

the best it can be.”

The nominees will be evaluated by the hall of fame committee, which is made up of anglers, industry professionals, fisheries biologists and organizations involved in Texas freshwater fishing. The committee will choose the inductee based on the following criteria: ethics, leadership and commitment, unselfish contributions to the sport, scope of impact on freshwater fishing, fishing/fisheries management expertise and overall impact. The honoree will be announced in spring 2025 and be officially inducted during a special ceremony and banquet in the fall.

“We are excited to review all of this year’s nominations and welcome the newest inductee into this prestigious group of individuals and organizations who have contributed so much to the world-class fishing that Texas offers,” Jordon added.

“Pond Boss” Bob Lusk of Granbury – the 2024 inductee – will officially be inducted at the annual Hall of Fame banquet this October at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC). Lusk helped build the private fisheries management industry in Texas and throughout the United States and is widely considered the top pond management expert in the country. He generously shares his knowledge and advice through the Pond Boss website, magazine, Facebook page and online forum.

Following his induction, a video highlighting Lusk will be available at TPWD’s YouTube Channel on the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame playlist. The video will also air on the Texas Parks and Wildlife PBS television show.

The Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame is housed at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) in Athens. Its mission is to “recognize and honor those who have made a lasting contribution to freshwater fishing in Texas, and to foster a sense of appreciation, awareness and participation in the sport of fishing.”The TFFC is temporarily closed for major renovations until the spring of 2025. This closure also necessitated the temporary closure of the hall of fame exhibit.

Nomination forms and instructions are available online or by calling (903) 676-2277.

USDA makes updates to farm loan programs

By Shelby Shank
TFB Field Editor

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced updates to the Farm Service Agency’s (FSA) Farm Loan Programs in a move aimed at improving farm profitability for new and beginning farmers and ranchers.

The modifications are part of the Enhancing Program Access and Delivery for Farm Loans

rule and are meant to provide important financing options used by farmers and ranchers to cover operating expenses and purchase land and equipment.

“USDA recognizes that Farm Service Agency’s loan making and servicing activities are critical for producers, especially in tough times. Providing borrowers the financial freedom to increase profits, save for long-term needs and make strategic

investments is the best way to ensure the nation’s farmers and ranchers can build financial equity and resilience,” FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux said in a news release. “Implementing these improvements to our Farm Loan Programs is the next step in our ongoing commitment to removing lending barriers that may prevent access to credit for borrowers, especially those who

need it most.”

Policy changes include establishing a new low-interest installment set-aside program for financially distressed borrowers.

Distressed and delinquent borrowers can defer up to one annual loan installment at a reduced interest rate to ease financial stress.

Under the Distressed Borrower Set-Aside program, farmers and ranchers can

benefit from low-interest installments without having had to suffer a natural disaster. The program is designed to alleviate financial stress for farms or ranches at risk of bankruptcy, liquidation or foreclosure.

FSA is also lowering the collateral requirement for guaranteed loans, allowing borrowers to leverage more of their equity.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.409590 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of COKE COUNTY.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.409590 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.395714 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.484592 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for COKE COUNTY from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that COKE COUNTY may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that COKE COUNTY is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON August 26, 2024 AT 09:00 AM AT Commissioner's Court Room #3, 13 E 7th Street Robert Lee, Texas.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, COKE COUNTY is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the Commissioner's Court of COKE COUNTY at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal:

Henry Chisholm	Donald Robertson
Danny Webb	Hal Spain

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT: Marshall Millican

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by COKE COUNTY last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by COKE COUNTY this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.438261	\$0.409590	decrease of -0.028671 per \$100, or -6.54%
Average homestead taxable value	\$71,055	\$71,715	increase of 0.93%
Tax on average homestead	\$311.41	\$293.74	decrease of -17.67, or -5.67%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$2,673,095	\$2,804,658	increase of 131,563, or 4.92%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for COKE COUNTY at or , or visit www.co.coke.tx.us for more information.