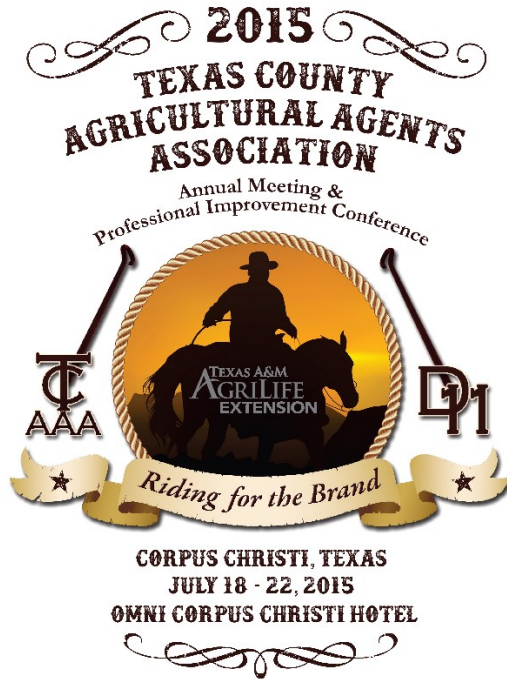


TEXAS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL  
AGENTS ASSOCIATION



Professional Excellence  
Awards Luncheon

July 20, 2015



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**2014-2015  
Texas County Agricultural Agents Association**

**Officers**

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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# Professional Excellence Awards Luncheon 2015

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

**Invocation.....Dr. Monty Dozier**  
*Regional Program Leader*  
*Southeast Region*

**Introductions of Guests.....Brent Batchelor**  
*TCAA President-Elect*  
*Matagorda County*

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

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

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## Hall of Fame, Distinguished Service and Achievement Awards

The purpose of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) Hall of Fame Award is to recognize select individuals for demonstrated commitment, dedication and effective leadership in job performance as an outstanding educator with consideration for association involvement at both the state and national level, and outstanding humanitarian service. This award recognizes NACAA members with sustained and distinguished careers and is presented annually to one person from each of the four NACAA regions. We are honored to be able to recognize an NACAA Hall of Fame Inductee today.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented to 2% of NACAA members annually. Honorees must have at least ten years of Extension Service and membership in NACAA and TCAAA. Each recipient is selected by district peers based upon outstanding professional growth, program effectiveness, leadership ability, loyalty to Extension work, and community involvement.

The Achievement Award is presented annually to agents in all fifty states to recognize and encourage excellence in the field of professional Extension for NCAAA members with less than ten years of Extension Service.

All of these Award recipients were honored at the NACAA Annual meeting and Professional Improvement Conference held July 12-16 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

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## Hall of Fame Award

Eddie Holland

Life Member



Eddie Holland began his Extension career in 1972 as the Assistant County Agent in Terry County. His first three positions were in small farming communities in Terry, Briscoe, and Medina Counties. He focused on result demonstrations that could improve crop yields and income. In Medina County, Eddie began working with pecan growers, something he continued to do for the rest of his Extension career. He served as State Pecan Show Superintendent for 25 years, and was the first County Extension Agent for receive an honorary lifetime membership to the Texas Pecan Growers Association in 1994.

When Eddie moved Kerr County in 1982, the total sales at the Junior Livestock Auction totaled \$20,000. He led efforts to reorganize the auction sale structure, fund raising, and community awareness. Sales grew to \$735,000. 4-H members were awarded \$360,000 in scholarships during his 21 years in Kerr County. In 1988, Eddie began working with the Kerr County Shooting Sports Club to develop a 4-H Shooting Sports Complex. Under his leadership, over 15,000 volunteer hours were devoted to the grant writing, donation solicitation and volunteer recruitment needed to complete this project. The complex is valued at \$1.5 million and has been dedicated at an official Olympic training facility. Kerr County is known for its goats, earning the unofficial title of Mohair Capital of the World in the 1930s. In the 1990s meat goats became more important due to the introduction of the well adapted and productive Boer Goat. Eddie organized a Goat Gathering seminar in 1995 that eventually attracted 1700 attendees from 15 states and 2 foreign countries. Many states have used the same format for Extension goat production programs.

