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# Texas Agriculture

January 3, 2020

**Trade agreements till  
market opportunities**

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# Agriculture faces changes, challenges but remains optimistic

*These are excerpts from President Russell Boening's address at the organization's 86th annual meeting in San Antonio.*

Congratulations on another successful Farm Bureau year. Membership continues to grow—over 527,000 member-families. And your influence continues to grow with it.

We live in a very interesting time. Would you agree?

It's a tough world out there. Some would even say hostile. Think about what's happening nationally. Civility has been thrown out the window.

Attacks are all too common, and none of us are immune. This is especially true on social media. Agriculture is drawn out nearly every day. There are those who attack us for reasons only known to them.

But we must rise above it. We must remain steady and measured in our response.

We live in a climate of controversy. Just turn on the television. Check your social feeds.

Negative spin is everything. It builds a climate of negativity. It fos-

ters a mistrust of leadership.

The good news is that we don't have that problem in Farm Bureau. We've always been a member-driven organization and will continue to be that way.



**By Russell Boening**  
TFB President

We are multi-commodity. A big tent for diverse perspectives in agriculture. The Voice of Texas Agriculture is not an echo of a single point of view. It emanates from a broad spectrum of ideas and perspectives that represents the diversity of Texas farmers and ranchers.

There is solid leadership in your organization.

You can absolutely ask questions. It is healthy for an organization to have engaged members, and we can expect disagreement from time to time.

But our system works. Debate and consensus are processes that take effort and time. They serve our organization well.

In this era of mistrust, finger pointing and rush-to-judgement, Texas Farm Bureau is a beacon of Texas values. We will not allow our culture to be compromised.

We will not allow our organization to be fractured.

Farm Bureau has changed and evolved. It should over 85 years. It's natural. And change is good. We don't fight change.

We are always open to a better way, a better idea. Our policy development process encourages this. Disruption and controversy are tactics for those who cannot achieve consensus.

It is a time when calm and credibility are needed. We are not a protest organization. The Voice of Agriculture must continue to be the voice of reason.

We bank on our credibility. Without it, we are not invited to the table when tough public policy decisions are being hammered out.

Some choose to criticize a public policy outcome that they had no ability to influence. They were not invited to the table. Texas Farm Bureau and its members are at the table.

You traveled to Austin this last legislative session to visit with your state representative and state senator. In hallways. In offices. To make sure your voice and Texas Farm Bureau's voice were heard.

We did not achieve what we were after—meaningful eminent domain

reform. It was a long, difficult battle, but we fought it with honor and determination.

Yes, we were disappointed, but you are not defeated until you quit, and there is no quit in Farm Bureau. We will be back.

You went to Washington, D.C. You visited with your U.S. representative and U.S. senators, promoting the passage of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

You stood with me at the White House behind President Donald Trump as he announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture's efforts to help American farmers and ranchers.

Farm Bureau has been clear about the need for trade that is as free and fair as we can possibly have. There is simply no way to reverse the decline in net farm income without a robust and healthy trade environment.

In a difficult year, with poor weather, declining prices and market uncertainty, you continued to serve your organization. You kept looking forward. These are just a few examples. There are many more.

Our organization thanks you. The strength of Farm Bureau is members like you who unite to speak out on issues of concern.



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**January 3, 2020 Vol. 35, No. 7**

ADVERTISING: **Kelly Bogard**, Advertising Manager, (254) 751-2420; **J.L. Farmakis** (Representative for outside Texas), New Canaan, CT (203) 966-1746.

TEXAS AGRICULTURE is published 12 times a year by Texas Farm Bureau, 7420 Fish Pond Road, Waco, Texas 76710, (254) 772-3030. Changes of address may be sent to TEXAS AGRICULTURE, Box 2689, Waco, Texas 76702-2689.

Subscription price to Farm Bureau members is included in annual membership dues.

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## Five rancher leasing workshops scheduled for 2020

Building on the success of previous years, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has planned five rancher leasing workshops for 2020.

“We are so excited to continue offering our rancher leasing workshop around the state in 2020,” Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Agricultural Law Specialist Tiffany Dowell Lashmet said. “We’ve had such a positive response to the program and look forward to being able to share this knowledge with people who may just be entering into leases for the first or even longtime lessees or landowners. There’s something for everyone.”

The workshops have been hosted by Lashmet and AgriLife Extension Agricultural Economist Greg Kaase for several years.

To date, more than 1,200 people have gained invaluable knowledge and insight from attending the program.

Grazing, hunting and livestock leases will be discussed, including examples of how each type of lease can be structured and potential issues that may arise from poorly-written or incorrectly-worded leases. Economic



resources available through AgriLife and landowner liability also will be covered.

“Whether lessee or landowner, you’ll leave with information you can start using right then to protect yourself from liabilities when dealing with leases,” Lashmet said.

The half-day program has a \$50 registration fee and includes a copy of the Rancher Leasing Handbook and lunch.

The handbook has information on legal issues, landowner liability, designing lease payment structures and calculating payments. Sample lease forms are also included to guide landowners and renters when

drafting agreements.

Dates and locations for the five workshops are:

- Jan. 16, Palestine
- March 31, Abilene
- April 24, La Vernia
- Aug. 17, Brenham
- Sept. 14, Fredericksburg

To register, visit [agriliferegister.tamu.edu/organizationListings/175](http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/organizationListings/175), and select the workshop you wish to attend.

For more information, contact Lashmet at 806-677-5681 or Kaase at 979-458-3348.

Lashmet also has more information on the program on her blog at [agrilife.org/texasaglaw/](http://agrilife.org/texasaglaw/).

## New legislation will help preserve American family farms

A bill introduced to help more farm families continue their livelihoods after the death of a loved one has the full support of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). The Preserving Family Farms Act of 2019 is sponsored by U.S. Reps. Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.) and Jackie Warlorski (R-Ind.).

“Farm and ranch families often face a significant financial burden when they have to pay estate taxes,” AFBF President Zippy Duvall said. “Farm families should be able to pay based on how their land is actually used, rather than its potential value as commercial property such as a shopping center.”

special use valuation provision of the estate tax. This valuation allows property to be appraised as farmland rather than its development value when determining estate taxes.

“AFBF commends Representatives Panetta and Warlorski for introducing the Preserving Family Farms Act of 2019, which will give more families hope they can hold on to the farm when a loved one passes,” Duvall said. “We strongly urge House members to co-sponsor this important bill.”

Increasing the amount of farmland or rangeland that can be appraised at agricultural value, rather than development value, would help protect family-owned farm and ranch

businesses by assessing estate taxes on the actual value of the operations they have spent decades building.

“Allowing more farmland to qualify for special use valuation would elevate this provision of the tax code to its proper place as a helpful estate planning tool,” Duvall said.

The Preserving Family Farms Act of 2019 increases the maximum amount allowed under the exemption from \$750,000 to \$11 million (indexed for inflation), thus reviving a critically important tool in the toolbox for farm and ranch families across the U.S. If enacted, this legislation will provide a permanent solution to an issue that has long plagued farmers and ranchers.

## Texas farmers need meaningful ag labor reform

Agriculture needs a reliable, legal workforce, and updated legislation that addresses both farmer and worker concerns would provide certainty and job security in rural Texas.

Such legislation is long overdue, according to Texas Farm Bureau National Legislative Director Laramie Adams. He said farmers and ranchers have needed a solution to agricultural workforce labor shortages and issues for more than 20 years.

But HR 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, as it stands, doesn’t fully address some of the issues Texas farmers and ranchers need fixed.

“Texas farmers and ranchers need an updated agricultural labor program,” Adams said. “The current H-2A program is flawed. It’s expensive. There is a lot of bureaucratic red tape, and it just doesn’t work for many Texas producers who need seasonal and year-round workers.”

Certain sectors of Texas agriculture, like dairies, need year-round laborers. The current H-2A program doesn’t have any provisions for year-round jobs, Adams said. While the new bill addresses some of those concerns, it doesn’t provide a full solution for Texas farmers and ranchers who are worried about agricultural labor shortages and overreaching regulations.

American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) worked to improve HR 5038, but efforts were blocked by the U.S. House of Representatives. HR 5038 passed on Dec. 11.

AFBF President Zippy Duvall said the organization does not support the legislation in its current form.

“We will turn our attention to the Senate, where we hope legislation is crafted that provides long-term solutions to the farm labor crisis,” Duvall said.



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# USMCA moves forward with U.S. House passage

By Jessica Domel  
Multimedia Reporter

The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) is one step closer to implementation following strong bipartisan support by the U.S. House of Representatives in late December.

All 36 members of the U.S. House delegation from Texas supported the USMCA measure in the 385-41 vote.

The U.S. Senate is expected to consider the measure early this year.

For USMCA to be implemented, it must first be ratified by the legislative bodies of the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

“The approval of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) by the U.S. House of Representatives is a victory for Texas agriculture when farmers and ranchers need it most,” Texas Farm Bureau President Russell Boening said. “It is expected to increase U.S. agricultural exports by \$2 billion and result in a \$65 billion increase in gross domestic product.”

When implemented, USMCA will replace the decades-old North American Free Trade Agreement.

It calls for Canada to ditch its



***USMCA will enhance biotechnology standards, reduce trade-distorting policies and establish modern sanitary and phytosanitary standards, among others.***

Class 6 and 7 dairy pricing system that allowed their farmers to undersell U.S. dairy products on the global market.

It addresses agricultural biotechnology, supports innovation and reduces trade-distorting policies.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S., Canada and

Mexico agree to strengthen disciplines for science-based measures to protect human, animal and plant health, while improving the flow of trade.

USMCA grants U.S. poultry farmers more access to Canada for chicken, turkey and eggs.

“The new agreement leads to

even stronger partnerships with our country’s nearest neighbors. Trade is vital to the livelihood of American farmers, consumers and the U.S. food industry,” Boening said.

Under the agreement, Canada will terminate its discriminatory wheat grading system that has kept U.S. wheat from being competitive in the market.

