



FFA Conference! Attending the 86th Annual Texas FFA State Convention were Bronte FFA members (from left) Moriah Royall, Kourtney Kelton, Emmerly McCullough, Rachel Everheart, Katlyn Reeves, and Carson Kelso.

Bronte FFA attends the 86th Annual Texas FFA State Convention

The Bronte FFA had the honor to attend the 86th annual Texas FFA State Convention held July 14-18, 2014 in Fort Worth, Texas with the new Agriculture Science Teacher, Mr. Rowdy Akins. More than 11,000 Texas FFA members and guest were in attendance. The Bronte FFA Members of the agricultural youth leadership organization spent the week attending leadership workshops, participating in events and activities, being recognized for their achievements, serving as the legislative body for the Texas FFA Association and saw some of the attractions of Fort Worth/Arlington, Texas such as the Ridgmar Mall and Six Flags Over Texas.

The Texas FFA has evolved from an organization focusing primarily on production agriculture, to a broader-based encompassing organization that addresses the needs and interests of students in urban and suburban schools in addition to

the rural communities from which FFA rose in 1929. The organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

The Texas FFA is the nation's largest state FFA association with a membership of more than 100,000 members and 1,000 local FFA chapters. FFA gives students the opportunity to apply practical classroom knowledge to real world experiences through local, state and national competitions. Only 1 percent of Texas FFA members receive the Lone Star FFA Degree every year. The Lone Star FFA Degree is the highest degree bestowed by the Texas FFA. The Lone Star FFA Degree recognizes FFA members who have received the Chapter degree, been active FFA members for at least two years, complete at least four semesters of agricultural science at or above the ninth grade level, maintain a supervised

agricultural experience (SAE) program, demonstrate their leadership skills and show a commitment to the FFA through

involvement at the chapter level and above. Congratulations Rachel Everheart for being 1 of more than 2,000 FFA members receiving this esteemed degree.

Proposed "Waters of the U.S." Rule

The Clean Water Act (CWA) gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to regulate discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulates the quality standards for surface waters.

The proposed "Waters of the U.S." rule defines the scope of waters protected under the Clean Water Act. It basically broadens the scope of the waters subject to regulation under the CWA and expands the types of waters and lands subject to federal permit requirements.

There's concern that the proposed changes would give EPA jurisdiction over smaller, more remote waters that currently fall under state and local governments. Normal farm and ranch activities could be interpreted by EPA to be point source discharges of

pollutants and subject agricultural producers to federal permitting, regulations, and fines.

The proposed rule can be found at the following site <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-04-21/pdf/2014-07142.pdf>.

Comments can be submitted on or before Oct. 20, 2014. Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880 and submitted by one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- **Email:** ow-docket@epa.gov. Include EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880 in the subject line of the message.

- **Mail:** Send the original and three copies of your comments to: Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 2822T, 1200; Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20460, Attention: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880.



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Celebrating Coke County's 125th Year!

Coke County enjoys a colorful history

[Editor's Note: The information for the following article appeared in the July 21, 1989, issue of The Observer/Enterprise, with credit given to Mrs. Jessie Yarbrough's "History of Coke County."]

The main Indians who lived, hunted and scouted the country of the Colorado and Conchos were Comanches, the Lipan Apaches and the Jumano. Many creeks on the east side of Coke County are named for the Kickapoo Indians. There are still many Indian springs and petroglyphics in the country. More than twenty Indian campsites have been found in Coke County.

Danish immigrants. On the lower left hand corner of this letter is a note: "Let the contract be made Feb. 23, 1842, San Houston". Six hundred families or single men over 17 years of age were to be introduced within three years of the date of the contract on land "beginning at the mouth of the Llano to the head of its southern branch, then due south 50 miles and north 45 degrees to the main southwest branch of the Colorado, following it back to the point of beginning."

The contract, renewed in 1843, was transferred in 1845 to the German Emigration Company with John Meuschel named as trustee. It included all of the land previously mentioned except 250,000 acres reserved for Fischer and Miller. Due to surveying and transportation costs, not to mention trouble with Indians



approximately 575,000 acres of Following the formation of a arriving in force. This area was

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