

# The Borden Star

Borden ★ Dawson ★ Garza ★ Howard ★ Lynn ★ Scurry

Volume XXXVII

January 7, 2009

## USDA Announces 2009 DCP Signup ACRE Sign-up to Begin In Spring 2009

The United States Department of Agriculture has announced that enrollment for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres began Dec. 22 both online and at local USDA service centers and will continue until June 1, 2009. The June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants. USDA will not accept any late-filed applications.

Producers who are eligible for the 2009 DCP Program will also be eligible to enroll in the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Program. The enrollment period for the ACRE Program will begin in the spring.

Producers may first enroll in the DCP Program, elect to receive advance direct payments and then later modify their enrollment to include the ACRE program or they may wait and enroll in DCP and ACRE at the same time in Spring 2009.

USDA computes DCP Program payments using base acres and payment yields established for each farm. Eligible producers receive direct payments at rates established by statute regardless of market prices.

For 2009, eligible producers

may request to receive advance direct payments based on 22 percent of the direct payment for each commodity associated with the farm. USDA will issue advance direct payments beginning December 2008.

Counter-cyclical payment rates vary depending on market prices. Counter-cyclical payments are issued only when the effective price for a commodity is below its target price. The effective price for each covered commodity and peanuts equals the direct payment rate plus the higher of the national average market price received by farmers during the 12-month marketing year or the national average loan rate.

Producers are urged to make use of the eDCP automated website to sign up; however, producers can visit any USDA Service Center or their administratively assigned center to complete their 2009 DCP contract.



Representative Joe Heflin congratulates the Borden County Coyote football team on their State Championship. Heflin presented the team with a flag that was flown over the Texas capital in their honor.

## Gail FFA Members Compete At State Leadership Event

By Buddy Wallace

Four members of the Gail FFA Chapter recently represented Gail FFA, the Lone Wolf District, and Area II at the

State Leadership Development Event in Huntsville. These members earned this right qualifying at the District and

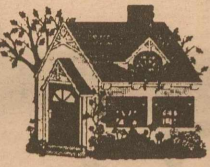
Area Level. The contest which was held on December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Sam Houston Campus

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**AgriLIFE EXTENSION**  
Texas A&M System

**Heart and Home ...**

by Julie Smith  
Borden County Extension Agent-Family and Consumer Sciences



Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

## Feeling Stuffy? Check Indoor Humidity

Do your sinuses feel slightly stuffy after a couple of hours at home? Anybody in the family had a mysterious nose bleed or some unexplained congestion?

Getting a physical examination might be a good idea – but also consider checking indoor humidity. Excessive static electricity and/or persistent respiratory problems may be symptoms that the humidity levels in your home are out of balance. How do you know if your home's humidity needs to be adjusted? Watch for symptoms in the house itself, she said.

Indoor air that's too dry can cause too much static electricity in clothes and carpets. Too much indoor humidity will show up as water – condensation, frost or ice – on the insides of windows, damp spots and mold on walls or ceilings, and sweating water pipes.

People tend to be comfortable when the temperature is between 68 F and 72 F and the relative humidity is between 25 percent and 50 percent. Normal indoor living activities – such as cooking, bathing, doing laundry, washing dishes, breathing and perspiring – generally add enough moisture to the air to keep relative humidity levels at the comfort zone. But being comfortable is one thing – knowing your home's humidity level is another. You don't really know if the relative humidity is high enough or too high unless you are monitoring it. And that's where a gauge comes in handy. We recommend that you have a hygrometer to monitor both temperature and humidity. A portable one can be taken from room to room to monitor. In humid areas during the winter,

indoor humidity should be no more than 40 percent, to reduce condensation on windows.

In very dry climates, keeping a vaporizer or humidifier going in the house can maintain indoor humidity at comfortable levels. Once again, monitoring is the key. The most practical way to control moisture problems in the home is controlling the source. Make sure plumbing leaks – both indoor and outdoor – are fixed, water use is reduced and/or improved, and the home is weatherized as well as insulated.

Improving air circulation and ventilation inside the house can help too, but just opening windows might not be enough. That depends on moisture in the outdoor air, pollutants in outdoor air and other factors.

Opening windows to improve air circulation may work best in dry climates. However in wetter climates the air conditioning or heating system may also be used to help dehumidify indoor air.

