

# Weather Service says '88 drought still effecting state

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — The 1988 drought is still bearing down hard on much of Texas agriculture, and last week's rains helped only the northeast sector of the state.

And according to a long-range outlook by the National Weather Service, the dry conditions are not likely to improve. The agency's December-through-February forecast calls for a 55 to 60 percent chance of below-normal rainfall for the Southwest and Deep South.

Dr. Zerle L. Carpenter, director of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, said the cold front during the past week dropped scattered rains in north central counties, heavy rains in the state's northeastern corner and up to 4 inches in northern counties of deep East Texas.

The front brought no significant precipitation to any other areas, he said.

Following the front were frosts that reached as far south as the Winter Garden district southwest of San Antonio and east to the Houston area. The cold snap and dry soil brought growth of ranges, pastures and wheat to a quick halt in the Panhandle, the plains country and the north central region.

Carpenter said the Extension Service is reminding livestock producers of the danger of prussic acid (cyanide) poisoning following frosts in Johnsongrass and other sorghum family members.

He said it's a good idea to wait five or six days after a frost before turning animals in on any type of sorghum forage, and then watch them closely.

Carpenter said sorghum harvesting is nearly finished in the Panhandle and the cotton harvest is about 25 percent along. Recent cold weather has increased maintenance feeding of cattle, although ranges and pastures are still in fairly good condition.

In West Central Texas, maintenance feeding of livestock is widespread because of short, parched pastures. Sorghum harvesting is winding down and cotton is 75 percent out of the fields.

Carpenter said the Coastal Bend remains as one of the state's driest districts, where only two of 10 or more counties have at least some soil moisture. Stockmen are actively culling herds, and maintenance feeding is underway in almost all counties. Pastures are fair to very poor.

Pastures are still in fairly good shape in deep South Texas and livestock are doing well, Carpenter said. High yields of good quality sugarcane are being harvested, and the outlook for citrus and early oranges is promising. Watermelons are still being harvested.

The following specific crop and livestock conditions for the past week were reported by Extension district directors:

**NORTH CENTRAL:** Soil moisture varies from adequate to short. All small grains and pastures could use more rain. Wheat is good to fair and pastures are good to poor. Ryegrass pastures are looking good. Fair yields are coming from a peanut crop that is almost complete. Stock tanks are at higher levels and cattle are in fair to good shape. A good pecan crop is up to 60 percent harvested.

**NORTHEAST:** Big rains have put adequate moisture into the soil. Wheat, oats and other winter forages are growing well and providing good grazing. Vegetable crop activity is at a near standstill. High pecan yields are reported.

**WEST CENTRAL:** The drought is firmly entrenched, and all ranges, pastures and small grains are stressing. Maintenance feeding is active. Sorghum harvesting is approaching completion and cotton is 75 percent harvested. Peanut harvesting is tapering off, with irrigated fields getting fair to good yields. Pecan yields are fair to good.

**CENTRAL:** Ranges are declining because of heavy frosts. Showers have helped wheat growth but greenbug infestations are high. The peanut and pecan harvests are 75 percent and 50 percent complete, respectively.

# Alcohol awareness continues with 'Green Bean Campaign'

By Denise Thompson  
Staff Writer

Shades of green have overtaken residence hall bulletin boards.

Attempting to promote student alcohol awareness in dorms, the "Green Bean Campaign" was sponsored by the Center for Drug Prevention and Education.

Unusual flyers were posted around campus to encourage students to consider their drinking patterns and those of their friends.

Debra Doyle, a graduate assistant at the Center, said the Green Bean Campaign was a follow-up activity to the National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week.

"The campaign started right at the beginning of November," she said. "What we wanted to do is have some follow-up activities to exemplify what our message was during

Alcohol Awareness Week. And that message was that people should be aware of alcohol and the choices that they are going to encounter."

The campaign involved placing a different green flyer on bulletin boards during each week of the month.

