

## **Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Class XV Visits High Plains**

Friday, October 28, 2016

By Mary Jane Buerkle

The Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program's Class XV spent four days learning about agriculture on the High Plains this week.

TALL XV participants, who are agricultural industry leaders from across Texas, toured several places in and around Lubbock, including PYCO Industries, a cotton field with drip irrigation, the Lubbock Cotton Growers gin and the Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute. They also heard from PCG's Steve Verett and other commodity organizations before touring the Animal and Food Sciences building at Texas Tech and the USDA-Agricultural Research Center. That evening, a reception was held for the group at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture where TALL alumni and others with an interest in the program had an opportunity to meet the class members. Barry Evans, a TALL alumnus and cotton and grain producer who farms near Kress, received the TALL South Plains Agriculture Leadership Award at the reception.

Wednesday morning, the group travelled to Levelland to the Diamond Ethanol Plant and then on to Muleshoe, where they visited Muleshoe Animal Clinic and Vet Supply, Stonegate Farms Dairy, and Bamert Seed Co. The group also heard from Jason Coleman, general manager of the High Plains Underground Water District, before heading north to Burch Family Vineyards, Caviness Beef Packers, and Scott Seed.

The class spent the remainder of the week in the Amarillo area before coming back to Lubbock through Bovina. Visits included West Texas A&M University, Timber Creek Veterinary Hospital, Nance Ranch, Xcel Energy, Cargill Cattle Feeders, Sweet Bran, and South Plains Compost. The group enjoyed another reception at the Amarillo Club on Thursday evening.

The two-year TALL program, led by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, is an intensive study of agriculture worldwide which equips people in the agriculture industry to become leaders in their fields. The course focuses on international communications, ecology, government, policy, economics, social issues and education opportunities. For more information about TALL, see <http://tall.tamu.edu>.

## **New Program Offered by AgriLife Extension at Amarillo Farm Show**

Thursday, October 27, 2016

By Kay Ledbetter

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be offering something a little different at this year's Panhandle Farm and Ranch Management Symposium during the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show, Nov. 29-Dec. 1.

"We are calling the program RRAD as it emphasizes Researched, Relevant information provided by AgriLife and encourages Discussion and interaction," said Danny Nusser, AgriLife Extension regional program leader in Amarillo.

The RRAD program will be in the Grand Plaza of the Amarillo Civic Center, 401 S. Buchanan St. in Amarillo. It will follow the annual Amarillo Chamber of Commerce luncheon, beginning at approximately 1 p.m. and concluding around 5 p.m.

"This program is designed to allow producers an opportunity to gain research-based, relevant knowledge on topics important to them," Nusser said. "In addition, we will focus on allowing producers time to interact and share experiences related to these topics and get questions answered."

Producers will have a choice of six sessions they can attend. Each session will be 1 hour and 15 minutes. At the conclusion of each session, producers can move to a different location and topic.

"Some sessions will be repeated and some will only be offered in one time slot, so producers will need to pick and choose what they want to hear about," Nusser said. "We will be offering speakers and discussions on six different topics during each session and will rotate three times. This allows producers to hear about three topics in the afternoon."

"This presentation approach allows producers to attend the sessions of interest and come and go as they please," he said. "We felt like this new approach could meet individual needs for information and time. It also allows producers to contribute to the discussion about their experiences and opinions related to each topic."

The program is being sponsored by Texas Wheat Producers, Plains Cotton Growers, Texas Sorghum Producers and Texas Corn Producers, so there will not be a registration fee, Nusser said.

There will be the potential for up to three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units in the areas of laws and regulations, integrated pest management and general. The CEU's will only be offered for those topics focusing on issues related to pesticides.

Topics include Crop Market Outlook and Opportunities; 2017 Profitability Analyzer – Grain Option; 2017 Profitability Analyzer – Small Grain/Grazing/Silage/Hay Option; Texas Department of Agriculture Laws and Regulations; Cotton Variety Selection for Northern Counties; Sunflower Production; Grasshopper Biology, Control and Potential Damage; Corn Hybrid Options; Current Issues and Future Farm Bill Decisions; Wheat Fungicide Chemistry and Mode of Action; Financial Tech Tools in Agriculture; Stocker Cattle Health/Supplementation Opportunities; Hay/Silage/Graze Out Decisions; and Stocker Cattle Health/Supplementation Opportunities.

For more information, contact Nusser at 806-677-5600 or the local AgriLife Extension county agent.

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