Eddie attended his first NACAA AMPIC in 1984 and has now participated in 31 consecutive conferences, regularly helping out with the Scholarship Auction. In 1999, he was elected NACAA Vice President and went on to serve as President

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Elect in 2000 and President in 2001. He has served as State, Regional, Vice and National Chair for the Professional Training Committee. He was the Treasurer of the NACAA Educational Foundation for many years and has donated \$16,238 to the Scholarship fund. The Texas County Agricultural Agents Association has also benefited from his continued involvement. He has served on the TCAA Board as an Alternate Director, District Director, Vice President, and President and currently serves as the Alternate Director for Life Members.

### **Distinguished Service Award**

Dale Wayne Rankin

District 12  
Atacosa County



Dale Rankin has been a County Extension Agent for 13 years serving in Hidalgo, Colorado, Live Oak and Atascosa Counties. Agent Rankin has worked in many different areas of agriculture over the years including beef and forage, row crops, rice, peanuts and wildlife management. He is enthusiastic about delivering quality educational programs through his extension volunteer committees. Dale received both his Bachelor and Masters Degree from Texas A&M University Kingsville.

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### **Distinguished Service Award**

Leonard Haynes

District 1  
Donley County



Leonard Haynes has served in the role as a County Extension since 2000 in Liberty and Donley County, Texas. His programs have focused on crops, primarily cotton and peanuts, as well as beef cattle, forage production and water conservation. He also strives to work with volunteers to provide a strong 4-H program that offers a variety of projects for youth participants. Leonard earned a Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University and a Master of Science from West Texas A&M Universities.

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## **Distinguished Service Award**

Ralph S. Davis

District 4  
Kaufman County



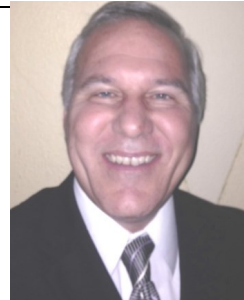
Ralph Davis has served as the agricultural agent in Kaufman County, Texas since 2000. His programs target forages, beef cattle, horses, horticulture, and small farms. He is proud of overseeing volunteer committees who deliver dynamic, innovative programs based on research science and participant input. Ralph received both his Bachelors and Masters of Science degrees from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. He spent 6 years as an Extension Agent in Louisiana from 1994-1999.

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## **Distinguished Service Award**

Matt Bochhat

District 11  
Victoria County



Matt Bochhat has served in multiple counties in Texas as an agricultural agent in his 15 years of service. He prides himself on volunteer & youth development in his specialty areas of beef, forage, range, and horticulture. Matt truly believes in the saying "LEARN BY DOING" and that is evident in his research based demonstrations. Matt received his Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University and his Master of Science from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches.

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### **Achievement Award**

Janet Laminack

District 4  
Denton County



Janet Laminack has served as the Denton County Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Agent for Horticulture since 2008. She provides educational programs to the citizens of Denton County in the areas of water conservation, watershed protection and production of fruits and vegetables. Her programs involve 200 Master Gardener and 117 Master Naturalist volunteers in community outreach and education. She is a graduate of Texas A&M University with degrees in Agricultural Education and Horticulture.

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### **Achievement Award**

Aaron Low

District 5  
Cherokee County



Aaron Low has served as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent in Cherokee County, Texas since 2009. His programs target beef cattle, forages and pesticide safety. He enjoys working with volunteer committees to deliver programs that provide research based information and encourage participant input. Aaron received both his Bachelors and Masters degrees from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.



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### **Achievement Award**

Fred M Hall

District 8  
Williamson County



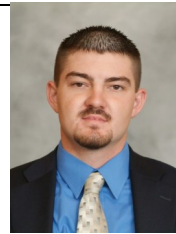
Fred M. Hall served as agricultural agent in Chickasaw County, Iowa, Wichita County, Texas and since 2013, in Williamson County, Texas. Serving in the fastest growing county in the USA, his programs are diverse and stress programing for under-served audiences. He hosted the second Annie's Project class in Texas and continued with women in agriculture quarterly programs. Other programs included the state olive field day, county commercial horticulture programing, and an Earth-Kind Vegetable Variety Trial.

