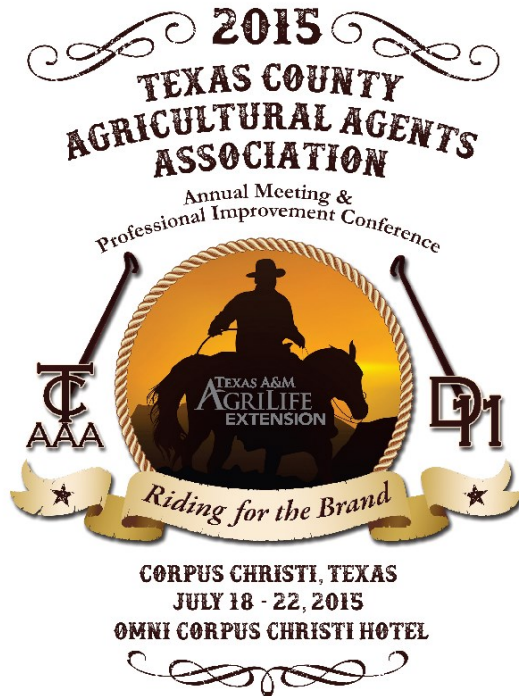


TEXAS COUNTY AGRICULTURE  
AGENTS ASSOCIATION



**Man of the Year In Texas  
Agriculture Award &  
Recognition Banquet**

**July 21, 2015**



2014-2015  
Texas County Agriculture Agents Association

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President.....	Cary Sims
President-Elect.....	Brent Batchelor
Vice-President.....	Shane McLellan
Secretary.....	Robert Scott
Treasurer.....	Brian Yanta
Past President.....	Terry Millican

**District TCAAA Directors**

District 1.....	Josh Brooks
District 2.....	Greg Gruben
District 3.....	Jay Kingston
District 4.....	Laura Miller
District 5.....	Chad Gulley
District 6.....	Tommy Yeater
District 7.....	Tom Guthrie
District 8.....	Zach Davis
District 9.....	Tyler Fitzgerald
District 10.....	Pascual Hernandez
District 11.....	Jason Ott
District 12.....	Jaime Lopez
Early Career.....	Caleb Eaton
Life Members.....	John Farris

**District TCAAA Alternate Directors**

District 1.....	Leonard Haynes
District 2.....	John Villaba
District 3.....	Toby Oliver
District 4.....	Todd Williams
District 5.....	Rick Hirsch
District 6.....	Parks Tucker IV
District 7.....	Rocky Vinson
District 8.....	David Groschke
District 9.....	Dusty Tittle
District 10.....	Michael Haynes
District 11.....	Scott Willey
District 12.....	Omar Gonzales
Early Career.....	Cooper Terrill
Life Members.....	Eddie Holland

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# Man of the Year In Texas Agriculture Award & Recognition Banquet

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**Presiding.....Cary Sims**  
*TCAAA President*  
*Angelina County*

**Invocation.....Harvey Buehring**  
*TCAAA Life Member*  
*Nueces County*

**Introduction of Guests.....Brent Batchelor**  
*TCAAA President-Elect*  
*Matagorda County*

**Award Presentations.....Laura Miller**  
*Chair, Awards and Recognition Committee*  
*Tarrant County*

**Closing Remarks.....Cary Sims**  
*TCAAA President*  
*Angelina County*

## **Man of the Year in Texas Agriculture**

The “Man of the Year in Texas Agriculture” Awards program has been proudly sponsored by the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association for the past fifty years. The members, directors, and officers of the TCAAA are privileged to bestow this award to eight individuals in recognition of their outstanding leadership in agriculture, agribusiness and their support of the educational program efforts of the County Extension Agents of Texas. Their unselfish service has contributed to improving the economic well-being and quality of life in their community, our state and our nation.

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### **Past Recipients of the Man of the Year in Texas Agriculture Award**

#### **2001**

Robert Duncan, Lubbock, D-2  
Dwyatt Bell, Hopkins, D-4  
Susan Combs, Brewster, D-6  
Randy Carson, Taylor, D-7  
Gary Murphy, Navarro, D-8  
Ferrell Davis, Bandera, D-10  
Fritz K. Jaenike, Cameron, D-12

#### **2002**

Leon New, Potter, D-1  
Tom Woodward, Wise, D-3  
Wayne Christian, Shelby, D-5  
W.F. “Red” Kitchen, Houston, D-5  
Billy Warrick, Tom Green, D-7  
Bill Dishman, R., Jefferson, D-9  
Judy Hawley, Nueces, D-11

