

BLACKWELL SCHOOL NEWS

Senior Quilt Fundraiser set for October 25

The quilt will be raffled at Fall Festival, October 25. It is a signature quilt. We are selling the right to sign a block and two raffle tickets. See any senior for raffle tickets.

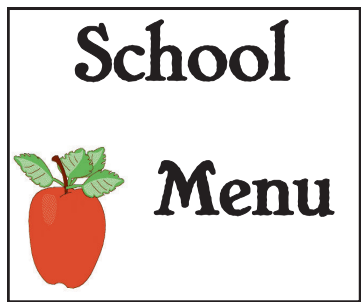
PSAT Test slated for Juniors at Blackwell High School

The PSAT/NMSQT will be administered on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at Bronte High School. This testing session is available to all Blackwell juniors, including home-schooled students eligible to attend school in the Blackwell CISD.

Junior students currently enrolled at Blackwell ISD will automatically be registered. The students will be given a PSAT study guide prior to the test.

Home-school students will need to register for the test at <http://www.nationalmerit.org>. After registering online, please notify Mrs. Coalson, counselor at Blackwell CISD.

For additional information, please contact Mrs. Coalson at (325) 282- 2311.You may also visit www.collegeboard.com for more information.



Breakfast

Monday, September 22

Apple or cherry strudel & string cheese or cereal w/toast, juice, milk

Tuesday, September 23

Scrambled eggs, biscuit, jelly or cereal w/toast, juice, milk

Wednesday, September 24

Cinnamon roll, bacon or cereal w/toast, juice, milk

Thursday, September 25

Pancake on stick, yogurt or cereal w/toast, juice, milk

Friday, September 26

Breakfast burrito or cereal w/toast, juice, milk

Lunch

Monday, September 22

BBQ on bun, coleslaw, pinto beans, baby carrots w/ranch, orange smiles, milk

Tuesday, September 23

Ultimate taco salad, salsa, seasoned corn, snowball salad, milk

Wednesday, September 24

Pizza sticks, spaghetti sauce, garden salad, baby carrots, ranch, apple slices, brownie cookie, milk

Thursday, September 25

Hornet chicken bowl w/ gravy, apple-pineapple d'lite, roll, milk

Friday, September 26

Hamburger or cheeseburger, oven fries, garden salad, fresh veggie cup, mixed fruit, milk

Farm Bill programs set

Submitted by Morgan Runyan
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has set five farm bill programs across West Texas meant to help producers in their decision-making process, said an AgriLife Extension economist.

“This farm bill sign-up has lots of ‘moving parts’ that require producers to process quite a bit of data in order to make rational decisions,” said Bill Thompson. “Our commodity groups and industry associations have done an excellent job of explaining the programs and the options in front of us, but now it’s time to learn to work through the intricacies.”

All the programs are set from 9 am until 12 noon at the following dates and locations:

- Sept. 23, Garden City, Glasscock County AgriLife Extension meeting room, 117 S. Myrl St.
- Sept. 24, San Angelo, Tom Green County 4-H Center, 3168, North U.S. Highway 67.
- Oct. 6, Stamford, Stamford High School Auditorium, 507 S. Orient, St.
- Oct. 7, Fort Stockton, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Center, 1618 Airport Dr.
- Oct. 8, Fort Hancock, Community Building, 562 Knox Ave., 562 Knox Ave.

Thompson said the meetings will recap both the programs available to producers, including Price Loss Coverage, or PLC, and Agricultural Risk Coverage, or ARC. They also will cover any base and yield update options available that can illustrate the data needed to complete the decision-making process.

“Though the new farm bill addressing cotton won’t be in place until 2015, almost all farms will still need to enroll acreage into one of these two coverage areas,” Thompson said. “We will also have a short discussion of the disaster and conservation programs available.”

Thompson said he’ll introduce an online decision aid available to producers developed by the Agricultural and Food Policy Center of the agricultural economics department at Texas A&M University, College Station. The decision aid simplifies the analysis needed to choose between the PLC and ARC coverages.

“A significant emphasis was placed on crop insurance by Congress, so this decision aid will help producers identify optimal and viable insurance coverage levels to provide as much of a crop loss safety net as possible.”

Thompson said he expects many questions to arise during the meetings,

so he’s allotted ample time for discussion.

For more information, contact Thompson at 325-653-4576.

Quail Appreciation Days

Submitted by Morgan Runyan
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will conduct a second set of Quail Appreciation Days across Texas this fall for landowners, naturalists and others interested in proper quail management aimed at stopping the decline of wild native quail.

“This is the first time in half a dozen years that I feel I’ve really seen a glimmer of hope in our wild quail population decline situation,” said Dr. Dale Rollins, statewide coordinator for the Reversing the Quail Decline Initiative in San Angelo.

“This fall’s quail crop is shaping up to be the best since about 2008 in most areas. May and June brought real quail-making weather. Surviving quail were quick to take full advantage of the cool, wet weather, to ‘seize the day’ from a reproductive standpoint.

