



# Texas County Agricultural Agents Association

## *2015 TCAAA Annual Meeting Coastal Bend - District 11 - Corpus Christi Professional Development Tours*

### **Tour # 1 - Community Resources & Economic Development**

#### *Port of Corpus, Keiwitt Offshore, TAMU CC Drone Program*

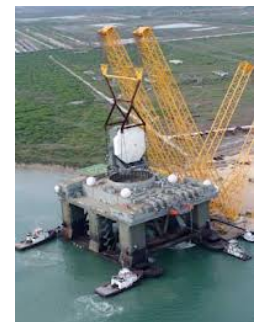
##### ***Port of Corpus Christi***

- Port Corpus Christi has been generating business and jobs in South Texas for 86 years. Strategically located on the western Gulf of Mexico, Port Corpus Christi is the fifth largest port in the United States in total tonnage. The Port provides a straight, 45' deep channel and quick access to the Gulf of Mexico and the entire United States inland waterway system. The Port delivers outstanding access to overland transportation, with on-site and direct connections to three Class-I railroads, BNSF, KCS and UP, and direct, vessel-to-rail discharge capabilities through Corpus Christi Rail Terminal. The Joe Fulton International Trade Corridor, now fully operational, provides direct, non-congested access to Interstate 37 and Highway 181. Port Corpus Christi is ideally positioned for Global Trade in the South Texas Region.
- The Port offers more than 125 acres of open storage and fabrication sites, heavy lift capabilities, more than 295,000 sq. ft. of covered dockside storage as well as a cold storage facility. Port Corpus Christi operates Foreign Trade Zone #122, encompassing 25,000 acres with four active, general-purpose zones and 14 subzones.
- The Port handles some 6000 vessels and more than 80 million tons of cargo annually. 13,746 direct jobs are generated by the marine cargo and vessel activity at the Port of Corpus Christi. An additional 16,767 induced jobs are supported in the regional economy.



##### ***Kiewit Offshore Services - Ingleside***

- Kiewit Offshore Services, Ltd. (KOS) is a leading fabricator for the oil and gas industry. We have a reputation for successfully delivering large offshore projects on time and within budget. Our projects include construction of offshore oil and gas structures and large structural steel components. We specialize in massive and complex steel erection, using state-of-the-art facilities and methods.
- Our world-class fabrication facility consists of state-of-the-art equipment and infrastructure. With access to the Gulf of Mexico through the La Quinta and Corpus Christi ship channels, the facility was designed specifically for deepwater projects. Our 400-acre fabrication yard is located in Ingleside, Texas, along the La Quinta ship channel in Corpus Christi Bay. The facility boasts 2,900 ft. of continuous pile-founded bulkhead space, with water depths up to 45-ft and a 77-ft. void for offloading unusually large floating structures.
- With 13,000 tons of lifting capacity, the Heavy Lifting Device (HLD) is the centerpiece of the Kiewit Offshore Services equipment fleet. Capable of installing unusually large modules on hulls in fewer sections, the HLD minimizes offshore commissioning efforts and reduces overall project costs. Kiewit Offshore also houses a fleet of heavy-lift cranes and equipment capable of transporting nearly any onshore structure.



- For safety and efficiency, our facilities include an underground utility infrastructure featuring a separate breathable air system and high-pressure pipelines for gas, mixed-gas and fiber optics. The four-acre structural assembly building contains more than 170,000 sq. ft. of covered workspace with four bays. An on-site skills center for training and medical/physical therapy is also available.
- From 1984 to 2000, in partnership with another firm, Kiewit operated in the offshore fabrication market as Gulf Marine Fabricators and Bullwinkle Constructors. This partnership completed several successful projects, including the 1,350-ft.-deep Bullwinkle Jacket, the world's largest oil-production platform.

### ***TAMU CC Drone Program***

- TAMU CC Drone Program is one of a few places that the FAA and DoD are supporting drone research. They are studying how to use it in surveying as well as in crop production, reforestation, etc.
- Primary purposes: to expand operational capabilities and to conduct scientific image data acquisition; Use of multi-spectral camera payload (high-definition video, infrared, ultraviolet); Acquire images of petroleum products, sea grass, cattle, land-water interface, shore-bird habitat for use by various researchers.
- Test sites that are a key part of the U.S. roadmap integrating UAS into the national airspace. These sites, operated by public entities, will perform research, and develop operational experience and needed technologies.
- The FAA picked the six UAS test sites, and activity is starting right away. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is testing the [American Aerospace RS-16](#) UAV over ranchland.
- Texas A&M-Corpus Christi has been involved in researching unmanned aerial systems technologies for about two years. The university has been looking at ways to use these technologies for mapping sea grass, detecting oil spills and wildfires, hurricane monitoring and even counting herds for ranchers.
- The Association of Unmanned Vehicles International published a report back in March that showed that the economic impact of landing an FAA test site would be \$8 billion statewide, including \$260 million in South Texas alone, over the next 10 years. In addition, about 1,200 jobs would be created, the report said.
- Congress has mandated that unmanned aircraft be integrated into the national airspace by 2015. The challenge then will be to find the safest course of action for unmanned and manned aircraft to coexist without colliding.