#### **2003**

Gary Walker, Yoakum, D-2  
Jack Brainard, Denton, D-4  
Henry Bonilla, Bexar, D-6  
Gene Jernigan, Johnson, D-8  
Dr. Charles Graham, Bastrop, D-10  
Jimmy Dodson, Nueces, D-11  
Stanley Schilling, Live Oak, D-12

#### **2004**

Dan Krienke, Ochiltree, D-1  
Emory Boring, Wilbarger, D-3  
M.S. “Bud” Wright III, Nacogdoches, D-5  
J.W. “Dub” Vinson, Taylor, D-7  
Arlene Wohlgemuth, Johnson, D-8  
Talmadge Heflin, Harris, D-9  
L.G. Raun, Jr., Wharton, D-11

#### **2005**

Tommy Womack, Swisher, D-2  
Lori Cope, Hopkins, D-4  
George “Tee” Knox, Martin, D-6  
Vince Neuhaus, McLennan, D-8  
Carter Casteel, Comal, D-10  
Ed Ritchie, Zavala, D-12

#### **2006**

Vernon Cook, Roberts, D-1  
Rayford Pullen, Montague, D-3  
Alan Ritchey, Cooke, D-4  
Glenn Richardson, Gregg, D-5  
Roger Q. “Jake” Landers, Tom Green, D-7  
Frank Greenway, Brazoria, D-9  
Bob Gayle, Goliad, D-11

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**2007**

Steve Verett, Lubbock/Crosby, D-2  
Marcus Hill, Tarrant, D-4  
Robert Steakley, Ector, D-6  
Larry Don Womack, Comanche, D-8  
Mike Douguet, Jefferson, D-9  
Wayne Geistweidt, Gillespie, D-10  
Dr. Randall H. Williams, Kleberg, D-12

**2009**

David Gibson, Swisher, D-2  
Phil Sadler, Rains, D-4  
Guy Patrick "Pat" Peacock, Pecos, D-6  
Mike McCravey, Bell, D-8  
Alfred "Mac" Gilliant, Real, D-10  
Michael Kuck, Caldwell, D-10  
Dale Murden, Hidalgo, D-12

**2011**

Giles W. Dalby, D-2  
Larry Pratt, D-3  
Brian Cummings, D-4  
Ronnie Keith Wood, D-6  
Jim Farley, D-8  
Edward Meier, D-10  
Robert Fulbright, D-12

**2013**

Mark Marley, D-2  
Charles Snowden, D-4  
Mike Hill, D-6  
Perce Miller, D-7  
Dr. Dan E McBride, DMV, D-7  
Neil Walter, D-8  
Charles Willman, D-8  
Ray Prewett, D-12

**2008**

Lewis Britt, Wheeler, D-1  
C.E. Williams, Carson, D-1  
Minnie Lou Bradley, Childress, D-3  
Ted F. Conover, Smith, D-5  
Jerry Lackey, Tom Green, D-7  
Jim McCord, Brazos, D-9  
Jeff Nunley, Victoria, D-11

**2010**

Levon Harman, Swisher, D-1  
Gerald Hobson, Parker, D-3  
Albert Thompson, Nacogdoches, D-5  
Allen McGinty, Tom Green, D-7  
Jack Wendt, Fort Bend, D-9  
Gerald Eckel, Wilson, D-11  
Mike Petter, Atascosa, D-12

**2012**

Warren Chisum, D-1  
Dan Taylor, D-2  
Greg Tyra, D-3  
Dr. Jesse Richardson, D-5  
Clay Jones, D-7  
John Geisenshlag, D-9  
W. James Grichar, D-11

**2014**

Harold Grall, D-1  
Van Baise, D-3  
Mark Chamblee, D-5  
Dr. Dale Perritt, D-5  
Toni Carter Spencer, D-9  
Rep. Lois Kolkhorst, D-11

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**Past Recipients**  
**Man of the Year in Texas Agriculture Award**  
**Extension District 11**

