

Texas Ag Forum to Feature Farm Bill Discussions

Thursday, January 18, 2018 By Blair Fannin, AgriLife TODAY
Agricultural policy and political considerations for the new farm bill will highlight the Jan. 29 Texas Ag Forum at the Hilton Austin Airport, 9515 Hotel Drive in Austin.

The forum, scheduled from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., will feature experts from all major commodities providing both policy and market outlook projections.

“For more than 30 years, the Texas Ag Forum has provided policy and market outlook for Texas agricultural producers and commodity leaders providing informative analysis,” said Dr. Joe Outlaw, Texas Ag Forum secretary and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economist, College Station. “Several major policy issues will be at the forefront of discussion in Austin as the next farm bill is debated.”

Scheduled speakers and topics include:

– Dr. Pat Westhoff, Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute director, University of Missouri, outlook on commodity price trends.

– Dr. Luis Ribera, AgriLife Extension economist and director of the Center for North American Studies, College Station, Texas agricultural trade update and outlook.

– Dr. Scott Brown, agricultural markets and policy economist, University of Missouri, livestock, dairy market and policy outlook.

– Dr. Henry Bryant, Agricultural and Food Policy Center economist at Texas A&M University, modeling tools and capabilities.

Advanced registration, coordinated by the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council, is \$125 and covers attendance and meals. To register, call 512-450-0555. Same day registration is \$150.

The Texas Ag Forum is an association of agricultural leaders and representatives from across the Texas food and fiber system. It was founded more than 30 years ago to provide a forum for open and public discussion of problems and emerging issues in agriculture. It is a stakeholder-driven program in partnership with AgriLife Extension.

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<http://www.farmpolicyfacts.org>

Texas Alliance for Water Conservation Water College Set for Jan. 24

Friday, January 19, 2018 By Norman Martin, Texas Tech
Connecting today's producers and crop consultants with the latest in irrigation technology and research is the focus of the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation's 4th Annual Water College on Wednesday, January 24, at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane.

TAWC Project Director Rick Kellison said that registration for the event begins at 8:30 a.m. with the program starting at 8:50 a.m. It is free of charge, CEU credit will be given and lunch will be provided. The program concludes at 4:30 p.m.

Among the program highlights are programs on utilizing variable rate irrigation technology in West Texas cotton; when less is more: soil management for ideal water infiltration; from field to fabric - Wrangler's commitment to healthy soils; and improving corn water use with hybrid selection: trait evaluation for both dryland and limited irrigated systems.

Other presentations include upcoming weather patterns; an overview of Texas water law; an update from Texas Water Development Board; profit potential using split pivot irrigation strategies in cotton production; grower perspective of various irrigation systems; and the West Texas mesonet – useful tools to aid producers.

The event's luncheon speaker is Wyman Meinzer ('74 Wildlife Management), the official State Photographer of Texas and a graduate of Texas Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources. In addition, local irrigation supply companies, farm equipment dealers, farm credit businesses and commodity groups will have display booths and be available to answer questions and give details to participants.

Based at Texas Tech and funded by a grant from the Texas Water Development Board, TAWC is a partnership of producers, technology firms, universities and government agencies working to extend the life of the Ogallala Aquifer.

The project uses on-farm demonstrations of cropping and livestock systems to compare the production practices, technologies, and systems that can maintain individual farm profitability while improving water use efficiency with a goal of extending the life of the Ogallala Aquifer while maintaining the viability of local farms and communities.

All production-related decisions are made by the more than 20 producers involved in the project. The project field sites involve more than 6,000 acres in Castro, Crosby, Deaf Smith, Floyd, Hale, Lamb, Lubbock, Parmer and Swisher counties. These sites represent the range of agricultural practices including monoculture cropping systems; crop rotations; no-till, limited-till and conventional tillage practices; land application of manure; and fully integrated crop and livestock systems.

For more information on the Water College, visit <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/tawc/events.php>.

Soil Health Symposium Set for February 13-14 in Lubbock

No-Till Texas will host their inaugural Soil Health Symposium on February 13 and 14 at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture in Lubbock. This two-day event will focus on integrated cropping systems to improve soil health and profitability.

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Speakers include Ray Archuleta, Darren Richardson, Dr. Kater Hake, Dr. John Zak, Dr. Katie Lewis, Dr. Jourdan Bell and farmers Kelly Kettner, Jeremy Brown, and R.N. Hopper.

