

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

As of Tuesday, the amount of land devoted to cattle feeding operations in Chase County increased. The Chase County Board of Commissioners approved a Special Use Permit for the expansion of a feedlot owned by John and Theresa Schilke seven miles west and five miles southwest of Champion.

The Schilke's feedlot went from a Class I to a Class II feedlot. A Class I feedlot may hold 300-1,000 head of cattle, while a Class II feedlot holds 1,001-5,000 head.

Zoning Administrator Billie Muehlenkamp said there are six cattle feeding operations in Chase County that are Class I to Class IV. Class III is a 5,001-20,000 head operation, while Class IV is 20,000 head and above, such as Imperial Beef.

Muehlenkamp said there "might be some smaller ones that don't need" classifications, or those of less than 500 head of cattle.

One recent addition to Chase County was a Class II feedlot now under construction and owned by Dave and Rita Hogsett along Road 318 near Champion.

Hogsett said he'd been feeding his cattle at Stromberger Farms, but "wanted to feed them in my own pens."

He said construction of the feedlot began in May and is expected to be complete late summer or early fall.