

Champion Texas Longhorns To Be Crowned

ARDMORE, Okla. — Harrisonburg, Virginia has been selected as the site for the 1994 Annual Texas Longhorn International Championship Cattle Show and Convention.

This event will be the first show of its kind held east of the Mississippi River. More than 200 registered Texas Longhorn cattle of all ages are expected at the two-day competition at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds on October 21-22.

International grand champions of the breed will be selected by

three prominent cattle judges. The Sheraton Inn, 1400 East Market Street, has been appointed show and convention headquarters, according to Ben Gravett of Catlett, Va., regional director of the International Texas Longhorn Association, show sponsor.

The International Texas Longhorn Association (ITLA) is the registry for this historic breed of cattle. ITLA world headquarters are in Ardmore, Okla., and it boasts of member-producers in 46 states and six foreign countries. Thousands of newly born cattle are en-

tered in the ITLA registry each year.

Almost extinct in the early 1900s, there are more than 200,000 of these cattle living today. J. Frank Dobie, in his book "The Longhorn," estimated more than 60 million Longhorns roamed the southwest area of the U.S. after the Civil War in what is now New Mexico, Louisiana, Texas, and northern Mexico. These are the cattle that were driven on the

great trail drives to beef hungry northern, eastern, and far western states.

Texas Longhorn cattle gave birth to the American Cowboy and originated the great western ranching industry. Ancestors of the Texas Longhorn were mostly Spanish cattle brought to Mexico around 1500 A.D. for food, milk, hides, and fallow for Catholic missions and the exploring Conquistadors. Disease, marauding In-

dians, and completion of the work of the explorers left these Spanish cattle to fend for themselves.

Present-day Longhorns are the result of hundreds of years of nature's "survival of the fittest" method of eliminating the weak and unproductive. Today, Longhorn cattle are being revived due to their natural lean meat, long life, high protein, low cholesterol qualities, and other genetic attributes.

New Technology, Regulations Harder On Small Farms

NEWARK, Del. — Technological change and increasing government regulation are likely to have a profound impact on American agriculture through the rest of the decade. And small-scale family farms will have the hardest time surviving these pressures, particularly in the global marketplace, according to Dr. Gerald Cole, University of Delaware resource economist.

"New technology is presumed to enhance productivity and increase output," said Cole, a member of the department of food and resource economics in the College of Agricultural Sciences. "While some technologies are scale neutral, others are likely to be adopted only by larger producers."

Thus he foresees a continued trend toward fewer but larger farms.

New or expanded government regulations — particularly the 1999 implementation of the Coastal Zone Act — also are likely to make it harder for smaller farm operations to survive in Delaware and other states.

"Nutrient management plans, pesticide application records, and labor regulations are all examples of changes that increase record-keeping requirements," the economist said. These changes tend to create a greater disadvantage for smaller producers who lack computer skills and/or the latest financial and production management technology.

"We often hear politicians speak with great fondness about preserving smaller family farms," Cole said. "But many times new laws that are passed with the intent to help agriculture actually don't, because many small producers can't keep up with the additional cost of meeting the regulations."

United Farm Tools Introduces UFT Financial Services

GLASGOW, Ky. — In February, United Farm Tools announced the formation of UFT Financial Services.

This new division will coordinate all financing activities of the company, including invoicing, dealer floorplanning, and customer retail financing. UFT has named Richard Pook to head up this new division.

In making the announcement, Sam Lawson, president and CEO, said, "This is the next logical step

"These regulations are likely to hasten the demise of farm businesses that are already marginal," the economist said. "It's like when dairy farmers had to switch from milk cans to bulk tanks back in the 1970s. Faced with the added expense of installing the tanks, many producers opted to go out of the dairy business. I see this as a similar turning point."

At the same time, Cole expects farm program support to gradually erode, putting agriculture under increased market pressure.

"Pressure to reduce the U.S. budget deficit will result in agriculture's being one of the target areas for spending cuts," he said. "Also, in both the recently completed General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), there is a call for gradual reduction in agricultural price supports and/or tariffs on agricultural commodities."

