

# Agricultural Workers Help To Battle Long Drouth In 152 Texas Counties

There have been two real breaks in Texas' long hard battle of the drouth during the past month. Not enough to turn the tide, they still are enough to give new hope to the thousands of Texans who have been in the front lines of the state's 152 stricken counties.

The first big break came on June 27, when Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson came to Lubbock and two of their group, Extension District Agent Bud Jones of Lubbock and Superintendent Don Jones of the Lubbock Experiment Substation, had an opportunity to take him on an automobile tour of some of the typical drouth-ravaged areas. After this tour the Secretary talked with farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers at the American Cotton Congress in Lubbock and returned to Washington to set the wheels rolling on an emergency federal program of relief through furnishing feed to maintain foundation herds.

At the same time the Secretary appointed his own drouth committees, one for each of the 152 stricken counties and one for the state as a whole. On each county committee he placed a county agent, and on the State committee he

named G. G. Gibson, head of the state-wide extension service.

At the request of the Secretary of Agriculture's drouth committees, the Extension Service took the responsibility for the important information and education phase of the work, using its state-wide organization to form a communications network for getting the details of the battle on many fronts into the centers where the plans were being made and carrying back to the farms and ranches the vital information on what aid was available and how it might be used.

### Relief Details

One of the first jobs was to get word to farmers and ranchers on the exact details of the relief feed plan and how it would work in individual cases. Next came the job of giving ranchers the latest information on the type of feed that would be available and how to make the best use of it to keep his cattle in condition.

This sort of information was collected at state headquarters of the Extension Service at College Station and channeled out quickly to the county agents through a series of Drouth Emergency Letters, the first of which appeared on July 7, followed by an almost daily avalanche of down-to-earth information on the day-to-day problems of the drouth region and the best known solutions.

Extension workers of Texas and other drouth states met in Kansas City with extension people from states which have a surplus of feed and pasture and developed a system for exchanging information to bring together the man with the need and the man with the surplus. Since that scheme began working the daily drouth letters have carried lists of West Coast, Midwestern and Northeastern farmers and ranchers who either want to sell feed, lease pastures or buy cattle.

In turn the Texas group has furnished to other states names of ranchers who sought to buy or lease or to offer cattle for sale. As a result of this service many deals have been made.

### The Rains Came

The second big drouth in the long hard battle came around the middle of this month, when good local rains, ranging from two to four inches, began falling on widely scattered spots in the parched areas. While there's not much to be done in agriculture when it simply doesn't rain for a year or two, something can be done when a good rain falls, and it is important that the right thing be done—and done quickly.

When the rains come the farmer or ranchman who knows what to plant in his county at that particular time of year with some hope of making a good crop and who is prepared to get his seed in the ground immediately, has a chance to start back on the road to recovery.

On July 16 the Agricultural Experiment Station asked each of its eighteen local research centers scattered through the stricken area for a brief simple summary of local conditions, experience of the station in similar situations over the years and recommendations for what farmers and ranchers of that area could do until the rains came and what to do immediately after a good rain.

### Prisoners

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Mark Clark, who is in the United States. A letter from Clark will be handed to each prisoner.

The prisoners will also get a kit containing a summary of the latest news, including sports. These kits, and American cigarettes, will be the first things given the prisoners.

Taylor said that Major Gen. William Dean, the captured former commander of the 24th Division, will go through processing lines like all the others.

Seymour said that of the 500 sick and wounded prisoners to be handed over, it was expected that most would be suffering from skin diseases or tuberculosis.

At Freedom Village, the men will also receive mail from home. Since the prisoner agreement was reached, the Army has been holding mail addressed to war prisoners and men listed as missing.

The men will arrive at Freedom Village by truck. It will take less than an hour to bring them there from neutral Panmunjom. Then the men will receive initial medical checkups, records processing, clothing, mail, showers, dusting, press interviews for those who are willing, coffee and soup.

An Army orchestra to entertain repatriates and special shows are being prepared. They will also have their own post exchange, be able to get milk shakes and see movies.

Lists of crops and varieties best suited to planting at this time of year, suggestions for the most practical procedures for farmers and ranchers who still had cattle and for those who had no cattle were included. A few days later a list of the best suited forage and other crops for each area was prepared, with the length of growing season and moisture requirements of each being given, so that when a rain came the farmer in each area could quickly determine what was best suited for planting at that time.

### Field Workers Busy

All of this information was turned over to the Extension Service, to be channeled back to the counties through their county agents. Field men and women were instructed to use every means available to get the word out quickly, particularly when a good rain came, to give the people of their area the best opportunity of taking advantage of every bit of moisture.

The battle goes on, day by day. One of the latest emergency letters gives instructions on the best varieties of vegetables for fall gardens, reviews the most effective methods of planting and cultivation and points out the value of a garden to supplement dwindling income in the hard-hit areas. Home Demonstration agents are coaching farm and ranch wives in food preservation, clothing design and production and all of the other tricks for cutting corners in the hard times many families are facing.

