

Representative Conaway praises Farm Bill passage

U.S. Representative K. Michael Conaway (R-Texas), chairman of the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, issued the following statement today after the U.S. House of Representatives voted 216-208 to pass the farm bill:

"This piece of legislation wasn't written overnight - it's the result of four long years of debate, a two-year audit of every single policy administered by the USDA, 40 hearings and two committee markups.

"There are many reasons why this balanced, equitable and market-oriented farm policy legislation is deserving of support. It strengthens Title I by offering ranchers and farmers choices in how to manage risk while reforming outdated policy. This move creates regional equity among agriculture producers, increasing their choices and implementing a broad approach to production agriculture.

"The bill also includes an amendment I offered with Texas Rep. Filemon Vela that would address Mexico's failure to uphold its water obligations to the United States under a 1944 water treaty. It's no secret that Texas has suffered a terrible drought, and there is no relief in sight. Mexico needs to begin fulfilling its obligations - our farming and ranching communities depend on it.

"The farm bill also addresses the ongoing lesser prairie chicken habitat issue. An amendment I offered with New Mexico Rep. Steve Pearce and Texas Rep. Randy Neugebauer would require the Agriculture secretary to conduct a 90-day study on the cost of programs to conserve the lesser prairie chicken and its habitat. The study must also detail the conservation effectiveness of these programs and rank them based on cost effectiveness. Conservation and cost effectiveness are not mutually exclusive, and I encourage the federal government to listen and work closely with stakeholders on this issue.

"Good agriculture policy is good federal policy - and this bill represents the best in agriculture policy today."

Harmon-Sparks reunion held

The families of the late Joe Cephus and Clara Belle (Sparks) Harmon and the late Mathew Marion and Almeda King (Taylor) Sparks gathered at the Robert Lee Rec Hall Saturday, June 15, 2013, for their 74th Annual Reunion. There were 73 relatives and friends of the family present.

The late Thomas (T. R.) Harmon was the son of Joe Cephus and Clara Belle Harmon. The late Amanda Elvira (Mandy Sparks) Harmon was the daughter of the late Mathew Marion and Almeda King Sparks. The families of these early day Coke County residents present for the 74th reunion were: Inez (Harmon) Harper; Foy and Lawana Adkins; Bobby and Jeffie Roberts; Marshall and Sheri Millican; Bill and Linda Burns; Suzann Johnson; Ryan, Crystal and Kamryn Stanford; Joe and DeeAnna Harmon; B. C., Sheree, Sydney and Taylor Hardin; and Olean Stricklin all of Robert Lee. John and Dorene Bearfield; Jerrel and Lavelle Harmon; Seth and Brianne Long and son; Brint, Robin, Brynson and Logan Harmon; Lewis and Rena Conner all of San Angelo. Sheila (Roberts) Farrar of Houston; Doug and Marlane Burns of Fort Stockton; Cameron Burns of Lubbock; Neil, Lauren and Alyssa Rozell of Hutto; Troy and Susan Millican of Sterling City; Jerrod and Cayla Holt of Big Lake; Darwin and Joan Harmon of Big Spring; Clint, Kelcie and Shayla Harmon of Midland; Joe and Julie Ann Harmon of Southlake; James and Blanche Harmon of Benbrook; Linda Jones of Hughes Spring; Deborah Rinehart of Gladewater; Wally and Susan Vloedman and granddaughter, Peyton of Greenville.



4-H Camp! Last week, Coke County had a group of fifteen 4-H members attend camp at Buffalo Gap, Texas. When Coke County arrived at camp, they joined up with Sterling, Fisher, Jones, Shackelford and Nolan counties giving the camp an attendance of around 100 4-H members from the area. While at Camp, the youth participated in leadership and teambuilding activities while also having time for recreation that consisted of swimming and a fun filled night of dancing. On the final day of camp, the 4-H members were given a history lesson at Buffalo Gap Historic Village prior to returning home. County 4-H camp is open to youth who have completed the 3rd through 8th grade and happens annually in July. For more information, contact the Coke County Extension Office.

Family members of the late Luther and Violet Sparks present were Don and Shirley Thomas of Cape Fair, Missouri; Louise Drennan of Ballinger; Elwanda Jones; Connie Turner and 5 family members; David and April Cooke; and Andrew Borrego all of San Angelo. Also, Daniel and Britteny Powell of Bronte. Luther was the son of Mathew Marion and Almeda King Sparks. Nine of the eleven children of the late Luther and Violet Sparks survive. Three were present for the reunion.

Those family members that passed away in 2012 were: Alf Harmon and Milton "Bill" Harmon sons of the late Thomas and Amanda Harmon and two of their grand-children, Glenda Blair Hammond and Tommy Blair which were children of the late Ralph and Ruby Lee Harmon Blair. Only two of the eleven children of the late Thomas and Amanda Harmon survive, they are Randle Harmon of San Angelo and Inez Harmon Harper of Robert Lee. Randle was unable to attend the reunion.

Jeffie Roberts welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. She thanked each one for helping make the reunion a great success as it is a TEAM effort. Lawana Askins thanked Jeffie for once again organizing the reunion. The group enjoyed a delicious covered dish lunch and several stayed for an evening meal. The weather was nice as it rained .30 inch in the early morning and the daytime temperature was 85 degrees. There was a lot of visiting, eating, picture taking, golf, swimming, horseshoe and washer pitching. The 75th reunion is being planned for sometime in June 2014.

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Celebration of Life



The family of Janet S. Hurley would like to invite everyone to join them in a celebration of her life.

Saturday • July 27 • 1:30 to 3 pm
Bronte Housing Authority
Recreation Room
115 NE Railroad Street • Bronte

If you have a story or favorite memory please come and share it with her family & other friends.

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