

TEXAS TRAILS: THE DOC IS IN

Frontier doctors
played the part

6A



MOSQUITOES ARE BACK

Pest thrives
after storms

7A



COUNTRY KIDS: BLUEBERRIES

This sweet treat
is healthy too!

12A



Racing Forward



Ronnie Stewart owns and operates Double S Horse Farm in Bell County. The ranch produces nearly 200 high-quality foals every year.

—Staff photo by Coppedge

Farm produces top horses

By **CLAY COPPEDGE**
Country World Staff Writer

Though he grew up in the horse business in Bell County, Ronnie Stewart came of age certain that he didn't want to live or manage a horse farm there. As owner of Double S Horse Farm in Bell County, Stewart admits he was wrong.

"It's funny how things work out," he said. "Your perspective changes as you get older."

Stewart grew up around horses and he went into the breeding business in 1974, with his father Bill. After his father died in 1978, Stewart decided on what he did not want and headed west where he worked at various horse tracks in

Please see **HORSES**, 2A

Farm is home to rare livestock

By **CLAY COPPEDGE**
Country World Staff Writer

If asked to name a Texas food product that begins with "Gulf Coast" most people would probably answer "shrimp," but Amy and Shaun Jones raise Gulf Coast Sheep many miles from the coast, in Praha. That most people aren't familiar with Gulf Coast sheep is part of the reason they chose the breed on their

A+S Farming in Praha, in Fayette County.

The organization Slow Food USA, has produced a list of American foods in danger of being lost forever, and Gulf Coast Sheep are on that list. Shaun said that was a key factor in their decision, but they also liked that the breed tolerates heat well, is resistant to parasites, and isn't picky about its forage.

Please see **RARE**, 3A



A+S Farming in Praha is home to some unique breeds of livestock, including Gulf Coast Sheep.

—Courtesy photo

Crops may benefit from hurricane weather

By **ROD SANTA ANA**
Extension Communications

If weather cooperates in the coming weeks, Hurricane Alex's rains may actually benefit South Texas row crops that are now on the brink of harvesting, according to Texas AgriLife Extension Service personnel.

"With Alex making landfall in Mexico, we're looking at minimal crop losses here in the Rio Grande Valley, provided we go back to hot weather and fields dry out," said Dr. Ruben Saldana, an

AgriLife Extension administrator.

When Alex had his sights on the mouth of the Rio Grande earlier this week, growers in the four-county Lower Rio Grande Valley were looking at possible major losses from the half-million planted acres of corn, cotton and sorghum crops that until then were producing well, he said.

"We dodged that bullet, and rains help condition the soil, but now we need things to dry out as soon as possible so growers can go in and har-

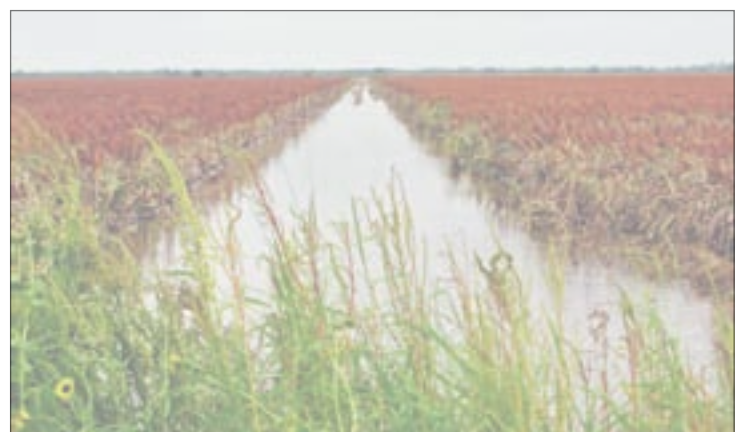
vest their crops," Saldana said. "And that's the forecast — sunny and hot starting Saturday."

Before Alex's threat, only a tiny percentage of crops had failed, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency.