A survey has been completed of all the hay available in Texas for sale and information on hay and feed for sale in other states has been gathered and furnished to the drouth areas. A similar survey of seed for planting, when and where it rains, is under way. As each new situation develops new needs will arise and a new kind of information will be needed. This group of research and extension workers see it as their job to furnish it.

### Drouth Is Eternal Problem

Fighting a drouth is no new agricultural workers. They know that in any year you will find a drouth going full blast somewhere in Texas. About every twenty years it will assume the dreadful proportions of the current disaster. They see the fight as a long one; a fight in which man will never whip the drouth, but can learn to live with it. Their principal weapon is knowledge and their attack is education.

Out of such disasters as the present they expect to gain some new weapons. Individual plants which survive such a drouth as this one are obviously drouth-resistant to a high degree. Selection and increase of the seed of many of these will furnish new stocks for planting in the next series of dry years in Texas. Methods developed in the emergency by ingenious farmers and ranchers will point the way to new and better management.

Experiment stations operating in the drouth areas have been forced by circumstances to concentrate for several years on drouth problems, because of their own experimental crops were suffering along with the others of their region.

They hope, too, that the hard lessons of the drouth will bring home to Texans the need for using the best practices developed over the years in range management, crop cultivation and cropping systems. These methods prove profitable in good years, but in drouth years they mean the difference between survival and failure. They expect the spectacular disaster of today to impress the whole state with the necessity for a long-range program of research and demonstration which will put Texas farther along the road toward making use of its best brains and skills to manage its agriculture in such a way as to make it drouth-resistant, if not drouth-proof.

### McCarthy

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the only school of its kind in the world which teaches a comprehensive course on diamonds, colored gemstones, silverware and other precious metals, as well as lab testing techniques for identifications and appraisals. There are currently around 3,000 students enrolled representing 17 foreign countries in addition to the United States and Canada.

The Institute's course is no quick six week sprint that turns out a gem expert in a few easy lessons. Three and one half years are required, on the average, for the jeweler to complete the mail course. After he has mastered a required amount of the theory by correspondence, he may, if he wishes, take six weeks of lecture and laboratory instruction in Los Angeles, Chicago, or New York City. It is such a class which McCarthy is now attending.



THE SAND DUNES MOVE IN—Drifting dust and sand, reminders of 16 miles southeast of Brownfield. Sand covers the plot where the stable garden normally. Riney's pasture is burned up and his cotton the help of a disability pension as a World War I veteran, and cash field, Riney is holding onto his 320-acre farm.

### Congressman Teague Reports

## Adjournment Plans All By Legal Debt Discuss

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug 4.—Plans for the adjournment of Congress over the weekend of August 1 were snarled when it became apparent that the United States Treasury would probably exceed the legal debt limit prior to December 31. The statutory limit on the public debt was first imposed by an Act of Congress in 1917 when the public debt was nearly three billion dollars. This figure was raised to sixty-five billion in 1941 and was progressively raised to three hundred billion in 1945, and then dropped back to two hundred and seventy-five billion in 1946. Secretary of the Treasury, George Humphrey, has asked through the President that the statutory limit be increased to ap-

proximately two hundred and ninety billion dollars. It is estimated that the public debt will reach two hundred and seventy-seven billion dollars by the end of the year but will be back down to about two hundred and seventy-three billion when the fiscal year ends on 30 June 1954.

## A&M System Scientists Open Attack On Bollworm

Scientists from the A&M College System and the U. S. Department of Agriculture opened another flank attack in the pink bollworm battle Monday, August 3, when they began 'Operation Shred', at the Weslaco Sub-Station of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Using standard shredder machinery, H. P. Smith and Harry Francis of the college's department of agricultural engineering moved into a cotton-field of the substitution to pulverize stalks and leaves of the cotton plants.

Substation entomologists Dr. George Wene and Paul Rihard, in cooperation with A. J. Chapman of the USDA's Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, took infestation counts of the pink bollworm before the operation, and will take them again immediately afterward.

Pulverized plants will be allowed to lie on the ground for a week, then a third count will be made.

Object of 'Operation Shred' is complete elimination of bollworms in test fields. A high percentage of the pests will die during the pulverizing operation and direct exposure to the sun's rays on the surface of the ground should kill the rest, the scientists feel.

Tests of machine efficiency will be made during the pulverizing process and possible adaptations to increase the killing effect will be studied for application this winter.

'Operation Shred' is preliminary action on expanded studies of pink bollworm control which was au-

thorized by the recent legislature. It is being started before the new fiscal year gets under way because deadline for plowing up cotton in the Weslaco area is August 31 under present control regulations, Dr. J. C. Gaines, head of the department of entomology at the college, said.

Four different machines, loaned by companies in Texas, will be used on various test plots to determine the most effective type of operation.

Additional data on bollworm migration will be obtained as the scientists watch the influx of new insects into the areas cleaned during the tests, Dr. Gaines said.

