

STATE AND LOCAL

**Operators provide free information**

By TRENT LEOPOLD  
Staff Writer

Information hot line. May 1 help  
That's what callers hear when  
By dialing 1-800-822-PLAN.  
By dialing the new toll-free num-  
ber and giving the operator their  
name and address, callers can re-  
ceive information about specified ca-  
reers, educational opportunities and  
job futures.

The number was installed last  
month by the State Occupational  
Coordinating Committee. Their pri-  
mary purpose is to improve coordi-  
nation and communication between  
state and producers of occupational  
data.

The number doesn't provide a job  
placement service but does provide  
information about a variety of ca-  
reers, says Jennifer Betz, one of the  
telephone operators for the State  
Occupational Coordinating Com-  
mittee.

The main goal of the service is to  
provide information about certain  
occupations to those who do not  
know about them, Betz says.

"We will send information about  
what people do and don't like about  
certain occupations and places to  
write for job information," she says.  
"We also have information about  
financial aid and certain state-li-  
censed occupations," she added.

Betz says information about what  
employers are looking for in certain  
occupations would be especially use-  
ful to college students looking for  
former jobs.

Information also is provided  
about future prospects in certain oc-  
cupations, and mid-life job changes,  
Betz says.

If the caller's desired data is not  
available from the State Occupa-  
tional Coordinating Committee, Betz  
says, operators will direct callers to  
the best source of information.

**Food drive for needy to be held**

By TRENT LEOPOLD  
Senior Staff Writer

Students with extra food items  
left over from the semester will be  
able to donate them — if they are  
sealed — to the Brazos Valley un-  
derprivileged beginning Monday in  
the Memorial Student Center.

Dan Warden, the president of  
the Brazos Valley Food Bank, said  
Thursday students can donate  
canned goods or other non-  
perishable, packaged food items  
Monday through Friday at either  
of two tables that will be located  
across the candy counter in the  
MSC.

Students will be able to donate  
the items between 8 a.m. and 5  
p.m. any day next week, Warden  
said.

The Brazos Valley Food Bank  
is sponsoring a county-wide food  
drive on May 11, but the tables  
will be in the MSC earlier because  
most students will be gone then,  
Warden said.



"This will be a good opportu-  
nity for students who are leaving  
(for the summer) and want to get  
rid of certain food items," Warden  
said.

On May 11, food can be do-  
nated at either the Brazos Center  
Picnic Area or the south end of  
the Culpepper Plaza parking area  
between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The Brazos Valley Food Bank  
is a non-profit food distribution  
warehouse system designed to  
collect, store and redistribute  
large quantities of food to help  
those in need.

The food bank also is attempt-  
ing to encourage the food indus-  
try to donate a large amount of  
edible food that is often wasted.

**Texas farmers hurt by international monetary policies**

By TAMMY KIRK  
Staff Writer

The agricultural economy for  
Texas and the nation is hurting be-  
cause of the law of supply and de-  
mand — a large supply of agricul-  
tural commodities and a lack of  
demand in foreign markets, says Dr.  
Carl Anderson, an economist with  
the Texas Agricultural Extension  
Service of the Texas A&M Uni-  
versity System.

"Abundant crop supplies, sagging  
exports and a strong U.S. dollar  
abroad are all hurting agriculture in  
Texas and the nation," Anderson  
says.

The financial crunch for agricul-  
ture results mostly from policy ac-  
tions outside the realm of agricul-  
ture, he says.

"These include monetary and fiscal  
policies that together make up  
U.S. economic policy, trade subsidies  
of other countries, tariffs, trade bar-  
riers and other forces that influence  
interest rates, inflation or economic  
conditions at home and abroad,"  
Anderson says.

Another economist with TAES  
Dr. Bill Black, says countries like  
Brazil and Argentina owe money to  
U.S. banks and one way for them to  
pay off debts is to export their own  
crops.

"Argentina, for example, will sell  
its grain to Russia cheaper than the  
U.S. will, thus taking away one of  
our markets," Black says.