But then Alex threatened to continue a disturbing trend in South Texas, said Dr. Luis Ribera, an AgriLife Extension economist.

"In 2008 we had losses of just over \$25 million to

Please see **WET**, 6A



A dirt road between two Willacy County sorghum fields is flooded from Hurricane Alex.

—Texas AgriLife Extension Service photo

Rare

From Page 1A

That trait came in handy as the first two years of the A+S operation coincided with a severe drought and a scorching heat wave.

"Our grass production is not yet where we would like it to be, but we produce an abundance of what most people would call weeds," Shaun said. "Our sheep have thrived on what would otherwise be considered poor pasture for cattle. Even through the drought, when all the grass had dried up, there were always some green weeds popping up. We really only have to feed hay about a month in the winter, and even then they are not totally dependent on it."

The sheep share the farm with a flock of heritage breed chickens, including Delawares with a few Javas and Barred Hollands thrown into the mix. Shaun said they chose their chickens based on their ability to produce both meat and eggs, but the first sales, or attempted

sales, of their chickens as broilers didn't fare well.

"The heritage breeds don't exactly plump up like a chicken bound for the supermarket," Shaun said. "They also cook a lot differently and have more flavor. We were barely covering the gas to get to market, so we ended up eating a lot of our chickens ourselves."

The chickens earn their keep at A+S now by producing eggs, which Amy and Shaun sell locally. They have sold their first lamb and the farm was certified this spring for a label that allows A+S to sell its lamb by the cut. They are expanding their flock of breeding ewes, which takes a little more time with Gulf Coast Sheep because breeding stock is not easy to find, Shaun said.

The couple's interest in heritage breeds started with Amy's work at the Houston Zoo, and led to organizations like the American Livestock Conservancy and the Ark of Taste. Shaun said that raising heritage breeds will remain a

priority for A+S.

"Having the ability to choose animals that suit your needs has great economic benefits by reducing the need for supplemental feed, medications and visits to the vet," he said. "Thinking outside our own farm, by raising heritage breeds we're preserving bio-diversity that could be lost."

"We like the slogan 'We Gotta Eat 'em to Save 'em.' Commercial breeds were developed for ease and uniformity of production. One thing we believe that has been lost in the process is the quality of the product."

A+S sheep and chickens are raised on pasture year-round and are moved daily. The sheep's daily portion of pasture is sized to ensure that they eat a wide variety of forages and not just their favorites, which is slowly improving the pastures.

"The daily moves help provide for the maximum amount of rest for the grazed pastures," Shaun said. "The sheep will not be introduced to the same piece of pasture for at least three months. The daily move also reduces the sheep's exposure to parasites, since they are moved away from their waste. By the time the sheep are introduced to the same piece of pasture again, parasites have already hatched



Amy and Shaun Jones like the idea of preserving and raising types of livestock that aren't well-known. "By raising heritage breeds, we're preserving bio-diversity that could be lost," said Shaun.

--Courtesy photo

Testing set for applicators

From TOMMY NEYLAND
Leon County Extension Agent

The Texas Agrilife Extension Service in Leon County will host a Private Applicator Training on July 23. Participants must pre-register in the Texas Agrilife Extension office on or before July 21.

The training will begin with sign-in from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., in the Leon County Annex Grand Activity Room.

Following the training, Mr. Brad Tullis with The Texas Department of Agriculture will administer the test. There will be a \$35 fee due upon registration of this training. Training will be from 8:30 a.m. to noon, and the test will be given at 1 p.m.

For more information, contact the Texas Agrilife Extension Service at (903) 536-2531 or at leon-tx@tamu.edu.

Mother and son arrested in case

From Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

A Marquez mother and son were arrested in Leon County on two separate charges of cattle theft. Brent Mast, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) special ranger, and Lt. Kevin Ellis, Leon County Sheriff's Department led the investigations.

Rosario Carrizales, 53, was arrested after allegedly stealing six head of cattle from a rancher in Leon County.

