

AGENDA ITEM 28

Consider proclaiming week of March 18-24 as National Agriculture Week in Williamson County.

Moved: **Judge Doerfler**

Seconded: **Commissioner Limmer**

Motion: To proclaim week of March 18-24 as National Agriculture Week in Williamson County.

Vote: 4 - 0

< Attachment >



SUSAN COMBS, COMMISSIONER

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE**

P.O. Box 12847
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
(512) 463-7476
FAX (512) 463-1104
FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED:
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March 5, 2001

Judge John C. Doerfler
Williamson County
710 Main Street
Georgetown, Texas 78626

Dear Judge Doerfler:

Agriculture begins with the land, but it embraces an industry that provides products essential to our everyday lives. The week of March 18 to 24 is National Agriculture Week in Texas, a time when we recognize the rich heritage that is agriculture. During this week, I ask you to join me in honoring the farmers and ranchers whose dedication and commitment to the land and people of Texas make our agricultural industry thrive.

Educating people about agriculture helps to instill in them a profound sense of where things come from. It focuses their attention upon the impact agriculture has on their lives, from the food they eat to the clothes they wear to the resources they use at home and at work.

Please join me in honoring our agricultural community by adopting an ag week proclamation for your jurisdiction and by using the enclosed information to focus the spotlight upon this valuable resource that means so much to your area.

If you need additional information or assistance with Agriculture Week activities, contact Jo Moss at (512) 475-1658, e-mail jmoss@agr.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Susan Combs
Commissioner

PROCLAMATION

The role that Texas farmers and ranchers play in the lives of people worldwide often goes unrecognized. The food we eat, the clothes we wear, the houses in which we live, the flowers and plants we enjoy are all rooted in one industry – **Agriculture**.

In this new millennium, Texas' farmers, ranchers and their families face ever-increasing challenges. Yet, they continue to fulfill an enduring legacy, which ensures that people everywhere have an abundant, reliable and affordable supply of food, natural fiber, horticulture and other agricultural products.

Agriculture is the second largest industry in Texas, generating \$80 billion annually for the economy. One out of every five working Texans has a job in agriculture. Agriculture touches our lives in many ways. Texas farmers and ranchers grow a lot of the food people eat every day – onions, pecans, peaches, cabbage, melons, spinach, cucumbers and potatoes. Texas also is a big producer of cotton, cattle and poultry. In addition, trees are used to make computer paper, goat's milk to make cheese, corn for cereal and for laundry detergent, and animal fats and proteins to make toothpaste and crayons. Also, antifreeze is a pork byproduct and oyster shells are used for artificial reefs. This list is endless.

Agriculture also has a major role in water conservation, rural economic development, global trade and the preservation of the environment. As we go forward in the new millennium, agriculture will continue to meet the basic needs of the world while providing opportunities for progress beyond food and clothing.

It is important that we all understand agriculture because it helps us to realize that everyday things, such as bread, blue jeans, laundry detergent and peanuts all come from one industry. It also gives us a sense of where things come from and how the global cycle of growth, consumption and conservation is forever necessary.

Because of their commitment to and love of agriculture, Texas farmers and ranchers will continue to do what they do best – produce food and fiber to meet growing global demands.

Therefore I, Susan Combs, do hereby proclaim the week of March 18 to 24, 2001, as **NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK IN TEXAS** and urge all Texans to recognize those producers who help add quality to our lives.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this 19th day of March, 2001.

Susan Combs
Commissioner
Texas Department of Agriculture

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK IN TEXAS – MARCH 18 TO 24, 2001

Use this as the framework to recognize National Ag Week in your area; you can customize it to fit your format and add additional statistics and information as needed.

WHEREAS, the week of March 18 to 24, 2001, is NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK IN TEXAS, as proclaimed by Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs, and

WHEREAS, Throughout our history people have confirmed the vast resources of our land, and

WHEREAS, Sam Houston reported to the President of the United States, "I have traveled near 500 miles across Texas, and am now enabled to judge pretty near correctly of the soil, and the resources of the Country, and I have no hesitancy in pronouncing it the finest country to its extent upon the globe," and

WHEREAS, T.R. Fehrenbach wrote, "Our ancestors came to Texas in search of land. And land became the basis of the Texas dream," and

WHEREAS, Davy Crockett said, "I must say as to what I have seen of Texas, it is the garden spot of the world, the best land and the best prospects for health I ever saw, and I do believe it is a fortune to any man to come here," and