“This trade agreement could not come at a more critical time for U.S. agriculture. Farmers and ranchers have been hit with a perfect storm of low commodity prices, weather disasters, trade disruptions and a severe downturn in the farm economy. We are hopeful that USMCA can be a model for future U.S. trade agreements, as these modernized rules will be a strong guide for addressing continuing issue,” Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said.

The Mexican Senate approved the changes to the trade pact on Dec. 12. The Canadian Parliament will likely take action after it reconvenes in January.

Updates on USMCA’s progress will be posted to [texasfarmbureau.org](http://texasfarmbureau.org).

# White House: China agrees to purchase more U.S. commodities

By Jessica Domel  
Multimedia Reporter

Just days before new tariffs were set to be implemented on Chinese exports to the U.S., the two countries reached a deal on the first phase of a bilateral trade agreement.

Russell Boening, president of Texas Farm Bureau, said the grassroots farm organization is encouraged by the announcement.

“It appears the phase one agreement includes a commitment by China that it will make substantial additional purchases of U.S. goods and services in the coming years, including agricultural commodities,” Boening said. “This is excellent news for Texas farmers and ranchers.”

According to the White House, Chinese officials have agreed to purchase \$40 to \$50 billion in U.S.

agricultural goods for two years.

“They have agreed to many structural changes and massive purchases of agricultural product, energy and manufactured foods, plus much more,” U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted Dec. 13.

The tariffs that were set to go into effect Dec. 15 will be suspended as a result of the deal.

“The 25 percent tariffs will remain as-is, with 7.5 percent put on much of the remainder,” Trump tweeted.

Phase one addresses structural barriers to trade and supports a dramatic expansion of U.S. food, agriculture and seafood product exports, according to the U.S. Trade Representative’s (USTR) office.

It includes the reduction or elimination of non-tariff trade barriers to U.S. agriculture and seafood

products.

“President Trump has focused on concluding a phase one agreement that achieves meaningful, fully-enforceable structural changes and begins rebalancing the U.S.-China trade relationship,” USTR Robert Lighthizer said.

The White House reports the deal will greatly benefit the American and global economy and will deliver an “incredible boost” to American manufacturers, service providers, farmers and more.

Since U.S.-China trade tensions began heating up in 2018, China fell from the second-largest export market for U.S. agricultural goods to the fifth.

As a result of the trade war, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued several rounds of payments through the Market Facilitation

Program designed to help offset farmers’ losses.

More than \$8.5 billion was paid out in 2018, and at least \$6.7 billion was paid out in 2019.

Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), said re-opening the door to trade is key to helping farmers and ranchers get back on their feet.

“America’s farmers and ranchers are eager to get back to business globally. Progress restoring our ability to be competitive in China is a key component of that and this development is welcome news,” Duvall said. “We appreciate the administration’s initiative and look forward to further progress toward resolving this trade battle.”

Trump said work on phase two of the agreement will begin immediately.



# U.S.-Japan trade deal good news for Texas farmers, ranchers

By Jennifer Dorsett  
Field Editor

The U.S.-Japan trade agreement is a win for Texas farmers and ranchers, easing market access for beef and other agricultural goods.

Earlier in 2019, the Trump administration signed the first phase of a trade agreement between the two nations. Japanese Parliament approved the deal the first week of December.

“This new agreement is extremely positive for Texas farmers and ranchers,” Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) National Legislative Director Laramie Adams said. “It’s a very big victory for our cattle ranchers, in particular, opening more doors—and opening them quickly—to the growing Japanese market.”

The bilateral agreement kept most of the trade benefits the U.S. would have gained in Japan under the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a 12-nation free trade agreement negotiated under then-President

Barack Obama’s administration.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order pulling the U.S. out of the TPP agreement three days after being sworn into office, saying the deal didn’t do enough for U.S. businesses.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer has been in negotiations with Japan since that time, finally reaching a phase one agreement last September.

During the second phase of negotiations, more progress will be made on U.S. dairy and rice exports, according to Adams.

“We look forward to a more comprehensive trade agreement in the future,” he said. “We still have farmers here in Texas who didn’t see as much gain in export power during this round of agreements, but we’re absolutely heading in the right direction.”

Under the new deal, which went into effect on Jan. 1, tariffs for fresh, chilled and frozen beef will be re-

duced from 38.5 percent to 9 percent in 15 years. Japan will also eliminate tariffs on processed beef products.

TFB President Russell Boening testified before the U.S. House Ways and Means subcommittee on trade in November, saying the agreement provided much-needed certainty for Texas farmers and ranchers.

“I am proud this agreement will help Texas and U.S. beef producers,” Boening said in his testimony. “Implementation will allow our country to obtain market access equal to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership countries.”

In 2018, Japan was the fourth-largest U.S. agriculture export market, with exports totaling nearly \$13 billion. Japan is also the United States’ largest export market for pork and the country’s fifth-largest export market for dairy products.

Texas alone exported more than \$216 million of beef products, \$35 million of grain sorghum and over



\$2.4 million of pork and dairy products to Japan in 2018.

“International trade plays a critical role in the success of the U.S. economy,” Boening said. “Farm and ranch families see the benefits of trade daily as they work hard to plant, grow, harvest and market their products.”

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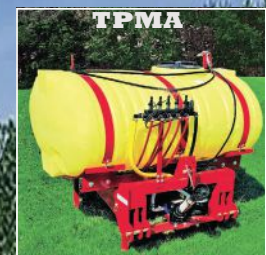
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# Cultivating safety for youth on the farm, ranch

By Jessica Domel  
Multimedia Reporter

To cut down on the number of farm-related injuries and deaths involving children, the National Farm Medicine Center has released an updated set of Ag Youth Work Guidelines.

The guidelines are designed to help parents evaluate when a child or teen is ready to perform a specific task on the farm.

“It’s not always the age,” Melissa Ploeckelman, outreach specialist for the center and the National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, said. “Sometimes, a 12-year-old might be tall enough to reach the pedals of the tractor and to see over the steering wheel, but are they always mature enough to know what to do if something goes wrong with the tractor or implement? Do they know to shut down and call an adult before going back there and trying to assess the situation?”

The guidelines examine when a youth is ready to complete a task by helping parents and farm workers assess their size, maturity and knowledge level.

“There are 50 tasks that we see youth doing on farms, and these guidelines can be interactive. A par-



**The Ag Youth Work Guidelines can help adults learn more about hazards and keeping working youth safe on the farm and ranch.**

ent can actually go on and answer a series of questions about the youth they want to hire to do that task, and they can really see if the child is ready,” Ploeckelman told the Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network.

By looking through the 50 tasks on [cultivatesafety.org](http://cultivatesafety.org), farmers, farm workers and parents are able to see what an adult or supervisor should do to keep youth safe on the farm.

“We see a lot of young children, or youth, working and living on farms. Farms are different than any other industry because the workplace is the home place,” Ploeckelman said. “There’s a lot of benefits for youth growing up on farms. They learn responsibility. They learn the circle of life.”

But there are hazards on farms and ranches.

According to the National Children’s Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety, the top three causes of youth fatalities on the farm are tractors, all-terrain vehicles (ATV), utility terrain vehicles (UTV) and drowning.

The top three reasons for non-fatal injuries are falls, animals and machinery/vehicles.

“We need to remember that the full-size ATVs are created for someone 16 years and older to be driving,” Ploeckelman said. “ATVs are not created to have passengers on them. It seems like a lot of fun, and it seems like a great joy ride, but what happens when something goes wrong?”

ATV and UTV operators are encouraged to wear helmets and ride alone on vehicles designed for a single person.

“Most UTVs have seatbelts. Make sure you click the seatbelt, and put up the gates on the side. That’s what’s going to keep people safe as they ride on these vehicles,” Ploeckelman said.

Farm owners with young children should also consider establishing a safe play area with physical boundaries.

“A lot of parents will tell their children, ‘Don’t go past the big pine tree in the yard.’ But when dad comes driving up on the tractor, when that youngster gets excited, they’re going to run over there,” she said.

The problem with that, Ploeckelman explained, is it can be difficult for drivers to see small children, especially in an area with trees and other large objects.

“Put up some type of physical barrier that the child can’t get past like a white picket fence—something they can’t get through,” Ploeckelman said. “That’s going to keep your young ones safe in the home and on the farm.”

Tips and other farm safety resources for youth are available on [cultivatesafety.org](http://cultivatesafety.org).

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# Texas Legislature to study, focus on interim charges in 2020

By Julie Tomascik  
Editor

The new year signals the start of interim studies and committee work for the Texas Legislature. As freshman legislators and seasoned colleagues return to Austin, Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) leaders and staff prepare to advocate for agriculture and the organization's priority issues.

During the non-legislative year, policy issues are assigned to committees in the Texas Senate by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and in the Texas House by Speaker Dennis Bonnen. Associations and other experts are invited to testify on issues pertaining to the various committees.

"The interim studies are a starting point for preparing for the next legislative session," Billy Howe, TFB associate director of Government Affairs, said. "It's also an opportunity for Texas Farm Bureau to give our input early before they start drafting legislation."

Eminent domain, rural broadband, business personal property tax, rural health care and groundwater regulations are among the interim topics the Senate is studying.

"The Senate Natural Resources and Economic Committee and Water

and Rural Affairs Committee have been charged with studying eminent domain," Howe said. "They'll be looking at the current law regarding the balance of private property rights and continued improvement in oil and gas infrastructure."

TFB led a strong effort to reform eminent domain in the previous legislative session that was, unfortunately, unsuccessful.

"We have not given up on this issue," Howe said. "We asked for both the House and Senate to study eminent domain abuse and private property rights. This is a start to continuing the conversations next session and finding legislative recommendations that support strengthening private property rights."

The House's eminent domain interim charge will focus on the landowner's bill of rights in the condemnation process.

"We are disappointed that the House study is limited to the landowner's bill of rights," Howe said. "We need changes in the law to fix eminent domain abuse. Modifying the landowner bill of rights won't fix low-ball offers or ensure landowners get basic protections in the easement document."

The Senate Finance Committee is charged with studying the economic and fiscal effects of increased exemptions to the business personal property tax versus its elimination.