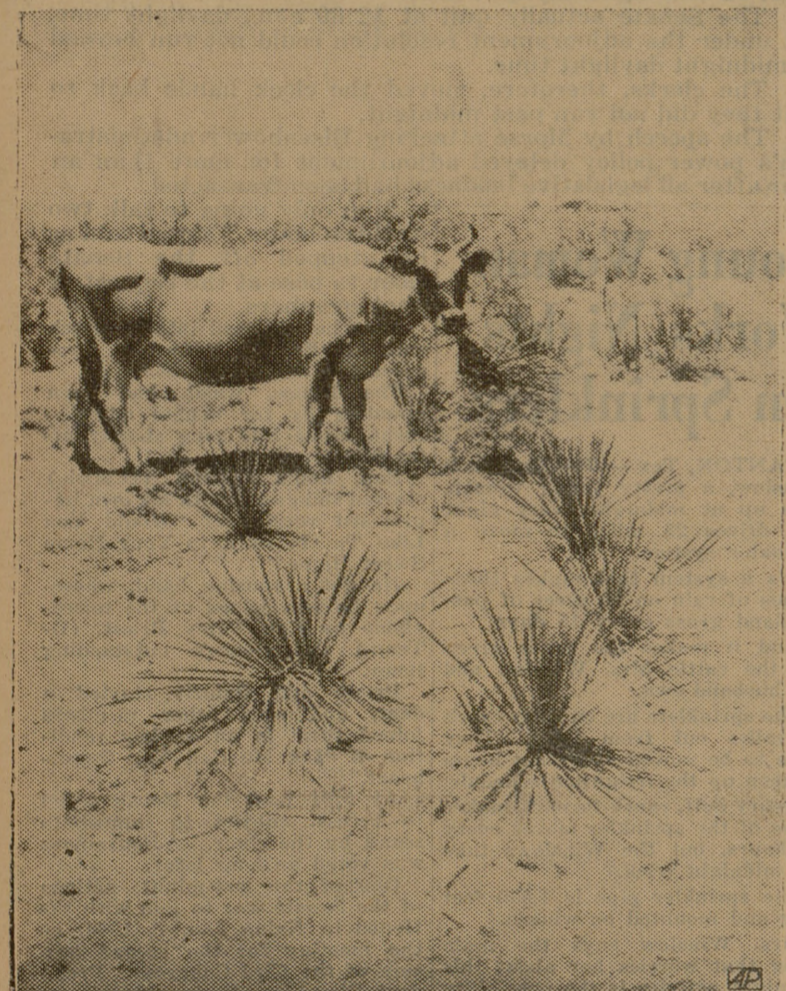
Cooperation of the departments of entomology and agricultural engineering in 'Operation Shred' also is in line with the current cotton mechanization studies being conducted by three agricultural engineering departments and the agricultural experiment station.

### Miss Beard Visits The Culpeppers

Visiting with Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Culpepper is her niece, Martha Beard of Hillsboro.

A sophomore, Miss Beard attended Lindenwood College in St. Charles, Missouri last year. She is taking dancing lessons while here and enjoying the "good old Southern hospitality" for which the Culpeppers are noted.

She is planning to spend the remainder of the summer here with only a short trip home before entering school in September.



DROUGHT FORAGE—A lone cow munches on Spanish dagger plant, that is growing on this drouth-stricken open range between Brownfield and Lamesa. This area is in the heart of the West Texas region so hard hit by four years of drouth and now declared a disaster area eligible for federal aid.

## Barry Will Chair Production Credit Meet

Ralph W. Barry, director of the Bryan Production Credit Association, will chair the opening session of the state wide meeting of the Production Credit Association of Texas, to be held at A&M August 9-12.

The meeting will be conducted by the 36 Production Credit Associations in Texas, the Production Credit Corporation of Texas and the A&M School of Agriculture.

A smorgasbord with officials of the college will be given at 7:30 p.m., August 9 and at 8:15 p.m., J. S. Farmer, director of the Texas PCA, will open the meeting at which Chancellor Gibb Gilchrist of the A&M System and Pres. M. T. Harrington of the college, will give talks.

College men on the program for Monday morning at which Barry will preside include D. W. Williams, vice-chancellor for agriculture for the system; Chas. N.

Shepardson, dean of the school of agriculture; Dr. R. D. Lewis, director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station; J. D. Prewitt, associate director Texas Agriculture Extension Service; Dr. Tyrus R. Timm, head of the department of agricultural economics and sociology; J. Wheeler Barger, professor of agricultural economics.

J. B. Chambers Jr., of Harlingen, director, Valley Production Credit Association, will chair the Tuesday, August 11, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. session.

Talks will be made by A. H. Walker, Extension range specialist, Prof. R. C. Potts, Agronomy Department, Dr. J. Miller, head, Animal Husbandry Department, all of A&M.

Dr. Virgil P. Lee, president, Production Credit Corporation, Houston, will be master of ceremonies at the banquet session, August 11.

### The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions "Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

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