

# Ag Generates \$12.2 Billion in High Plains

## Study Finds Area Crop Production Supports Over 100,000 Jobs

LUBBOCK -- An economic analysis conducted by Texas Tech University and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension found crop production supported more than 103,000 jobs and generated more than \$12.2 billion in economic activity in 2010 in the Texas High Plains region.

Those findings come from a new, first-of-its-kind economic model that can now be used to measure the economic effects of different policy options such as changes in water regulations, energy costs, and federal farm programs according to one of the leaders of the research, Darren Hudson, Ph.D., the Larry Combust Endowed Chair for Agricultural Competitiveness at Texas Tech.

"We've always known crop production was a huge part of the economy of this region, but now we have a comprehensive model that can measure in dollars and jobs the total amount of economic activity generated by growing, selling and processing crops in the Texas High Plains," Hudson said at a press conference held last week in Lubbock.

The measures in the study reflect the impact of a wide variety of economic activity including production costs, such as buying seed, fertilizer, fuel, labor and equipment, as well as post-production processing of crops in the area, including livestock and dairy usage, cotton gins, grain elevators and other relevant processing.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Program Specialist Bridget Guerrero, Ph.D., a lead researcher on the study, elaborated that the study also includes the effects of the spending by businesses and individuals who earn income from all of these activities.

"This is a unique approach to this kind of analysis that isn't done anywhere else in the country," Guerrero said. "We're really on the forefront of being able to determine the full impact of agricultural produc-

tion to the regional economy, and not just a piece of it."

Economists will use this newly developed model to assess the economic impact of potential policy changes, including changes in regulations on using groundwater for irrigating crops.

The study used a five-year average (2006-2010) of crop production in 41 counties in the Texas High Plains. The crops analyzed were alfalfa, corn, corn silage, cotton, peanuts, grain sorghum, sorghum silage and wheat.

The research project was launched in April 2010 through financial contributions from Texas commodity groups. Representatives

from five water districts and six commodity groups serve on a steering committee for the project.

Funding for this research was made possible by North Plains Groundwater Conservation District, Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., Texas Com Producers Board, High Plains Underground Water Conservation District, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, Select Milk Producers, Texas Association of Dairymen, Texas Cattle Feeders Association, Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Seed Trade Association, Texas Sorghum Producers, Texas Wheat Producers, and Texas Peanut Producers Board.

## Local News Briefs

### Cheer Fundraiser Slated for this Friday Evening

Need to do a little shopping without the kids? This Friday evening (Dec. 7), members of the Seminole High School's "Cheer Hawaii" group will be hosting a movie night fundraiser for pre-kindergarten through sixth grade students at the First United Methodist Church.

The fund raiser, which will cost \$15 for one child, and \$10 for each additional sibling afterwards, will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the church, located in the 300 block of S.W. Ave. B.

For more information about the fundraiser, or to reserve a spot, contact Lizzie Stence at (432) 788-8585. Space is limited for the fundraiser, according to event organizers.

### SHS to Host Mandatory Meetings on Student Laptops

The Seminole High School campus will host three parent meetings, slated for Dec. 18, Dec. 19 and Dec. 20, to explain the campus' "1-to-1 Initiative," in which every SHS student will receive a laptop computer at the start of the 2013 spring semester.

Every parent of an SHS student must be present at one of the meetings, in order to sign a parent agreement for the issuance of laptops to students.

SHS Students will sign the agreement at the school campus, when they receive their laptops.

In addition, a \$50 technology fee must be paid prior to the issuance of the computers, in order to allow students to take the laptop computers home.

In August of this year, the Seminole Independent School District Board of Trustees unanimously approved to take part in a 3-year lease agreement with Apple Computers for the program.

The meetings are slated for a 12-noon start on Dec. 18th, 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 19th, and 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 20th, and will be held at the campus' activity center.

For more information about the meeting, contact the SHS front office at (432) 758-5873.

### Optimists to Host Turkey Shoot This Saturday

The Seminole Optimist Club will be hosting their annual Turkey Shoot fund raiser, this coming Saturday (Dec. 8), beginning at 11 a.m.

The shoot will be held at the Gaines County Law Enforcement Shooting Range, located on CR 216,

approximately two miles west of the Seagraves Hwy (U.S. 62/180).

The cost of the event is \$3 per round, with proceeds from the event helping fund the club's annual "Give a Child a Smile" Christmas program.

At the shoot, only .22 caliber rifles will be allowed for use.

A concessions stand is also being planned for the event.

For more information, contact James Wright of the Seminole Optimist Club at (432) 758-2798.

### Windbreak Trees Available for Purchase Locally

The Gaines County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a windbreak tree project in cooperation with the Texas Forest Service for 2012/2013.