1964	George E. Kelt.....	Harris County
1966	Sherman W. Clark.....	Harris County
1968	David R. Wintermann.....	Colorado County
1970	L.O. Tiedt.....	Harris County
1972	James D. Sartwelle.....	Harris County
1974	E.C. “Dick” Weekley.....	Harris County
1976	C.L. “Charlie” Schmucker.....	Jefferson County
1978	F.E. (Gene) Geshire.....	Liberty County
1980	Don Jobes.....	Harris County
1982	Joe H. Reynolds.....	Harris County
1984	Jack Barton.....	Harris County
1986	D.R. “Tom” Uher.....	Matagorda County
1988	Sam D. Seale.....	Jackson County
1990	Rep. Mark W. Stiles.....	Jefferson County
1992	Charles E. Beckendorf.....	Harris County
1994	Fred Stockbauer.....	Victoria County
1996	Loy Edward Snearly.....	Matagorda County
1998	James E. Shannon.....	Calhoun County
2000	Marsha Moulder.....	Victoria County
2002	Judy Hawley.....	San Patricio County
2003	Jimmy Dodson.....	Nueces County
2004	L. G. Raun, Jr.....	Wharton County
2006	Bob Gayle.....	Goliad County
2008	Jeff Nunley.....	Victoria County
2010	Gerald Eckel.....	Wilson County
2012	W. James Grichar.....	Lavaca County
2014	Rep. Lois Kolkhorst.....	Washington County

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## Man of the Year in Agriculture

## District 2

## Otis Johnson



Otis Lee Johnson has been involved in agriculture in some form or fashion for all of his life. He was raised on a family farm near Seminole, Texas. This is where he developed his love for the land and began his lifelong career in the agricultural production industry. He currently owns and operates Johnson Farms, which encompasses approximately 5,000 acres of irrigated farm land producing cotton, peanuts, grain sorghum, corn, and other small grains. He also is a partner in Oasis Gin.

Otis understands the importance of advances in technology and research in the farming industry while still being an exceptional steward of the land. He has partnered with Texas A & M AgriLife Extension, AgriLife Research, and the USDA for 25 years in research trials that focus on efforts to educate other farmers in increasing production and profitability. He willingly gives of his time and expertise to a wide and diverse group of organizations. He is a member of the Leadership Advisory Board, Agriculture Committee, Extension Livestock Advisory Board, 4-H Youth Board, and is President of the Gaines County Junior Livestock Show Association. He also is a past member and secretary of the Seminole ISD School Board and an active member of the First Baptist Church in Seminole.

He is an outstanding leader, not only in Gaines County, but also at the state, national, and international levels. One of his major focuses has been in peanut production, promotion, and research. He serves on the board of the Western Peanut Growers Association and is the past Chairman of both the Texas Peanut Producers Board and the American Peanut Council. He has travelled to Monterey, Mexico; Tokyo, Japan; and Berlin, Germany to advance U.S. peanuts and agriculture products. His charismatic friendly manner and broad knowledge base have been instrumental in building strong relationships across international borders to increase exports for American peanut farmers.

His sustainable farming practices, including impressive yields, crop rotation, and continued conservation has earned Otis much recognition. He has been the 1997 Farmer of the Year, 1998 Researcher of the Year, 2006 Peanut Farmer of the Year, 2007 Soil Conservationist of the Year, and the 2007 Outstanding 4-H Leader. He has received the 2008 Farm Press Peanut Profitability Award and was chosen as the national winner of the 2011 Naturally Remarkable Planters Award.

Otis is a graduate of Tarleton State University with a degree in Ag Business. He and his wife Teri have 2 children, Jenna 22, and Kaley 19. In his spare time, Otis enjoys golfing, piloting, and livestock shows. He is a friend of 4-H, Extension, and the agriculture industry.

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## Man of the Year in Agriculture

### District 4

# Jack LeClair



In his long career in crop protection and range management, Jack Le Clair has worked with ranchers, Extension personnel, land managers, wildlife consultants, state and federal biologists, and chemical applicators, distributors, and dealers in determining chemical supplement programs for forage production, weed control, habitat development, and land reclamation. His skills include plant identification, herbicide recommendations, mechanical and prescribed burning recommendations, grazing practices and stocking rates. Evaluation of new experimental chemical products are part of his duties, and he has been involved with the Federal and State labeling process for over 40 products.

Result demonstrations for producers in cooperation with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension are critical to reaching targeted audiences and helping to educate producers, and Jack has installed many plots and conducted many field days with agents in most parts of the state, often providing products and equipment. He has also made many a presentation on new products, drift management, application technology, integrated pest management, and pesticide safety at educational programs sponsored by Extension Agents throughout Texas.

Organizations he has supported include the Society for Range Management, the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, Texas Wildlife Management Association, Weed Science Society of America, Southern Weed Science Society, Weed Science Society of the West, The Entomological Society of America, Mining and Reclamation Association, Grazing Lands Conservation, Texas and Southwest Cattle Raiser's Association, Independent Cattleman's Association, Noxious Weeds Working Group, South Texas Association of Biologists, Texas Agricultural Aviation Association, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the Boy Scouts of America, American Cancer Society, and the Texas Plant Protection Association, where he earned the Norman Borlaug Lifetime Achievement Award.