Ways to improve health care delivery in rural and medically-underserved areas of the state is one of the issues the Senate Health & Human Services Committee will examine and research during the interim.

The House is studying hemp production, potential drift effects of pesticide application, food labels, growth challenges of energy-producing regions, infrastructure at seaports and land ports, regional and state water plans, rural health care, drone technology and property taxes, among others.

The House Committee on Agriculture & Livestock will study food labels. The focus will be on how traditional agriculture is effected by labeling food products in Texas—particularly when using terms to describe products from animals, products produced in labs and other imitation products. The charge also includes dairy and produce.

Howe noted the House Committee on Energy Resources will study the impact energy explorations and



production have on state and county roads, infrastructure, health care, education and public safety.

Throughout the year, the committees will ask for testimony and information regarding the various topics.

"We will be invited to testify on several of these topics since they pertain to farmers, ranchers and rural Texas. If we're not invited, we'll request to testify in order to provide information from our members' points of view," Howe said.

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# Scholarship opportunities help Texas Farm Bureau members

Texas youth are future leaders and innovators for the state and nation. They have opportunities for growth, education and leadership to help them explore a bright new world, but sometimes they need a helping hand.

That's why Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) invests in youth, devoting large amounts of money and time to develop leadership skills at a young age.

That investment comes through scholarships at the state and county levels.

"Each year, we award more than \$200,000 in scholarships at the state level, and over \$360,000 in scholarships is given each year through county Farm Bureaus," Mia Balko, director of Youth Outreach, said. "Those come in a variety of packages in an effort to meet different student needs."

Applicants must create an account and register through the MyTFB Membership portal at [my.texasfarmbureau.org](http://my.texasfarmbureau.org). Once there, navigate to registration, and select 2020 scholarships from the list.

All scholarships require the student to be part of a member-family to qualify, and membership must be maintained for the duration of the scholarship.

The deadline to apply and submit a completed application online is

March 2 before midnight.

Visit [texasfarmbureau.org/youth/youth-opportunities](http://texasfarmbureau.org/youth/youth-opportunities) for more information and the scholarship application checklist.

Contact Balko at [mbalko@txfb.org](mailto:mbalko@txfb.org) with questions.

## Dick Mitchell Scholarship

This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to one high school junior or senior who has attended the TFB Youth Leadership Conference.

## Young Farmer & Rancher Scholarship

High school seniors interested in a future in agriculture are eligible for TFB's Young Farmer & Rancher scholarship. Each of TFB's 13 districts will award one \$1,000 scholarship.

## Memorial/Honorary and District Scholarships

In each of the 13 TFB districts, four students will be awarded \$1,500 scholarships. Three students from each district also will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

## Young Farmer & Rancher Enrolled Scholarship

The YF&R Enrolled Scholarship is for students already in college. Applicants must have a minimum of 45 credit hours and a GPA of 2.5 or higher to qualify. Three \$2,000 YF&R enrolled scholarships will be awarded.



## Student Teaching Award

Four senior agricultural education students will receive the Texas Farm Bureau Student Teaching Award each semester. The scholarship, valued at \$2,500, aims to help students cover expenses during their semester of off-campus student teaching. Students who will be student teaching off-campus in fall 2020 or spring 2021 are encouraged to apply. This year, there will only be one application period.

## TSTC Scholarships

TFB has made scholarship funds available to first-year and enrolled students attending Texas State Technical College (TSTC). Fifty \$1,000 scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis through the Texan Success Scholarship. There are also five \$1,000 scholarships for TFB members entering their second year

at TSTC. Another \$5,000 is available through the "helping hands" scholarship, which is meant to help students with unexpected costs that are not usually covered by traditional scholarships.

## S.M. True Jr. Agricultural Scholar Award

To acknowledge former TFB President S.M. True Jr., a \$20,000 scholarship was established for college students with at least 60 hours of college credit who have declared agriculture as their major. Applicants must submit a completed application and two letters of recommendation—one from the county Farm Bureau president and one from the dean or head of the agricultural department of the applicant's college or university. Students are encouraged to apply at the end of their sophomore year for TFB's most prestigious scholarship.

# TFB YF&R, Collegiate Discussion Meet set for April 3-5, Austin

The future of Texas agriculture starts now with the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

Texas Farm Bureau's (TFB) Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Conference is designed to equip young leaders in agriculture with the tools needed to help make farm and ranch decisions with confidence.

The event is set for April 3-5 in Austin at the Austin Marriott North hotel.

The conference will feature a variety of speakers addressing current issues impacting the next generation of Texas farmers and ranchers.

Conference attendees will hear from keynote and motivational

speakers and participate in breakout sessions.

"Young farmers and ranchers can use this conference to build relationships, expand their networks and make contacts with industry representatives," Whit Weems, TFB director of Organization, said.

Collegiate members can compete in TFB's annual Collegiate Discussion Meet for a chance to win scholarships and prizes.

"Today's students are the future of tomorrow. They will help us find the solutions to some of agriculture's greatest challenges," Weems said. "The event is an opportunity for college students to dive deeper into

those agricultural issues, discuss them with their peers and consider ways to be involved in agriculture after college."

To participate, contestants must be between the ages of 18 and 35, must have an interest in agriculture and be pursuing an undergraduate degree in agriculture or an agriculturally-related field.

More than \$3,500 in prizes will be awarded.

The winner will take home a \$2,000 scholarship. Also included in the prizes are expense-paid trips to the TFB Annual Meeting in December and American Farm Bureau Federation Collegiate Discussion Meet

in February 2021.

The runner-up will receive a \$500 scholarship and an expense-paid trip to the TFB Annual Meeting.

The remaining two finalists will each receive a \$500 scholarship.

The conference is open to college students and young farmers and ranchers ages 18 to 35. Registration opens this month.

Additional registration information, including costs, can be found online at [texasfarmbureau.org/YFR](http://texasfarmbureau.org/YFR).

Login or create an account at [my.texasfarmbureau.org](http://my.texasfarmbureau.org) to register for the conference.

Contact Weems at [wweems@txfb.org](mailto:wweems@txfb.org) or 254-399-5030 with questions.



# State board approves Texas Tech University's vet program

By Jessica Domel  
Multimedia Reporter

Texas is one step closer to the opening of its second veterinary school.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree program with a major in veterinary medicine for the Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine.

"That is a major milestone that we have been working toward for the last five years, and it truly is historic," Dr. Guy Loneragan, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, told the Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network. "We are extremely excited."

The move came after the Texas Legislature and Gov. Greg Abbott approved \$17.35 million for operational needs at the school and a groundbreaking in September 2019.

"We're very thankful to the board. We're obviously very thankful to the Legislature for providing the money that's needed to start the program, the governor for approving it and now the board for providing the authorization to implement that degree program," Loneragan said.

The next step, according to Loneragan, is achieving accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association.

"We have engaged the national accreditors, and we had a very productive visit with them when they came out and inspected the site and our plan in April," he said.

The accreditors will visit again at the end of spring 2020.

"At that time, we'll be asking for that first step of accreditation, and that will then allow us to welcome the first class of students in the fall of 2021," Loneragan said. "So we're very much on track. We're working very diligently on all of the steps forward, and it truly is an exciting time."

The School of Veterinary Medicine is being constructed north of Texas Tech University's Health Sci-

ence Center in Amarillo.

Since the university system announced its intent to build a veterinary school, support has come in from across the state.

"That support has grown, and it grows by the day. It's been a grassroots effort from the beginning. We're so thankful for everyone who stepped on board," Loneragan said. "Obviously, the donors and the Amarillo community that donated the funds needed for the construction, but also the support from industry, whether that be the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Texas Cattle Feeders Association and the Texas Farm Bureau."

Veterinarians interested in being part of the program are also contacting the school.

"We will partner with really high-quality, world-class veterinarians all across the state to help deliver the experiential learning for the students. This has a lot of benefits for what we're trying to achieve," Lon-

eragan said. "First of all, the students get out into the rural regional communities of Texas for their experiential learning. So, not only are they learning the clinical skills in a real-world setting, but they're also learning what it's like to be part of a rural or regional community and how they contribute in so many different ways."

Two dozen veterinarians have already signed agreements to work with the school, but they're not the only ones showing interest.

Students in high schools and colleges from across Texas are emailing the university asking when the school will open and what they need to do to apply.

"It will be in the fall of 2020 that we begin the admissions process, and we start processing all of the students' applications and then interviewing and welcoming that first class in the following fall," Loneragan said. "It's going to be a busy fall starting in 2020, but it's going to be

an exciting time."

When the School of Veterinary Medicine officially opens, it will train students to treat both large and small animals.

"As we have worked with veterinarians and the veterinary industry all across Texas, they have made it clear—whether that's a regional community like Tyler or Victoria or Amarillo, or it's the more rural communities like Beeville or Hereford or Sulphur Springs—they need a small animal vet as much as they need a large animal vet," Loneragan said. "So, it is a comprehensive program to train a veterinarian to deal with all the major domestic species, but really focused on how we attract students from small regional agricultural communities, how we give them the curriculum that helps them be successful and then experiential learning back into those communities."

The inaugural class is expected to be about 60 students in fall 2021.

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## Farmers, ranchers discuss food, farm concerns at annual meeting

By Julie Tomascik  
Editor

Voting delegates continued to steer through transportation issues to better address movement of agricultural commodities during Texas Farm Bureau's (TFB) 86th Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

Delegates approved policy that would require stakeholders involved in road and bridge projects to consider accommodating agricultural equipment during the design and construction.

"Agricultural equipment is large, bulky and extremely heavy. Considering how that equipment moves when designing, building or repairing roads, bridges and intersections would be beneficial for everyone traveling on the road," TFB President Russell Boening said.

They also supported eliminating mileage restrictions for farmers and ranchers transporting their own products.

Delegates stamped their position on non-GMO labeling, approving language that details marketing and labeling of products as non-GMO only when the GMO variety of that commodity actually exists.



*Delegates considered state and national policy resolutions at TFB's 86th annual meeting in San Antonio.*

"There are only 10 genetically-modified crops," Boening said. "It's false marketing to label crops as non-GMO when that product doesn't exist. It creates unnecessary fear about our food."