You may place your order for trees in person at the Gaines County USDA/FSA Service Center located at 1301 South Main. Payment must be made when your order is placed.

This year's evergreen trees are: Afghanistan Pine, Austrian Pine, Pinyon Pine, Oriental Arborvitae, Lacebark Elm, Four Wing Saltbush, and Italian Stone Pine, Desert Willow. Evergreens are sold in multiples of 30 seedlings.

Hardwood Species available include American Plum, Black Cherry, Green Ash, Hackberry, Honey locust, Bur oak, Chinkapin Oak, Post Oak, Shumard Oak, Osage Orange, Pecan, Red Mulberry, Redbud, Sand Plum, Aromatic Sumac, Smooth Sumac. Hardwoods are sold in multiples of 25 seedlings.

Delivery of the seedlings is scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2013. All orders will need to be placed by noon on Wednesday, February 20, 2013.

Windbreak trees provide a variety of benefits ranging from controlling wind erosion in fields to decorating around homes.

For more information please contact the Gaines County Soil and Water Conservation District located at 1301 S. Main in the USDA/FSA Service Center or call 758-3722, extension 3.

### XABE Officials Cancel 'Breakfast with Santa' Event

Members of the Xi Alpha Beta Eta sorority have notified the *Seminole Sentinel* that they would be canceling their "Breakfast with Santa" event, slated for this coming Saturday morning.

No reasoning was listed on the cancellation, which was received by fax Monday from organization members.

Have a news brief you need publicized or announced? Let us help!!! (432) 758-3667 ph (432) 758-2136 fax news@seminolesentinel.com or come by 406 S. Main St. between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

## Matters of Record

**Seminole Police Dept.**  
Nov. 26 -- Seminole Police Officers conducted a traffic stop in the 600 block of S.W. 2nd St., in reference to a traffic violation.

The driver of the vehicle, according to SPD reports, had no driver's license and failed to identify herself. The driver, identified as Eva Loeven, 22, of Seminole, was placed under arrest and transported to the Gaines County Law Enforcement Center for her respective charges.



Nov. 26 -- Seminole Police Officers were dispatched to the 600 block of S.W. 2nd St., in reference to a theft report.

Information was taken and an investigation is underway.

Nov. 29 -- Seminole Police Officers responded to a complaint at the Seminole High School campus, in reference to a subject who wanted to file charges for an assault.

An investigation is underway.

Nov. 29 -- Seminole Police Officers met with a subject at the Seminole Police Dept., in reference to debit card abuse.

A report was taken and an investigation is underway.

Dec. 1 -- Seminole Police Officers stopped a vehicle in the 1900 block of S.W. Ave. G, in reference to a traffic violation.

The driver of the vehicle, according to SPD reports, was found to be in possession of synthetic cannabinoids.

The subject, identified as Jesus Franco Alvidrez, 19, of Seminole, was placed under arrest and transported to the Gaines County Law Enforcement Center.

Dec. 1 -- Seminole Police Officers were dispatched to the 600 block of S.W. 8th St., in reference to an unwanted, intoxicated person.

Officers located the intoxicated person in an alley in the 500 block, between S.W. 7th and S.W. 8th Streets.

The subject, identified as Librado Jr. Aguilar, 38, of Seminole, was placed under arrest and transported to the Gaines County Law Enforcement Center, where he was booked for a charge of public intoxication.

Dec. 2 -- Seminole Police Officers made contact with a subject at the Gaines County Law Enforcement Center, in reference to a warrant.

The warrant was confirmed and the subject, identified as Paul R. Flynn, 34, of Hobbs, N.M., was placed under arrest and booked into the GCLEC.

Dec. 2 -- Seminole Police Of-

ficers were dispatched to the 200 block of S.W. 12th St., in reference to property damage.

The information was gathered and a report was made.

Dec. 3 -- Seminole Police Officers responded to a call of criminal mischief at the Seminole Primary School campus, in the 600 block of S.W. Ave. B.

Dec. 3 -- Seminole Police Officers were dispatched to the Seminole High School campus, in reference to a male juvenile who was in possession of a controlled substance.

Juvenile probation was contacted and a report was taken in the incident.

Dec. 3 -- Seminole Police Officers were dispatched to the 400 block of N.E. Ave. B, in reference to a criminal mischief complaint.

Officers met with the complainant, gathered information and made a report.

An investigation is underway.

(Editor's Note: Matters of Record are published by the *Seminole Sentinel* as the public records are released from Gaines County's Law Enforcement Agencies.)

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With that in mind, there will be certain times that there will be limitations to news stories, letters to the editor and briefs, and their appearance in our publication to you.

The *Sentinel* does reserve the right to edit and restrict pre-produced stories and information for space limitations, editorial purposes, and time restrictions.

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