WHEREAS, The food we eat, the clothes we wear, the houses in which we live, the flowers and plants we enjoy are all rooted in one industry – Agriculture, and

WHEREAS, Texas' farmers and ranchers have made agriculture the second-largest industry, generating \$80 billion for the state's economy, and

WHEREAS, Texas is the nation's leading producer of cattle, sheep, goats, horses, wool, mohair and cotton. The state is also one of the top producers of vegetables, citrus, peanuts, pecans, grain sorghum, rice, sugarcane and wheat, and

WHEREAS, The Lone Star State leads the nation in the number of farms and ranches, with almost 80 percent of the land involved in some form of agricultural production -- including livestock, crops, aquaculture, horticulture and forestry, and

WHEREAS, Texas farmers and ranchers exemplify a rich tradition of producing food and fiber to meet growing global demands, Now Therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commissioners' Court of (insert county name here) declares this National Agriculture Week in (county name), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commissioners' court urges everyone in our area to learn more about the role of agriculture here, share that knowledge with the young people in our area, and recognize the farmers, ranchers and their families who contribute so much to this county, this state, this nation and the world.

THEREFORE, IN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION WHEREOF, we, the undersigned do hereby affix our signatures this _____ day of March 2001.

(insert signature blocks)

Note:

Instead of a commissioners' court action, the County Judge individually can author this resolution. Substitute County Judge in place of the commissioners' court references. You also may want to include a section that specifically recognizes agriculture producers, agribusinesses or agriculture organizations in your area.



SUSAN COMBS, COMMISSIONER

TEXAS DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTUREFOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 1, 2001CONTACT: ALLEN SPELCE
BEVERLY BOYD
(512) 463-7664**TEXAS AGRICULTURE****Did you know...**

- ★ Texas is the second largest agricultural state, accounting for about 7 percent of the total U.S. agricultural income. This generates \$80 billion for the state's economy.
- ★ The top five agricultural producing counties are Castro, Deaf Smith, Parmer, Erath and Lamb. The top two agricultural regions of the state are the South Plains and the Panhandle.
- ★ The Lone Star State ranks first in the nation in the number of cattle and calves, which is 14.1 percent of the U.S. total.
- ★ Texas is also a top producer of cotton, sheep, wool, goats, mohair and horses. The state's other top crops include vegetables, citrus, corn, wheat, peanuts, pecans, grain sorghum, hay and rice.
- ★ Besides livestock and crops, the state's agriculture industry includes timber/forestry, aquaculture, bees/honey and nursery/greenhouse.
- ★ The nursery/greenhouse industry in Texas is a \$9.76 billion industry that employs 222,000 people.
- ★ Texas is one of the leading exporters of agricultural commodities. Texas' top agricultural exports are live animals and meat; cotton and cottonseed; feed grains and products; hides and skins; wheat and products; and feeds and fodder.
- ★ Each Texas farmer grows enough food and fiber for 128 people — 94.3 in the United States and 33.7 abroad.
- ★ Texas ranks first in the nation in the number of farms and ranches with 226,000 as well as in farmland with 130 million acres.
- ★ Eighty percent of the land in Texas is in some form of agricultural production.
- ★ Although agriculture employs one out of every five working Texans, less than 2 percent of the population is involved in day-to-day farming or ranching.
- ★ There are more than 100 different organizations and associations in Texas that represent the farmers, ranchers and businesses that grow, process, transport, market and sell the state's agricultural products.
- ★ Texas farmers grow more than 45 different commercial fruit and vegetable crops.

*All TDA press
releases are also
available via the
Internet at
www.agr.state.tx.us*



SUSAN COMBS, COMMISSIONER

TEXAS DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTUREEMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
MARCH 19, 2001CONTACT: ALLEN SPELCE
BEVERLY BOYD
(512) 463-7664**COMBS SAYS NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK IS A
TIME TO HONOR OUR FARMERS AND RANCHERS**

AUSTIN --Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs announced that March 18 to 24 is National Agriculture Week in Texas.

"During this week, we honor the farmers and ranchers whose dedication and commitment to the land and people of Texas extends all year," Combs said. "National Agriculture Week is the time to honor the hardworking individuals in our state's food and fiber industry. It is also a good time to recognize the impact that agriculture has on our daily lives.