Delegates voted to support efforts related to mental health awareness, programs and community outreach.

During the business session, delegates also discussed the cattle fever tick and the impact the tick could have on the state's cattle industry.

They voted for mandatory notification and approval by the Texas Animal Health Commission in order to move any captured game or exotic

animal that may be susceptible to the devastating fever tick.

Delegates registered support of educational efforts on unintended consequences caused by balloon releases and plastic litter.

"The unfortunate reality is that balloons end up causing damage to agriculture. Each balloon that is released puts livestock and horses at risk," Boening said. "Those balloons can even cause plastic contamination of other crops."

Tax assessments and rural appraisals were also discussed. Delegates voted to change the eligibility for tax assessment for new agricul-

tural land to three years from the current five years.

On the national level, delegates registered support for expanding the definition of young and beginning farmers and ranchers, as well as extending the period of eligibility to 15 years on U.S. Department of Agriculture and Farm Service Agency programs, among other resolutions.

State resolutions adopted at the TFB annual meeting become policies that guide the organization. National resolutions are sent to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration during the annual convention.



*Live Oak County Farm Bureau member Harriet Lamm discussed a resolution during the business session.*

## Cornyn highlights need for more trade opportunities during keynote speech

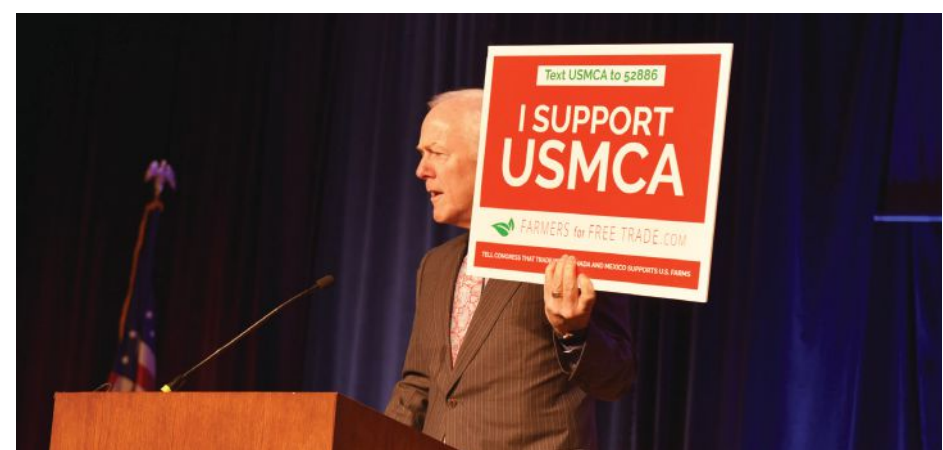
U.S. Sen. John Cornyn stressed the need for more trade opportunities for Texas farmers and ranchers during his remarks to Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) members in San Antonio.

"My message is that trade is good, more markets for the things that our ag producers grow and raise. So, I'm determined to try to make sure those opportunities continue to expand," Cornyn said in an interview with the Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network following his address. "We've been a beneficiary of NAFTA, which has been on the books for about 25 years. And about 13 million jobs depend on that trade between Canada, Mexico and the United States. We'll see in-

creases in jobs and increases in value to our ag producers and our manufacturers as a result of USMCA."

Cornyn is chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs and Global Competitiveness. He said trade fairness and a level playing field with China is worth pursuing.

"I think one of the things I hear people say all the time is they appreciate President Trump being the first president in memory to really take the fight to China, because they've been taking advantage of us for a long time—stealing our intellectual property, not playing by the rules. Even though they agree to the



rules, they don't comply," he said. "They are determined to defeat us in the long run economically and militarily. And, so, this is a new reality

we need to come to grips with, and I think we are beginning to do that."

Cornyn delivered his address to TFB members on Dec. 8.



## New Texas Farm Bureau officers, state directors elected

By Julie Tomascik  
Editor

During Texas Farm Bureau's 86th Annual Meeting, new board members and officers were elected.

Zack Yanta of Karnes County was elected vice president, and Val Stephens of Dawson County was elected secretary-treasurer.

Re-elected to two-year terms were Pat McDowell of Wheeler County, Mark Daniel of Baylor County, Allen Kaminski of Austin County and Scott Frazier of Nueces County.

Three new directors were also elected.

Kevin Wilkerson of Mabank will represent District 5.

He has a commercial cow-calf operation, stocker operation and a custom hay baling business in Van

Zandt County. He also has a custom metal design and fabrication business. Wilkerson has participated in TFB's leadership program, Farm-Lead, and served on TFB's Small Farm & Ranch and Resolutions committees. He and his wife, Pam, have four children.

The new District 7 state director is Sam Snyder of Moran.

He raises cattle and grows wheat in Callahan and Shackelford counties. He has served several years in numerous roles—including president, vice president and secretary/treasurer—on the Callahan-Shackelford County Farm Bureau board of directors. He has participated in FarmLead and served on TFB's Natural Resources, Resolutions and Feral Hog committees. He and his wife,



Kevin Wilkerson



Sam Snyder



John K. Griffith

Mary Anna, have two children and four grandchildren.

John K. Griffith of Alto is the new District 9 state director.

He is an agricultural science teacher at Alto High School. He has a commercial cow-calf operation and grows hay in Cherokee County. Griffith has been an active member

of Cherokee County Farm Bureau, serving as president, vice president and secretary/treasurer. He also has served on TFB's Resolutions Committee and traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for agriculture with TFB's National Affairs Awards Trip. He and his wife, Kimberly, have two children.

## DeWitt County Farm Bureau reaches historic membership gain

By Jennifer Dorsett  
Field Editor

In rural Texas, some things never change. Small town camaraderie. Crops and cattle. Friday night lights. And DeWitt County Farm Bureau (CFB) membership grows. Again.

DeWitt CFB membership has grown every year since 1949. That 70-year streak is likely the largest of any CFB in the nation.

"Agriculture has changed a lot over the past 70 years and so has Texas," Texas Farm Bureau President Russell Boening said. "We've gone from a largely rural to a majority urban population, with fewer people involved in farming and ranching every year. But the board members in DeWitt County have remained dedicated to keeping people engaged in agriculture and growing our membership the entire time."

It's a big accomplishment. No other CFB in Texas has even come close. As far as anyone knows, it's also a record for the American Farm Bureau Federation, too.



Members of DeWitt County Farm Bureau's board of directors were recognized on stage for its membership gain during the annual meeting.

It's not an easy task to keep adding members year after year. But it's always been a priority in DeWitt County, according to current DeWitt CFB President Wes Dukes.

"We have several longtime members who have said, as far back as they can remember, it was always important to move forward," Dukes said. "I've been a board member on and off for 30 years now, and it was instilled in me early on that we were always trying to increase our mem-

bership and increase our reach for rural Texas and Texas agriculture."

Some years are tougher than others for membership. There have been some years, Dukes noted, when board members and county employees had to work more to achieve a gain, but the efforts have always paid off.

"We're a small town, rural community. We don't have a huge population, so we've really had to work some years to keep making those gains," he said. "But all the board has literature

on hand to sign up people, all the time. We're very active in promoting Farm Bureau and recruiting new members whenever and wherever we can."

Dukes said the DeWitt CFB board and other members are involved in recruitment, because people in the area know what explosive urban growth can mean in a rural community.

"DeWitt County is a great place to live," he said. "And because we're rural, Texas Farm Bureau is even more important. Having representation as cities around us grow is just absolutely vital. We believe strongly in what the organization does for rural Texans and farmers and ranchers in Austin and Washington, D.C."

The membership gains wouldn't be possible without the help of longtime CFB Secretary Myra Parr, he added. It's a point of pride to all DeWitt CFB staff that they've managed to help keep the record going for so long.

"Our philosophy is there's always room for improvement," Dukes said. "Until the last person in DeWitt County is a member, we won't quit."



# TFB 86TH ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## Young farmers, ranchers named winners in TFB state contests

Fueled by passion and hunger for knowledge and leadership, young farmers and ranchers are cultivating the future. Texas Farm Bureau's Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) program helps them strengthen their impact.



### Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher

**Braden and Jordan McInnis**

Braden and Jordan McInnis of Tennessee Colony won the 2019 Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher competition. The couple farms corn, cotton, wheat, soybeans, oats, grain sorghum and hay. They also provide commercial spray applicator services and regional agricultural trucking, custom farm and clear land. The McInnises also have a cow-calf operation. In addition to helping on the farm, Jordan is the lead agricultural science teacher and FFA advisor at Elkhart High School.

As winners of the contest, the McInnises received the title to a 3/4 ton, 4-wheel drive Ford pickup with a diesel engine, sponsored by Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, and a \$5,000 cash award, courtesy of Farm Credit.

Runners-up in the contest were Matt and Jessica Hanslik of Hallettsville and Jesse and Karri Wieners of Groom.

During the 86th annual meeting, the winners were named in the three contests—Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher, Excellence in Agriculture and the Discussion Meet.



### Excellence in Agriculture

**Zach and Sarah Eder**

Zach and Sarah Eder of El Campo won the 2019 Excellence in Agriculture competition. Zach is an agronomist and technology development director for Advanta Seeds, a global seed company. He also serves as the project leader for the new technology team, which is working with the first herbicide-tolerant sorghum to be launched in the United States. Sarah teaches physics, AP physics and biotechnology at El Campo High School, where she uses plant genetics and agricultural concepts in her classroom. The couple also has a small herd of cattle.

The Eders received a UTV, courtesy of Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, and a \$5,000 cash award, courtesy of Farm Credit.

Runners-up in the contest were Kristin Anderson of Buda and Ben and Jessica Rumbaugh of El Campo.

### Discussion Meet

**Matt Mahler**

Matt Mahler, a Wichita County Farm Bureau member, won the 2019 Discussion Meet contest. As the winner, Mahler took home an ATV, courtesy of Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, and a \$5,000 cash award, courtesy of Farm Credit.