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## Man of the Year in Agriculture District 6 Dr. R. Mikel Lemons



A native of Pecos, Texas and a Reeves County 4-H alumnus, Dr. R. Mikel Lemons has been a lifelong supporter of and cooperater with Extension.

After graduating from Sul Ross State University and teaching for a few years in Midland, Mike moved to Ector County in 1976 where he met his wife Martha and started a farm & ranch construction business.

Mike's philosophy has always been "Someone was there for me when I was in 4H and FFA and now it's my turn to return the favor". Mike began his long tenure as a 4-H volunteer when he and Martha became Club Managers of the Gardendale Rangers 4-H Club in 1992 where their children Hoss and Lindsey were members. Over the next two decades Mike would go on to coach horse judging teams and method demonstration teams that would go on to compete at the state and national level. In 1996, Mike began volunteering at the State 4-H Horse Show and has done so ever since. Mike has also served locally on the boards of the Ector County Livestock Association and Permian Basin Fair.

In 1998, Mike accepted a position at Odessa College where he currently serves as an instructor and department head. Mike teaches classes in both agriculture and horsemanship at OC.

Mike has served as both a host and presenter at several extension programs over the years from pecan management to equine science.

Mike and his wife Martha currently reside on their farm in Gardendale where they raise Pecans, Quarter Horses, Registered Red Angus Cattle and show lambs.

Throughout his life and career, Mike has passionately served as an advocate for education, agriculture and the equine industry.

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Man of the Year in Agriculture

District 8

Rodney Schronk



Hill County Farmer Rodney Schronk is very active in local, state and federal agricultural issues. An equally eloquent speaker in locations ranging from turn rows to County Commissioners Courts, he is a great supporter of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. He has cooperated in a number of row crop demonstrations including numerous potassium fertility studies, grain sorghum variety trials, hessian fly, carryover nitrogen, oilseed sunflower variety, etc.

A graduate of Texas A&M University and the Texas Farm Bureau's Ag Lead Program, Rodney currently serves as the chairman of the Hill/McLennan IPM Steering Committee and has been a member for over 20 years. He has been very active in describing Extension's impact on farmers to statewide elected officials. He has done presentations for County Commissioners Court and has hosted a number of community events on his farm. As an innovative farmer, Rodney was one of the first in the county to successfully raise oilseed sunflowers and utilize strip till/minimum tillage farming practices.

In addition to his service to Extension, he is currently the President of Hill County Farm Bureau and has served on the Itasca Coop Board of Directors. In 2012, the Schronks were named the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce Farm Family of the Year.

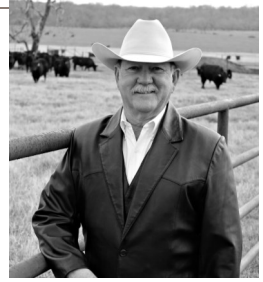
He is a humble man, an aggressive farmer, and a sharp businessman. His reputation is held in high regard throughout the county not only as an agricultural producer, but as a father, husband, and man of God.

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Man of the Year in Agriculture

## District 10

### Gary Dickenson



For over the past two decades, Gary Dickenson has been a central figure in Caldwell County agriculture. Gary was born and raised in the small farming community of Olton, Texas about 50 miles Northwest of Lubbock. Raised on a farm, Gary's family was very active in row crop production growing cotton, corn, and sorghum, as well as raising cattle, sheep, and swine. Gary was also an active 4-H member as well as a member of the local FFA in which as a senior in high school he received the Lone Star Farmer degree. He also had a commercial swine operation along with 30 registered Hampshire ewes and even some show cattle.

After high school, Gary went on to attend Texas A&M University, where he earned his B.S. in Animal Science in 1974. From 1974-1983 Gary worked with the Olton Feedyard starting as Animal Health Supervisor, then becoming the Assistant Manager in 1975. He made the move to South Texas in 1983 with Pioneer Hi-Bred's Microbial Genetics Division where he covered 70 counties in East Texas and Louisiana as a Microbial Specialist. Gary came to Lockhart after he married his wife Sue in 1988. With Pioneer, Gary became a part of the Seed Division as an Account Manager for the 40 counties in the Upper Gulf Coast, and became a Certified Crop Advisor. In 2013 Gary retired from Pioneer and started with Crop Production Services as a part time Crop Consultant.

