

# Coke County Farm Bureau members discuss rural issues

Families from across Coke County recently met to help shape policy for the state's largest farm organization.

"Each year, we invite Coke County Farm Bureau members to our county convention so we can discuss issues important to agriculture and rural Texas," John Ross Copeland, Coke County Farm Bureau president, said. "It's a true grassroots effort that enables each one of us to have a stronger voice through Texas Farm Bureau."

The issues discussed at county meetings are later shared on a state-wide level. Those issues

drive Texas Farm Bureau's advocacy efforts in the courts in Austin and Washington, DC.

Issues discussed locally included Eminent Domain Reform.

Coke County Farm Bureau will send six delegates from the area to represent the county at the Texas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in San Antonio December 7 - 9.

To join the Coke County Farm Bureau and let your voice be heard in Austin and Washington, DC, visit the Coke-Sterling Farm Bureau Office in Robert Lee or call (325) 453-4505.

purchasing a card this year should contact Floyd Pettit at Pettit Insurance Co. in Robert Lee. Current card owners will be receiving a notice in the mail that the balance is due for this year's Christmas Cards.

Debbie Childers closed with prayer. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 3, at their Event Center at 701 Austin St. in Robert Lee. A meal will be served before the meeting. Anyone interested in improving the city of Robert Lee and finding what the group is all about are encouraged to attend.

Prior to the monthly meeting, two committees met on Wednesday, September 4 - Small Town Christmas and Hunter's BBQ. Plans are progressing for these events. Any help from the community would be appreciated.



The following reports were made by the Coke County Sheriff's Office for the month of August 2019.

- Information Reports - 5
- Civil Matter - 4
- Criminal Mischief - 4
- Burglary of a Vehicle - 1

- Theft - 3
- Assault Causing Bodily Injury - Family Member - 1
- Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon - 1
- Aggravated Assault on a Public Servant - 1
- Emergency Detention - 1
- Welfare Check - 2
- Public Service (includes funerals, court, motorist assist, alarm calls, etc) - 445
- Civil Process - 1
- Prisoner Transports (includes arrest and to and from court) - 10
- Warrants Served - 3
- Livestock Calls - 35
- Accidents - 4
- Accident Assist - 5
- Traffic Stops - 95
- Traffic Stops Resulting in Citations - 72
- Total inmates in Rannels/Mitchell County Jails as of Friday, September 6, 2019:
  - Males - 3
  - Females - 1

### FM roads

#### serve a purpose

Decades ago, the farm-to-market (FM) road system was established to bring products from Texas farms to markets. Those roads still do that today, but they also see more traffic.

"There are more vehicles on the road, and many people travel on our local FM roads," John Ross Copeland, Coke County Farm Bureau president, said. "But most people don't realize the reason these roads were built, which was to connect Texas farms and ranches directly to highways and other cities in order to move products."

Some of the highly traveled FM roads in Coke County include FM 2662 and FM 2034.

"These roads are a way for farmers and ranchers in the state to move equipment to and from fields," John Ross said. "It's also a way to move fertilizer, feed, fuel, seed, and more from manufacturers or retailers to the farm."

As traffic has increased on the roads, so do the chances of an accident.

"If you drive on our FM roads in the county, you'll meet farmers and ranchers like myself. They will probably be hauling livestock or moving large farm equipment and will likely be driving slower than the speed limit," John Ross said. "Slow down. Proceed with caution and give them some space. We're driving those roads to help bring food and fiber from the fields to our tables, stores, and kitchens."

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