Registration for the event is \$50 and is limited. Lunch, catered by Evie Mae's Barbecue and River Smith's, is included with registration. Register by phone or email through the Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts by contacting Tamara Daniel, Executive Director, at (254) 778-8741 or tamaradaniel@thegateway.net.

For more information, visit <http://www.atswcd.org/soil-health.html>.

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Mandatory Auxin-Specific Herbicide Trainings Scheduled for Dicamba Applicators

January 2018 Information from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

The Texas Department of Agriculture requires special training in 2018 for new auxin herbicides applied under a Section 3 approval on dicamba-tolerant cotton.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be hosting several of these training opportunities. Following is a list of those coming up in the next few weeks. A complete list is available at <http://www.plainscotton.org/agconferences.html>.

January 24 – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office – Hockley County, **Levelland**, 10-11 a.m.

January 25 – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office – Terry County, 209 S. 5th St., **Brownfield**, Noon-1 p.m.

January 26 – Littlefield Show Barn, 10-11 a.m.

January 30 – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office – Yoakum County, 901 Avenue G, **Plains**, Noon-1 p.m.

February 7 – Attebury Grain office, 1201 NW 5th St., **Tulia**. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch provided. RSVP by Feb. 2 to the Swisher County Extension office, 806-995-3726.

February 9 – Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, 6500 W. Amarillo Blvd., **Amarillo**. 8:30-9:30 a.m.

February 12 – Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, 1102 E. FM 1294, **Lubbock**. 10-11 a.m.

February 13 – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office – Lubbock County, 916 Main Street, Suite 401, **Lubbock**. 10-11 a.m.

February 20 – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office – Terry County, 209 S. 5th St., **Brownfield**, Noon-1 p.m.

February 21 – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office – Hockley County, **Levelland**, 9-10 a.m.

February 21 – Littlefield Show Barn, 1-2 p.m.

There is no registration fee on any of these training programs and each class will provide one TDA continuing education unit in laws and regulations. For more information on these or other meetings, contact your local county Extension office.

Upcoming Area Ag Conferences

January 23 – Seeking Solutions: Managing Economic Risks, Cagle Steaks, 8732 Fourth St., **Lubbock**. Registration at 8:30 a.m., \$30 fee. Pre-registration encouraged. Info: Crosby County Extension Office, 806-675-2347.

January 24 – Texas Alliance for Water Conservation's 4th Annual Water College, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, **Lubbock**. Registration at 8:30 a.m., no fee. Breakfast and lunch provided. CEUs available. Info: <http://www.tawcwatercollege.com>.

January 25 – Hale/Swisher Crops Conference, Ollie Linder Center, **Plainview**. Info: Hale County Extension Office, 806-291-5267.

January 25 – Llano Estacado Cotton Conference, Bailey County Electric Cooperative Meeting Room, 610 E. American Blvd., **Muleshoe**. Info: Curtis Preston, CEA-Ag/NR, or John David Gonzales, CEA-IPM, 806-272-4583.

February 6 – Sandyland Ag Conference, Gaines County Civic Building, **Seminole**. Info: Terry Millican, CEA-Ag/NR, 432-758-4006.

February 7 – High Plains Irrigation Conference, Amarillo Civic Center, 401 S. Buchanan, **Amarillo**. Registration at 8 a.m., \$30 fee. CEUs pending. Info: Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association, <http://www.taia.org>, or Dr. Charles Hillyer, AgriLife Extension irrigation specialist, 806-677-5600.

February 13-14 – No-Till Texas' Inaugural Soil Health Symposium, Bayer Museum of Agriculture, Lubbock. \$50 fee, lunch included. Register by contacting Tamara Daniel, Texas Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, 254-778-8741 or email tamaradaniel@thegateway.net.

PCG EDITOR'S NOTE: A complete list is available at <http://www.plainscotton.org/agconferences.html>. Please submit any additions/edits to maryjane@plainscotton.org.

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Editor's Note:

"Cotton News", a weekly service of Plains Cotton Growers to the cotton industry and news media in the 41-county High Plains area, is mailed from Lubbock each Friday. Its contents are confined to news items and comments pertaining to the High Plains cotton industry which is so vital to U.S. all. Anyone interested in making comments about the contents of this column can call 806-792-4904 or Email PCG at: editor@plainscotton.org