For more information on this and other issues, visit Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences Web site at <http://fcs.tamu.edu/> and click on the link to Housing and Environment.

Source: Janie Harris, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Housing and Environment Specialist

**MEMBER**  
**2008**

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

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# Gail FFA Members Compete in State Leadership Event...

(Continued to Page 7)

involved the top two teams from each of the ten areas in Texas. This resulted in two preliminary heats of ten teams with the top five advancing to the final round of competition.

Sr. Creed Speaker Krista Tarleton competed as a District Champion and Area II runner up. This was a great feat as she was a Sophomore in a field of Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. Krista had a strong round in the state prelims and even though she did not break to the finals, she was still recognized as a top twenty final-

ist from a field of over 600 creed speakers in Texas this year.

The Jr. Skills team consisting of members Kobie Benham, Shaylie Boles, and Seleste Herridge had also been strong earlier this year as they placed first in District and first in Area. These wins allowed them to compete in the top twenty best of the best competition at the state event. The Gail team took care of business as they won their first heat of the prelims and advanced as a top ten finalist team in the fi-

nal round. They once again had a flawless performance in the finals and secured the overall sixth place finish from a field of over 195 Jr. Skills teams in Texas this year.

The state competition wrapped up yet another successful fall of leadership training and competition by the Gail FFA Chapter. Now it is on to new competitions as the chapter will be involved in judging events, stock shows, speaking events, and degree applications.

### Got News?

Mail it to:  
P.O. Box 137  
Gail, TX 79738  
806/756-4313  
ext. 275  
email:  
kdean@bcisd.net



Gail FFA members recently competed in the State Leadership Development Event in Huntsville, Texas. The competition was held at the Sam Houston campus. Pictured are (left to right) Kobie Benham, Shaylie Boles and Seleste Herridge.

## School Lunch Menu Jan. 12 - 16, 2009

**Monday** - Breakfast: Oatmeal & Toast, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Chili con Carne w/beans and Milk.

**Tuesday** - Breakfast: Muffin, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Popcorn Chicken Potatoes, Corn, Hot Roll, Apple Slices and Milk.

**Wednesday** - Breakfast: French Toast, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Fajitas, Salad, Pinto Beans, Jell-o w/Pear, and Milk.

**Thursday** - Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza, Fruit Juice and Milk. Lunch: Cheeseburger, French Fries, Salad, Yellow Cake w/frosting and Milk.

**Friday - NO SCHOOL!**

\*\*\*\*\*  
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## 2009 Borden County Jr. Livestock Show



Thursday, January 15  
Steer Show – 6:00 p.m.



Friday, January 16  
Lamb Show – 8:30 a.m.  
Goat Show – after Lamb Show  
Swine Show – after Goat Show

Saturday, January 17  
7:00 – 9:00 a.m.  
Complimentary Chuck Wagon Breakfast

Awards Ceremony - 9:00 a.m.  
Premium Sale – 9:30 a.m.



Agriculture News  
by Cody G. Hill  
Borden County Extension Agent -  
Agriculture

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## Southern Mesa Agricultural Conference

The Southern Mesa Agricultural Conference will focus on regulations and policies affecting Texas Agriculture as well as the BMP's (Best Management Practices) for cotton, grain sorghum, and peanuts.

This conference will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at the Movieland Theater, located at 604 North Austin Ave. in Lamesa, Texas. Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the program will start at 8:00 a.m. The registration fee, which includes a complimentary gift, technical sessions, door prize ticket, lunch, refreshments, educational materials and access to exhibits, is \$25 if paid by January 14, 2009. After January 14 and at the door, the registration fee will be \$30. Registration forms and fees, payable to "Dawson Ag Fund", should be mailed to the Dawson County Extension office at P.O. Box 1268, Lamesa, Texas 79331.

The program, sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension in Dawson, Borden, Scurry, Mitchell, Lynn, and Garza Counties, will feature information on Utilizing Technology and Traditional Methods of Weed Control in Cotton; Managing Insects using IPM in Cotton; Cotton Production - Do we need to use all the "Tools in the Tool Box"?; Pathology in Cotton - Can the CSI Team Help?; Getting the Most from your Cotton; Is the Farm Bill a Bail Out?; Grain Sorghum Insects; Grain Production; COOL - Is it a good thing?; Laws and Regulations Presentation.