"In this new millennium, Texas' farm and ranch families face ever-increasing challenges. Yet, they continue to fulfill an enduring legacy that ensures people worldwide have an abundant, reliable and affordable supply of food, natural fiber, horticultural and other agricultural products," she said. The commissioner kicked-off National Agriculture Week in Texas with a proclamation signing Monday, March 19, at the State Capitol.

Agriculture is the second-largest industry in Texas generating \$80 billion throughout the state's economy. The Lone Star State leads the nation in the number of farms and ranches, and approximately 80 percent of the land is involved in some form of agricultural production. From the Gulf Coast to the Panhandle, Texas is the most diverse state in the nation in agricultural production.

"For generations, Texas farmers and ranchers and their families have worked hard to build an industry that accounts for about 7 percent of the total U.S. agricultural income. Texas is the nation's second leading state in agricultural production," Combs said.

Although agriculture provides a job for one out of every five working Texans, less than 2 percent of the population is involved in day-to-day farming or ranching.

"It is incredible when you think that only a small number of people produce our food and fiber, and many times do so against difficult odds," Combs said. "Yet they continue to produce a quality, cost effective product that serves people worldwide. National Agriculture Week gives us an opportunity to recognize those producers who continue to enrich our lives."

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SUSAN COMBS, COMMISSIONER

TEXAS DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Feature Article:
FOR RELEASE THE WEEK OF
MARCH 18, 2001

CONTACT: ALLEN SPELCE
BEVERLY BOYD
(512) 463-7664

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK IN TEXAS CELEBRATING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF TRAILBLAZERS

AUSTIN - Rooted in the past, it is also about the present – and the Texas farmers and ranchers who daily apply their skill and determination to bring forth the best the land has to offer. From the food we eat to the clothes we wear, and in thousands of other items we may miss in our day-to-day hustle and bustle, the efforts of these men and women touch our lives.

Every spring offers the country an opportunity to step back for a moment and say thanks for all their hard work during National Agriculture Week. This year it runs March 18-24.

"You don't have to work on a farm or ranch to be touched by agriculture every day," said Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs. "It's easy to take for granted the abundant and safe food supply available to us every time we open our refrigerator or the plentiful supplies of clothes, furniture and plants to brighten our lives.

"All of this is due to the efforts of men and women who plant the seeds, cultivate the crops and raise the livestock," Combs said. "Agriculture also has a major impact on our state's economy."

Agriculture is the second largest industry in Texas, generating \$80 billion in annual economic impact to the state. It produces about 16 percent of the gross state product.

Nearly 80 percent of the total land area in Texas is in some type of agricultural production and Texas ranks first in the nation for the number of farms and ranches. True to its past, agriculture remains largely a family endeavor.

"You can't look at Texas agriculture without seeing real people who are willing to take the risks and brave uncertainties, like drought and low commodity prices, to follow in the footsteps of those who forged our state's rich agricultural heritage," Combs said.

Livestock still roam across the El Sauz, Los Chapotes and San Antonio "El Mahada" ranches in South Texas just as they did in 1767, when Dora Perez Villarreal's ancestors first settled there. The properties have remained in the family and in continuous agricultural production the entire time, making them the first 200-year honorees in the Texas Department of Agriculture's Family Land Heritage Program.

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Villarreal's grandfather was the first rancher in Starr County to pay taxes and even donated one acre of his property for a schoolhouse.

In North Texas, the descendents of Samuel Washburn have continued to farm and ranch on three properties settled by the Texan in the early 1880s. Washburn signed the petition to the Republic of Texas to establish Fannin County in 1937. Though he died the next year, his wife and children claimed the land, raising cattle and horses and growing grain and corn. Chris Jones Farm, Heritage Hill and the Gene Washburn Farm are now carrying on the tradition, honored for 150 years continuous family ownership and agricultural production under the Family Land Heritage Program.

This year, the program also honors six other 150-year agricultural family operations. They include: Daddy's Place, 4-H Farm, Hallplace I and Mager's Place in East Texas – all part of an original piece of farm land acquired by John Hallum in 1838 to grow cotton, corn and timber.

At The High Prairie Place - 1842 in Brazos County, cattle have been raised by the descendents of William Millican on the land granted to him by Sam Houston in 1842. Griffin Ranch in East Texas has remained in the family since 1849, where livestock, hay and timber have been tended by seven generations.

"This heritage represents everything that agriculture and the history of Texas is about," Combs said. "These are folks who have stuck through the tough times, whether it was severe weather, pests, or economic downturns like the Great Depression, and persevered, crafting a legacy we can all be proud to follow.

