

**CHICKEN CHANGE**

Endangered bird gets help

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**TEXAS TRAILS: LUCKY PEAS**

The story of black-eyed peas

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*Friend of the Friesians*



Heather Bonser developed an interest in Friesian horses as a teenager. Today, she raises the breed at her Delta County ranch. --Staff photo by Bedell

**Horse enthusiast praises breed**

By **CODY BEDELL**  
*Country World Staff Writer*

As a young girl living in Upstate New York, Heather Bonser sparked an early interest in equestrian events which eventually led to her passion for the Friesian horse.

"When I was eight-years old, my mother asked me which I would prefer as a summertime activity, swimming or riding lessons,"

Bonser recalled. "I picked the riding lessons and have never looked back.

"I took English lessons in Upstate New York where I lived at the time. I did the basic horsemanship, English flat riding, and jumping. I helped with daily horse care and cleaning the stables and tack. I could not get enough, and dreamed of owning my own horse.

Please see **FRIESIANS, 2A**

**Heart-healthy herd is rancher's quest**

By **CODY BEDELL**  
*Country World Staff Writer*

Shortly after an open-heart surgery, doctors told Ken Burgin to stop eating beef. While recovering, he saw a commercial on the television that not only would allow him to keep enjoying beef, but it also opened doors to being a successful rancher.

"I had been in the cabinet business for about 20 years when I bought our 234-acre ranch (Clearview Ranch) outside of Big Sandy, from a

long-time customer of ours," recalled Burgin. "I hadn't had any experience with cattle, and our pastures were so overgrown, we decided to lease pasture to other ranchers. To build our own herd, we began letting other ranchers run cattle on our land in exchange for half of their calf crop. At the time our good friends, Gary and Wayne Woodring, were running Simbrah cattle on our pastures with a Braunvieh bull. The

Please see **BEEF, 3A**



Ken Burgin started raising Belgian Blue crosses after reading that the meat was lower in fat and cholesterol. --Staff photo by Bedell

**Fertilizer prices drop**

From American Farm Bureau Federation

After increasing for six consecutive years, U.S. fertilizer prices are finally beginning to fall at the wholesale level, according to a report by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

"Up until very recently, fertilizer prices were astronomical at both the wholesale and retail level," said AFBF senior economist Terry Francl. "Fertilizer producers were clearly reacting to record commodity prices, and companies priced their products accordingly."

Now that prices for corn, soybeans and other commodities have declined 50 percent or more from summer peaks, wholesale prices for fertilizer are dropping as well, but retail prices have yet to fall. Francl said the wholesale fertilizer price drop began about two months ago, generally after the time farmers applied fall fertilizer to their crops.

Wholesale prices for anhydrous ammonia in the Corn Belt have declined from the \$1,000 per-ton-plus range to the \$500

Please see **PRICES, 5A**

**Labor issues affecting prices**

By **KAY LEDBETTER**  
*Extension Communications*

Migrant or foreign labor is a must for the dairy industry and other parts of agriculture, and a reduction in the workforce could cost consumers considerably, a Texas AgriLife Extension Service expert said.

Labor and immigration are tied together, and it includes both legal and illegal immigration, said Dr. David Anderson, AgriLife Extension economist in College Station.

While immigration can be from another state or another region of the U.S., many minds turn to illegal immigration coming from other countries, Anderson said.

Please see **LABOR, 3A**



One Extension specialist said that if labor issues are not resolved, consumers could see an increase in prices. --Staff photo by Carolyn Rost

# Friesians

From Page 1A

"My interest in horses and riding stayed as I became a teenager, when my family moved to Holland. In the years I was there, I rode many types of horses and did many styles of riding. I learned to drive, do circus trick riding, jumping, quadrille, trail riding, flat track racing, and my absolute favorite, galloping down the sandy beaches of Scheveningen and charging into the North Sea."

After moving to Holland, Bonser was then introduced to the legendary Friesian Horse.

"I saw my first Friesian horses in The Hague, after I moved to Holland," said Bonser. "As part of my Dad's unique position with the American Embassy, we were able to get tickets to view the Royal opening of Parliament, called Prinsjesdag, each year. We took turns in the family, as we only got two tickets each year. The year my younger brother Walter and I were able to attend, it was standing room only on the street, but we got to see Queen Beatrix in all her glory inside the Golden

Coach pulled by eight magnificent Friesian Horses. It was a magnificent experience I shall cherish forever."

Another memorable experience with Friesians followed later.

"I met my first Friesian horse when I attended the Hague's Paarden Dagen (Horse Days), which is held every year in June. There are many different activities and showing of various horses and styles of riding. I saw Friesians doing dressage and pulling fancy carriages, but the event that really made a lasting impression on me was the Royal military procession. They had two Friesians as the horses that carried the drums in the parade, which rode at the front. The men wore fancy red and gold uniforms, like they do for the Prinsjesdag ceremonies, and I was able to strike up some conversation with one rider while they were waiting for their cue to perform. I asked the rider all kinds of questions about his job and his horse, and he even let me sit up there for a bit while they were waiting and it literally changed my life. As I watched

them march forward and the music strike up, I said to myself, one day I will have a horse like that."

Nearly 20 years later, after attending the Prinsjesdag ceremonies in Holland, Bonser finally came to own her own Friesian horse.

"I had dreamed of owning a Friesian ever since I was a teenager," said Bonser. "After I owned my first one for awhile, I was completely addicted. I love all types of horses, but something about the Friesians soft, yet strong nature, commitment to their people, their loyalty, and heart, resonated in my soul. They are the horse version of myself."

Bonsers relationship with Friesian begins first with a unique bond.

"Once I have a bond, which with a Friesian is more intense and deeper than any other breed I have had the pleasure to know, we work on communication," said Bonser. "I see the relationship as the key to whatever you want to do with them. I now breed, raise, train, ride, and show Friesians. They have become family members, friends, co-workers, teammates."

The gentle nature of the horses dates back to their origin in Europe.

"The Friesian horse has a long history, and is one of the world's oldest breeds," said Bonser. "The general theory is that the original Friesian was created somewhere in the northern part of Europe where various Germanic tribes lived, at a time in history before there were any written languages. All of the information for breeding, care, uses and training was passed down orally. In more Modern history, through present day, they originate in the Northern Region of the Netherlands, the province of Friesland. This horse is the National Breed of the Netherlands, with it's homeland registry, the Friese Paarden



Bonser (riding her horse Blonke) spends a great deal of her time at various shows promoting the Friesian breed.

--Courtesy photo

Stamboek (FPS) in Friesland. However, Friesians now are bred in many countries, including the United States, Australia and the far east.

"Friesians in general are easy going, like to work, like to please their people, and are very social. They are highly intelligent, and sometimes that can get them in trouble because people can push them in their training and work too far, too fast, without realizing it. Personally, I pay very close attention to how my horses take things so I do not rush them, but at the same time, they don't get bored. My Friesians love attention, to talk, and to perform. They really look forward to entering that show ring and showing what they can do. I think the most surprising thing about Friesians is their ride. The movement is not just bigger than many types of horses, it is uphill, and grand. It takes awhile to get used to, but once I had done it I was addicted."

After starting a ranch in Montana, Bonser now owns a ranch in East Texas where she breeds, trains and raises Friesians.

"I started Wind Dancer Ranch in 1998 while living in Laurel, Mont.," recalled Bonser. "Although I still own the ranch in Montana, I moved to Cooper in June of 2008, because the weather is better for the horses compared to Montana. There are also more show opportunities here, with less time driving to and from the shows."

Wind Dancer Ranch is home to Friesians, Friesian Sport Horses and American Quarter Horses. Unlike the American Quarter Horse, Friesians are slightly different in conformation and style.

"Friesians are a light draft breed, so they are a bit larger than the average Quarter Horse," said Bonser. "All of today's registered purebred Friesians are solid black, sometimes with very little white on the forehead, though it is preferred that there is no white at all. They are large boned and heavy and they require larger saddles, bits, and bridles than most typical riding horses."

This year, Bonser has started showing her Friesian, and recently won reserve champion in her class at a dressage show against many other breeds. Along with showing, Bonser has many plans for her horses.

"I have a long list of things I wish to do and try with my Friesians," said Bonser. "I plan to start showing full time in 2009, and begin training and breeding some more mares. I hope to climb the levels of dressage with my mares and take them to the Grand Prix at some point. Eventually, I would like to return to driving Friesians, which I have not done since my teen years in Holland."

For more information about Wind Dancer Ranch go to [www.WinDancerRanch.com](http://www.WinDancerRanch.com).