Six-and-a-half (6.5) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) (2.5 General, 2 IPM and 2 Laws & Regs) will be provided for private, commercial and non-commercial applicators for attendance at this program.

Speakers include Dr. Randy Boman, Dr. Calvin Trostle, Mr. Tommy Doederlein, Dr. Peter Dotray, Dr. John Robinson, Dr. David Kerns, Dr. Joe Outlaw, Dr. Jason Woodward all with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service; and Mrs. Debbie Slocum with the Texas Department of Agriculture.

Producers who wish to pre-register, may do so by calling the Dawson County Extension Office at 806/872-3444. Remember, the absolute registration fee deadline is \$25 if paid by January 14, 2009. After January 14 and at the door, the fee will be \$30.

We will seek to accommodate all persons with disabilities for this event. We request that you call the Dawson County Texas AgriLife Extension office at 806/872-3444 as soon as possible to advise us of any auxiliary aid or service that you require.

**Drive Safely. Watch for Children**



CONOCO

**LAMESA BUTANE CO.**

ARLEN MORRIS, Mgr.

Long Distance  
1-800-772-5201

Local  
806/872-5200  
806/872-5356

P.O. Box 382 • 501 South Lynn • Lamesa, Texas 79331

## Commissioners Meeting

**WHEREAS**, On this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2008, the Commissioners' Court of Borden County, Texas, convened in Regular Session in the Commissioners Court room in the courthouse of Gail, Texas, the following members of the court being present, to-wit:

**VAN L. YORK**, County Judge; **MONTE SMITH**, Commissioner Precinct No. 1; **RANDY ADCOCK**, Commissioner, Precinct No. 2; **ERNEST REYES**, Commissioner Precinct No. 3; **JOE BELEW**, Commissioner, Precinct No. 4; **JOYCE HERIDGE**, County Clerk and Ex-Officio of the Commissioners Court constituting a quorum, when the following proceedings were had, in accordance with the posted agenda.

### MINUTES APPROVED

Minutes of the Commissioners Court Meeting of November 25, 2008 were read. Commissioner Reyes made a motion to approve said minutes. Commissioner Adcock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### COUNTY OFFICE REPORTS

After examination of the County Offices Reports, Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the submitted County Offices Reports. Commissioner Reyes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND

A motion was made by Commissioner Adcock to invest \$1,863,110.79 of Permanent School Funds in Certificate of Deposit with the Snyder National Bank with contract interest rate. Commissioner Belew seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

### PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND

Commissioner Belew made a motion to distribute Available School Funds in the amount of \$92,600.00 to Borden County I.S.D. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Reyes. Motion carried.

### OFFICIAL COUNTY HOLIDAYS FOR 2009

A motion was made by Commissioner Adcock to set the Eleven County Court Holidays for the year 2009 as listed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Belew. Motion carried.

### REGULAR COURT DAY

Commissioner Belew made a

motion to set the second Tuesday of each month at 8:30 A.M. as the Regular Session for the Commissioners Court to convene for the year 2009. Motion seconded by Commissioner Reyes. Motion carried.

### SHERIFF PICKUP

Commissioner Adcock made a motion to authorize Sheriff Billy G. Gannaway to gather proposals for the purchase of a pickup to be used by the Sheriff Department. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### FIREBAN

After a discussion, No action taken.

### FIREWORKS BAN

Due to Dry conditions with high grass and vegetation, Commissioner Smith made a motion

to Prohibit Certain Fireworks in the unincorporated areas of Borden County per findings of the health and safety of citizens. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Reyes. Motion carried.

### ACCOUNTS ALLOWED

The current accounts were examined and Commissioner Reyes made a motion to approve and pay said accounts. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE AGENDA

No new items were presented.

### ADJOURN

A motion was made by Commissioner Adcock to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Belew and approved unanimously.

THE FOREGOING MINUTES READ AND APPROVED THIS THE 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2008.



Gail FFA member, Krista Tarleton, recently competed in the State Leadership Development Event in Huntsville. As the Sr. Creed speaker, she competed as District Champion and Area II runner-up.



## BRANON

### FUNERAL HOME

403 N. Austin Avenue  
Lamesa, Texas 79331  
806-872-8335 Fax: 806-

3rd & 4th generations still serving this area.