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### **Achievement Award**

Tyler Fitzgerald

District 9  
Chambers County



Tyler Fitzgerald has served as the Agricultural Agent in Chambers County, Texas since 2007. Tyler's programs include forages, beef cattle, water, pesticides, horticulture and youth livestock programs. He takes pride in working with several volunteer committees to develop programs that affect the local clientele he serves. Tyler received a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University and a Master of Science from Tarleton State University.

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## Early Career Awards

Sponsored by the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association to recognize and encourage professional excellence for TCAAA member agents with less than five years of service. Districts with more than nine qualified agents may present two awards.

Austin Voyles	Oldham County	District 1
Gary Rosechetsky	Dawson County	District 2
Martin Shaw	Baylor County	District 3
Spencer Perkins	Camp County	District 4
Kim Benton	Cherokee County	District 5
Courtnei Munson	Midland County	District 6
Aaron Renfroe	Crockett County	District 6
Brady Evans	Concho County	District 7
Erin Davis	Freestone County	District 8
Cooper Terrill	Falls County	District 8
John Gordy	Brazoria County	District 9
Boone Holladay	Fort Bend County	District 9
Michael Haynes	Caldwell County	District 10
Michael Donalson	Refugio County	District 11
Makenzie Wyatt	Live Oak County	District 12

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## Retirement Watches

*To recognize retiring TCAAA members for the dedication, service, and leadership they have provided during their careers as County Extension Agents.*

### 2014 – 2015 Retirees

Ken Johnson	
Tarrant County.....	34 years
Hugh Soape	
Gregg County.....	22 years
Burt Williams	
Hansford County.....	30 years 2 months
Wade Hibler	
Burnet County.....	33 years 3 months
Barbara Storz	
Hidalgo County.....	16 years 3 months
George Gonzales	
Webb County.....	34 years 6 months
Jerry Nickerson	
San Augustine County.....	35 years 2 months
Richard Minzenmayer	
Runnels and Tom Green Counties.....	29 years 11 months
David Winkler	
Bosque County.....	32 years

### 2013 – 2014 Retirees

Jerry Kidd	
Menard County.....	27 years 1 month

### Retirement Watch Sponsor

Fiber Max Cotton  
Bayer Crop Science

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# Communication Awards

*To recognize TCAA members who excel in communication to clientele.*

## Audio Recordings

1. Brad Roeder Gillespie County
2. Michael Hiller Jackson County

## Computer Generated Presentation

1. Caleb Eaton Ward County
2. Brian L. Triplett Bowie County

## Program Promotional Piece

1. Paul Winski Harris County
2. Robert E. Richter Harris County
3. Brock Fry Jasper County

## Personal Column

1. William M. Johnson Galveston County
2. David Graf Wichita County
3. Michael Potter Montgomery County

## Newsletter, Individual

1. Jamie Sugg Rusk County
2. Brad Roeder Gillespie County
3. David Graf Wichita County

## Newsletter, Team

1. Brock Fry Jasper County

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## Fact Sheet

1. David Graf Wichita County
2. Jamie Sugg Rusk County

## Publication

1. Matt Bochat Bee County
2. Jamie Sugg Rusk County

## Website

1. Paul Winski Harris County
2. Brock Fry Jasper County

## Bound Book

1. Jason Ott Nueces County
2. Shane McLellan McLennan County

## Feature Story

1. Jon R. Green Parker County
2. Michael Potter Montgomery County
3. Chadd Caperton Madison County

## Video Presentation

1. Robert Scott Lubbock County

*The first place winner in each category advances to NACAA Southern Region Competition. The top three regional finalist in each category go on to compete at the National level. NACAA recognizes all state winners as well as regional and national finalists at the Annual Communications Workshop and Awards at the Annual NACAA Professional Improvement Conference.*

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## **Extension Program Awards**

*To recognize TCAA members who achieve excellence in developing and implementing innovative methods of teaching principals of production and marketing management to their clientele. These winners were also honored at the NACAA meeting.*

### **Search for Excellence in Crop Production**

Shane McLellan, McClennan County

### **Search for Excellence Young, Beginning , or Small Farmer/ Ranchers**

Laura Miller, Tarrant County

### **Search for Excellence in Landscape Horticulture**

Michael Hiller, Jackson County

### **Search for Excellence in Livestock Production**

Michael Hiller, Jackson County

### **Search for Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture**

Michael Hiller, Jackson County

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## **Outstanding County Agricultural Agents Awards**