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**COUNTRY WORLD** (USPS 680-610) is a weekly newspaper published by Echo Publishing Co., Inc., 401 Church St., Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482. This publication is an independent, rural oriented, agricultural newspaper distributed every Thursday.

The newspaper has two editions: **COUNTRY WORLD**, covering North and East Texas, is located at 401 Church St., Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482; phone 903-885-2030, 800-245-2149.

**COUNTRY WORLD Central Texas/South Central Texas Edition** covers the Central and West Central Texas regions and the South Central Texas and Coastal Bend regions. The *Central Texas* office is located at 235 N. Hewitt Dr. #9, Hewitt, Texas 76643; phone 254-666-5227, 800-624-2668. The *South Central Texas* office is located at 8728 FM 2145, La Grange, Texas 78945; phone 979-249-2198, 877-825-7906. The B Section (Classifieds and Markets), and any inserted Special Edition, are the same within both editions.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES ARE \$30 FOR A YEAR, \$50 FOR TWO YEARS, OR \$70 FOR THREE YEARS. Periodicals postage paid at Sulphur Springs, Texas, 75482. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to **COUNTRY WORLD**, 401 Church St., Sulphur Springs, Texas 75482.

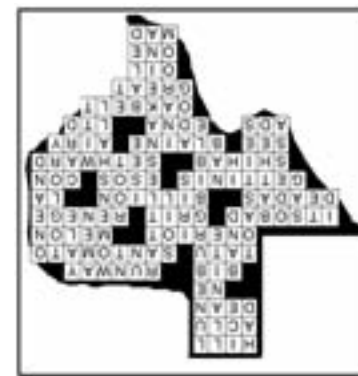
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# Beef

From Page 1A

Simbravieh calves looked really good and Gary told me some breeders are trying to get the cross recognized as an official breed within the Braunvieh Association as a part of their Beef Builder Program. We decided that is what we wanted to raise.

"Shortly after deciding to raise Simbrah and Braunvieh cross cattle, I had emergency open-heart surgery to repair a dissected aorta. I was able to return home within a few days, but I was told by doctors I could no longer eat beef because it was too high in fat and cholesterol. While I was recovering, I saw a commercial on television about Belgian Blue cattle and how their beef was lower in fat and cholesterol than skinless chicken

breast."

After researching, Burgin discovered that the statistics on healthier beef from Belgian Blue cattle were based on crossbred animals.

"I soon realized I could cross Belgian Blue with my Simbravieh and have very heart-healthy meat," said Burgin. "So we now raise Simbravieh and Belgian Blue cattle."

Beef from Belgian Blue cattle may be more heart-healthy beef, but in the United States, it's hard to come by.

"Finding Belgian Blue cattle can be a problem in the U.S.," said Burgin. "Most come directly from Belgium, because there are so few in the United States. Even in their native land, Belgian Blue cattle still have some problems. They can have some leg prob-

lems, which limits their mobility in pastures, and they can also have calving problems from having such large calves. Through years of selective breeding, breeders have been able to solve most of the problems within the breed. We are now able to find cattle with better legs and cattle that have greater calving ease.

"Belgian Blue are known throughout the world for their size and amount of muscle. They are one of the few cattle breeds that have double muscling. The muscle fibers are very fine and tight, which makes the meat very tender. Not only is the meat healthy, it is more tender than thick marbled Angus beef," according to Burgin.

In addition, Burgin said Belgian Blue cross cattle may also bring more dollar per head.

"Due to the extra amount of muscle on Belgian Blue, they usually dress out 10 percent heavier than other cattle," said Burgin. "The more meat the Belgian Blues produce, the more money per head received when sold."

"However, the increased amount of muscle calls for different feed rations. While other growing cattle require 12 to 14 percent crude protein feed, Belgian Blue require at least 20 percent crude protein. We have been experimenting with feed for our growing calves. For now, we are using Big-V feeds from Oklahoma. My mature cows are on hay during the winter, supplemented with range cubes, while during the summer they are on fertilized pastures and mineral year-round."

Clearview Ranch has plans to sell heart healthy-beef and cattle, as well as promote the Belgian Blue Cattle breed.

"I think the Belgian Blue crosses with a commercial herd is the cattle herd of the future," Burgin stated. "With all the heart health issues and obesity problems, this leaner beef with lower fat and cholesterol will allow those with health problems to continue to eat beef."

"We are also expecting, in a few weeks, to receive semen from seven of the top 30 Belgian Blue Bulls in England. We are hoping with artificial insemination and embryo transplant, we can promote the Belgian Blue Breed."

For more information about Clearview Ranch and Belgian Blue cattle go to [www.ClearviewHayAndCattle.com](http://www.ClearviewHayAndCattle.com).

# Labor

From Page 1A

"We've always restricted immigration through the number of visas, which are much fewer than the demand, and so that encourages illegal immigration," he said.

"But the whole issue is a lot more complex than just illegal immigration," Anderson said. "It is one that is important to the overall economy of the U.S. and other countries. The past pace of economic growth is not possible without immigration. We could not have had the economic growth of the past if we had not had as much immigration."

Agriculture has much at stake in this issue, he said. It needs to get the debate away from the big issues and establish that there is a legitimate need for these workers.

"We have to get away from the macro debate on open borders, security, citizenship and no immigrants," he said.

Foreign labor represents an estimated 43 percent of the nation's dairy workforce, Anderson said.

The value of milk production is \$28.7 billion and this part of the dairy industry alone provides 147,000 jobs nationwide, he said. If the related industries are added in, it is a \$55 billion industry with 363,000 jobs.

"If you had a foreign labor reduction of only 20 percent, you would lose 33,000 employees, \$5.5 billion in sales and \$1.5 billion in income," Anderson said.

Total elimination would be a lot higher, he said. Illegal immigrants make up 50 percent of agriculture's workers.

"What if we lost that produc-

tion, what happens to retail prices?" Anderson said. "We could see as much as a 30 percent increase."

With dairies, labor is the second largest expense next to feed, he said. Large dairies pay higher wages because they need specialized labor and can afford it because they have a lower per unit costs and are better able to bid higher for labor, on average.

Anderson said turnover averages 15 percent across all dairies. The rate of turnover can impact production per cow, death loss and feed efficiency, meaning it is costly for dairy operators.

"That's the hidden effect," he said. "There is a cost of finding and training another person."

About 20 percent of the dairy owners said they see labor shortages and are increasing wages to attract workers, he said. Wages are higher where competing jobs are located.

There is a vacuum of available workers, in part caused by the failure to pass immigration reform and the movement of penalties from civil to criminal,

Anderson said. The oil and gas industry in the High Plains has been very competitive for laborers, pulling them away from where they were working, he said. People move for higher paying jobs.

"We also have a changing economy right now that is going to affect things," Anderson said. "When the economy is poor, fewer come and more go back because the opportunity is not here."

Since the economy has faltered, there is evidence of migrants leaving, he said. The amount of money being sent back to Mexico is down.

"Labor is a commodity and the market has to equilibrate," Anderson said. "This may mean workers moving to opportunities and higher wages. The wages must become relatively equal."


The people will go where the jobs are and where there is economic growth, he said.

More than 7,000 people work in the livestock industry in the High Plains, Anderson said, and an estimated 3,000 more will be

needed by 2027 in the Panhandle.

There are about 1.2 million people in the High Plains, including parts of Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma, he said. That figure remains fairly stable. The average individual wage is \$25,000 annually for different types of employment, but 70 percent of that in agriculture.

"It's going to be hard to find workers," he said. "They must come from one of three sources: current young residents, steal them away from another job or recruit them in."



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# Wait, I Have More Questions

Wow, the end is here and I still have questions.

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The Associated Press asked the biggest beggars the same question recently and the answer it received from nearly every one was a cold, silent stare.

Why the silence?

Simple; under terms negotiated between the begging bankers (they were in a position to negotiate?) and Secretary The-Sky-Is-Falling Paulson no bank is required to account where the loot—yours and mine: are we chumps or what?—went.

Want to feel like an even bigger chump? Look at one of the biggest bank bums, Citigroup, and its former Washington, now



## FARM & FOOD

Alan Guebert

Wall Street, rainmaker Robert Rubin, Treasury secretary during the Clinton Administration.

In the last two years, Citi has seen its market capitalization plunge from \$244 billion to under \$20 billion, fired more than 75,000 employees and, of course, soaked you and me for billions in bailout money.

Despite that disastrous performance, wanna' bet Rubin raked it in? Don't; since his arrival at Citi, Mr. Inside has pocketed salary and bonuses totaling \$115 million.