**Mandatory Public Notification Language  
Notice of Drinking Water ARSENIC Violation**

The Texas Commission On Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the Borden County Water System that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for ARSENIC. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL ARSENIC at .01 mg/L, and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for ARSENIC indicates a level of .0043 mg/L for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008.

This is not an emergency. However, some people who drink water containing ARSENIC in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have increased risk of getting cancer.

You do not need to use an alternative water supply. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you.

Borden County Water System is installing equipment to lower the level of ARSENIC to below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) standards.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For further information contact the County Judge's Office, Borden County Courthouse, 117 E. Wasson, Gail, Texas 79738, phone 806/756-4391

Van L. York, County Judge  
Public Water System ID # 0170010  
P.O. Box 156  
Gail, Texas 79738

*Thought for  
the Day*

*Don't cry because  
it's over; smile  
because it  
happened.*

Source: *St. Louis Inspirational  
Christian Connection.*

*Drive  
Safely  
Watch Out  
for Our  
Playing  
Children*

**Mandatory Public Notification Language  
Notice of Drinking Water FLUORIDE Violation**

The Texas Commission On Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has notified the Borden County Water System that the drinking water being supplied to customers had exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for FLUORIDE. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established the MCL FLUORIDE at 4 mg/L, and has determined that it is a health concern at levels above the MCL. Analysis of drinking water in your community for FLUORIDE indicates a level of 5.5 mg/L in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter mg/L in 2008 and a level of 5.5 mg/L in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2008.

This is not an emergency. However, some people who drink water containing FLUORIDE in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

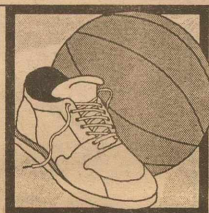
You do not need to use an alternative water supply. However, if you have health concerns, you may want to talk to your doctor to get more information about how this may affect you.

We are working to correct the problem by investigating the possibility of connecting to another system.

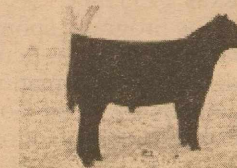
Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

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Van L. York, County Judge  
Public Water System ID # 0170010  
P.O. Box 156  
Gail, Texas 79738



# January 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 BB vs. Sundown Here 1:00 gG	3
<p>* Denotes District HS Basketball Games January 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Holidays January 25<sup>th</sup> - February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Fort Worth Stock Show</p>						
4	5 Classes Resume - Begin 4 <sup>th</sup> Six Weeks  HS OAP Auditions	6 Cool Clovers Meeting in Conference Room 11:30-12 JH (6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> ) 4-H Meeting in Conference Room 12:30-1 BB @ Loraine 5:00 GbB ACT Deadline for Feb. 7 <sup>th</sup> Test HS OAP Auditions	7 HS (9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> ) 4-H Meeting in Conference Room 12:35-1:05  HS OAP Auditions	8 JH BB vs. Dawson Here 6:00  HS OAP Auditions  Forsan JV Tourney	9 * BB @ Dawson 4:00 gGbB	10 Andrews UIL Meet (all events)  Forsan JV Tourney
11	12 JH BB @ Loop 6:00  Picture Day - Boys' Basketball	13 * BB vs. Loop Here 4:00 gGbB	14	15 Early Dismissal 12:30  Borden County Jr. Livestock Stock Show	16 HOLIDAY  * BB @ Grady 4:00 gGbB  Borden County Jr. Livestock Stock Show	17 Brownwood UIL Meet (all events)  Borden County Jr. Livestock Stock Show
18	19 JH BB vs. Grady Here 6:00	20 * BB vs. Klondike Here 4:00 gGbB	21	22	23 * BB @ Sands 4:00 gGbB  Snyder Speech & Debate Meet	24 TTU Collegiate 4-H Game Day with Lady Raiders TTU UIL Meet (no speech/debate) or Haskell UIL Meet (no CX) or Hereford Speech & Debate Meet SAT Test (must have registered by Dec. 26) Snyder Speech & Debate Meet
25	26 JH BB vs. Klondike Here 6:00	27 * BB vs. Dawson Here 4:00 gGbB	28	29	30 * BB @ Loop 4:00 gGbB	31 Holliday Speech & Debate Meet