"It's the same pioneering spirit we see in our farmers and ranchers today," Combs said. "They're utilizing technology and research to grow better tasting fruits and vegetables, offer lower-fat pork and beef and create products with greater convenience for consumers."

The path behind is marked by the enduring legacy of those who paved the way, and the one ahead is ready for our next generation of trailblazers.

STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: THAT ON THIS, the 13th day of March, 2001, the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas, met in duly called session at the Courthouse in Georgetown, Texas, with the following members present:

**John C. Doerfler, County Judge
Mike Heiligenstein, Commissioner, Pct. #1
Greg Boatright, Commissioner, Pct. #2
Frankie Limmer, Commissioner, Pct. #4
Nancy Rister, County Clerk**

and at said meeting, among other business, the Court considered the following

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the week of march 18 to 24, 2001 is NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK IN TEXAS, and

WHEREAS, throughout our history people have confirmed the vast resources of our land, and

WHEREAS, the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the houses we live in, the flowers and plants we enjoy are all rooted in the agriculture industry, and

WHEREAS, the Lone Star state leads the nation in the number of farms and ranches, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Williamson County Commissioner's Court declares this

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Court urges all citizens to recognize the farmers, ranchers and their families who contribute so much to the welfare of our county.

RESOLVED THIS 13th day of March, 2001.

John C. Doerfler 3-13-01
John C. Doerfler, County Judge

ATTEST:

Nancy E. Rister
Nancy E. Rister, County Clerk



AGENDA ITEM 29

Discuss and take appropriate action on Part 1 Design/Build agreement for the jail addition and the separate construction management agreement between the owner and architect for courts addition.

This item was tabled until further notice.

A meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 16, 2001, to discuss the design/build project.

AGENDA ITEM 30

Consider reconsideration of architectural contract for jail.

Commissioner Heiligenstein questioned why the court would hire another architect when the architectural services are already provided.

Commissioner Limmer stated that the construction manager does not have the right to choose the architect, and that the court should have some say in which architect works on the project. He noted that Mr. Santopetro had done work for the county in 1996.

Commissioner Heiligenstein stated, "I want to go on record as opposed to him being involved with the project. In 1996, we had a citizen's task force that did request information on what it might cost to build a new jail. In no way, shape or form was there a commitment to him five years later on any kind of facility. In fact, when I pointed that out to him—that we were going for design/build—he basically threatened the county with a lawsuit if he wasn't named the architect. Maybe ya'll feel that's appropriate. I didn't feel that was an appropriate response from a potential partner in a project as important as a jail—to start threatening lawsuits—and for that reason I would have voted "no" to retain him. Likewise I was in a couple of meetings and nowhere has he surfaced in any of the meetings, in this courtroom, other than to threaten us, and I guess I'm at a loss to explain why we would involve him, with that kind of history."

Commissioner Limmer stated that Mr. Santopetro had done a lot of the preliminary work and that he had done a lot of county jails in Texas.

Commissioner Heiligenstein stated that he had not seen Mr. Santopetro's name on any of the current plans.

Commissioner Limmer stated that the schematics were only 5% to 15% of the total project.

Commissioner Heiligenstein stated, "I think you're right. I think Durant is satisfied with having him involved. I'm the one who's not satisfied with having him involved."

Commissioner Limmer said that Durant did not have a problem with Mr. Santopetro being involved in the project.

Commissioner Heiligenstein said, "But I do. As a member of this court and a citizen of this county, that the consultant would take that posture with us, when we don't need him, frankly. Well, I don't think we need him."

Commissioner Limmer said that Mr. Santopetro had helped him with the preliminary design and bid costs, and that including him would help the county.

Moved: **Commissioner Heiligenstein**

Seconded: **Commissioner Boatright**

Motion: To remove DSA (DiStefano/Santopetro Architects, Inc.) as architect involved in the jail project.

Vote: 2 – 2 with Judge Doerfler and Commissioner Limmer voting against the motion.

AGENDA ITEM 31

Consider adopting resolution requesting all sales tax generated in Williamson County for Capital Metro be allocated to Pct. 1 and Pct. 2 of Williamson County.

Moved: **Commissioner Heiligenstein**

Seconded: **Commissioner Boatright**

Motion: To request Capital Metro to allocate that portion of sales tax generated within Williamson County to be rebated to road projects within Williamson County Capital Metro service area or that would benefit Williamson County.

Vote: 4 – 0