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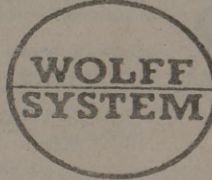
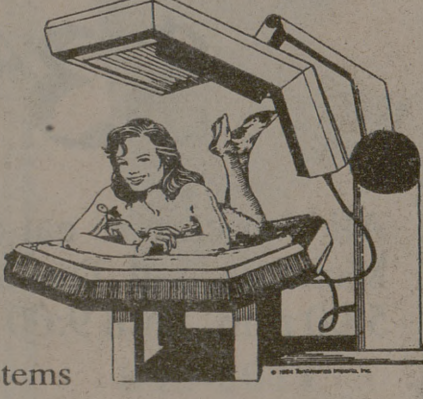
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**Agent says one option is to get out**

**Texas farmers try to survive crisis**

**Associated Press**  
 PARIS — A county agricultural extension agent who briefed farmers and ranchers on the nationwide plight of the agriculture business dispensed with talk of surviving the crisis and offered different advice.

Tony Douglas of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service recently told more than 100 Northeast Texas farmers that getting out of the agriculture business was one alternative.

"Right now, farmers are in a time of just trying to survive — whether it means staying in or getting out," said Douglas, Northeast Texas extension director.

"It's not a thing we like to talk about, but our job is to disseminate information," he said. "We've got a job to do."

Texas farmers have chronicled the same problems causing the Midwest farm crisis, including large debts undermined by falling land

prices, falling crop prices and rising production costs.

"This is not the typical farm meeting," said county agent Paul Payne at the seminar called "Management for Survival" at the Lamar County Fairgrounds.

"Folks, I'm here to tell you there is life after farming," said Missouri farm counselor John F. Morehead. "I could share some stories with you of people who fought it all the way,

but now they say it's the best they ever did."

"I've been involved in agriculture a little over 50 years now, and I've never seen it as bad as it is now," said Rep. L.P. "Pete" Patterson in the Northeast Texas meeting.

"We have to be optimistic," he said. "We have to believe it's better. We just wonder how long it will still be around to see it better."

**Aransas Pass shrimpers fight harvesting ban**

**Associated Press**  
 ARANSAS PASS — Businessmen in this Gulf Coast town that claims to be "Shrimp Capital of the World" are fighting a harvesting ban in the midst of an industry-wide decline.

Several Aransas Pass shrimpers recently traveled to Houston to protest the annual summertime ban on harvesting brown shrimp in U.S. territorial waters off the Texas coast.

"The shrimping industry has been in a slump, but we still feel it is a very viable part of our community," said Rick Ewaniszyk, Aransas Pass city manager. "We can't give up."

The mid-May to mid-July ban has proved to be the latest in a series of irritants for shrimpers since 1981. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council met last week to decide whether to continue the ban in 1986.

Port Aransas has been among the cities bearing the brunt of the shrimping industry's decline. Since 1982, families have moved, boats have been repossessed and businesses have closed in the town of roughly 7,200.

Sydney Herndon, owner of Gulf King Shrimping Company of Aransas

Pass, has told the council last week to eliminate the harvesting ban.

"Whatever decision you make, Texas industry has got to live with it," Herndon said. "This council can put an anchor on us, and it has. Your scientists show us these facts and figures and tell us it's working. As a shrimper, I can tell you it's not."

"Our bankers and accountants, we can't show them these figures and have them let us stay in business," Herndon said. "Because we're not just in the shrimping business, we are also in the ice business and the fuel business and the processing

business."

Ewaniszyk said some 10 Aransas Pass businesses have closed in the past 18 months.

"We feel this 45-day closure has had an adverse effect on our community," he said. "If the ban goes out, the shrimpers can't make money."

"And when those people make any money, they can't buy things, and people move out of town," he said. "We've had a substantial growth in our economy in the past few years. We're like a boat treading water."

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