

Wildlife Refuges (NWR) in Texas.”

Applicants for e-Postcard hunts and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Antlerless Deer Permits must have a current APH permit to apply.

New areas included in this year’s drawn hunt catalog include the Caddo Lake NWR and Neches River NWR. TPWD also created three new Private Lands hunt categories, for feral hog, quail and spring turkey.

Drawn hunt opportunities can be viewed online by category or by area via an interactive map and all applications, fee payments and permit issuance is handled electronically. To participate, applicants will need internet access, an email address and a credit or debit card. The customer ID number from the applicant’s hunting or fishing license is the most effective way to access the system.

Application fees are \$3 or \$10

depending on the hunt category. Adult hunters that are selected may also need to pay a Special Permit fee of \$80 for regular hunts and \$130 for extended hunts. Some categories, such as the Youth-Only hunts, require no application fees or permit fees. Permits are open to resident and non-resident hunters alike.

The first application deadlines are in August. August 1 is the deadline for the alligator hunt categories, pronghorn, and private lands dove hunts, and August 15 is the deadline for archery deer, general exotic and javelina. Application deadlines are the 1st and 15th of the month from August 1st to November 1st. A full list of category deadlines can be found online. Hunters can apply up to 11:59 pm Central Time on the application deadline, and after the application is submitted, they can check their drawing status online at any time.

For more information or to get



Farmers Market! The rain didn’t stop vendors from selling their goods or shoppers from attending the Farmers Market held on Saturday, July 3, at Coke County Feed and Ranch Supply in Robert Lee.

started in the application process visit the TPWD drawn hunts webpage. For questions, contact hunt@tpwd.texas.gov or call (512) 389-4505 between 8 am and 5 pm Monday through Friday.

Bat’s Assorted Adventures

By Joe Holley

On an autumn morning in 1921, a stocky, balding man in his late 60s sat at his desk in the newsroom of New York’s The Morning Telegraph.

He was putting the finishing touches on one of his columns, just as he had done three times a week for 18 years. As he typed the last word, he slumped over his desk and died, felled by a heart attack. A copy boy found him.

Although his name and sports column were well-known around the city, particularly among boxing enthusiasts, there was nothing in the man’s appearance to suggest that he had been a living legend, no hint that his colorful life came close to matching the myth of the

dime novels written about him decades earlier. Before becoming the proverbial ink-stained wretch - an observer rather than a doer - he had been a scout for the U.S. Army, a buffalo hunter, gambler, Dodge City sheriff, and friend of Wyatt Earp and later of President Theodore Roosevelt.

He was said to have been “the best known man between the Mississippi and the Pacific Coast,” The New York Times noted in the article reporting his death. The Times also called him “the last of the old time gun fighters.”

His name was Bartholemew William Barclay Masterson. Most people called him Bat.

It’s hard to fathom how one man could have packed so many disparate adventures into one life.

(Continued on next page)

USDA to review ‘Product of USA’ label

By Jennifer Whitlock
Field Editor,
Texas Farm Bureau

After the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) published its new final rule regarding “Made in the USA” label claims, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced it would follow suit when it comes to meat labeling.

In a statement, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack commended the FTC for strengthening protections for American consumers and planned to complement those efforts through an agency initiative on labeling for products regulated by the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), which inspects meat, poultry, eggs and catfish products intended for human consumption.

“American consumers depend upon accurate, transparent labels to obtain important information about the food they consume. American farmers and ranchers depend upon those same labels to convey information about their products that consumers value and demand,” Vilsack said in a statement. “We have taken note of the many comments submitted to USDA and the FTC regarding meat labeling and understand that the current ‘Product of USA’

label on meat products may no longer effectively serve either of those purposes, to the detriment of consumers, producers and fair and competitive markets.”

After a long trade dispute between the U.S., Mexico and Canada, the World Trade Organization ordered the U.S. to repeal mandatory country-of-origin labeling (COOL) on beef and pork in 2015. Since then, muscle cuts and ground beef or pork processed or repackaged in the U.S. may carry a label saying “Product of USA” even if the meat is from animals raised and/or harvested in other countries.

That label is voluntary and does not require source verification, which many agricultural organizations said is harmful to farmers and ranchers, as well as consumers.

Last year, USDA announced it would conduct its own rulemaking process to address concerns that voluntary “Product of USA” labeling confuses consumers about the origin of FSIS-regulated products.

“After considering the many comments received by the FTC and USDA on this issue, we are initiating a top-to-bottom review of the Product of USA label that will, among other things, help us to determine what that label means to consumers,” Vilsack said. “I am committed to ensuring that the Product of USA label reflects what a plain understanding of those terms means to U.S. consumers.”

In Texas, the top cattle-raising state in the nation, the news was met with optimism.

“Our members are pleased with the announcement that USDA will be addressing this and that actually falls right in line with our organizational policy on the topic,” Tracy Tomascik, Texas Farm Bureau associate director of Commodity and Regulatory Activities, said. “We’re happy with this review because the potential for consumer misunderstanding is real. A label that states the product has been inspected by USDA or something similar to that does not give consumers the impression that it may be a product that was born, raised and slaughtered in the U.S.”

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324 S. Franklin St. Bronte

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