

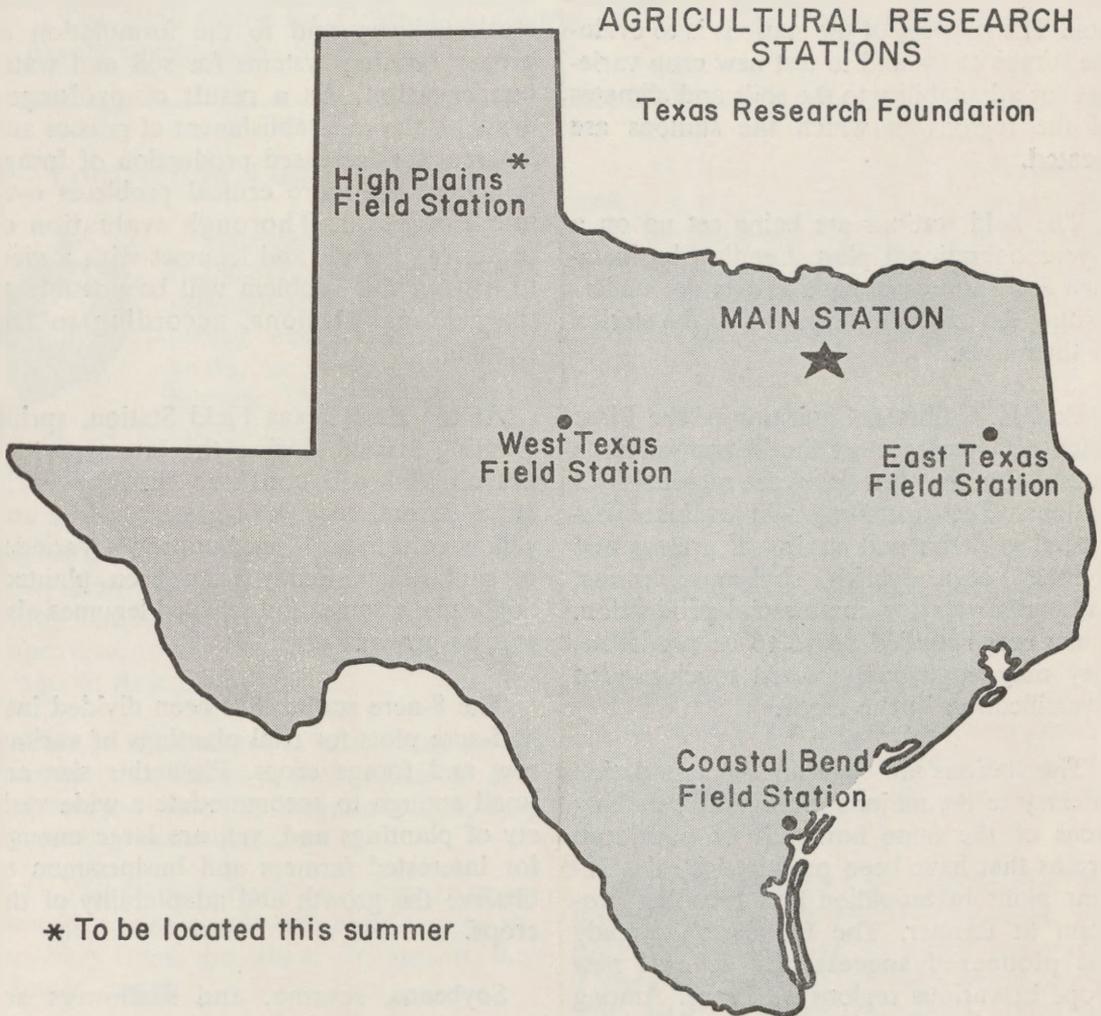
AGRICULTURAL NEWS LETTER

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The East Texas Field Station is at Henderson, in Rusk County; the Coastal Bend Field Station is near Taft, in San Patricio County; and the West Texas Field Station is at Merkel, in Taylor County. The High Plains Field Station will be established this summer. These are in addition to the 850-acre main station at Renner, in Collin County.

