

Most of 1983 Texas cotton crop sold

United Press International
LUBBOCK — Most of the 1.3 million bales of cotton produced on the High Plains last year was of good quality and already has been sold only a few months since harvest was completed, industry spokesmen said.

"We've had an excellent export demand," said Bert Kyle, Plains Cotton Cooperative Association sales manager. "For

one thing the countries that traditionally compete with us aren't offering cotton for sale."

Carl Anderson, extension cotton specialist from College Station, said Monday much of the 1983 Texas cotton crop showed good fiber quality despite a summer drought followed by heavy rains just as the harvest started.

Kyle estimated that only about 75,000 bales remained to

be sold of the Texas and Oklahoma cotton offered through the PCCA Telcot marketing system. That figure included the 1983 crop, Payment-In-Kind entitlements and older cotton.

PCCA usually represents about half of the cotton sold in area, Kyle said.

"Looking back through the 1980s, we've always had 500,000 or more bales at this

time of year," he said. "But I can sure say that we've never seen the end of February come and have the crop virtually all gone."

The High Plains for the past 10 years has accounted for nearly 60 percent of the cotton planted in Texas. Last year some 1.3 million bales were produced in a 25-county area surrounding Lubbock.

"Nationally cotton has been selling somewhat like it has been here, but other growing areas had a higher quality cotton that was not as much in demand as was ours," Kyle said.

But Anderson said reports indicated much of the state's last cotton crop had good spinning properties even though Texas traditionally is labeled as a low-quality cotton area.

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FBI investigates helicopter theft

United Press International
LEESVILLE, La. — Authorities investigating the theft of a military payroll by helicopter bank robbers said Monday they have "active leads," but had not identified or located the five suspects.

"We are pursuing this actively," FBI spokesman Cliff Anderson said in New Orleans. "All investigative agencies have active leads."

The FBI, state police and Vernon Parish sheriff's office were investigating Wednesday's armed robbery of \$160,000

from Merchants and Farmers Bank & Trust Co.

Five heavily armed men stole a maroon-and-white helicopter in Galveston and flew to Louisiana, robbed the bank of nearby Fort Polk's payroll and fled, authorities said. No shots were fired and no one was injured.

A sheriff's spokesman said officers were trying to confirm seven or eight reported sightings of the helicopter.

One of the earliest reported sightings was in Marshall where the helicopter was believed to

have landed to refuel about an hour after the robbery.

FBI spokesman Max Geiman in Kansas City, Mo., Monday said the helicopter also stopped at Point Lookout, Mo., where the robbers tried to buy jet fuel. Geiman said the airport was too small to stock jet fuel, so the robbers bought 40 gallons of regular aviation fuel and left.

Geiman said the robbers also were sighted at the Aurora, Mo., airport, where they bought

75 to 80 gallons of jet fuel.

State police Lt. Ronnie Jones last week said each investigating agency was working around the clock in an attempt to head off public tendencies to turn the bank robbers into folk heroes.

"There's probably some degree of public admiration that a group like that was able to pull off such a flashy robbery," he said. "I'm sure there is some romance of some type, no matter how strange that romance might be."

Around town

Political Forum to go to Washington

MSC Political Forum is sponsoring its annual trip to Washington D.C.. Cost for the trip is \$525 which includes round-trip air fare, lodging at the Capital Hilton and seven meals. The trip is open to all Texas A&M students, faculty and staff. A deposit of \$250 is due Feb. 23. For more information contact Lauri May in the Student Programs Office at 845-1515.

Health scholarships available

Applications for the **Julia Ball Lee** and the **H.R. Lee Scholarships** are currently available to undergraduate health science majors. The Julia Ball Lee Scholarship is a maximum \$500 scholarship awarded to biological science majors with high achievement and evidence of financial need. The H.R. Lee Scholarship also is a minimum \$500 scholarship presented to undergraduate health science majors with high academic achievement.

Applications for the scholarships are available in the Scholarship Office on the second floor of the Pavilion in 313 Biological Sciences. Deadline for application is March 1.

Wellness Network to organize

The **Student Wellness Network** will have an organizational meeting tonight in 274 East Kyle at 6 p.m. Student wellness includes items such as academic and social stress, dietary and exercise habits and emotional and spiritual outlooks. The meeting is open to all Texas A&M students, faculty and staff.

Law scholarships to be awarded

Tulane Law School and the **Texas Aggie Bar Association** will award scholarships to students interested in law. The Tulane Law School offers selected undergraduate students the opportunity to nominate students for the Tulane Law School Regional Scholarships. The recipients will receive \$4,000 for tuition and fees during the first year of law study. The awards are renewable for two years as long as the student maintains a 3.0 grade point average in all coursework. The nominee must be a graduating senior and must have applied to Tulane Law School by March 1. Deadline is March 15.

The Texas Aggie Bar Association will award three \$500 to Texas A&M students entering law school in 1984. Applications are available to any student who has completed two or all of his pre-law work at Texas A&M. Deadline is March 17. Students interested in either scholarship should contact Hillary Jessup, Academic services, 101 Academic Building.

Liberal arts accepting nominations

The **Liberal Arts Student Council** is now accepting student nominations for **Teaching Excellence Awards** in the College of Liberal Arts. Any student, regardless of major, may nominate any liberal arts faculty member for the award. Nomination forms are available in 802 Harrington or in any liberal arts department office. Forms are due Feb. 27.

To submit an item for this column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed McDonald.

World hunger called 'indecent' by farmers wanting price controls

United Press International
TEXARKANA, Ark. — Farmers from four Southern states Monday petitioned federal lawmakers to fix "minimum wage" type price controls for crops and renew a foreign aid food giveaway program.

"I've been around farmers all my life," said Roger Beall, a Louisiana farmer. "But I don't understand the simple fact that millions of people worldwide starve while American farmers don't know what to do with their food."

"It's downright indecent," he said.

Beall said the government should renew its "food for peace" foreign aid program, based on cheap credit and tied to future farm product markets.

But policymakers at an agricultural forum for farmers from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana balked at adding to the deficit.

"Cheap credit won't solve the problem," said Bob Berger, Carter administration secretary of agriculture. "That's where we're in trouble with Brazil, Poland and Egypt."

"But it's this nation's responsibility to set positive examples and we should think in terms of a new food for peace program."

A spokesman for the American Agriculture Movement said Congress must legislate a system of controls.

"Just tell me how many pounds, bushels or gallons have to produce and sell for a job," said Wayne Cryts, the spoken leader of Mississippi AAM who was jailed last year for resisting a government grain storage policy.

David Senter, national spokesman, said farm government must establish mandatory price subsidies

18-wheeler slams into 2 rigs spilling 40,000 pound load

United Press International
GREENWOOD, La. — An 18-wheel tractor trailer ran a stop sign Monday, hit a pickup truck, slammed into two parked 18 wheelers and toppled onto two more truck rigs, spilling 40,000 pounds of oven cleaner and injuring three people.

Robert Watkins of Toccoa, Ga., was arrested on eight charges in the incident. Watkins ran a stop sign as he exited Interstate 20 toward the truck stop, just west of the Louisiana-Texas border, said Caddo Par-

ish sheriff's spokesman Richard Dunn.

The truck clipped a pickup and veered into Kelly's parking lot, where it hit two other 18-wheel rigs and overturned onto two others. The collision split open Watkins' trailer, dumping the load of Easy Off cleaner onto the parking lot.

Jerry Segars, of Toccoa, Ga., a passenger in Watkins' truck and Richard G. Smith of Gatesville, Texas, suffered minor injuries in the accident. They were treated at a Shreveport hospital and released.

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