## **Tour #2 – Horticulture**

*South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, Gills Landscape & Nursery, TAMU CC Drone Program*

### ***South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center***

- Venture into the delightful 2600 square-foot screened Butterfly House, and new Bromeliad Conservatory. Experience 2000 orchids, 300 breathtaking roses, quaint Hummingbird Garden, imaginative Sensory Garden with fascinating artscape, Arid Garden and colorful EarthKind Demonstration Trial Gardens. And during our eight warmer months, enjoy the fragrant tropical Plumeria Garden with elevated viewing ramp. Your visits to the Botanical Gardens & Nature Center in Corpus Christi will immerse you in serene beauty, followed by an adventurous ‘walk on the wild side’ with 11 uniquely stunning floral exhibits and gardens shouting color, followed by quiet trails and boardwalk through identified native habitat and natural wetlands.
- This 180-acre showcase on Oso Creek offers a unique and varied take on botanical gardens-- beautiful new Exotic Parrots, or native wildlife in the new Reptiles in Residents exhibit; artistic decorative water features, or vast natural wetlands; majestic Rose Pavilion; or rustic Palapa Grande on scenic Gator Lake-- Corpus Christi’s South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center will impress you with its unusual approach to environmental education through creative horticultural design, and fascinating naturescape of natural wetlands and trails through native mesquite forest.



### ***Gills Landscape Nursery***

- Gills Landscape Nursery is a Full Service Landscape Nursery/Garden Center. Their services include: Landscape Design and Construction, Residential and Commercial; Installation of hardscapes, ponds, fountains and outdoor living spaces; Individual plantings through our garden center; and delivery of Garden Gifts and Interior Foliage.
- In 1978, Sally Munroe and James Gill joined as partners to design and install residential and commercial landscapes in the Corpus Christi area. They soon consolidated their partnership by marriage and moved their growing landscape business out of their backyard. The Airline Road Nursery was opened to serve retail customers in 1979, and a second nursery was opened in a converted gas station on South Alameda in 1987.
- “Successfully running a small business isn’t easy, but we enjoy the challenge and celebrate our successes. One of the greatest rewards has been in the unique relationships that develop between small business owners, employees, and customers. In serving, we are served. By valuing our associates and our customers, we are able to value ourselves.
- Landscaping is a home improvement that grows in beauty and value every year. Home buyers in a Gallup poll estimated that landscaping, on the average, adds 14.8% to the value or selling price on their home. We enjoy using our knowledge and experience to help you create a landscape that suits you and your style. We are equipped to handle a wide variety of landscape needs – ponds, fountains, drainage issues, hardscapes, xeriscaping.



***TAMU CC Drone Program – See Details in Tour #1***

## **Tour #3 – Agriculture**

### ***Sam Kane Beef Processors, Inc., TAMU CC Drone Program***

#### ***Tour # 3 - Sam Kane Beef Processors, Incorporated***

- Founded in 1949 by Sam and Aranka Kane, Sam Kane Beef Processors has been in continuous business in its current location in Corpus Christi since 1951. The company says it is the only fed-beef processor in the southern half of the state.
- In the more than 56 years the company has been in business, Sam Kane Beef Processors, Inc. has grown from a small retail company to an operation that serves thousands of customers throughout the United States and many foreign countries.
- The growth of the firm has been enhanced by the latest technology, while providing customers with the highest quality product at competitive prices.
- The latest automated operations make it possible to meet the needs of our customers. This includes electrical stimulation of carcasses, the newest vacuum packaging equipment and HRI steak and ground beef systems. Our newly expanded operation has modern slaughter facilities including industrialized robotics, highly efficient fabricating lines, automated carcass storage and retrieval, and storage of seven million pounds of frozen and one million pounds of fresh boxed beef in a computer operated warehouse.



***TAMU CC Drone Program – See Details in Tour #1***

## **Tour #4 – Agriculture**

### ***King Ranch – Kingsville***

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- In addition to its involvement in large-scale ranching and farming operations, today's King Ranch is active in industries as diverse as publishing, retail and eco-tourism.
- The same innovative thinking and persistent hard work that distinguished the earliest eras of King Ranch's development continue to inspire the businesses of modern-day King Ranch. In addition to our well-known innovations in cattle and horse breeding and large-scale range management techniques, King Ranch continues to be on the forefront of innovation in farming – both in Texas and Florida, where King Ranch has a significant presence. In the spirit of the resilient and hard-working steamboat pilot turned rancher Captain Richard King, the people of modern-day King Ranch continue to innovate and pursue excellence in many diverse fields of endeavor.
- The ranching business remains a vital component of contemporary King Ranch operations, and is an ongoing, living link with the legendary past of Captain King's domain. From state-of-the-art scientific breeding programs to Santa Gertrudis and Santa Cruz bull sales to top-flight feedlot operations, the birthplace of American ranching is a vertically integrated cattle enterprise that continues to thrive as a vanguard of the cattle business on the 825,000 acres of its home ranches in South Texas.
- King Ranch farms approximately 60,000 acres in South Texas, with crops evenly divided between cotton and milo. King Ranch also owns and operates multiple sod production farms and retail distribution centers throughout Texas.



***This Tour will NOT go to the TAMU CC Drone Program.***