Most of the future growth for U.S. export markets will be in newly industrialized or developing countries in Latin America and the Pacific Rim, Cole predicts. These economies offer the best potential future market for U.S. agricultural exports, particularly value-added products such as processed grain, processed poultry, and processed fruits and vegetables.

"Numerous forces will continue to influence the future profitability of U.S. agriculture," he said. "Many of these factors are determined in an international setting, well beyond the control of farm organizations and especially the individual farmer. That's why all of us who are concerned about the future of U.S. agriculture must be increasingly aware of what happens daily in the global marketplace."

in developing the recognition of United Farm Tools as a 'World Class' manufacturer of farm equipment.

To introduce the new UFT Financial Services Division, the company will be offering customers a choice of 0% interest until October 1, 1994 or 5.9% notes for 36 months on the purchases of new UFT equipment, plus an array of lease options.

For more information, contact UFT Sales at (319) 283-5451 or UFT Financial Services at (502) 651-7121.

Monroe Conservation District Wins Environmental Award

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Monroe County Conservation District in Stroudsburg, Pa., was honored as the Conservation District of the Year by the National Association of Conservation Districts at the group's annual convention in Phoenix, Ariz.

Austin Blakeslee, chairman of the district's board of directors, and head naturalist Roger Spotts represented the district at the award ceremony, where they were recognized before nearly 2,000 conservation leaders for the district's innovative natural resource education programs.

"The staff and board of directors of the Monroe County Conservation District combines a strong commitment to conservation with the creativity that makes the stewardship of our nation's soil and water an important part of life in eastern Pennsylvania and worldwide," said Dick Foell, manager-AgriBusiness Affairs for

Zeneca Ag Products, co-sponsor of the program.

"Through the educational programs of districts like this one, our nation can pass along the respect for our natural resources that will be so important for sustaining future generations."

Monroe County Conservation District serves Monroe County residents and school districts with a wide array of fee-based services, including educational curricula that fulfill the state requirements for environmental education, a newsletter on local environmental programs and issues, a summer day camp for children, and public programs for adults.

The district is housed in an environmental education center supported by more than 600 dues-paying members. There are three full-time naturalists on staff, as well as three resource technicians, three office support staffers, a maintenance person and a district

manager. Naturalist Karen N. Boyle says the Education Center was built and developed thanks to a decade of hard work by many people who have since left the organization.

Boyle and fellow naturalist Glenn Wachter discussed the Monroe County Conservation District Environmental Education Center with conservationists and educators in a conservation education workshop in Phoenix. The workshop introduced NACD Conservation Education Award winners to each other, and to members of the organization that presented them their awards.

"It's nice to be recognized for doing something we think is important," said Wachter. "Although we're not in it for the recognition, we appreciate it."

Soil Judging Team First In Northeast Contest

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — The Penn State Student Soil Judging Team recently placed first among six colleges in the 1993 Northeast Collegiate Soil Judging Contest at the Ag Progress Days site at Rockspring. The team now qualifies for the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest to be held at the University of

Maryland in the spring.

The competition, which is hosted by a different school each year, provides students with a unique opportunity to see soils from different areas of the state, classify them and make interpretations for different land uses.

Students prepare for the contest by taking Soils 100, a one-credit,

field-oriented class taught by team coach Nelson Thurman, project coordinator in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. Students learn to describe and classify soils in the field and to recognize properties that affect uses, such as waste disposal and water movement.



Members of the Penn State Student Soil Judging Team are pictured left to right. Front row, Stefan Weaver; Chris Manns, second-place individual winner; Kristin Korutz, 10th-place individual winner; Raymond Shipp, contest organizer and coach-emeritus; Steve Smith; and Charles Walnoha. Back row, Miguel Calmon, graduate assistant; Nelson Thurman, coach; Make Hasel; Brooks Fleming; Keith Goynes; Jim Gezik, sixth-place individual winner; Shawn Kister; and Ed Gross. Not pictured are Alex Dado and Ron Andrasko.