What, you didn't do as well when the price of your stock—cows, pigs and leftover grain—took a Citi-sized header this summer?

Another question about Wall Street slicksters: If and when I bilk you and your fellow farmers out of \$50 billion or so, would you please ask the arraignment judge to put me under house arrest in the \$10 million Park Avenue penthouse that you dopes paid for?

Thank you. Suckers.

Speaking of paid-for dope, recall this summer when every farm manager with a cell phone holster urged farmers to reserve 2009 anhydrous ammonia at \$1,200 per ton because if you

didn't you "wouldn't get it"?

Anybody not get anhydrous this fall? Huh, funny how that works, eh? Wasn't the same "won't-get" scam being run in seed this fall? (Hint: Not anymore.)

Those early December, \$300-per-bag seed corn prices suddenly dropped to under \$200 by month's end. Or, as President Bush almost explained once, "Fool me once..."

And what about the 13-pound, eRr, page, anvil the American Soybean Association dropped on the head of its one-time child, the United Soybean Board, a coupla' weeks before Christmas? I mean, the ASA wants USDA to audit the soybean checkoff and its USB masters for alleged "wasteful and excessive spending" and "improper conduct"?

Surely there hasn't been any shenanigans at USB even though it has collected and spent \$558 million of your money—nearly \$53 million last year; one-half of 1 percent of the "net market price" of beans in the teens sure adds up—since 1992, right?

And so what if ASA's allegations against USB include,

according to DTN's Chris Clayton, no-bid contracts, "inappropriate relationships," "brandished" knives, public intoxication and "political games" between USDA, USB and ASA? (Are there enough initials in my columns?)

Wanna' read about this?

So would I but nobody—not ASA, USB or USDA—has made any of condemning correspondence public. Yes, it's your money and, yes, a public institution, USDA, has oversight of all federally-mandated checkoffs... and what was your point?

Did you see where the giant milk cooperative Dairy Farmers of America ended a Commodity Futures Trading Commission investigation into the coop's suspicious, 2004 futures trading at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange in exchange for \$12 million from DFA members and some of its former executives?

Why? No one knows; do you?

Maybe the new year—and the new Administration—will bring some new answers.

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*The views expressed in this column are those of the writer, not of Country World Newspaper.*

## COW POKES®

By Ace Reid



"Maw, you're a pore gate opener, but you're mighty good at stretchin' fence!"

## Prices

From Page 1A

range. Urea has dropped from the mid-\$800 range to the mid-\$300 range. Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) has declined from \$1,100 to \$600 per ton. The decline in potash prices has been less notable, dropping from a little over \$900 per ton to slightly over \$800.

"The reasons for the decline involve much more than just crop prices. Natural gas prices have declined from more than \$11 per million BTUs (1,000 cubic feet) to around \$6 per million BTUs. Natural gas is the primary input utilized to manufacture anhydrous ammonia and typically accounts for 80 percent to 90 percent of all input costs," Francl explained in AFBF's December Market Update report.

"Anhydrous ammonia in turn is the basic feedstock for nearly all the other nitrogen fertilizers. So the cost of production of the entire nitrogen complex has waned considerably. There are similar declines in phosphate production and lower sulfur and phosphate rock prices."

Potash prices appear to be retreating much slower, if at all, because more than 90 percent of the potash used in this country is imported, mostly from Canada but also from some European and former Soviet Union countries. Potash prices are therefore more affected by changes in the

value of the dollar, which has declined recently, meaning that it makes imports more expensive.

Francl said fertilizer dealers with large, high-priced inventories could be in a difficult position this spring due to indications by farmers that they plan to plant less fertilizer-intensive crops, such as corn and cotton and plant more soybeans which don't use nitrogen at all, and as legumes actually add nitrogen to the ground.

To compete, fertilizer dealers

will have to "cost average their prices down" by averaging their current high priced inventories with lower-priced future inventories, Francl said.

"Farmers would be well-advised to hold off their spring purchases for as long as possible. The inherent danger in such a strategy is that a spring rush may cause supply bottlenecks. However, nitrogen products can be applied to row crops in the form of side dressing later in the spring," Francl said.

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# Texas Deer Association delivers affordable hunting

*From the Texas Deer Association*

Working to make hunting more affordable for Texas sportsmen, the Texas Deer Association (TDA) has unveiled its all-new 'Hunt for Less' program which will save Texas hunters hundreds of dollars on a wide variety of hunting opportunities. The new hunting discount program provides significant cost savings on hunting packages for whitetail, elk, turkey, dove, quail, hogs, and exotic species at nearly two dozen premium ranches across the State of Texas.

Currently, the TDA Hunt for Less Program features nearly two dozen ranches in Texas, including Ace High Ranch, Covert Ranch, Diamond S Ranch, DropTine Ranch, Hicks Whitetail Deer, High Roller Whitetails, Hogsback Ranch, Kinsel Cattle Company, Rancho Bellas Rocas, Rio Rojo Rancho, Tesoro Ranch, Texas Outfitters Ltd, Twisted Oaks Ranch, Uno Mas Ranch, Wildpoint Whitetails and Wilson Whitetail Ranch just to name a few.

"Hunting affordability is a big issue in Texas and across the country, so we're glad to offer this Hunt for Less program which can provide exciting hunting opportunities on some of the best ranches in Texas for a lot less money," says Karl Kinsel, executive director of the Texas Deer Association. "As the state's largest non-profit association to serve the Texas deer industry, we are deeply committed to preserving our hunting traditions and increasing opportunities for hunters and



The TDA has made hunting more affordable with its new "Hunt for Less" program. The program will save hunters hundreds of dollars on a variety of opportunities. --File photo

sportsmen throughout the state."

Earlier this year, the TDA introduced its new TDA Member Discount Program which features more than 40 discounts on a wide variety of products and services, including up to \$5,000 savings on new Chevrolet trucks and exclusive discounts at Moultrie Feeders, GameTammers, Gander Mountain, RealBark, Academy, BuckLunch and many other notable name brands. The

new discount program also provides huge savings on fencing, livestock trailers, feed and feed supplements, hunting blinds, hunting gear, whitetail hunts, deer straws, and business development needs such as marketing and website design.

The TDA is the only non-profit organization solely committed to improving the quality of Texas deer herds through better habitat practices, modern harvest strategies and use of superior deer to enhance the deer herds. As a part of its public education efforts, the TDA produces a full-color bimonthly publication, Tracks Magazine, which updates TDA members on current industry news, deer genetics and game management issues. The TDA also hosts an annual convention and trade show in August featuring fund-raising auctions, a deer auction, golf tournament and other events.

The TDA Hunt for Less Program and TDA Member Discount Program are available free to all TDA members, regardless of membership level. To learn more about the Texas Deer Association or for membership information, call (210) 767-8300 or sign up at [www.TexasDeerAssociation.com](http://www.TexasDeerAssociation.com).

Headquartered in San Antonio, the Texas Deer Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the health and welfare of Texas deer herds, and to developing ways to improve deer quality in Texas.

For more information on the Texas Deer Association, call (210) 767-8300 or visit [www.texasdeerassociation.com](http://www.texasdeerassociation.com).

# Rare bird moves up on candidate protection list

By **SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN**  
*Associated Press Writer*

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — The status of a bird found in a handful of Western and Midwestern states, including Texas, has become more dire due to the loss of its native prairie habitat.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a change in the listing priority of the lesser prairie chicken with the release of the agency's annual review of candidates for possible protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The lesser prairie chicken, a stocky ground-dwelling bird found in parts of New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, has been on the candidate list for more than a decade. The Fish and Wildlife Service said new information prompted raising the bird's priority number from 8 to 2, one of the most urgent categories.

"It shows that it deserves to be looked at for Endangered Species Act protection sooner than the others," said Elizabeth Slown, a spokeswoman with the agency's Southwest Region.

Conservation groups have been pushing the federal agency to grant the lesser prairie chicken protection under the ESA for years, saying the bird has declined by more than 90 percent over the past century and is facing threats that include energy development, climate change and the loss of habitat.

Despite its status as a candidate, Slown said the lesser prairie chicken is not on the agency's work plan for this fiscal year. That means it could be next September before the agency considers doing a

review to determine whether to list the bird.

The Fish and Wildlife Service along with the Bureau of Land Management, an oil and gas company and a New Mexico rancher signed conservation agreements aimed at protecting the lesser prairie chicken during a ceremony in Albuquerque.

Conservationists have been crying foul, saying the agreements are simply a means to avoid listing a species that clearly needs more protection to ensure its survival.

"Why is the Fish and Wildlife Service spending staff time and resources shuffling paper ... rather than proposing the species for listing?" asked Nicole Rosmarino of the Western conservation group

WildEarth Guardians.