Today, Gary continues to run his own herd of commercial cattle, as well as pecan orchards. Even with his tireless work schedule, Gary has served Extension for a many years in volunteer leadership positions. He has served as the President of the Caldwell County Leadership Advisory Board since its inception, and as President of the Caldwell County Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee since 1995. Gary has also served on the Board of Trustees for the Luling Foundation Farm since 2000, as Vice President for the Past 6 years, and as of this year as President. Gary has also served on the Caldwell County Go Texan Committee since 2012.

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## Man of the Year in Agriculture

# District 11

# Haskell Simon



The District 11 Man of The Year is Haskell Simon.

Haskell is a lifelong resident of Bay City in Matagorda County, but his influence goes far beyond his home county. Haskell started his agriculture career early in life working at the family cotton gin where his goal was to make it up the chain to the job of running the suction pipe that pulled the cotton out of the trailers and sent it to the gin stands. Unfortunately he never made it because his father put him to work on the farm instead.

Haskell always has been a community minded leader. He was president of his High School senior class and went on to earn a Mechanical Engineering degree from Texas A&M University in 1953. While at A&M he served as Association Colonel in the Corps of Cadets. Haskell served in the U.S. Army Field Artillery active duty and reserves from 1953-1960, attaining the rank of Captain.

After his service Haskell returned home to start his agriculture business as a farmer and rancher. He farmed rice and ran feeder cattle for many years. Haskell continued his role as a leader on his home turf by serving on many boards including the Matagorda County Hospital District, Bay City Community Education Advisory Council, the Matagorda County Appraisal District, President of the local 100 Club, and others.

Haskell's biggest impact for the region and the state has been on the issue of water. Haskell saw the need to get involved in how water was managed in Texas long before many even realized it was an issue. His work with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has influenced the way both surface and ground water is handled in Texas. He served in many capacities including Advisory and Focus Group Committees for the TWDB, LCRA, and the General Land Office. Haskell was there when the TWDB began discussing ground water districts as a management tool for ground water. Later he led the way with educational meetings to inform his local community that culminated in the creation of the Coastal Plains Groundwater Conservation District. Haskell has served as a Director and President of the district since its formation. On the surface water front he has served in many capacities with LCRA and TWDB including serving on the LCRA water management plan advisory committee, Executive Director – Lower Colorado River Valley Federation, Vice Chairman Region K Regional Water Planning Group, and many others. Haskell's direct involvement in several projects did result in positive outcomes for agriculture. These included production of an award winning video/DVD on the environmental merits of rice production, obtaining substantial funding for the TAMU Rice Experiment Station from the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) for developing a new water efficient rice variety and conducting a workshop that included federal, state, environmental, chemical industry and agriculture interests after media accusations that agricultural chemicals caused Dolphin deaths on the Texas Coast. The conclusions subsequently indicated that agriculture chemicals were not the cause, but rather the deaths were caused by a marine virus.

Haskell has been recognized in many ways for his contributions, including being included in the LCRA Walk of Honor with the likes of former First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson. District 11 TCAAA is proud to add Man of The Year to Haskell's list of achievements.

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## Man of the Year in Agriculture

# District 12

## Juan Martinez



Juan Martinez has made many contributions to Texas A&M Agrilife Extension and the local, state and international agricultural community chiefly by hosting over 25 educational programs, field days, and tours for both adults and youth from 1985 to 2014.

During his time at Cerrito Prieto Ranch, Juan welcomed groups as diverse as the Sacred Heart Children’s Home and the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association. Students from the Texas A&M Range Science Department visited regularly as did a delegation from Univerisdad Autonoma Chapingo.

Events he has hosted include the Cerrito Prieto Bi-National Field Day in 2001, and The SouthTexas Youth Wildlife and Natural Resources Camp in 2003.

In addition to serving on the Webb County Extension Wildlife and Fisheries Committee for 24 years, he also works regularly with the Webb County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Webb County.

He has been recognized for his support by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, the Laredo International Fair and Exposition and the Texas Wildlife Association.

Now retired from his career as a ranch manager, he enjoys working on his own property cultivating hay, conducting prescribed burns as a Certified Prescribed Burn Manager, raising cattle, and growing organic vegetables.

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# 2015 TCAAA Distinguished Service Award Recipients

Name	District	County
Leonard Haynes	1	Donley County
Ralph S Davis	4	Kaufman County
Matt Bochat	11	Victoria County
Dale Wayne Rankin	12	Atascosa County

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# 2015 TCAAA Achievement Award Recipients

Name	District	County
Janet Laminack	4	Denton County
Aaron Low	5	Cherokee County
Fred M Hall	8	Williamson County
Tyler Fitzgerald	9	Chambers County