If the United States competes to  
regain lost markets, U.S. banks won't  
receive the money from those coun-  
tries that depend on revenues from  
agricultural exports to pay off debts,  
he says. The United States doesn't  
want the banks to foreclose on these  
underdeveloped countries because it  
would cause shaky foreign relations,  
Black says.

"There's a great attempt in the  
world to be self-sufficient in food,"  
Black says.

Even China is exporting now, he

says, because the country is adopting  
more farming techniques.

He says farmers in China have a  
personal incentive to excel because  
they can sell their own crops due to  
China's free private enterprise.

Black says that this trend in ex-  
porting means that U.S. farmers  
can't produce as much as they want  
because there is a surplus of agricul-  
tural products.

Black says Texas will be hurt more  
than the rest of the nation because  
the state, being near water, exports a  
higher percentage of its production.

With the nation's low grain prices  
and lack of exports, U.S. farmers  
could go bankrupt and lose their  
farms, Black says.

He says the farmers affected most  
are those who sell \$40,000 to  
\$200,000 a year in agricultural prod-  
ucts. Black says these farmers, called  
"medium farmers," make up one-  
fifth of the total number of farmers  
in the country. The farmers in the  
highest dollar bracket make  
\$500,000 or more in sales, he says.

"The livestock sector will fare  
somewhat better than crop produc-  
ers this year due to lower cattle num-  
bers," Black says. "However, large  
crop supplies will continue to  
dampen any sustained price recov-  
ery for major commodities."

The outlook for agricultural ex-  
ports, which were largely responsi-  
ble for a booming agricultural econ-  
omy in the '70s and early '80s, will  
continue on the bleak side, Ander-  
son says.

With exports dominated by world  
economic and political forces, the  
most likely outcome appears to be a  
modest increase in the U.S. farm ex-  
port volume with a stable value re-  
sulting from somewhat lower prices,  
he says.

"The current global supply and  
demand picture will not provide the  
boost needed in 1985 to bring U.S.  
farm exports back to levels of a few  
years ago," Anderson says.

**Beta Theta Pi arrives**

**Aggie Cowboys go Greek**

By TAMARA BELL  
Staff Writer

Next fall there will be an addition  
to the greek system at Texas A&M.  
The Aggie Cowboys, considered by  
the Interfraternity Council (the gov-  
erning body for fraternities) to be an  
independent fraternity, will offici-  
ally join the greek system as the  
Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

The president of the Aggie Cow-  
boys, Rob Crawford, says because  
the group is a local fraternity with-  
out a national headquarters, it isn't  
allowed to participate in Interfrater-  
nity Council activities such as rush.

"There were disadvantages to be-  
ing independent," he says. "Because  
we didn't have a national base, we

couldn't participate in rush at the  
same time as the other fraternities.  
We had to place ads in newspapers  
to announce our rush. It was just a  
hassle."

The Aggie Cowboys chose the Bet-  
as because of similar goals in their  
by-laws, Crawford says.

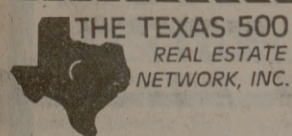
"When the Cowboys started five  
years ago, it was an organization that  
was based on no hazing," he says.  
"When we decided to go national,  
that was a major criteria we were  
looking for in other fraternities."

"We also took into consideration  
the fact that in this area, Bryan-Col-  
lege Station, there are Beta alumni  
who can help us get started," he says.  
Another reason the Cowboys

chose Beta is because of the fraterni-  
ty's strong reputation in the South,  
Crawford says. A good name can  
help during rush, he says.

Although the name switch will oc-  
cur next semester, a pledgship cer-  
emony scheduled for Saturday will  
officially induct the 70 members into  
the colony, Crawford says.

"It usually takes a year to become  
a chapter," he says. "First we have to  
go through a trial period when we  
are a colony. Then, at the annual na-  
tional convention, we're voted on.  
We prove ourselves as a colony for  
about a year, then we go to the na-  
tional convention and lobby to be-  
come a chapter."



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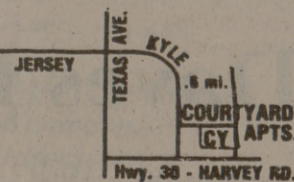
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