Rosmarino said the bird must be listed, "not papered over with these very uncertain conservation agreements."

According to the Fish and Wildlife Service, lesser prairie chickens in the early 20th century were common throughout their five-state range. By the 1930s, cultivation, grazing and drought started to cause the species to disappear from areas where it had been abundant.

Along with the lesser prairie chicken, 10 other species' priority numbers changed during this year's candidate review. The agency said four species are now listed as higher priorities and seven were lowered. The agency now recognizes 251 species as candidates for ESA protection.

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# Shotgun malfunction can't ruin hunting trip

The Hunting Club members lined up at the edge of a cornfield. Stubble stretched half a mile into the distance, terminating at a dirt road. Several pheasant hunters lounged beside their trucks parked down there. Called Blockers, they were waiting on us.

Our job was to walk the cornfield's length, driving pheasant before us. Hopefully, the birds would panic enough to fly, giving us a shot or two before we reached the end. That's where the action usually got hot and heavy. Driven by the Walkers, that was us, and seeing the Blockers ahead, the pheasant were supposed to erupt from the harvested stalks.

At least that's the Theory. Last time we were there, the birds cooperated for everyone, giving the Walkers plenty of shooting en route to the Blockers. Our problem then was cold and snow.

We thumbed shells into our shotguns and waited for Youngster to leave the Suburban and join us.

"Hurry up!" Wrong Willie shouted.

"Just a minute!" Youngster shouted back through the open door. "I'm checking the Weather Channel online, so we'll know if it's supposed to snow."

"What difference does it make?" I asked, staring at the leaden sky above us.

"We'll be at the end of the field in an hour. It won't make any difference then."

"I'll just feel better if I know," he said, tapping furiously at his laptop computer. "It's supposed to snow by three o'clock!"

"He still hasn't put on his boots," Doc frowned. "Boy, you're making us wait too long."

"In a few minutes," Youngster answered. "I'm having trouble gaining a signal out here. Y'all just do something until I'm ready."

I checked my watch. "It's nearly four."

"Wait a second," he said. "I'll check the other weather service. Maybe they're more accurate. It's loading now."

"Forget it," Doc shouted. "Let's go!"

With that, we stepped off smartly into the stubble. I hadn't taken more than a dozen steps when a rooster pheasant rocketed out from under my feet, giving me a perfect straightaway shot. I leveled down on him and squeezed the trigger.

Nothing happened. Thinking I'd missed the safety, I pushed it again and pulled the trigger, seeing the bird gain distance. The gun finally fired and the bird tumbled. But then I noticed something wrong with the shotgun.

It hadn't properly ejected the shell that was sticking

halfway out of the ejection port. I pulled on the operating handle to clear the port, but it wouldn't budge. Seeing I was having trouble, Willie retrieved my bird and joined me. The rest of the guys stopped.

Someone honked a horn at the other end of the field. Everyone waved for us to hurry up. Doc waved back as if he'd just seen them down there, and then stuffed a chew into one cheek.

"What's wrong?" he asked. "Shotgun jammed," I said. I walked back to the Suburban's open tailgate and while they waited, I unscrewed the magazine cap, and pulled off the forearm. Willie and Woodrow joined me and we disassembled the shotgun.

We still couldn't find out what caused the gun to jam. I sighed and stared toward the frustrated guys in the distance.

"Y'all go ahead and get



## REAVIS REVIEWS

Reavis Wortham

started. I'll figure this out."

"That ain't right," the Cap'n said. "You're the one who set this trip up. You should get to hunt."

I toed the ground.

"We'll, I didn't bring a backup shotgun like I usually do, so y'all go ahead on and hunt."

"We better hurry," Youngster said. "Impact Weather says it's really gonna snow in a little while."

Doc grinned around his chew.

"Hey, what does the local service say up here?"

"I'll check," Youngster answered, excited. He bent to his laptop while Doc rummaged through the Suburban's cargo hold.

"They say there might be some sleet in it," Youngster announced. "What do you think we ought to do?"

Doc pulled a shotgun case from under the bags. He unzipped it and delivered an over and under twelve gauge to me. I looked at the shotgun and frowned.

"Who's..."

I stopped when Doc held a finger to his lips and nodded toward the back seat and Youngster's head bent over the laptop. "Hey, check the weather back home, and then check between here and there for tonight," he said. "We might have to leave about dark and drive straight through to beat the snow-

storm."

"Yeah!" Youngster said with enthusiasm. "I'll check the hourly forecast."

"Don't forget the Department of Transportation's highway website for road conditions," Woodrow said, catching on. "They'll tell us if the roads are clear between here and Dallas."

"Okay!" Youngster said, intent on his screen.

"Let's go," Doc said.

I broke open Youngster's shotgun, thunked in two shells, and we stepped smartly away to finally begin our hunt.

"We need to get on the road before seven!" Youngster shouted at us.

The Cap'n waved an answer.

"Good!" Willie said and we walked away.

Our ruse was a grand idea, but without a recoil pad, that stinkin' shotgun kicked like a mule.

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**KEMPNER EQUIPMENT, INC.**  
800-932-2461 Kempner, TX  
(www.kempnerequip.com)

### FEED

**FEEDERS SUPPLY CO.**  
903-885-7201 Sulphur Springs, TX

### FEED TANKS

**McGREGOR FARM SUPPLY**  
254-840-4447 McGregor, TX

### FELLA

**KELLY TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT**  
903-757-6644 Longview, TX  
(www.kellytractor.net)

### FIAT TRACTOR

**FARM COUNTRY, INC.**  
903-885-7561 Sulphur Springs, TX  
(www.farmcountry-inc.com)

### FORREST CITY

**ABC EQUIPMENT CO.**  
979-272-1084 Snook, TX

### GB LOADER

**ANGUS VALLEY FARM SUPPLY**  
1-800-797-7341 254-822-1842 Elm Mott, TX  
(www.angusvalleyfarmsupply.com)  
**ATHENS EQUIPMENT CO.**  
903-675-8502 Athens, TX  
**BALLARD'S TRACTOR**  
903-765-2726 Alba, TX  
**FARM COUNTRY, INC.**  
903-885-7561 Sulphur Springs, TX  
(www.farmcountry-inc.com)  
**FISH AND STILL EQUIPMENT - HENDERSON**  
1-800-945-4134, 903-657-9549 Henderson, TX  
**MITCHELL & BOURLAND**  
972-563-2171 Terrell, TX  
(www.mitchell-bourland.com)  
**TIPTON INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
254-662-2420 Waco, TX  
254-582-5333 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.tiptoninternational.com)

### GEHL

**CONROY FORD NEW HOLLAND**  
903-572-2629 Mt. Pleasant, TX  
**J5 TRACTORS, INC.**  
1-800-223-6354 936-396-6032 Normangee, TX  
(www.j5tractors.com)

### GRAIN EQUIPMENT

**KADDATZ AUCTIONEERING & FARM EQUIPMENT SALES**  
254-582-3000 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.kaddatzequipment.com)

### GRAIN TRAILERS

**KADDATZ AUCTIONEERING & FARM EQUIPMENT SALES**  
254-582-3000 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.kaddatzequipment.com)

### GRASSHOPPER

**CUNNINGHAM EQUIPMENT CO.**  
1-800-657-5004, 903-785-0081 Paris, TX  
**KELLY TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT**  
903-757-6644 Longview, TX  
(www.kellytractor.net)

### GREAT PLAINS

**FARM COUNTRY, INC.**  
903-885-7561 Sulphur Springs, TX  
(www.farmcountry-inc.com)

### HARSH MIXER WAGON

**FARM COUNTRY, INC.**  
903-885-7561 Sulphur Springs, TX  
(www.farmcountry-inc.com)  
**FISH AND STILL EQUIPMENT, INC.**  
1-800-256-7303, 936-564-7303 Nacogdoches, TX

### HARDEE-WILLIAMS MOWERS

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903-675-8502 Athens, TX

### HAY EQUIPMENT

**FAIRWAY TRACTOR SALES**  
281-593-1273 Cleveland, TX  
**KADDATZ AUCTIONEERING & FARM EQUIPMENT SALES**  
254-582-3000 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.kaddatzequipment.com)

### HAY KING

**ATHENS EQUIPMENT CO.**  
903-675-8502 Athens, TX  
**FISH AND STILL EQUIPMENT, INC.**  
1-800-945-4134, 903-657-9549 Henderson, TX