TEXAS RESEARCH FOUNDATION ESTABLISHES FIELD STATIONS

Business leaders and farmers are cooperating with the Texas Research Foundation at Renner in the establishment of four regional field stations in Texas, according to C. L. Lundell, Director of the foundation. The purpose of the stations is to evaluate forage crops and to test new crop varieties for adaptability to the soils and climates of the regions in which the stations are located.

The field stations are being set up on a 5-year operational plan. Leading businessmen and farmers in each region are underwriting the operating expenses of the station in their area.

Earl H. Collister, Chairman of the Plant Science Department at the Texas Research Foundation, is supervising the regional field stations. These stations will evaluate improved varieties and strains of grasses and legumes, corn hybrids, soybeans, sesame, and sunflowers for commercial production. If the crops studied prove to be profitable, they may contribute toward much-needed diversification in the areas.

The stations are enabling the foundation to carry to the major farming and ranching areas of the State hundreds of new crop strains that have been produced by the 12-year plant investigation and breeding program at Renner. The foundation already has pioneered successfully several new crops in various regions of Texas. Among the more important of these are sesame, button clover, soybeans, and corn hybrids.

Sesame has spread to 15,000 acres in the State since its introduction in 1953. Button clover is grown on more than 150,000 acres in north and northeast Texas. Corn hybrids produced by the Renner foundation are meeting with widespread acceptance as dependable producers under droughty condi-

tions throughout most of the State's corn-growing areas.

Grass and legume studies at Renner are of major significance to the State's livestock industry and to the formulation of proper farming systems for soil and water conservation. As a result of prolonged drought, the re-establishment of grasses and legumes for increased production of forage is one of the more critical problems over much of Texas. Thorough evaluation of promising grasses and legumes with a view to solving this problem will be possible at the regional stations, according to Dr. Lundell.

At the East Texas Field Station, spring planting started during the latter part of March and will continue through early June. Several species of grasses, white and yellow corn hybrids, and improved varieties of sunflowers already have been planted. Soybeans, sesame, and selected legumes also will be grown.

The 8-acre station has been divided into half-acre plots for trial plantings of various row and forage crops. Plots this size are small enough to accommodate a wide variety of plantings and, yet, are large enough for interested farmers and businessmen to observe the growth and adaptability of the crops.

Soybeans, sesame, and sunflowers are among the new crops to be grown at the East Texas Field Station. New corn hybrids, which are capable of increasing the region's per acre grain yield, also will be introduced. Comparisons will be made of many pasture grasses to determine their relative merits. An initial test will be a comparison of Coastal and Common Bermuda grasses. The adaptability of Blue Panic — a new grass for the region — also will be evaluated.

Eliminate Cotton Bandits

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service recently released its 1956 Guide for Controlling Cotton Insects. Included in the guide are suggestions on early and late-season control, early stalk destruction and farm cleanup, timing of insecticide applications, and seed treatment with systemic insecticides; and general information on spraying and dusting.

The 1956 Guide for Controlling Cotton Insects, L-218, can be obtained from county agents in the State.

Controlling Cotton Insects



Progressive cotton farmers in the State have attained record-high levels of yields, efficiency, and profits in recent years, according to C. B. Spencer, Agricultural Director of the Texas Cottonseed Crushers' Association.

The farmers have utilized the knowledge gained through research, as well as the new equipment and materials developed by industry. In addition, they are active in soil-improvement and other conservation programs in their communities.

Part of the success of the Texas cotton farmers is attributed to their ability to control cotton insects. In this connection, they follow these essential steps.

1. *The farmers learn to recognize insect damage and to identify the pests causing the trouble.* There are about 16 insects that damage cotton.