Mahler grows corn and wheat in Wichita County. He is also a drone pilot and designer for IVM Solutions.

The Discussion Meet finalists were Shannon Bellis of Van Zandt County Farm Bureau, Kacy Mitchell of Smith County Farm Bureau and Josh Ritchey of Erath County Farm Bureau.



The McInnises, Eders and Mahler will compete at the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual convention Jan. 17-22 in Austin, Texas.



## Smith County Farm Bureau named Most Outstanding County Farm Bureau

Passion for agricultural advocacy, dedication to their community and a growing membership earned Smith County Farm Bureau (CFB) one of the highest awards given by Texas Farm Bureau (TFB).

Smith CFB put its local agricultural stories in the spotlight, connecting farmers and ranchers with others in their community and across the state. For its efforts, it received the 2019 Most Outstanding County Farm Bureau Award.

It's the third time for Smith CFB to win the prestigious award.

"Smith CFB worked all year on behalf of Texas agriculture," TFB President Russell Boening said. "Receiving this award is recognition for its passion and dedication to agriculture and the teamwork to get the job done."

The key points of the Most Out-



standing County Farm Bureau program include promoting agriculture, political activities, attending state meetings and hosting youth activities.

The program allows every county to earn points in each of these areas to become the best across Texas

each year.

Throughout the year, Smith CFB hosted community activities, educational events and engaged with consumers and state and national elected officials. Those activities helped the local organization earn points toward

the state award.

Program eligibility begins Nov. 1 and runs through Oct. 31 of the following calendar year.

The county leaders took action early in the year—planning their events and activities.

"This group is very active in their community. They host events for farmers and ranchers, and they host events to talk about agriculture with consumers," Boening said. "They work diligently to be a voice of agriculture in their community and at state functions. They are active in developing grassroots policy and maintaining relationships with elected officials. All of these activities are important for the future of agriculture and Farm Bureau."

Anderson CFB was runner-up and Wilson CFB was third overall for this year's contest.

## TFB names Wester as 2019 Ag in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher

By Jennifer Dorsett  
Field Editor

One fourth-grade teacher's efforts to plant seeds of knowledge about agriculture has her harvesting the fruits of her labor in the classroom.

Julie Wester, a teacher at Creek View Elementary in College Station, was named Texas Farm Bureau's (TFB) 2019 Agriculture in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher. The award was presented during TFB's 86th Annual Meeting.

Wester was nominated by Brazos County Farm Bureau (CFB).

"Julie goes above and beyond normal classroom expectations to correlate agriculture into daily curriculum," Brazos CFB President Jared Klatt wrote in a nomination letter. "She is highly engaged in Farm Bureau teacher opportunities and incorporates multiple facets of agricultural production into her students' lessons."

Wester teaches science, math and social studies. Her students learn

about agriculture through hands-on activities and visual lessons. They take field trips to the "Pizza Ranch" to learn about how food is grown and participate in TFB's school visit program, along with other engaging classroom activities.

When teaching students about the water cycle, she works with the Brazos County Soil and Water Conservation District to discuss agricultural water use and why farms and ranches need water. In another unit, students learn about crops, and the class works to identify renewable and non-renewable natural resources.

"Julie is a wonderful example of the difference a teacher's attitude can make for students," TFB President Russell Boening said. "She teaches in an urban setting, where many kids aren't exposed to agriculture. Through her engaging teaching style, she helps children make a connection between farmers and ranchers and our food, clothes, fuel and natural resources."



*Julie Wester receives the Ag in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher award from District 11 State Director Allen Kaminski (left) and TFB President Russell Boening (right).*

Wester graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in Food Science and Technology. She has been teaching for eight years and is the lead science teacher for fourth grade at Creek View Elementary.

In recognition of her accomplishment, Wester will receive a \$600

cash award, as well as an expense-paid trip to attend the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference next summer. Brazos CFB will receive a \$400 cash award for nominating Wester.

Wester will also be nominated for the National Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture award.



# TFB 86TH ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ CLASS OF 2019

## HONORING OUR PIONEERS

They give everything to their farm, ranch, communities and consumers. For that, we recognize them for what they are: pioneers in Texas agriculture.

Each year, 13 Texas farmers and ranchers and one retired professional staff member are honored with the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Pioneer Award. They are selected for their contributions to agriculture and TFB,

both through service and leadership.

Members of the 28th class of TFB Pioneers were recognized at the 86th Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

Their photos and names will join the more than 300 previous Pioneer Award winners positioned outside the Walter Hammond Auditorium in the TFB Conference and Training Center in Waco.

### District 1



Audie James (AJ) Johnson Jr. was born in 1941, while smoke was still rising from the attack on Pearl Harbor. He has lived during a time of great change—for the world, for agriculture and Farm Bureau.

Johnson is a 50-year member of the Childress County Farm Bureau. He has served 40 years as a director of Hall-Childress Soil and Water Conservation Board and been a member of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

He was recognized as Childress County Farmer of the Year and is a lifetime member of the Childress Farmers Co-Op. Johnson is also a deacon of Childress Church of Christ.

### District 2



Clarence Ray Monroe joined Farm Bureau in 1954 and has served on the Parmer County Farm Bureau board for more than 28 years, including president for nine years, as well as vice president and secretary.

Monroe has been a farmer since 1958 and has dedicated his life to the land. He served on the Parmer County Grain Sorghum, Cotton and Resolution committees. At the state

level, he served on the Resolutions Committee.

He has served on the Friona Wheat Growers Board, Friona Co-op Gin and the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission. Monroe also served on the Texas Baptist Board.

### District 3



The late Norman C. Roberts served as a board member of the Wichita County Farm Bureau for more than 45 years. During that service, dating back to the 1960s, he served terms as president and vice president.

Roberts served on the Membership, Finance, Building and Policy Development committees. He attended both the Texas Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau Federation conventions on numerous occasions.

Roberts was also a long-time supporter of FFA and agricultural education.

He was a 32nd Degree Mason, active in the Burkburnett Eastern Star and a member of the Dallas Scottish Rite.

### District 4



Bobby Don Ayers joined the board of directors of Hunt County Farm Bureau in 1992 and has been an advocate for Farm Bureau and agriculture ever since. He has served as vice president of the board and chaired the Policy Development Committee.

He is a regular at Farm Bureau state conventions and a volunteer for FFA activities and the Hunt County Fair.

He also served at the State Fair of Texas as a Farm Bureau representative. Ayers and his wife had a cow-calf operation for many years and continue to grow hay with the assistance of a neighbor for cutting and baling.

Ayers is a deacon at First Baptist Church of Caddo Mills.

### District 5



Don M. Smith, a longtime dairy and beef producer, has been a member of Texas Farm Bureau since 1953.

He has served on the board of Hopkins-Rains County Farm Bureau for more than 50 years and is currently vice president. Smith is a volunteer for the county's Food Connection Week, Ag in the Classroom, North East Texas Buyer Luncheon and many other activities.

He served 12 years on the TFB state board of directors, including as secretary-treasurer and vice president, and served on many state committees.

Smith also has been president of Texas Association of Dairymen and a board member of National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Texas Beef Council.

### District 6



Gary Speck has been a longtime and active member of the Concho County Farm Bureau since joining in the mid-1980s.

He is a current board member of Concho County Farm Bureau. Speck served on the Young Farmer & Rancher Committee and in several capacities in the agricultural community. He was a director and officer of the Mohair Council of America and the Texas Mohair Producers Board. He is an active member of the Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Association.

While residing in Eden, Speck served on the city council and school board.

Speck is a member of the Sierra Vista United Methodist Church in San Angelo, where he sings in the choir and has been chair of the Worship Committee.



# TFB 86<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

## District 7



Lewis Lehman, a lifelong self-employed farmer and rancher, became a member of Brown County Farm Bureau in 1974.

He served 12 years as president of Brown County Farm Bureau and was also vice president.

Lehman was a member of the TFB board of directors for three two-year terms, serving as secretary-treasurer during that time. He served on the Building Committee for the TFB Conference and Training Center, dedicated in 2010, and was a member of the TFB Resolutions, Hay & Forage and Natural Resources committees.

He was on the board of the Brooksmith Water Utility District for 32 years, including 23 as president, and has been a Bangs ISD school board member.

## District 8



The late Jesse Derwood Cobb served Milam County Farm Bureau for more than 50 years.

He served on the Milam County Farm Bureau board of directors and represented the organization at every level. Cobb farmed and ranched for more than 60 years.

He was active on county committees regarding resolutions, nominations and membership drives. He was selected as outstanding "Farmer of the Year" at the Cameron Chamber of Commerce banquet.

He served as board director for 20 years at Texas Land Bank-Waco, on the Calvert Co-op Gin board and was president of the Cameron ISD School Board for three years.

## District 9



The late Jeffrey W. Boulware is a testimonial of serving rural Texas youth and inspiring their interest in agriculture.

Boulware was a member of the Angelina County Farm Bureau board, serving two years as vice president. He also served on the State Affairs, Youth and Scholarship committees. Boulware chaired the Hay Commodity Committee.

While in high school, Boulware was a founding member of the Zavalla 4-H Club, where he helped his special-needs brother show beef cattle.

His untimely death at only 50 years of age left a void in his community. An award is now given in his honor to a 4-H member who is excelling in their field.

## District 10



James W. Haynie, a World War II military veteran, has held true to the grassroots nature of Farm Bureau by being active at both the state and national levels and has pursued organization goals since becoming a Farm Bureau member in Wharton County in 1967.

Haynie became a Kerr County Farm Bureau director in 1989 and served as vice president and president. He chaired the National Affairs, State Affairs and AGFUND committees. Haynie was the chairperson and founder of the county scholarship program established in 1999.

He continues to be an active member in Kerr County Farm Bureau.

## District 11



W. J. Hill, DVM, has been a Farm Bureau board member for both Castro County and Brazos County.

Hill first served on the Castro County Farm Bureau board as president. After moving, Hill became a board member of Brazos County Farm Bureau and was also president there. He served two terms on the Texas Farm Bureau Animal Health Advisory Committee and one on the AFBF Animal Health Committee. He attended numerous local meetings, state annual meetings and legislative trips to Austin and Washington, D.C.