### HAY KING

**KEMPNER EQUIPMENT, INC.**  
800-932-2461 Kempner, TX  
(www.kempnerequip.com)  
**KLEIBER TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT, INC.**  
979-968-3187 La Grange, TX  
**NORMANGEE TRACTOR & IMPLEMENT CO.**  
1-800-396-3101, 936-396-3101 Normangee, TX  
(www.normangeetractor.com)  
**TIPTON INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
254-582-5333 Hillsboro, TX  
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### HESSTON

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**CUNNINGHAM EQUIPMENT CO.**  
1-800-657-5004, 903-785-0081 Paris, TX  
**KLEIBER TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT, INC.**  
979-968-3187 La Grange, TX  
**TIPTON INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
254-662-2420 Waco, TX  
254-582-5333 Hillsboro, TX

### HOELSCHER BALE HANDLING EQUIP.

**KADDATZ AUCTIONEERING & FARM EQUIPMENT SALES**  
254-582-3000 Hillsboro, TX  
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### HUSTLER ZTR's

**BOEHM TRACTOR SALES**  
361-594-3200 Shiner, TX  
**PAIGE TRACTORS, INC.**  
512-253-6683 Paige, TX  
(www.paigetractors.com)

### HUTCHINSON AUGERS

**McGREGOR FARM SUPPLY**  
254-840-4447 McGregor, TX

### INTERNATIONAL

**KADDATZ AUCTIONEERING & FARM EQUIPMENT SALES**  
254-582-3000 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.kaddatzequipment.com)

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**ATHENS EQUIPMENT CO.**  
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**BIGON IMPLEMENT CO., INC.**  
512-352-5296 Taylor, TX  
**Austin Metro (Toll Free)** 512-365-5666  
**BRAZOS VALLEY EQUIPMENT CO.**  
254-756-5467 Waco, TX  
254-582-2572 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.brazosvalleyequipment.com)  
**FAIRWAY TRACTOR SALES**  
281-593-1273 Cleveland, TX  
**FISH AND STILL EQUIPMENT CO.**  
1-800-257-2011, 936-544-2011 Crockett, TX  
1-800-945-4134, 903-657-9549 Henderson, TX  
1-866-938-8891, 903-938-8891 Marshall, TX  
1-800-256-7303, 936-564-7303 Nacogdoches, TX  
**PREMIER AG & LAWN**  
1-800-725-3278 Cleburne, TX

### KAWASAKI

**BOEHM TRACTOR SALES**  
361-594-3200 Shiner, TX

### KIOTI

**FARM EQUIPMENT SERVICE**  
254-773-9923 Temple, TX  
**PAIGE TRACTORS, INC.**  
512-253-6683 Paige, TX  
(www.paigetractors.com)

### KRONE

**ADVANCED AG**  
254-965-7341 Stephenville, TX  
**ATHENS EQUIPMENT CO.**  
903-675-8502 Athens, TX  
**BAILEY'S TRACTOR CO.**  
903-885-0626 Sulphur Springs, TX  
**BEECHER EQUIPMENT CO.**  
254-883-2561 Marlin, TX  
**BOWIE TRACTOR HOUSE**  
940-872-4450 Bowie, TX  
**COMANCHE COUNTY TRACTOR**  
254-893-6711 DeLeon, TX  
**COUFAL-PRATER EQUIPMENT, LTD.**  
979-822-7684 Bryan, TX  
254-697-6551 Cameron, TX  
936-825-6575 Navasota, TX  
254-773-9916 Temple, TX  
**ELK TRACTORS & EQUIPMENT**  
979-242-5656 La Grange, TX  
**FAIRFIELD TRACTOR**  
1-888-522-8404 903-389-9894 Fairfield, TX  
**FISH AND STILL EQUIPMENT, INC.**  
1-800-945-4134 Henderson, TX  
1-866-938-8891 Marshall, TX  
1-800-256-7303 Nacogdoches, TX  
**HOUSTON COUNTY EQUIPMENT CO.**  
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**JASPER COUNTY FEED & SEED**  
409-384-7523 Jasper, TX  
**J5 TRACTORS, INC.** (www.j5tractors.com)  
1-800-223-6354 936-396-6032 Normangee, TX  
**KRENEK'S TRACTOR, INC.**  
979-836-5473 Brenham, TX  
**MITCHELL & BOURLAND, INC.**  
972-563-2171 Terrell, TX  
**PARIS FARM & RANCH CENTER, INC.**  
903-785-0741 Paris, TX

## KRONE

FISH AND STILL EQUIPMENT, INC.  
1-800-945-4134 Henderson, TX  
1-866-938-8891 Marshall, TX  
1-800-256-7303 Nacogdoches, TX  
HOUSTON COUNTY EQUIPMENT CO.  
1-800-259-5355 936-544-4596 Crockett, TX  
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972-563-2171 Terrell, TX  
PARIS FARM & RANCH CENTER, INC.  
903-785-0741 Paris, TX  
PREMIER AG & LAWN  
1-800-725-3278 Cleburne, TX  
RUCKER EQUIPMENT CO.  
1-877-542-6827 903-729-6951 Palestine, TX  
S & W TRACTOR COMPANY  
940-665-2441 Gainesville, TX  
SAN AUGUSTINE TRACTOR  
936-275-9703 San Augustine, TX  
SHOPPA'S FARM SUPPLY  
1-800-753-8363 El Campo, TX  
1-800-750-8913 Bay City, TX  
1-800-460-4888 East Bernard, TX  
1-800-281-8446 Eagle Lake, TX  
1-800-944-5242 Edna, TX  
SOUTH TEXAS IMPLEMENT CO. /  
TRACTOR CITY  
1-800-288-8016 Alice, TX  
361-358-1717 Beeville, TX  
1-877-538-3452 Castroville, TX  
1-877-840-3241 Floresville, TX  
830-583-2017 Kenedy, TX  
1-888-293-7445 Pearsall, TX  
1-877-840-3242 Pleasanton, TX  
1-800-966-1270 Seguin, TX  
1-877-211-8400 Taft, TX  
TYLER EQUIPMENT  
800-442-8469 Tyler, TX  
WILLIAMSON COUNTY EQUIPMENT CO.  
512-352-6381 Taylor, TX

## KOYKER LOADERS

KEMPNER EQUIPMENT, INC.  
800-932-2461 Kempner, TX  
THE COOPER'S FARM STORE  
254-822-1629 West, TX  
WHITESIDE HAY & CATTLE CO.  
972-636-2794 Royse City, TX

## KRAUSE

BLACKLAND IMPLEMENT CO., INC.  
254-773-2409 Temple, TX  
(www.blacklandimplement.com)  
CUNNINGHAM EQUIPMENT CO.  
1-800-657-5004, 903-785-0081 Paris, TX  
TIPTON INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
254-582-5333 Hillsboro, TX

## KUBOTA

BALLARD'S TRACTOR  
903-765-2726 Alba, TX  
FARM COUNTRY, INC.  
903-885-7561 Sulphur Springs, TX  
(www.farmcountry-inc.com)  
HOUSTON COUNTY EQUIPMENT CO.  
1-800-259-5355 936-544-4596 Crockett, TX  
(www.houstoncountyeq.com)  
MITCHELL EQUIPMENT  
254-742-1212 Temple, TX  
(mitchellequipment.net)  
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1-800-396-3101, 936-396-3101 Normangee, TX  
(www.normangeetractor.com)  
PITTSBURG TRACTOR  
903-856-6548 Pittsburg, TX  
(www.pittsburgtractor.com)  
TIPTON INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
254-662-2420 Waco, TX  
254-582-5333 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.tiptoninternational.com)  
VIRNAU TRACTOR  
800-336-3549 979-885-3549 Sealy, TX

## KUHN

ATHENS EQUIPMENT CO.  
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BOEHM TRACTOR SALES  
361-594-3200 Shiner, TX  
CUNNINGHAM EQUIPMENT CO.  
1-800-657-5004, 903-785-0081 Paris, TX  
DOGWOOD SALES, INC.  
800-256-8803 903-723-2165 Palestine, TX  
FAIRWAY TRACTOR SALES  
281-593-1273 Cleveland, TX  
FARM COUNTRY, INC.  
903-885-7561 Sulphur Springs, TX  
FISH AND STILL EQUIPMENT CO.  
1-800-257-2011, 936-544-2011 Crockett, TX  
1-800-945-4134, 903-657-9549 Henderson, TX  
1-866-938-8891, 903-938-8891 Marshall, TX  
1-800-256-7303, 936-564-7303 Nacogdoches, TX  
KELLY TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT  
903-757-6644 Longview, TX  
KLEIBER TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT, INC.  
979-968-3187 La Grange, TX  
(www.kleibertractor.com)  
MITCHELL & BOURLAND  
972-563-2171 Terrell, TX  
NORMANGEE TRACTOR & IMPLEMENT CO.  
1-800-396-3101, 936-396-3101 Normangee, TX  
(www.normangeetractor.com)  
PITTSBURG TRACTOR  
903-856-6548 Pittsburg, TX

