guaranteed Conservation Loan.

According to Holland, the Guaranteed Conservation Loan limit is \$1,302,000 and interest rates and terms will vary. The maximum guarantee FSA can issue is 75 percent.

A streamlined application process is available for applicants with a strong financial position. The streamlined process reduces paperwork requirements and eliminates the requirement to provide a cash flow statement and supplementary documentation.

Interested applicants who do not already have a conservation plan approved by NRCS should work with their local NRCS staff to develop a conservation plan. As with other guarantees, lenders can reduce risk, increase liquidity and offer lower rates by selling the guaranteed portion in



Robert Lee City Council! Susan McCormick, Leroy Casey and Janie Munoz took the oath of office before taking their seats on the Robert Lee City Council.

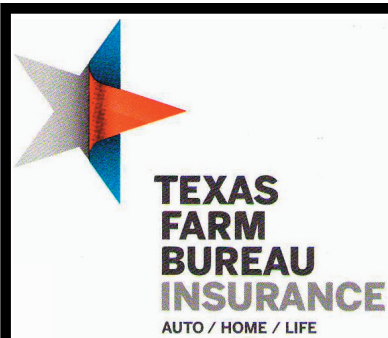


Ranchers Workshop! Over sixty ranchers attended the Ranchers Workshop last Friday, May 17, 2013, at the Community Center in Bronte. The attendees enjoyed visiting with friends and neighbors following noon meal, catered by Kenny Blanek.

the secondary market.

For questions regarding Guaranteed Conservation Loans, please contact your lender or the Nolan County FSA Office at 325-236-6337.

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