Farmer grows alfalfa; sprouts big business

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Chicken
feed sprouted the seeds of a new
business venture in Bob Phipps
San Antonio

mind, but the tiny population of his home state forced him to leave North Dakota and head to Texas to watch his idea grow.

Energy Sprouts Inc. is selling more than six tons of alfalfa and bean sprouts each week. And the entrepreneur says South Texans are gobbling up more and more sprouts every day.

"We started out growing wheat sprouts for chickens in North Dakota," Phipps said. "A guy told us to try alfalfa, so we did and it turned out really good. Then the supermarkets started wanting our stuff.

there just weren't enough people up there to eat our product.
There's only 650,000 people in the fresher product. Energy

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make a go of it there so we sold tor is now a supplier in Houston.

Phipps turned his eye toward San Antonio, where his sister lived, and found that South Texas supermarkets were pur-chasing alfalfa and bean sprouts from as far away as California.

Today, seven months after Phipps left Bismarck, N.D., his like a fresh product, so we saw the opportunity to supply it," he

"Our initial start-up costs were about \$75,000 and it costs about a quarter of a million dollars to keep it going at the volume we're having now, sellthis first year.

He claimed local grocery chain stores reported an increase of 30 to 40 percent in the "Business went fine, but sale of sprouts when they started the fresher product. Energy the whole state. We couldn't Sprouts Inc.'s biggest competi-

Sat. 8-12:00

404 E. University

Phipps grows the alfalfa sprouts, which are thin and light and used primarily in salads and sandwiches, and bean sprouts which are thicker, chewier and used in eggrolls and Chinese dishes, in a 3,000-square-foot warehouse in San Antonio.

There, pounds of seeds are placed in mechanical drums where they sprout after being automatically watered and rotated for three and a half days.

The sprouts, which for years have been used in health food store concoctions, but are rapiding about 12,000 pounds a week. ly gaining wider week week hope to sell about \$400,000 washed, dried, weighed and cooled, then shipped to local supermarkets which in turn ship them to branch stores as far away as Lubbock and Dallas, as well as Arkansas and Louisiana.

"They've definitely caught on here," Phipps said. "Produce experts are saying the sprout business is in the same position the mushroom business was five years ago before it really caught

In addition to the more traditional alfalfa, bean and soybean sprouts, the company also markets a Chinese vegetable mix and "zesty" sprouts, a spicy combination of alfalfa and radish

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By Scott McCul

A&M women ranked ninth

Aggies hosting rodeo

Battalion Reporter
It's rodeo time again in Aggie-

land — this weekend, the Texas Aggie Rodeo Association is sponsoring the 1982 TAMU Intercollegiate Rodeo.

Jane Armstrong, faculty adviser for the association, said contestants from the southern region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association which includes colleges and universities from Texas and Louisiana — will compete in

25¢ off any entree with

two potato.... Good 'till April 30

* * * COUPON * * * *

bareback, saddle bronc, bull-rodeos, where money is is still a feeling there, riding, tie-down calf-roping, awarded, at the age of 9 or 10. "You get excited, a team-roping, goat-tying and Her favorite event is roping."

"I provide a ward day about to show everybody decrease."

The events started Thursday night and will run through Saturday, beginning at 7:30 each night at the Texas A&M Equestrian Arena on FM 2818.

The top two individuals in "This semester we have a seeing all your friends each event and the top two rodeo every weekend til the going out and havin

Armstrong said.

Texas A&M students have done well this season, Arm-ridden in rodeos. Her older

Texas A&M students have done well this season, Arm-ridden in rodeos. Her older

Texas A&M students have done well this season, Arm-ridden in rodeos. Her older March issue of College Rodeo, roper the Texas A&M women's team is "I u ranked first in the southern region and ninth in the nation.

Dan Mundorf, a senior agricultural education major from Three Rivers, is ranked fourth in steer-wrestling.

Corley Copps, a freshman business major from Dilley, has several high rankings, including third place in the national standings for barrel-racing and regional leader in barrel-racing and the Women's All Round.

Copps started riding at the age of 3 and was 5 years old when she entered her first Children in their sixth annual rodeo. She began riding with the Derby Day competition Texas Youth Rodeo Association Saturday. and started riding in open

Sponsored by:

two to three hours a day," Copps Rodeo association members see many of the peo

are busy, and Copps is no excep- used to ride with a few

men's and women's teams from semester is out, starting last time after the rodes each region will qualify to compete in the NIRA national finals all of those and then during the many out of the many out of

strong said. According to the brother, Mitch, is a professional

"I used to get real nervous be- roping and teamfore I rode, but after doing it so takes a lot of skill to be much it's not as bad — but there that. I think it is beaut

'I practice every day about to show everybody el Copps said she enj lege circuit because

You really look

people," Copps said."

Greek Derby Day Cleaning ar to benefit childre

by Charlotte Boyd

The Sigma Chi Fraternity expects to raise over \$3,000 for the John Wayne Wallace Village for

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The derby is made up of 11

events ranging from t relay, dressing and un out of a suitcase, to the buffalo relay, running teaspoon of water withing it. No admission

charged.
The competition beg a.m. next to Texas

Speedway. Winners will be an Saturday night at the De Dance, which is open to at the National Guard Rabbit, a band from Ai

provide music and adm \$3.50 at the door. John Wayne was a S member and the Bro Colo., children's villa school with the goal of a ing the progrees of with learning disabilities

SUNDAY SE

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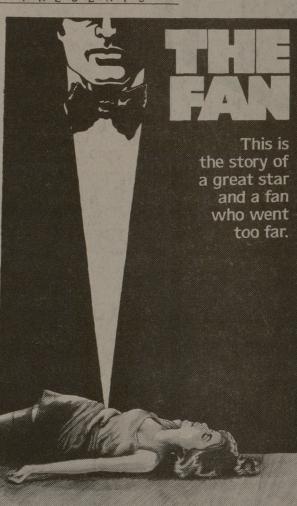
return to public school "All Sigma Chi throughout the U.S. and will sponsor a Derby their campus for this mentally retarded," Cal Sigma Chi member, said







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