## LELY

CURTIS BACHMAN EQUIPMENT  
903-427-2120 Clarksville, TX  
SATURN SALES AND SERVICE  
830-540-4285 Gonzales, TX

## LAND PRIDE

COLLINS TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT, INC.  
1-800-717-3157 936-544-3157 Crockett, TX  
CUNNINGHAM EQUIPMENT CO.  
1-800-657-5004, 903-785-0081 Paris, TX  
(www.cunninghamequipment.com)  
FARM COUNTRY, INC.  
903-885-7561 Sulphur Springs, TX  
FISH AND STILL EQUIPMENT, INC.  
1-800-945-4134, 903-657-9549 Henderson, TX  
(www.fishandstillequipment.com)  
KLEIBER TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT, INC.  
979-968-3187 La Grange, TX  
MITCHELL & BOURLAND  
972-563-2171 Terrell, TX  
MITCHELL EQUIPMENT  
254-742-1212 Temple, TX  
(mitchellequipment.net)  
SATURN SALES AND SERVICE  
830-540-4285 Gonzales, TX

## LEINBACH

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FARM EQUIPMENT SALES  
254-582-3000 Hillsboro, TX  
KEMPNER EQUIPMENT, INC.  
800-932-2461 Kempner, TX

## LOANS

LEGACY AG CREDIT, ACA  
903-885-9566 Sulphur Springs, TX  
(www.flba.net)

## LONG/FARMTRAC

DAIRYLAND NEW HOLLAND  
903-885-0037 Sulphur Springs, TX  
(www.dairylandnh.com)

## M&W EQUIPMENT

ATHENS EQUIPMENT CO.  
903-675-8502 Athens, TX  
PAIGE TRACTORS, INC.  
512-253-6683 Paige, TX  
(www.paigettractors.com)  
TIPTON INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
254-662-2420 Waco, TX  
254-582-5333 Hillsboro, TX  
THE COOPER'S FARM STORE  
254-822-1629 West, TX

## MDS ATTACH. SPECIALISTS

KADDATZ AUCTIONEERING &  
FARM EQUIPMENT SALES  
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(www.kaddatzequipment.com)

## MCCORMICK

HOUSTON COUNTY EQUIPMENT CO.  
1-800-259-5355 936-544-4596 Crockett, TX

## MARLISS

KADDATZ AUCTIONEERING &  
FARM EQUIPMENT SALES  
254-582-3000 Hillsboro, TX

## MAHINDRA

ANGUS VALLEY FARM SUPPLY  
1-800-797-7341 254-822-1842 Elm Mott, TX  
(www.AngusValleyFarmSupply.com)  
J5 TRACTORS, INC.  
1-800-223-6354 936-396-6032 Normangee, TX  
(www.j5tractors.com)  
MITCHELL EQUIPMENT  
254-742-1212 Temple, TX  
(mitchellequipment.net)

## MASSEY FERGUSON

BAILEY'S TRACTOR CO.  
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BLACKLAND IMPLEMENT CO., INC.  
254-773-2409 Temple, Texas  
254-947-0070 Belton, Texas  
CUNNINGHAM EQUIPMENT CO.  
1-800-657-5004, 903-785-0081 Paris, TX  
DOGWOOD SALES, INC.  
800-256-8803 903-723-2165 Palestine, TX  
FAIRWAY TRACTOR SALES  
281-593-1273 Cleveland, TX  
J5 TRACTORS, INC.  
1-800-223-6354 936-396-6032 Normangee, TX  
(www.j5tractors.com)  
PITTSBURG TRACTOR  
903-856-6548 Pittsburg, TX  
TIPTON INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
254-582-5333 Hillsboro, TX  
VIRNAU TRACTOR  
800-336-3549 979-885-3549 Sealy, TX  
(www.virnautractor.com)

## MILLER DISC

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FARM EQUIPMENT SALES  
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## MODERN

BOEHM TRACTOR SALES  
361-594-3200 Shiner, TX  
(www.boehmtractor.com)  
COLLINS TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT, INC.  
1-800-717-3157 936-544-3157 Crockett, TX  
KADDATZ AUCTIONEERING &  
FARM EQUIPMENT SALES  
254-582-3000 Hillsboro, TX

## MOLINE

KADDATZ AUCTIONEERING &  
FARM EQUIPMENT SALES  
254-582-3000 Hillsboro, TX  
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(www.GeneticSeed.com)

## MORTGAGE FINANCE

LEGACY AG CREDIT, ACA  
903-885-9566 Sulphur Springs, TX  
(www.flba.net)

## MUELLER

BALLARD'S TRACTOR  
903-765-2726 Alba, TX

## NEW IDEA

BALLARD'S TRACTOR  
903-765-2726 Alba, TX  
DAIRYLAND NEW HOLLAND  
903-885-0037 Sulphur Springs, TX  
(www.dairylandnh.com)  
DOGWOOD SALES, INC.  
800-256-8803 903-723-2165 Palestine, TX  
TIPTON INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
254-582-5333 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.tiptoninternational.com)

## NEW HOLLAND

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254-947-0070 Belton, TX  
254-582-8473 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.blacklandimplement.com)  
BOEHM TRACTOR SALES  
361-594-3200 Shiner, TX  
(www.boehmtractor.com)  
COLLINS TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT, INC.  
1-800-717-3157 936-544-3157 Crockett, TX  
CONROY FORD NEW HOLLAND  
903-572-2629 Mt. Pleasant, TX  
CUNNINGHAM EQUIPMENT CO.  
1-800-657-5004, 903-785-0081 Paris, TX  
(www.cunninghamequipment.com)  
DAIRYLAND NEW HOLLAND  
903-885-0037 Sulphur Springs, TX  
(www.dairylandnh.com)  
DOGWOOD SALES, INC.  
800-256-8803 903-723-2165 Palestine, TX  
EQUIPMENT DEPOT  
254-662-6262 Waco, TX  
512-252-2300 Austin, TX  
(www.equipdepot.com)  
KELLY TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT  
903-757-6644 Longview, TX  
(www.kellytractor.net)  
KLEIBER TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT, INC.  
979-968-3187 La Grange, TX  
(www.kleibertractor.com)

## NUTRENA FEEDS

ABC EQUIPMENT CO.  
979-272-1084 Snook, TX

## OLIVER WHITE PARTS

KADDATZ AUCTIONEERING &  
FARM EQUIPMENT SALES  
254-582-3000 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.kaddatzequipment.com)

## ORCHARD & FARM EQUIP

PAPE'S PECAN HOUSE  
888-688-7273 Seguin, TX  
(www.papepecan.com)

## OUTBACK GUIDANCE

CUNNINGHAM EQUIPMENT CO.  
1-800-657-5004, 903-785-0081 Paris, TX  
(www.cunninghamequipment.com)

## POLARIS ATV'S

DOGWOOD SALES, INC.  
800-256-8803 903-723-2165 Palestine, TX  
NORMANGEE TRACTOR & IMPLEMENT CO.  
1-800-396-3101, 936-396-3101 Normangee, TX  
(www.normangeetractor.com)

## PZ ZWEEGERS

ATHENS EQUIPMENT CO.  
903-675-8502 Athens, TX  
CONROY FORD NEW HOLLAND  
903-572-2629 Mt. Pleasant, TX

## RED BALL SPRAYERS

ABC EQUIPMENT CO.  
979-272-1084 Snook, TX

## RHINO

ATHENS EQUIPMENT CO.  
903-675-8502 Athens, TX  
EQUIPMENT SUPPORT SERVICES  
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1-800-720-6403 Brenham, TX  
CONROY FORD NEW HOLLAND  
903-572-2629 Mt. Pleasant, TX  
(www.conroytractor.com)  
CUNNINGHAM EQUIPMENT CO.  
1-800-657-5004, 903-785-0081 Paris, TX  
(www.cunninghamequipment.com)  
DOGWOOD SALES, INC.  
800-256-8803 903-723-2165 Palestine, TX  
FAIRWAY TRACTOR SALES  
281-593-1273 Cleveland, TX  
FARM COUNTRY, INC.  
903-885-7561 Sulphur Springs, TX  
FISH AND STILL EQUIPMENT, INC.  
HENDERSON  
1-800-945-4134, 903-657-9549 Henderson, TX  
FISH AND STILL EQUIPMENT, INC.  
MARSHALL  
866-938-8891 903-938-8891 Marshall, TX  
HOUSTON COUNTY EQUIPMENT CO.  
1-800-259-5355 936-544-4596 Crockett, TX  
(www.houstoncountyeq.com)  
KELLY TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT  
903-757-6644 Longview, TX  
MITCHELL & BOURLAND  
972-563-2171 Terrell, TX  
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1-800-396-3101, 936-396-3101 Normangee, TX  
(www.normangeetractor.com)  
PAIGE TRACTORS, INC.  
512-253-6683 Paige, TX  
(www.paigettractors.com)  
TIPTON INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
254-582-5333 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.tiptoninternational.com)