“It’s our hope that this series of Quail Appreciation Days will help landowners make the most of their improved quail population by implementing and then demonstrating good habitat management practices.”

All the programs share similar agendas, though each will be tailored to fit the area in which that particular appreciation day is set. All start with registration at 8:30 am and conclude by 4:30 pm.

Dates, counties and the AgriLife Extension agents conducting the workshops are as follows:

- Sept. 23, Tom Green County, Josh Blanek.
- Sept. 30, Zavalla County, Marcelino Valdez.
- Oct. 1, McMullen County, Isaac Cavazos.
- Oct. 2, Duval County, Rogelio Mercado.
- Oct. 15, Wilson County, Bryan Davis.

Each workshop will include presentations on quail physiology and management, plus an afternoon tour demonstrating management and habitat assessment techniques.

Individual pre-registraion is due one week prior to the field day and a late fee will be charged at the door for those not pre-registering.

Three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing educations units, two general and one integrated pest management, will be offered at each workshop.

“Our goal is to have attendees literally think like a quail for the entire day,” Rollins said. “Once they experience the quails’ world, they can better appreciate how their management decisions, particularly grazing and brush management, impact quail; either good or bad.”

Rollins said the Quail Appreciation

Day series is one component of AgriLife Extension’s Reversing the Decline of Quail Initiative. Other components currently being implemented include a series of research projects and “QuailMasters,” a series of continuing education workshops for serious “students of quail.”

For more information on this series or other components of the quail decline initiative, go to wildlife.tamu.edu/quail.

Livestock Producers urged to enroll in Disaster Assistance Program by October 1

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is encouraging producers who have suffered eligible disaster-related losses to act to secure assistance by September 30, 2014, as congressionally mandated payment reductions will take place for producers who have not acted before that date. Livestock producers that have experienced grazing losses since October 2011 and may be eligible for benefits but have not yet contacted their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office should do so as soon as possible.

The Budget Control Act passed by Congress in 2011 requires USDA to implement reductions of 7.3 percent to the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) in the new fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2014. However, producers seeking LFP support who have scheduled appointments with their local FSA office before October 1, even if the appointment occurs after October 1, will not see reductions in the amount of disaster relief they receive.

USDA is encouraging producers to register, request an appointment or begin a Livestock Forage Disaster Program application with their county FSA office before October 1, 2014, to lock in the current zero percent sequestration rate. As an additional aid to qualified producers applying for LFP, the Farm Service’s Agency has developed an online registration that enables farmers and ranchers to put their names on an electronic list before the deadline to avoid reductions in their disaster assistance. This is an alternative to visiting or contacting the county office. To place a name on the Livestock Forage Disaster Program list online, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/disaster-register.

Producers who already contacted the county office and have an appointment scheduled need do nothing more.

“In just four months since disaster assistance enrollments began, we’ve processed 240,000 applications to help farmers and ranchers who suffered losses,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “Eligible producers who have not yet contacted their local FSA office should stop by or call their local

FSA office, or sign up online before October 1 when congressionally mandated payment reductions take effect. This will ensure they receive as much financial assistance as possible.”

The Livestock Indemnity Program, the Tree Assistance Program and the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program Frost Freeze payments will also be cut by 7.3 percent on October 1, 2014. Unlike the Livestock Forage Disaster Program, applications for these programs must be fully completed by September 30. FSA offices will prioritize these applications, but as the full application process can take several days or more to complete, producers are encouraged to begin the application process as soon as possible.

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program compensates eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses due to drought or fire between October 1, 2011, and December 31, 2014. Eligible livestock includes alpacas, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, dairy cattle, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, poultry, reindeer, sheep or swine that have been or would have been grazing the eligible grazing land or pastureland. Producers forced to liquidate their livestock may also be eligible for program benefits.

Additionally, the 2014 Farm Bill eliminated the risk management purchase requirement. Livestock producers are no longer required to purchase coverage under the federal crop insurance program or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program to be eligible for Livestock Forage Disaster Program assistance.

To learn more about USDA disaster relief program, producers can review the 2014 Farm Bill fact sheet at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmbill, the LFP program fact sheet, <http://go.usa.gov/5JTk>, or contact their local FSA office.

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program was made possible through the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed
Constitutional Amendments
Special Election November 4, 2014

Proposition Number 1 (SJR 1)

SJR 1 would authorize the transfer of certain money from the general revenue fund to the state highway fund and the economic stabilization fund. Money transferred to the state highway fund may be used solely for the construction, maintenance and acquisition of rights-of-way for public roadways.

The proposed amendment will

appear on the ballot as follows: “The constitutional amendment providing for the use and dedication of certain money transferred to the state highway fund to assist in the completion of transportation construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation projects, not to include toll roads.”

Published by Texas Secretary of State Nandita Berry, www.Vote-Texas.gov or 1-800-252-VOTE (8683).

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