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A&M meat, dairy centers offer more than ice cream

Customers flock from state — and further

By Audrey Cardenas
Reporter

To many of its customers, the Meat Science and Technology Center is a place to get Aggie-made ice cream, but the center is more than just a dairy freezer.

Beef, lamb, pork, poultry and such dairy products as milk, eggs, butter and cheese are also available at this center, located between the Kleberg Animal and Food Science Center and the Horticulture Forestry Sciences Building. All these items are produced at the Texas A&M meat and dairy centers.

"The milk is taken from the dairy to the creamery, which makes the dairy products, and then they bring it here to be sold," Ray Riley, manager of the center, said.

The meat sold at the MSTC comes from steers, hogs and lambs slaughtered for animal-science research purposes each semester.

Animal-science students manufacture sausage and cure and smoke boneless hams.

"In fact, all the smoked hams are manufactured by these students," Riley said.

Dixie Kupsa, who has worked at the center for three years, said, "The smoked products are so good that nothing can compare."

Most of the customers are University faculty and students, Kupsa said, but people still come from Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and from as far as California to buy the center's meat.

Beef is received through cattle purchased at stock shows or from various research stations, Riley said. Pork is received through the A&M Swine Center, and lambs from a feed lot in Copeland.

Animal-science students participate in and benefit from the slaughtering of the livestock, Riley said, because profits made from the MSTC are used to hire student workers for the center and to buy more livestock.

Allowing animal-science students to work in the center gives them an added learning experience, he said, not only in research, but also in the extension area.

"It helps them with their education and gives them a little extra," he said.

Besides meat, dairy products are sold at the center. "This is not the dairy," said, "but you can buy dairy products here."

The most popular dairy product is ice cream, she said, with flavors ranging from chocolate to Kahala, which, she said, are better cheaper than other brands.

"Ice cream here is an Aggie product," she said, "and if students buy ice cream, they buy because they can chew on it."

Milk also is a popular product, the MSTC, Riley said.

"We sell about 250 gallons a week," he says.

One of the biggest problems ever, is that most people come to the center with the dairy, Kupsa said.

Riley agreed, saying, "creamery makes all the dairy products — we just sell them."

Despite the center's identity with local merchants, "We're subsidized by the government," he said, "so it wouldn't be to advertise."

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NAVY OFFICER.

LEAD THE ADVENTURE.

Dam site might be moved for sake of a snake's safety

By Frank C. Hada
Reporter

The proposed site of a West Texas dam might have to be moved, costing Permian Basin residents millions of dollars, because of the possible extinction of an isolated subspecies of water snake.

Construction of the Stacy Reservoir by the Colorado River Municipal Water District was slated to begin in May, but final approval for funds to make changes that possibly could improve the snake's chance for survival has not been given by the district.

The concho water snake, *Nerodia harteria paucimaculata*, lives in rocky waterfall areas in the Colorado River in Concho, Runnels and Coleman counties in Texas. About half of the snake's habitat would be destroyed upon construction of the dam.

The Stacy dam, a \$66 million project, has been financed solely through the issuing of revenue bonds.

No tax dollars have been used to fund the dam so far but, in case of relocation, the residents will have to be taxed to cover the cost, according to U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen's office.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has expressed concern that the project would destroy about 48 miles of the snake's habitat.

In certain circumstances, the Fish and Wildlife Service has predicted, the dam could eliminate the species completely.

Bentsen has supported construction of the dam, saying a pipeline to

the relocated project would cost residents more than \$30 million a year.

If approved, the reservoir will provide water for Midland, Odessa, Big Spring, Snyder, San Angelo and Abilene.

Bentsen expressed concern about possible overreaction to the issue.

"Frankly, they (the environmentalists) don't know what will happen," he said. "In fact, they say that planned discharges from the dam could actually maintain or enhance the downstream habitat of the snake."

James R. Dixon, Texas A&M professor of wildlife and fisheries sciences, headed up the team that recommended to the Fish and Wildlife Service ways to improve the snakes' survival chances.

Dixon is uncertain if the project will adversely affect the snake's habitat, but said the area slated for the reservoir definitely is the snake's last habitat.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, the snake is considered a protected species.

Frank Dunkle, director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "My service does not object to construction of the dam, provided the Colorado River Municipal Water District undertakes effective conservative measures to protect the snake."

But the project lacks funding for changes in the dam's original design to benefit the snake — changes like sloping the lake's shoreline, breaking up rocks and controlling downstream discharge, Bentsen said.

Bentsen also said Dunkle's position represents a substantial change

in attitude by fish and wildlife officials, who previously had insisted dam be moved or the project abandoned.

The dispute, which has been compared to the case of the Texas Dam and the snail darter, is aided by two bills filed by Bentsen and Rep. Charles Stenholm of Ford.

The bills would force the Fish Wildlife Service to grant approval regardless of the animal's present status.

"The people of West Texas consider a threat against this project by speculation over the on water snakes as a serious and misplaced priorities and I agree with them," Bentsen said.

Air turbulence forces landing of airplane

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A Mexicana Airlines flight en route Mexico City to Philadelphia had an unscheduled landing at San Antonio International Airport Monday.

Several passengers suffered injuries during turbulence over the Gulf of Mexico, authorities said. Emergency medical services were on hand when Flight 2537, carrying 155 people, landed at 7:30 p.m. CST. An undetermined number of people were taken to East Hospital with cuts and bruises.

"I thought we were going to crash," said Sally Parsons, 54, of Easton, Pa. She said there was no warning of turbulence and that flight attendants were serving meals and beverages when the plane abruptly dipped.

She said trays flew and passengers without seat belts hit their heads on the ceiling.

A Mexicana ticket agent declined to give her name, but a statement that said the 737 jet diverted to San Antonio because of slight injuries to a few passengers.

The flight originated in Mexico City and stopped in Philadelphia, officials said.

Passengers said airport officials and medical personnel boarded the plane as it landed.

Texas lawmen support bill for new training academy

AUSTIN (AP) — An organization representing more than 7,000 Texas lawmen on Monday endorsed legislation that would create a new training academy in the state.

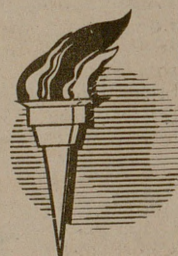
The bill, sponsored by Rep. Bill Blackwood, R-Mesquite, and Sen. Hugh Farmer, D-Fort Worth, would allow creation of the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas, which backers said would be patterned after such facilities as the FBI national academy.

The new school would provide advanced training for law enforcement

officers with emphasis on management and supervision.

Ronald G. DeLord, president of the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas, said, "Most officers receive their initial basic training and that's all. These officers are then expected to progress through their careers, be promoted and supervise other officers without training in basic management skills."

To pay for the new school, the bill proposes to charge a fee of people convicted of any criminal offense.



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