Hill is founder and charter member of the Academy of Veterinary Consultants and a career-long member of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association.

## District 12



Bill Roberts, a beef cattle rancher, became a Caldwell County Farm Bureau board member in 1970.

He served as county president for four terms and several terms each as vice president and secretary. He is a member of the Nominating, Beef Cattle, Policy Development and Tax committees. Roberts has attended more than 20 state annual meetings and was part of the group to travel to Washington, D.C., for the first annual National Affairs Awards Trip.

He speaks with local high school FFA students on ranching and cattle, volunteers at the Luling Foundation Farm Day and Progressive Ag Safety Day and is a supporter of the Caldwell County Junior Livestock Show.

## District 13



Everest Frank Pawlik joined Farm Bureau in 1955, first as a member of Bee County Farm Bureau, which at the time served Live Oak County, until the charter of Live Oak County Farm Bureau in 1960.

Pawlik was a Farm Bureau insurance agent before returning to farming full-time and opening a farm supply store. He was the first farmer in the county to use liquid fertilizer, and

he has an immense interest in agricultural conservation and educating others on conservation efforts.

He has long supported local youth, purchasing their animal projects at the Live Oak County Fair. He also helped organize the Live Oak Republican Party.

## Staff



Marcia Bales began her career with Texas Farm Bureau in 1982.

She was promoted in 1984 to secretary of the newly-formed Public Affairs division, which encompassed legislative, farm labor and legal departments, as well as the research, education and policy development department.

Bales was promoted to secretary to the executive director in July 1989. She served in this capacity until being appointed corporate secretary in January 2003, where she was assistant to the president and assistant secretary to the boards of directors of Texas Farm Bureau and affiliated companies.



# TFB garden grant recipients can grow ag literacy, awareness

By Julie Tomascik  
Editor

Texas Farm Bureau named the recipients of the Learning from the Ground Up garden grants for 2020.

Thirty-nine grants were awarded to schools and educational programs across the Lone Star State for their projects that help increase agricultural literacy and awareness.

“These grants help teachers, parents and volunteer leaders get students outside and learning about agriculture,” Jordan Walker, TFB director of Educational Outreach, said. “The hands-on experiences from the various projects help students better understand classroom concepts and grow an understanding of food production.”

Projects include establishing or improving school gardens, raised beds, greenhouses and outdoor classrooms that provide students

with hands-on, experiential learning about agriculture and food production.

The next application process will

open this fall, and Walker encourages schools and educational programs to consider applying for the grants.

For more information about the

garden grants and other educational opportunities, contact Walker at [jwalker1@txfb.org](mailto:jwalker1@txfb.org) or visit [texasfarmbureau.org/aitc](http://texasfarmbureau.org/aitc).

## *Garden Grant recipients for 2020 include the following:*

Alpine Christian School

Belton High School

Boys and Girls Country

Brady Elementary

Brownsboro Intermediate School

Cactus Elementary School

Carver Elementary School Academy

Castleberry High School

Chisolm Trail Intermediate School

Crestview Elementary

Decatur Intermediate School

Eagle Pass High School

Elkhart Intermediate School

Ella Schorlemmer Elementary School

Fort Stockton High School

Full Armor Christian Academy Elementary

Gatesville Elementary

Harris County Leadership Academy

Jones Elementary/Intermediate School

Kingdom Life Academy

Latexo High School

La Vernia Intermediate School

Llano Junior High

Lubbock Impact

Mason Elementary

Menard Elementary

Meyersville Elementary School

Miller Grove School

Mineola Middle School

Northside School

Olney High School

Smith Elementary School

South Plains Food Bank

Taft High School

Turner High School

Voss Farms Elementary

Waller County Master Gardeners Association

Waskom Middle School

Wonder Years Preschool

# Federal funding targets feral swine control in Lone Star State

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is awarding more than \$1.4 million to fund three pilot projects to control feral swine in Texas.

These projects are part of the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program, which is a joint effort between USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to help address the threat that feral swine pose to agriculture, ecosystems and human and animal health.

“Feral swine cause significant damage to crops and grazing lands, while also impacting the health of our natural resources,” Acting NRCS State Conservationist Darren Richardson said. “By collaborating with our partners nationally and here in Texas, our hope is to control and eradicate this invasive species—improving operations for farmers while also protecting our natural resources for the future.”

NRCS and APHIS are working

with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) on pilot projects in Texas to help address feral hog damage on crop and rangeland, as well as water quality impairment in Potter, Hartley and Oldham counties in the Canadian River Watershed, in Eastland, Erath and Comanche counties in the Upper Leon River Watershed and Hardeman, Wilbarger, Wichita and Clay counties in the Upper Red River Watershed.

Landowners in these identified counties may be eligible for assistance from trapping technicians to trap feral swine on their property. Interested landowners should visit their local NRCS office.

NRCS, APHIS and the Texas State Technical Agriculture Committee worked together to define the critical areas to be considered for projects within the state.

The Texas pilot project runs from two to three years in duration.

TSSWCB will be the lead project



partner and will be conducting outreach, educational workshops and demonstrations in each county in the project areas.

Due to the new nature of the pilot program, it will be crucial to collect, monitor and evaluate data regarding feral swine populations, agricultural damage and environmental concerns. Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute will assist with monitoring and data collection.

NRCS is awarding more than \$16.7 million for feral swine pilot

projects in select areas of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas. The funding limit for a single award is \$1.5 million. The 2018 Farm Bill provides \$75 million for the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program. These funds are for the life of the farm bill and divided evenly between NRCS and APHIS.

Additional information on NRCS' feral swine control work can be found at [nrcs.usda.gov/fscep](http://nrcs.usda.gov/fscep).



# Educational, urban outreach efforts impact Texas students

Agriculture is a mystery for some students. Its deep roots in Texas lie just beyond their classroom's reach. But Texas Farm Bureau's (TFB) educational outreach programs changes that, helping students and communities reconnect with agriculture.

In 2019, TFB's Organization division, which handles education and outreach, communicated with teachers, students and members of the public through a variety of classroom activities, community events and workshops.

TFB leaders also helped with those efforts.

"Our educational outreach efforts show that agriculture has a place in all classrooms with a variety of teaching styles," Whit Weems, TFB director of Organization, said. "Ag in the Classroom is a multifaceted program that brings the world of agriculture to young minds and helps students and teachers learn more about how their food is grown, careers in agriculture and the farm and ranch families of Texas."

Through the Summer Agriculture Institute, regional trainings and teacher workshops, 149 teachers learned ways to incorporate agriculture into their curriculum and took home lesson plans. Those teachers have a potential direct impact to about 10,000 students.

The school visit program reached more than 51,000 students across the state. Through the educational program, urban and rural students alike become farmers as they plant a seed in a cup, learn about careers in agriculture, study regions of Texas, read and write a postcard and have the chance to meet local farmers. The school visit program targets students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

TFB staff also hosted a workshop at the Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association of Texas conference to share details on scholarships, agricultural advocacy and more.

Over the summer, 287 high school juniors and seniors from 115 counties attended the 56th annual Youth Leadership Conference where they learned about free enterprise, constitutional government, setting goals and leadership.

TFB staff also displayed a booth at the Texas FFA State Convention, reaching 4,000 members throughout the weeklong event.

More than 740,000 adults and children were reached through the Planet Agriculture exhibit, which is an interactive, educational exhibit on display at fairs and livestock shows across the state.

County Farm Bureau leaders and TFB Field Operations staff participated in farmers markets, fairs and other venues and hosted 88 Ag Days for elementary students throughout the year. TFB's mobile learning barns, which are trailers that feature up to seven different crops and livestock, were used to help initiate conversations and teach over 51,000 school children and nearly 141,000 adults and children last year.

TFB Communications staff also held engagement trainings for Texas 4-H members and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agents, and Texas FFA members visited the TFB state headquarters for help with contests and leadership training.

"With the help of our volunteer leaders and dedicated program teachers, we get to share the stories of Texas farmers and ranchers with students, teachers, school administration and community leaders," Weems said. "We build relationships across the state, cultivating a better understanding of agriculture. In 2019, we were successful in promoting Texas agriculture and increasing agricultural literacy, and we hope to reach even more individuals this year."

For more information about the educational programs, visit [www.texasfarmbureau.org/aitc](https://www.texasfarmbureau.org/aitc).

## MAKING NEWS AT THE TFB RADIO NETWORK

Meet the newest member of the Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network team—Carey D. Martin!

Carey joined us as Network Manager on Dec. 1. He also serves as Texas Farm Bureau associate director of Communications – Radio.

Carey comes to the network from the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, where he served for 22 years. His work included roles as Communications Specialist at the Voice of Louisiana Agriculture Radio Network, as Director of Information and Public Relations and as an area Field Representative.

Carey's farm broadcasting career also includes commercial network/station work in Baton Rouge, Tulsa, Oklahoma City and Omaha.

He was recently elected southern region vice president of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB).

Carey joins Tom Nicolette and Jessica Domel on the Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network, the No. 1 and most-listened to agricultural news radio network in the state of Texas.



**Listen to *Texas News and Views*, *Focus on Agriculture* and the other offerings of the Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network at <https://texasfarmbureau.org/radio>**

TFB Network programs can also be heard in non-served areas at

**TEXASFARMBUREAU.ORG**





# TFB Communications division transitions staff, welcomes Martin

Texas Farm Bureau's Communications division transitioned staff at the start of the new year.

Gene Hall retired on Dec. 31, 2019, and Gary Joiner assumed the role as director of Communications for the organization.

Joiner previously served as senior associate director of Communications and Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network manager.

As director of Communications, Joiner will lead Farm Bureau's communications efforts and work directly with the media.

Julie Tomascik is now associate director of Communications—Editor. She is responsible for managing publications, digital communications, the newsletter service and graphics services. She previously served as editor.

Jennifer Dorsett continues as field editor, and Cindy Wennin and Angela Lujan continue as graphic designers.