## ROLLOCONE

KADDATZ AUCTIONEERING &  
FARM EQUIPMENT SALES  
254-582-3000 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.kaddatzequipment.com)

## SALVAGE

KADDATZ AUCTIONEERING &  
FARM EQUIPMENT SALES  
254-582-3000 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.kaddatzequipment.com)

## SAME TRACTOR

J5 TRACTORS, INC.  
1-800-223-6354 936-396-6032 Normangee, TX  
(www.j5tractors.com)

## SCHULER FEED WAGONS

FARM COUNTRY, INC.  
903-885-7561 Sulphur Springs, TX  
(www.farmcountry-inc.com)

## SIDEWINDER

CONROY FORD NEW HOLLAND  
903-572-2629 Mt. Pleasant, TX

## SPRA-COUCPE

CUNNINGHAM EQUIPMENT CO.  
1-800-657-5004, 903-785-0081 Paris, TX  
(www.cunninghamequipment.com)

## STALK PULLERS

KADDATZ AUCTIONEERING &  
FARM EQUIPMENT SALES  
254-582-3000 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.kaddatzequipment.com)

## STIHL

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1-800-717-3157 936-544-3157 Crockett, TX  
PAIGE TRACTORS, INC.  
512-253-6683 Paige, TX  
(www.paigettractors.com)

## SUNFLOWER

BLACKLAND IMPLEMENT CO., INC.  
254-582-8473 Hillsboro, TX

## TARPS

KADDATZ AUCTIONEERING &  
FARM EQUIPMENT SALES  
254-582-3000 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.kaddatzequipment.com)

## TEREX

H & V EQUIPMENT SERVICES  
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(www.hvequipment.com)

## TORO

COLLINS TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT, INC.  
1-800-717-3157 936-544-3157 Crockett, TX  
(www.collinstractorandequipment.com)

## TUFLINE

ATHENS EQUIPMENT CO.  
903-675-8502 Athens, TX

## UNITED FARM TOOLS

KADDATZ AUCTIONEERING &  
FARM EQUIPMENT SALES  
254-582-3000 Hillsboro, TX  
(www.kaddatzequipment.com)

## VALLEY IRRIGATION

BRIEN WATER WELLS  
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## VERMEER

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1-800-717-3157 936-544-3157 Crockett, TX  
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## Quick Bites

Mary Sue Cole  
Hunt Co. Extension Agent

**Q:** How nutritional are blackeye peas?

**A:** Blackeyes, blackeyed peas or blackeyed beans are good nutritional choices. Blackeye peas are an excellent

source of fiber, providing 8-10 grams of fiber in a cup of cooked peas. They are very high in potassium, providing almost 500 milligrams in a cup, excellent source of folacin, and good source of selenium, zinc, magnesium, calcium

and iron.

In addition, blackeyes are a very economical source of protein, and a good way to stretch the food budget. Blackeyes are a legume and add nitrogen to the soil.

## Country Cookin'

### Chili Relleno Pie

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1/2 lb. lean ground beef | 1 large egg, beaten |
| 4 oz. can green chilies  | 3/4 c. milk         |
| 1/2 c. Monterrey Jack    | 2 tbsp. flour       |
| 1/2 c. American cheese   | 1/4 tsp. pepper     |
| 1/2 c. chopped onions    |                     |
| 2-3 tbsp. salsa          |                     |

Brown beef with onions and drain well. In a pie pan, layer beef then green chillies then cheese. Combine egg, milk, flour, salsa and pepper. Mix well and pour over layered mixture. Top with additional cheese. Bake at 375 degrees F. for approximately 20 minutes.

-from Mary Sue Cole  
Hunt County Ext. Agent



Send recipes to  
[mindy@countryworldnews.com](mailto:mindy@countryworldnews.com)

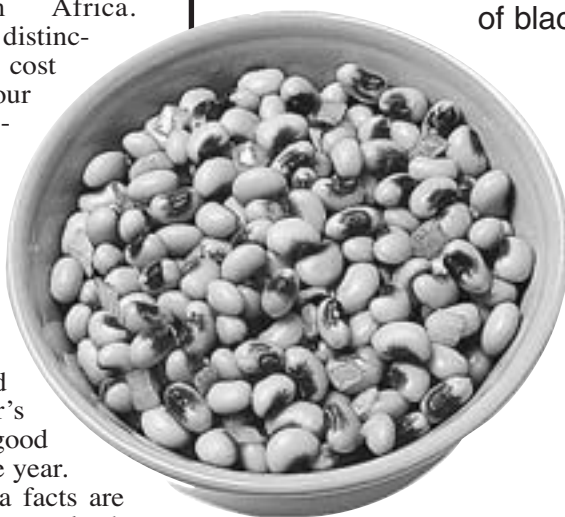
## Remember the black-eyed peas

By **LIZ BUCKNER**  
Rusk County Extension Agent

Black-eyes came to America from Africa. Because of their distinctive flavor, low cost and "stick to your ribs" characteristic, black-eyes were, and continue to be, the preferred pea of the South. An old Southern legend claims that eating black-eyed peas on New Year's Day will bring good luck for the entire year.

Black-eyed pea facts are impressive. For example they are low in fat, high in fiber and folic acid, and good sources of protein, iron, and carbohydrates. Plus, they are cholesterol-free. Because they are actually peas, dry black-eyes cause less gas than beans, and thus do not require pre-soaking.

Black-eyed peas have been considered for years to be a good luck charm if eaten on New Year's Day. The greater the amount of black-eyes eaten is said to increase the amount of luck the diner has in the coming year.



and when they will be cooked further in casseroles, soups or stews, store black-eyes in a moisture-proof container and keep in a cool, dry place.

For Southern-Style Black-eyes:

- 1 pound dry black-eyes
- 1/2 medium onion, diced
- 1 medium carrot, thinly sliced
- 1 Serrano Pepper, seeded and thinly sliced (optional)
- 4 ounces smoke-flavored lean ham, visible fat removed, diced
- 5 cups water or stock (beef, chicken, or vegetable)

First prepare black-eyes according to "hot wash" method.

**Crock Pot Directions:** Place all ingredients in crock pot. Cook on low setting for 8 to 10 hours or until black-eyes are tender.

**Stove Top Directions:** Place all ingredients in a large pot. Add water or stock, bring to a boil and then reduce heat to medium. Cook for 1 hour or until beans are tender. If necessary, add more water to keep the mixture well covered.

May be served over hot rice or a la carte. Makes eight 1-cup servings.

However, to cut cooking time, black-eyes should be "hot washed." For each pound of dry black-eyes, add 10 cups of cold water in a pot and heat to boiling on high, set aside for two to three minutes, then pour off water. They have now been hot washed. For recipes that require cooking the black-eyes with other ingredients, merely pour off the "hot wash" water and follow the cooking instructions in the recipe. For other recipes that call for cooked black-eyes, add enough chicken, beef or vegetable broth, or water to cover black-eyes with 2 inches of liquid. Cook at a simmer until tender, approximately 30 to 45 minutes. Do not add salt.

At a gentle boil, black-eyes usually cook in 20-40 minutes, test for doneness several times during cooking, black-eyes are best firm when used for salads

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by Charley & Guy Orbison

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# Sideways prices predicted for cotton in 2009

By **BLAIR FANNIN**

*Extension Communications*

The current economic crisis coupled with decreased demand won't spark any immediate rally for cotton prices heading into 2009, according to a Texas AgriLife Extension Service economist.

"There are a couple of things that suggest cotton prices are going to be sideways and struggle to go higher," said Dr. John Robinson, cotton marketing economist. "Corn will likely go a bit higher since the last two years there's been this battle for acreage. Cotton has taken a cut in acres because prices didn't get high enough and that was predictable. Net returns suggested people were better off planting more soybeans, wheat, etc. Cotton is much worse off now."