The cattle were spotted at the East Texas Livestock Auction by an order buyer who recognized the brand as a local rancher's. The owner of the brand was notified and later identified the cattle as his own. Investigations revealed that Carrizales, a part-time employee of the victim, allegedly stole and attempted to sell the vic-

tim's cattle.

The cattle were recovered and returned to the victim.

"Because these cattle were branded, we were able to identify and recover them quickly," said Mast. "The best way to protect your cattle from theft is to brand your cattle and register that brand with the county and TSCRA."

Further investigations revealed that Carrizales' son, Jose Guadalupe Carrizales, 26, allegedly stole one head from the victim in March. Carrizales turned himself in to authorities.

Both were released on bond of \$3,500.

If convicted, each could face up to ten years in prison and/or up to a \$10,000 fine.

Anyone with information regarding this or other cattle thefts should call TSCRA's Operation Cow Thief Hotline at 1(888) 830-2333.

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 several TX towns have ____ fish festivals</p> <p>5 ex-Fort Worth mayor William or Kenneth</p> <p>6 TX Dan Jenkins novel: "____-Tough"</p> <p>7 Chrysler-built "____ Cruiser"</p> <p>8 pecan dessert</p> <p>9 TXism: "____ in the pan" (one time)</p> <p>15 Luckenbach event: "Hell-____-No-Fury Ladies Chili Cook-off"</p> <p>16 improved</p> <p>18 TXism: "want ____ I could spit" (desire)</p> <p>20 Biblical weed</p> <p>21 "Keep TX Beautiful" program has rid TX of tons</p> <p>26 early TX Cherokee war chief: "Big ____"</p> <p>27 tree growable in TX</p> <p>29 Padre Island is named for one</p> <p>30 first black person to travel to TX</p> <p>32 Marshall, TX store featured in 5 films: ____ Lindsey Store</p> <p>33 TXism: "fish always are biting ____ & tomorrow"</p> <p>36 TXism: "____ mama" (waitress)</p> <p>37 Bob Lilly: All-____</p> <p>38 angelic child</p> <p>39 this TX Jemison was 1st black female in space (92)</p> <p>41 LBJ sang a ____ with his dog, Yuki</p>	<p>42 TX Willie Nelson started by singing ____ music</p> <p>45 former senator Bentsen</p> <p>46 Houston AM radio</p> <p>47 TXism: "put ____ shut up"</p> <p>48 ____ de cologne</p> <p>49 in 1890s, TX ranchers used this part of a fence as a telephone line</p>	<p>9 "State Fair" was a Rodgers ____ musical</p> <p>10 this Frank was 1st TXn to play major league ball (init.)</p> <p>11 "hasta ____ vista"</p> <p>12 "ban the bomb"</p> <p>13 Billie Sol Estes ran a grain ____</p> <p>14 TX Audie Murphy was a WW II ____</p> <p>15 TXism: "he's lying through ____"</p> <p>16 home of "Old Rip" the horned frog: ____ land</p> <p>17 to wreck or ruin ____ as a bee"</p> <p>21 this Otto directed TX Tierney (init.)</p> <p>22 Hayden ____ left TX to coach in Iowa</p>	<p>23 cowboys' bolo</p> <p>24 the world watched "Baby Jessica" ____ in Midland in 1987</p> <p>25 TX tried to ban 2 Live Crew's "As Nasty ____ as Wanna Be" (90)</p> <p>27 horse's neck hair</p> <p>28 TXism: "following ____ trail" (hopeless)</p> <p>31 calf outfit</p>	<p>34 TX VP Bush's former boss (init.)</p> <p>35 TXism: "he ____ his own grave"</p> <p>37 TXism: "____ as a peacock"</p> <p>40 TX moonwalker Bean</p> <p>41 this Koresch led the Waco cult (init.)</p> <p>43 a skittish horse ____ easily</p> <p>44 TXism: "____ as an oilman's daughter"</p> <p>50 labors</p> <p>51 TX Farrah Fawcett film: "The Cannonball ____"</p>
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