### **Partner Organizations**

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

Texas Corn Producers Board

Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Board

Texas Wheat Producers Board

Texas Association of Dairymen

Willis Grass Soil Fertility Award

Texas Extension Specialists Association Award

## **TCAAA Poster Awards**

## **TCAAA Scholarship Awards**

### **Youth Scholarships**

Emily DeForest

Christopher Dunn

Tamra Kott

Celeste Lopez

Kayla Elizabeth Preston

Sterling Scott

Savannah Smith

Yancey Yeater

Zachary Zoeller

### **Agent Advanced Degree Scholarships**

Zach Davis

Bobby McCool

Jerod Muerer

Alyssa Puckett

Joseph Singletary

Shane Wigington

Chadd Caperton

## TCAAA Specialist Awards

### State Recipient

### TCAAA Specialist Award

Dr. Larry Stein

Professor and Extension Horticulturist



A proud Texas Aggie to the core, Dr. Larry Stein earned three degrees from Texas A&M University. He is a Professor and Extension Horticulturist for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and was appointed Associate Department Head and Program Leader for Extension Horticulture in September of 2012.

Dr. Stein's work has emphasized production horticulture working with pecans, fruits, grapes and vegetable crops. He has done a great deal of work on variety screening in both fruits and vegetables. In this capacity he has worked alongside many agents in the Winter Garden area, conducting variety trials on watermelons and spinach.



Dr. Stein's willingness to provide leadership and assist with programming efforts of agents across the state goes unmatched.

In addition, some of his work has focused on using drip irrigation to not only conserve water, but to also improve fruit quality and production. He is currently doing a lot of work on best management practices for various fruit and vegetable crops. This has included on-farm spinach fertility demonstrations coordinated by county agents.

His extensive knowledge of horticulture shows up in numerous areas on Aggie Horticulture and in the updated "*Texas Pecan Handbook*". He has given strong support to facilitating county, district, and state pecan shows.

Larry is headquartered at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Uvalde, Texas. "I have the perfect job, as horticulture is my hobby," he says. "Even though I deal mainly with commercial vegetables, fruits and pecans, I also 'mess around' with a few ornamentals." He and his wife, Barbara, are the proud parents of three "kids" – one girl and two boys.

Dr. Stein has always been willing to mentor young agents, speak at county programs and field days, or help implement a county demonstration for agents. Dr. Stein commented that he was greatly humbled and honored that our association elected to give him the State Specialist Award and that there is no more distinct honor than to receive this as he believes, "this is truly our job to help you guys do your job."

**District 11 Recipient  
TCAAA Specialist Award**

Dr. Megan Clayton  
Assistant Professor and Extension Range Specialist



Dr. Megan Clayton was raised in Collin County as a 4-H kid. Her belief in the mission of the Texas Extension Service and passion for educating landowners was well known throughout her grad school years. After a year spent in Junction as a post-doc for Texas Tech University, she accepted her dream job as an Extension Range Specialist here in Corpus Christi in 2010.

Dr. Clayton has eagerly assisted with programming needs of county agents across the South and Southeast Regions in the area of range and wildlife management. Dr. Clayton has always collaborated with agents to establish brush control demonstrations and help summarize data for demonstration reports.

Dr. Clayton has been a leader in the use of technology based delivery methods for county programs. She has annually organized the “South Texas Ag Webinar” to assist agents with county programming efforts each spring as agents wrap up stock show season, when there is normally a slump in adult programming.

Megan has also been supportive of meeting agents professional development needs. Annually she has provided a Plant Identification Contest for agent in District 11 and 12 to help agents hone their knowledge of plant identification. Recognizing the evolving interests of Extension clientele, she organized a multi-day Sustainable Agriculture Tour of livestock operations in South Central Texas so agents and NRCS personnel would have a better understanding of the needs of these types of production systems. She has also lead several prescribed burn trainings for agents on the La Copita Demonstration Ranch in Alice, Texas.

Dr. Clayton believes that County Extension Agents are the center, if not the sole purpose, of a specialists’ job. Without them, our research and publications would fall short of finding those that can benefit from them and it would be difficult to stay in tune to what producers need. Agents are the ones who push Specialists to ‘up our game’.