2. *They keep a sharp lookout;* and if a cotton plant is not growing or fruiting properly, a careful check is made to determine the cause. If control measures are needed, immediate steps are taken.

3. *They are prepared.* Dust or spray equipment is kept in first-class condition, and a sufficient supply of insecticides is on hand for any emergency.

4. *They recognize that it is their responsibility to kill the pests.* Effective insecticides must be applied properly and at the right time. A careful check just before and 24 hours after each application gives an accurate picture of the effectiveness of the application.

5. *They follow the Guide for Controlling Cotton Insects in Texas.* The recommendations contained in the guide are based on carefully conducted research projects.

Poisonous Plants Cause Livestock Losses

Livestock losses will occur if animals are permitted to graze ranges on which poisonous plants are growing, according to A. H. Walker, Extension range specialist at Texas A. & M. College.

The continuing drought has limited the growth of desirable forage, and stock will graze new plants, even if they are poisonous. Therefore, livestock should be removed from pastures where poisonous plants are growing until the danger period has passed.

- Bitterweed, a plant especially toxic to sheep, is controlled best by deferred and rotation grazing.

- Locoweed and pea vine are other plants which can cause trouble. Mr. Walker says that animals should not be allowed to graze pastures containing these plants until

other plants attain sufficient growth to satisfy the forage needs of the animals.

- The cocklebur in the seedling stage is very poisonous to grazing animals, especially hogs and cattle.

Change in Beef Grade

Effective June 1, the Commercial grade of beef will be divided into two new grades — designated as Standard and Commercial, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. This revision originally was recommended by the Cattle and Beef Industry Committee.

The Standard grade will apply to beef from young animals, while Commercial will be retained for beef from mature animals.

It was the committee's opinion that the change in grades would lead to a greater proportion of the younger beef being federally graded, resulting in increased marketing efficiency for the Standard grade of meat. Increased efficiency would be beneficial to both producers and consumers.

Fattening cattle should consume ½ ounce to 1½ ounces of salt per head daily. Loose granulated salt is the best form for these animals and should be kept before them at all times.

Cattle Need Dental Care, Too

Stockmen are urged to give more attention to the dental care of cattle that fail to eat properly or that do not produce a normal supply of milk or meat, according to specialists at Louisiana State University.

Many cattlemen apparently overlook the fact that defective teeth may cause digestive upsets and general unthriftiness in otherwise healthy cattle.

Officials of the American Foundation for Animal Health cite the following example to illustrate the problem that can be caused by faulty teeth.

A cow that had exhibited a poor appetite for several days finally refused to eat any feed. When the veterinarian examined her for a possible throat obstruction, he found that the cow had two extremely sharp teeth that caused severe pain when she chewed. After these teeth were clipped and her other teeth were dressed down to a normal chewing level, the cow started eating again.

Publications

Texas Agricultural Experiment Station,
College Station:

Performance as a Guide to Beef Herd Selection, Bulletin B-809, by J. K. Riggs and L. A. Maddox, Jr.

Environment Affects Market Value of Eggs, Bulletin B-810, by Floyd Z. Beanblossom, Kermit F. Schlamb, and William S. Allen.

Photosensitization of Cattle in Texas, Bulletin 812, by O. E. Sperry, R. D. Turk, G. O. Hoffman, and F. B. Stroud.

Sweetclover in Texas, Bulletin 791, by R. C. Potts.

Some Economic Effects of Drouth on Ranch Resources, Bulletin 801, by C. A. Bonnen and J. M. Ward.

Bindweed Control in the Panhandle of Texas, Bulletin 802, by A. F. Wiese and H. E. Rea.

Silo Construction Costs and Silage Production Practices, Bulletin 798, by A. C. Magee.

Copies of these bulletins may be obtained by request to the experiment station.

The *Agricultural News Letter* is prepared in the Research Department under the direction of J. Z. ROWE, Agricultural Economist.