Carey D. Martin joined TFB's Communications division in Decem-

ber 2019. He is associate director of Communications – Radio and manages the Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network. He is responsible for the daily operation of the network and maintaining relationships with the network's 63 affiliated stations.

Multimedia Reporter Jessica Domel and Senior Producer Tom Nicolette will continue to produce programs for the radio network, and Domel also will contribute articles to TFB's publications.

Kelly Bogard is now advertising manager. She handles all advertising for the publications, website, emails and the radio network.

Ed Wolff is now video services manager. The video team produces content for Farm Bureau's social media accounts, website, AgDay TV and the organization's Voices of Agriculture show that airs quarterly on RFD-TV. Ben Cox and Pedro Rosas are now video production specialists.

James Adams continues as print shop manager, overseeing the internal

projects printed at TFB's headquarters. Mark Niemeyer continues as lead press operator.

Penny Cox continues as administrative assistant.

Martin brings several years of communications experience to TFB.

He previously worked for the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation for 22 years, serving in positions in public relations and field operations.

He founded the Louisiana Farm Bureau Radio Network in 1997, building it into the top-rated farm radio network in Louisiana.

Martin began his career as a farm radio broadcaster at KVOO AM/FM in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Agrinet in Oklahoma City and at WOW AM/FM in Omaha, Nebraska.

He is active in the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB), where he has served on a variety



**Gary Joiner**



**Carey D. Martin**

of committees, including the new member, professional improvement, NAFB News Service and marketing and promotion committees. He is currently serving as the south regional vice president of NAFB.

Martin is a native of Frierson, Louisiana, and a graduate of Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education.

He and his wife, C.J., are currently relocating to Waco. They have five children.

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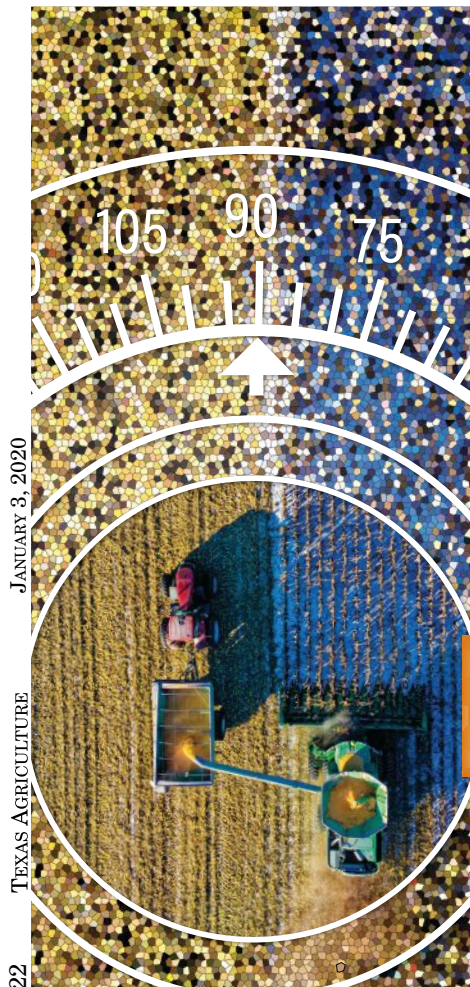
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# National farm groups partner to help farmers manage stress

Recognizing the high levels of stress affecting America's farmers and ranchers, Farm Credit, American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and National Farmers Union have partnered on a program to train individuals who interact with farmers and ranchers to recognize signs of stress and offer help.

Based on the farm stress program Michigan State University Extension developed for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA), this combination of online and in-person trainings is designed specifically for individuals who interact with farmers and ranchers. It provides participants the skills to understand the sources of stress, learn the warning signs of stress and suicide, identify effective communication strategies, reduce stigma related to mental health concerns and connect farmers and ranchers with appropriate mental health and other resources.

"Farm Credit loan officers are on

farms working with producers every day, and they see firsthand how this difficult farm economy is causing emotional stress for farmers and their families. We hope this training initiative will help our lenders recognize the signs of severe stress and get farm families the support they need," Farm Credit Council CEO Todd Van Hoose said.

In a national Morning Consult poll commissioned by AFBF in April 2019, a strong majority of farmers and farmworkers said financial issues, farm or business problems and fear of losing the farm impact the mental health of farmers and ranchers.

Nearly half of rural adults said they are personally experiencing more mental health challenges than they were a year ago.

"This training program will help our members recognize the warning signs and empower them to get help for their friends, family, neighbors or even themselves," AFBF President

Zippy Duvall said.

Research also shows that while farmers experience higher levels of psychological distress and depression than the general population, they are less likely to seek help for mental health issues.

Even for those who do seek help, resources may not be readily available, as 60 percent of rural Americans live in areas with mental health professional shortages.

Early feedback from the FSA trainings showed strong results. Ninety-one percent of participants indicated that the training improved their ability to serve customers experiencing stress, and 80 percent said it improved their ability to manage their own stress.

In response to the challenges facing farmers, National Farmers Union compiled financial, legal and mental health resources at its online Farm Crisis Center at [farmcrisis.nfu.org](http://farmcrisis.nfu.org).

The organization's partnership with AFBF and Farm Credit will build on that project by further increasing farmers' access to the information and services they need to get through financial and personal emergencies.

Resources may also be accessed on MSU Extension's Managing Farm Stress website at [www.canr.msu.edu/managing\\_farm\\_stress](http://www.canr.msu.edu/managing_farm_stress).

The trainings, which will begin in the coming weeks, are funded by a grant from Farm Credit.

## Texas hemp plan submitted to USDA

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) submitted the Texas Hemp Program outline to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for approval in mid-December.

This document, and the changes to state rules that establish the new program, must be approved and finalized before TDA can begin granting licenses to legally grow hemp in Texas.

"Growing hemp will come with a set of unique requirements, including a background check," Brant Wilbourn, Texas Farm Bureau associate director of Commodity and Regulatory Activities, said. "But submitting the state hemp program outline is the next step in the process, so we are continuing to make progress on adding an additional crop for Texas farmers to grow."

The plan sent to USDA encompasses the federal requirements for a state hemp program and follows state law with corresponding references to forthcoming rules outlining the Texas hemp program. These rules will be published for public comment soon, TDA said.

A 30-day public comment period will follow, after which the rules can be changed or adopted. Once the

rules take effect, TDA can begin issuing licenses.

TDA Commissioner Sid Miller expects to have a Texas hemp licensing program in operation in early 2020, according to an agency news release.

Last month, Dallas-based Panda Biotech also announced it is developing its first industrial hemp processing facility. The industrial facility will process hemp and turn it into a material that can be used for car parts, insulation, clothing and more.

The Panda Biotech High Plains Hemp Gin will be a 255,000 square-foot facility located in Shallowater.

Hemp can be used to produce food and beverages, cosmetics and personal care products, nutritional supplements, textiles, paper, construction and insulation materials, super capacitor batteries, automotive products and more, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

CBD oil is growing in popularity as an alternative pain reliever, as are hemp seeds and hearts.

More information about the state hemp program can be found online at <https://www.texasagriculture.gov/RegulatoryPrograms/Hemp.aspx>.

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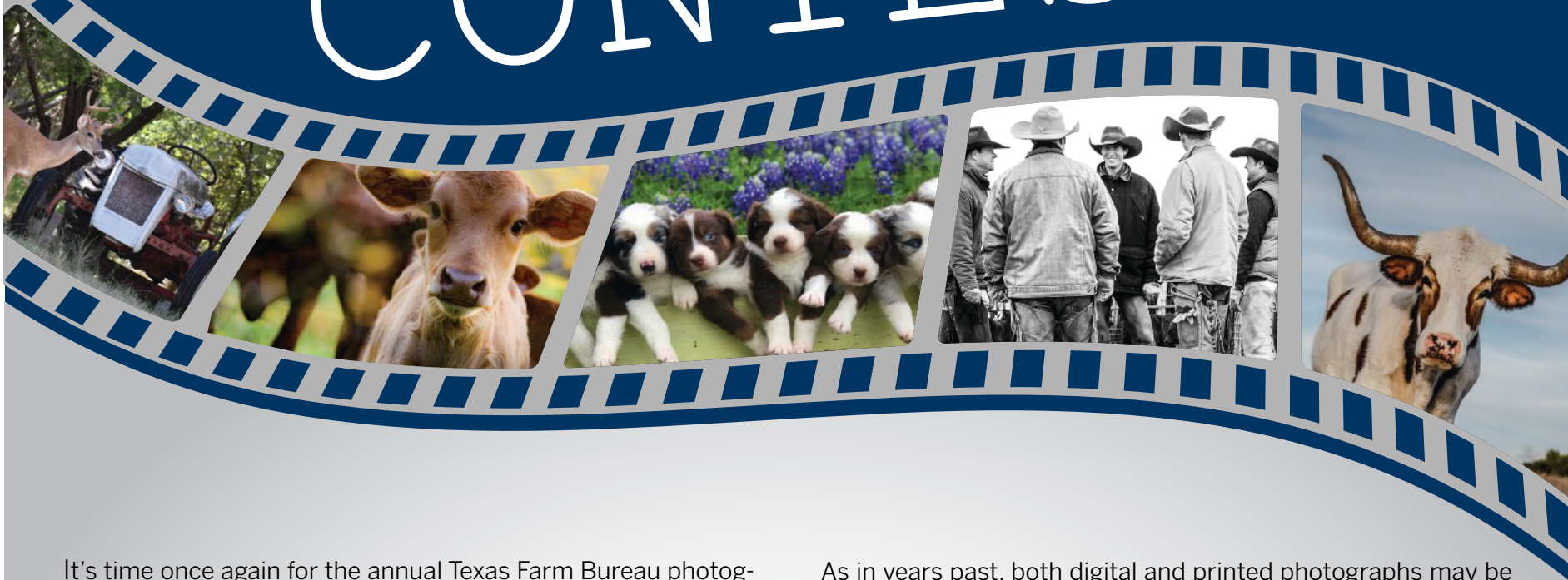
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2020 Texas Farm Bureau

# PHOTO CONTEST



It's time once again for the annual Texas Farm Bureau photography contest, when you or someone you know can share your best pictures with the entire Lone Star State and maybe even win a cash prize.

