



FARM & RANCH CLUB FLASH

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March 2008

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Breinn Richter

I found this quiz on the Farm Bureau website; just a little "food" for thought.

Check your Agriculture IQ...True or False...

1. **Wheat is directly consumed by humans more than any other grain.**
2. **Globally, hunger is caused by a shortage of food.**
3. **Fresh, raw vegetables are always more nutritious than cooked, canned or frozen vegetables.**
4. **The U.S. Agriculture Department has one employee for every U.S. farmer.**
5. **Less than one-half of 1 percent of our federal budget is spent on farm programs.**
6. **We are losing family farms because large, corporate farms are taking over American agriculture.**

Answers...

1. **True.** Wheat is the grain most widely consumed by humans, even in China where some might assume rice is the No. 1 grain consumed.
2. **False.** Hunger is due to economic, political and social reasons. The world produces enough food for everyone. Poverty results in lack of access to that food. Hunger also may be induced for political or social reasons, especially in war-torn areas of the world.
3. **False.** While some fresh fruits and vegetables pack more of some nutrients than vegetables that are cooked or frozen, others have less.
4. **False.** Maybe you've heard the joke: "Have you heard about the USDA employee who lost his job? His farmer died." It might get a laugh, but it's a misconception. The fact is there are 2.13 million farms and about 109,832 USDA employees. That equals one USDA employee for every 20 farms.
5. **True.** Today's federal budget equals nearly \$3 trillion (\$2,784 billion). The USDA budget is about \$89 billion, or 3.2 percent of the entire federal budget. Of the USDA budget, only \$12.4 billion goes to farm programs. The rest pays for things like nutrition, rural development and conservation and natural resource programs.
6. **False.** Less than 1 percent of farms are non-family-owned, corporate farms, and family farms still produce the majority of our food and fiber. Yes, farms are becoming larger in order to spread costs and risks over more production, and family farms incorporate for the same reasons other businesses do—for tax purposes or to protect the family home, but they are still family-owned farms.

Breinn Richter

MARCH:

Shanna Weaver

Tuesday, March 25, 2008

12 Noon

TSCRA Brand Room

1301 West 7th Street, Fort Worth

Chicken Fried Steak - \$10.00

Speaker = Were you aware there are shrimp growing in Parker County? Craig Upstrom of Aquaculture of Texas Inc. from Weatherford will visit with the club and give some great information about their freshwater shrimp hatchery (which has been in business since 1986) and this unique division of the agricultural industry.

CLUB NOTES:

Encourage someone you know to join us for lunch!





FARM & RANCH CLUB MINUTES

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Museum, Brand Room

February 26, 2008

41 MEMBERS AND GUESTS

CALL TO ORDER: Breinn Richter

INVOCATION: Matt Brockman

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW:

Guests: Julie White – Tarrant County Junior Livestock Show
Jay Seymour – Fort Worth Stock Show
Jodie Boydston Johnston
Lisa Lankes – Justin Boots
Pattie Purvis – Williams Trew Farm and Ranch

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Beginning balance of \$	10,577.71
+dues	256.00
-sponsorships	<u>1,000.00</u>
Ending balance	\$ 9,433.71

PROGRAM: Shanna Weaver introduced Mayna Haggard of Tarrant County Junior Livestock Show. The Show and Youth Fair will be held March 6-8 with a VIP Bar-B-Que luncheon on March 7. All Farm and Ranch members are invited. Mayna emphasized the show as a rewarding opportunity to mentor youth. 292 Exhibitors are scheduled for the event with over 900 entries. The Youth Fair also includes Non-Animal Projects such as Baked Goods and Home Canning Divisions. New this year is an opportunity for the youth to sell their projects through the Trading Post beginning at 3:00 on Thursday afternoon. Sponsors are the Fort Worth Stock Show, Fort Worth Farm and Ranch Club, and Ag Workers.

A new event this year is the Herdsman Award which will go to a 4-H or FFA Chapter with the Best and Most Decorated area.

Paul Burrough announced that the 6th Annual Scholarship Gala will be held on Thursday, April 24th at River Ranch in the Stockyards. Last year more than \$10,000 was raised to benefit 4H and FFA.

DRAWINGS:

Members: Trey White – fruit and vegetable knife
Walt Richburg – golf towel
Nan Fidler – print
Sue Ann Claudon– knives
Billy Parker – bird book
Guest: Lisa Lankes - Justin

ADJOURN: 1:00 p.m.