The first poster showed a picture of a large green bean with the words "Green Bean" printed on it. The next poster was a picture of six cans of green beans with the message, "How many 6-packs of green beans do you need to make your weekend fun?"

"If your friend went out and ate a 6-pack of green beans every night, would you talk to him or her about it?" was the message on the third poster.

The fourth poster contained the message, "You could talk to your friend about his green bean prob-

lem, but can you talk about a drinking problem?" The final poster was accompanied by a sheet that provided an explanation of the campaign and the Center's location and telephone number.

"The main purpose of the posters was to let students know that if they're aware of someone with a drinking problem, there are ways of dealing with it besides just closing their eyes," Doyle said.

Another focus of the campaign was to make students aware of a problem associated with drinking called enabling, Doyle said.

"This is when people actually enable the problem either by ignoring it or by making fun of it," she said.

"When people talk about having a round of stories about how drunk they got last night or when they try to top other people's drinking sto-

ries, it just enables the whole behavior pattern of just going out and getting bombed."

While resident directors in the dorms said the campaign was successful, Doyle said it is important for off-campus students to have the same information and know where they can get help if they need it.

"We have several support groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and Adult Children of Alcoholics that can help anyone with a drinking problem," she said.

Although the responsibility of confronting someone about a drinking problem is difficult, Doyle said it can be a true test of friendship.

For more information concerning alcohol or drug abuse, visit the Center on the second floor of the A.P. Beutel Center or call 845-0280.

# Economics professor debates on 'Morton Downey, Jr.' show

By Richard Tijerina  
Staff Writer

Appearing on the "Morton Downey, Jr." show was a lot of fun, but the show tends to be geared more toward hype and ratings than content, A&M economics professor Morgan Reynolds said.

Reynolds, who appeared on the show Nov. 24, was picked to discuss "Labor In America."

Reynolds was chosen by Downey's staff to be a guest because he has written several books on labor unions in America.

Reynolds was one of a dozen guests on the show, which featured guests mostly from the Detroit area, where the show was taped.

"It was a circus, a real three-ring circus with all the guests they had on," Reynolds said. "They were apparently working for someone who was anti-union, and I've written a couple of books on labor unions. Up in Detroit, you're not going to find a whole bunch of anti-union people."

Reynolds said the majority of the

show was devoted to discussion of unions in America, concentrating on the steel and auto industries, foreign competition and working conditions.

He said the rest of the show was "interrupted by a lot of shouting from the audience."

Although he was on for the entire show, he answered only one question.

Downey directed the first question, which concerned working conditions and monopolies, toward Reynolds.

He gave his answer in three parts: monopolies are bad for working people, unions are nothing more than government-supported monopolies, and labor unions impoverish working people in the United States.

Reynolds said that once he gave his answer, the show deteriorated into chaos, and he had to shout to gain attention. He said he thought the broadcast had even less content than the average Downey show.

"There were a few good mo-

ments, but there wasn't much rational content on the show," he said. "It was mostly played up for hype and entertainment. There was a band and a lot of shouting."

Reynolds said he was not a fan of the show, but appeared on it because his 19-year-old son is a big supporter of the talk show. He is glad he participated in the show, he said, but would not do it again because he was not able to express much of his view.

Although the show is supposed to

be a serious talk show that addresses serious issues, it is geared only toward ratings and does not include enough serious content, he said.

"You take shows like (ABC's) 'Nightline' on one end and 'Morton Downey' on the other end, and it just doesn't compare," he said. "'Nightline' is too slow, and 'Morton Downey' is too hyped. I think something like (CNN's) 'Crossfire' is more in-between — that's better."

## Man gets 45 years for smuggling drugs

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — A convicted drug smuggler has been sentenced to 45 years for operating a marijuana smuggling operation and laundering millions of dollars in drug profits through a border peso exchange business.

Antonio Franco was convicted

in October in connection with the smuggling ring operating from Mexico to Illinois and laundering the profits through a McAllen money exchange.

Franco and Oscar Alvarez, owner of Oscar's Money Exchange in McAllen, were named in a 25-count indictment.

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