The deadline for photo submissions in the 2020 contest is June 1.

The contest is limited to members of the Texas Farm Bureau and their immediate families.

Rural settings and rural lifestyles are the preferred themes for all submissions, and contestants are limited to one entry per person.

Four top winners will be selected and published in the July edition of *Texas Agriculture* and the summer edition of *Texas Neighbors*. First place will be awarded a \$250 cash prize, second place will receive \$200 and two honorable mentions will receive \$100 each.

As in years past, both digital and printed photographs may be submitted. To enter, follow these simple rules:

Digital entries should be e-mailed to [photocontest@txfb.org](mailto:photocontest@txfb.org). For publication purposes, photos must be at least 1024 X 768 pixels or higher.

Print entries may be mailed to Photo Contest, TFB Communications Division, P.O. Box 2689, Waco, TX 76702-2689. A self-addressed, stamped envelope needs to accompany your print photo entry if you want your photograph returned.

Include a brief description regarding the entry, plus the participant's name, address, telephone number and valid Texas Farm Bureau membership number.

More information is available at <https://txfb.us/photocontest20>.

# Texas Farm Bureau sets 2020 national legislative priority issues

Jennifer Dorsett  
Field Editor

Continuing to advocate for beneficial free trade agreements and ensuring 2018 Farm Bill policies are implemented top the list of Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) national legislative priorities for 2020.

“We scored a big win for Texas and American farmers with the legalization of growing industrial hemp in the 2018 Farm Bill,” Regan Beck, TFB director of Government Affairs, said. “Now we turn our focus to making sure hemp regulations and other farm bill policies are put into place and executed properly.”

Other issues important to farming, ranching and rural life are on the organization’s agenda for the upcoming 116th Congressional Second Session.

The TFB board of directors names priority issues for the legislative session after organizational policy is set by county delegates from across the state during the winter annual

meeting.

Priority issues identified include taxes, ag labor, property rights, truth in labeling, invasive pest control, agricultural transportation, regulatory reform, rural broadband access and health care accessibility and affordability.

“We continually hear from our members as we visit with them throughout the year,” Beck said. “Issues important at the county level make their way through our policy development process and get voted on by delegates during the annual meeting. Then our board decides the top priorities for legislative action based on member feedback and organizational policy. It’s an organic, grassroots process that we feel works very well in communicating our members’ needs to their legislative representatives.”

A National Affairs Awards Trip is held every spring to give members a chance to share those concerns and needs with lawmakers face-to-face.



“It’s important for legislators to hear directly from their constituents,” Beck said. “We take that trip to Washington, D.C., every year, because there’s nothing more powerful than hearing it straight from the source when a federal regulation or law is affecting someone’s livelihood or financial well-being.”

VoterVoice, a feature of [texasfarmbureau.org](https://texasfarmbureau.org), makes it easier to stay in touch with state and national lawmakers.

Visit <https://texasfarmbureau.org/advocacy/voter-voice> to sign up for alerts, find legislation, look up officials and submit comments on issues important to your area.

## TPWD proposes fees for popular Managed Lands Deer Program

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is seeking public comment on proposed changes to the Managed Lands Deer Program (MLD), which includes establishing fees for participation in the program and clarifying existing program provisions.

The proposed fee amendment would establish a \$30 fee for each management unit within a property that is enrolled in the Harvest Option (HO), provided the property is not part of an aggregate acreage enrolled in the MLDP; a \$30 fee for each aggregate acreage enrolled in the HO; a \$300 fee for the first management unit of each property enrolled in the Conservation Option (CO) plus a \$30 fee for each additional management unit of a property enrolled in the CO; a \$300 fee for each aggregate acreage enrolled in the CO; and a \$30 fee for each management unit of a wildlife management association or cooperative

enrolled in the CO.

TPWD White-tailed Deer Program Leader Alan Cain told the Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network that in 1998 there were about 813 properties and 3.1 million acres enrolled in the MLD program.

In 2019, there are more than 12,000 tracts of land enrolled in MLDP and 28 million acres. He said during that 20-year time period, the department hasn’t hired any new biologists in the field to help address the growth in the program.

“As you can imagine, that presents significant challenges for our wildlife division and our wildlife biologists in the field to be able to provide the level of customer service that we need to provide to those landowners and cooperators that are enrolled in the MLD program,” Cain said. “We have examples of some staff who have in excess of 280 or 290 individual landowners they’re working with, and it’s diffi-

cult to see them on any sort of frequent basis.”

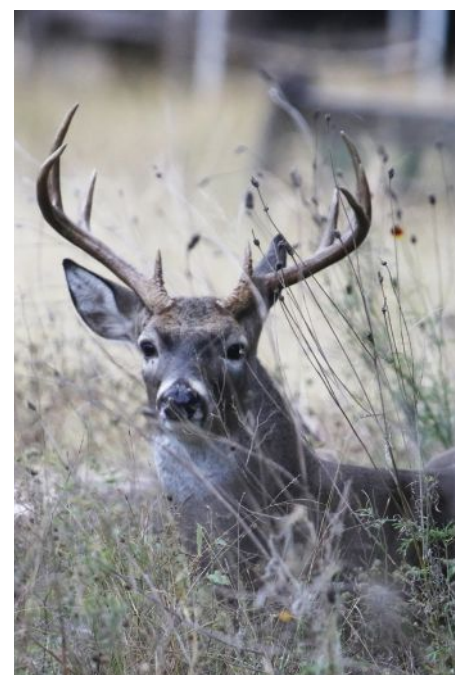
TPWD said the fee amounts were selected by the department after soliciting and receiving input from department staff, stakeholder groups and advisory committees.

Those individuals considered what would be a reasonable fee for participation in the MLD program considering the benefits received, the demands on department staff in administering the various options available to landowners under the MLD program and which would not result in significant attrition from the MLD program by landowners.

The proposed regulation changes are available for review in the Dec. 6 edition of the Texas Register.

The public comment period is open through Jan. 23, when the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission will meet in Austin to vote on adopting these changes.

Comments on the proposed



changes may be submitted via the department’s website at <https://www.tpwd.texas.gov/business/feedback/public-comment/> or in person during the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission meeting Jan. 23.



# TWDB accepting applications for ag water conservation grants

By Jennifer Dorsett  
Field Editor

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is now accepting applications for agricultural water conservation grants.

In an interview with the Texas Farm Bureau Radio Network, TWDB board member Kathleen Jackson said conservation among all water consumers is vital because of Texas' booming population.

"What we know is that people are moving to Texas every day. Depending on who you talk to, it's anywhere from 1,000 to 1,200 people, but what's important about this is nobody's bringing any water with them," she said. "So, we have a growing need for water, and water for agriculture is extremely important, because agriculture benefits everyone in Texas."

Up to \$1.2 million in grant funding is available for the 2020 fiscal year—double the \$600,000 allocated for the program in previous years.

"[The increase in grant funding]

is tremendously important," Jackson said. "We have traditionally had lots of requests from water districts to move forward with projects. I think, quite frankly, the Legislature recognized this and wanted to make sure that we had more capacity to be able to help them achieve their goals."

The funding is available to Texas state agencies and other eligible political subdivisions, such as groundwater conservation districts, groundwater improvement districts and regional river authorities.

Proposals should be for agricultural water conservation projects that improve irrigation efficiency, advance soil health initiatives and promote innovation in agriculture by incorporating the latest water conservation technological advancements.

Applicants may partner with private businesses and individuals on the project, as long as oversight is managed by the eligible entity, according to Jackson.

Projects offering irrigation equipment cost-sharing opportunities or distributing soil moisture analyzers and automated controls to assist farmers and ranchers in managing water resources have been effective in the past, she said.

Field days, workshops and other activities to engage farmers and ranchers are also encouraged.

Technical assistance, demonstrations and technology transfer are also examples of water-saving approaches that were previously awarded grants.

"We continue to be a state that is in perpetual drought, punctuated by times of flood," Jackson said. "So, to the extent that we can, we encourage technologies and those types of practices that promote water conservation, because we don't always have a steady supply here."

Selected projects that receive funding will help further water conservation and support conservation strategies identified in the state and

regional water plans.

"In the last five years alone that we've been doing this program, we've achieved over 300,000 acre-feet of water savings," Jackson said. "The investment has benefited not just districts but also individual producers and, by extension, those communities that depend so much on agriculture."

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Cameron Turner, TWDB manager of Agricultural Water Conservation Programs, at 512-936-6090 or [cameron.turner@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:cameron.turner@twdb.texas.gov).

Funding recipients must submit annual reports, water use data and an estimate of actual water savings realized through the implementation of the project for a period of three to five years during the project.

The full request for proposals and instructions on how to apply are on TWDB's website at [www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/AWCG/index.asp](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/AWCG/index.asp).

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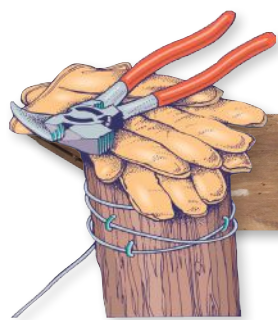
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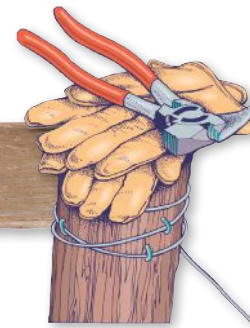
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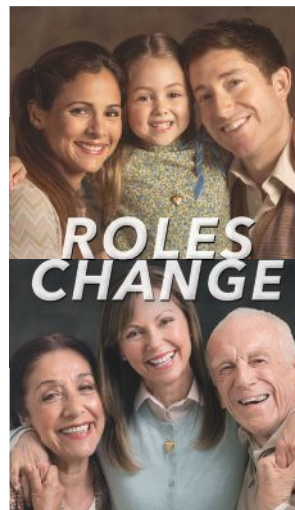
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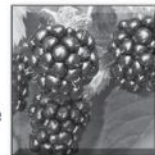
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