Just six months ago, cotton prices were at 80 cents a pound, but now have fallen in the mid 40s. And large U.S. carryover stocks continue to loom, with ending stocks for 2008-2009 increased 900,000 bales, totaling 7.1 million bales.

"U.S. new-crop cotton is currently all going into the loan program, which has also been the case in four out of the last five years," Robinson said. "U.S. cotton sits in there, while the Chinese uses their cotton, then Indian cotton and all of these other countries that don't have a loan program, they can get rid of it."

When those countries do buy U.S. cotton, typically during the May-July period, traditionally it sparks a minor upward trend in price, Robinson said. He predicts it will be June before there might be some positive trends affecting cotton prices.

"We're not really out of this financial crisis panic-mode yet," he said. "Real estate prices are not through unwinding and we've got a new administration that will be settling in. It will take quite a few months for normalcy to return. Cotton is going to continue to suffer because people are watching their spending and not buying clothes and automobiles, in which cotton is used for the interiors."

These factors will likely lead to 'sideways prices' and if cotton does rise in price, "it won't rise enough to compete with corn or soybeans," Robinson said. He also predicts a cut in Texas cotton acreage due to competing crops such as wheat, corn and soybeans receiving more favorable prices.

Input prices continue to be high due to expensive seed and chemicals. One bright spot is the recent decline in fuel prices. If fertilizer does become cheaper, Robinson predicts more farmers will increase corn plantings over cotton, particularly in the eastern cotton belt.

To beat the current market, Robinson has some advice for cotton farmers: Stick to a sound marketing plan to avoid price risk. That can include a combina-

tion of elements.

"Basic tactics like forward contracting, selling at harvest, marketing pools, or USDA loan program are things to be looking at," he said. "Hedging with futures and options can complement or substitute for these basic tactics."

Robinson also encourages producers to think about taking loan deficiency payments now, marketing their cotton and buying "cheap call options as insurance against missing out on higher prices in 2009."

"By selling now, collecting a loan deficiency payment and buying a call, you are only left having to watch the New York Futures Market."

For more on cotton markets and marketing strategies, view Robinson's newsletter at <http://agecon2.tamu.edu/people/faculty/robinson-john/index.html>.



Just six months ago, cotton prices were at 80 cents a pound, but now have fallen in the mid 40s.

--Texas AgriLife Research photo by Blair Fannin

## TDA exemption allows use of Dermacor

The Texas Department of Agriculture has been granted approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to issue a Section 18 specific exemption allowing the use of chlorantraniliprole (Dermacor X-100 Seed Treatment) to control rice water weevil on rice seed.

Dermacor X-100 Seed Treatment (SC formulation), manufactured by E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Co., may be applied following all directions, restrictions and precautions on the product exemption label. The exemption

will expire July 1, 2009.

This exemption allows only certified applicators, licensed applicators or persons under the direct supervision of licensed applicators to apply the pesticide for this specific use.

For more information on this exemption, contact a local county Texas AgriLife Extension Service office or TDA at (512) 463-7544. A copy of the approval notice is located on the TDA Web site at [www.tda.state.tx.us](http://www.tda.state.tx.us).

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II+	1532	33.0	1,282 (581)	Platform
III	1533	33.0	1,900 (862)	Platform or Cab
III	1540	40.1	1,900 (862)	Platform
IV	1547	47.0	2,527 (1,146)	Platform or Cab
IV	1552	52.0	2,527 (1,146)	Platform or Cab
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# Lucky Lentils

The prevailing views about the black-eyed pea could be seen in my own family when I was growing up. My mother believed that black-eyed peas were best fed to the cows or hogs, and formerly referred to them as cowpeas. My father viewed them as a regular part of a healthy - and lucky - diet.

Enlightened soul that she was, my mother eventually came around to my dad's way of thinking, as well as his mother's way of cooking black-eyed peas, which went heavy on the salt and generous portion of ham hock or bacon sides. We always had a big mess of black-eyed peas on New Year's Day because eating black-eyed peas is supposed to bring good luck the rest of the year, the amount of luck depending on the amount of peas consumed.

The tradition is believed to be an old Southern one that might have died out in popular culture if not for Elmore Torn of Taylor, the father of actor Rip Torn.

Elmore "Tiger" Torn was the founder and president of the National Black-Eyed Pea Appreciation Society. Membership requirements included a fondness for black-eyed peas and a willingness to pay postage on the recipes and newsletters that Torn sent out to members every so often.

Tiger Torn was a chemurgist by trade. A chemurgist develops new industrial and chemical products from organic raw materials, especially farm products. Today, he would probably be called a biochemical engineer. He discovered in his travels associated with his work that the serving of some form of black-eyed lentil was a long-held tradition in widely diverse parts of the world like Egypt, France and India.

"One explanation is that these lentils are great soil builders," he theorized. "Ask



## TEXAS TRAILS

Clay Coppedge

any farmer. You plant black-eyed peas for a few years and they restore soil worn out, for instance, by long cotton cultivation. So, this business of the legume restoring the soil may have something to do with the superstition that the black-eyes bring good luck for all the year."

Tiger Torn attempted to expand the black-eyed pea into Vietnam in the 1960s. He chose a leper colony as the site for his experiments because the Viet Cong, who controlled most of the South Vietnam backcountry, generally gave the leper colonies a wide berth. Playing the part of the good son, Rip Torn managed to supply his father's isolated experiment station with quantities of smoked bacon.

Despite the fact that the lepers were very fond of Tiger Torn's black-eyed peas with smoked bacon, Operation Black-Eyed Pea was ultimately a failure; voracious jungle insects devoured the plants. Besides, the Viet Cong were getting suspicious of the spry old "leper" who worked the fields with so much energy; it was time to leave Vietnam.

When Torn got back to the U.S., he found out there was another association dedicated to the black-eyed pea, the Black-Eyed Pea Society of America,

based in Richmond, Va., headed by Washington columnist James J. Kilpatrick.

Upon learning of Torn's group, Kilpatrick quickly submitted that his own group was but a Johnny-Come-Lately to official recognition of the black-eyed pea. Torn wrote to Kilpatrick: "Any friend of the black-eyed pea is a friend of mine. Perhaps our organizations can merge."

Kilpatrick responded: "Helping us through this difficult time is the generous attitude of Mr. Torn, who is exhibiting that nobility of spirit which identifies every lover of the black-eyed pea; he has welcomed our Virginia tendril to his long-established pea patch."

Whether the eating of black-eyed peas for good luck on New Year's Day is an old Southern tradition or not is a matter of some debate. The popular folk wisdom holds that the tradition started during the Civil War when Union troops burned agricultural fields, but considered cowpeas to be livestock feed and left them alone. That's how

black-eyed peas became a staple of the Southern diet during, and right after, the Civil War.

Some have suggested that Tiger Torn created the old New Year's Day "tradition" after World War II as a way to promote black-eyed peas for the Henderson County Chamber of Commerce. From the 1930s into the 1970s, Athens was the largest producer of black-eyed peas in the world.

J.B. Henry is credited with much of the success of the black-eyed pea in Texas. He discovered the peas while trying to rid his Henderson County pea vines of the weevil. When he developed a method of drying black-eyed peas in ovens on East Tyler Street in Athens, he was in business.

Athens honors the humble black-eyed pea each year with the Black-Eyed Pea Jamboree. The festivities generate goodwill and maybe even good luck in the summer, as well as on New Year's Day. While the debate continues about black-eyed peas' effectiveness and tradition as a culinary good luck charm, there's no denying that it's been a lucky legume for Athens and Henderson County.

## Packer defends buyout

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A spokesman for the world's largest beef packing company says ranchers have nothing to fear from his company's efforts to become the largest beef packer in the United States.

Chandler Keys, spokesman for the Brazilian-controlled JBS USA, told members of the Montana Stockgrowers Association that his company's success depends on successful cow-calf operations.

"We're in the cattle industry and we're going to pay you top dollar to get these cattle in our yards," said Keys, head of government and industry relations for JBS.

Cow-calf operations breed cattle, selling weaned animals in the 450- to 650-pound range to feedlots, which fatten them

before sending the cattle to slaughter.

The federal government and several states are suing JBS to stop its plans to purchase National Beef Packing Co., of Kansas City, Mo.

The purchase would trim the number of major U.S. beef buyers in the United States from five to three, raising antitrust concerns for federal and state attorneys.

JBS bought Swift & Co. in 2007 and Smithfield Beef Group this year. JBS has offered \$465 million in cash and \$95 million in stock for National Beef. The purchase would put more than 80 percent of America's beef packing industry into the hands of JBS, Tyson Foods and Cargill. JBS has said they would fight the lawsuit.

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