

2016
TEXAS COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL AGENTS
ASSOCIATION

"Exemplifying the Heart of Extension"
Hosted by District 8



Professional Excellence Awards

Luncheon

July 18, 2016

2015-2016
Texas County Agricultural Agents Association

Officers

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

District TCAAA Directors

District 1.....Leonard Haynes
District 2.....Greg Gruben
District 3.....Toby Oliver
District 4.....Laura Miller
District 5.....Jamie Sugg
District 6.....Parks Tucker IV
District 7.....Tom Guthrie
District 8.....Zach Davis
District 9.....Dusty Tittle
District 10.....Pascual Hernandez
District 11.....Jason Ott
District 12.....Jaime Lopez
Early Career.....Caleb Eaton
Life Members.....Eddie Holland

District TCAAA Alternate Directors

District 1.....Michael Wilkes
District 2.....John Villaba
District 3.....Justin Gilliam
District 4.....Todd Williams
District 5.....Chad Gulley
District 6.....David Disselhorst
District 7.....Rocky Vinson
District 8.....David Groschke
District 9.....Michael Potter
District 10.....Michael Haynes
District 11.....Scott Willey
District 12.....Omar Gonzales
Early Career.....Cooper Terrill
Life Members.....Joe Taylor

Professional Excellence Awards Luncheon 2016

Presiding.....Brent Batchelor

TCAAA President

Matagorda County

Invocation.....Cooper Terrill

County Extension Agent—Agriculture

Williamson County

Introductions of Guests.....Shane McLellan

TCAAA President-Elect

McLennan County

Award Presentations.....Laura Miller

Chair, Awards and Recognition Committee

Tarrant County

Closing Remarks.....Brent Batchelor

TCAAA President

Matagorda County

Distinguished Service

Scott Anderson

District 7
Brown County



Scott Anderson has been in Texas Extension for 27 years. He has served as Agricultural Agent in Anderson, Presidio, and in Brown County for the last 19 years. His dedication to agriculture is evident through programing in range/pasture, livestock, horses, forages and an extensive 4-H livestock program. Scott has also served as instructor/coordinator for the Texas 4-H Calf Roping School for 25 years.

Distinguished Service

Jay M. Kingston

District 3
Kent County



Jay Kingston has served Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for 16 years in Gillespie, Kendall and Kent counties, providing educational leadership in beef cattle, wildlife, cotton, forages and native range management. Jay also has an active 4-H program providing excellent leadership opportunities for youth. He also provides programming in health, safety and community development working with local committees to address the needs of the county.

Distinguished Service

Julie Massey

District 9
Galveston County



Julie Massey is the Coastal & Marine Resources Agent for Galveston County working for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas A&M Sea Grant College Program. Julie enjoys coordinating 218 amazing Texas Master Naturalist volunteers who help her share the wonders of all things salty with people. In her off time, Julie is an avid fish print artist, who likes to cook Sunday dinners, knit, and visit with friends on long walks

Distinguished Service

Stephen Zoeller

District 10
Kendall County



Stephen started his Extension career in Atascosa County and later served the citizens of Martin, Blanco and Kendall Counties. Programming efforts from these counties have covered Beef Cattle, Sheep/Goats, Cotton, Peanuts, Wildlife, Horticulture and Natural Resource Management and has always focused on a strong 4-H program to compliment the Ag program.

Distinguished Service

Cary Sims

District 5
Angelina County



Cary Sims has served Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Van Zandt, Tyler, and Angelina Counties. He has been responsible for educational outreach in livestock, forages, commercial and home horticulture, wildlife, aquatics, pesticide education, and 4-H & youth program development. Cary has a weekly call-in radio program, regular TV interviews, and a weekly article published in up to 5 outlets. He has been recognized for his work in forages and small acreage business development.

Achievement Award

Caleb Eaton

District 6
Ward County



Caleb L. Eaton has served as a County Extension Agent for Agriculture/Natural Resources in Zapata, Crane, and Ward Counties. West Texas is ranch country, and Eaton has worked with cattlemen on a variety of topics from noxious weed control to restocking the beef herd. Eaton organized the Permian Basin Oil & Gas Stewardship Conference, a multi-county program geared to both landowners and energy industry professionals that is going into its fourth year of implementation.

Achievement Award

John Villalba

District 2
Swisher County



John Villalba began his Extension career in Quay County, New Mexico in 2006. He has also served in Jack County, Texas, and presently serves as the County Extension Agent-Ag/NR in Swisher County, Texas. His programs focus on 4-H youth livestock, wheat, corn, sorghum, cotton and beef cattle.

Achievement Award

Michael W. Potter

District 9
Montgomery County



Michael Potter joined Extension in 2006 as the County Extension Agent for Horticulture in Nueces County and now serves in Montgomery County. Michael has implemented programs to address issues related to water conservation, turfgrass management, home fruit production, landscape design and environmental stewardship. He takes pride in managing over 350 Master Gardener volunteers that assist in accomplishing program goals in the county. Michael received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from Texas A&M University Kingsville.

Achievement Award

Cody Maxwell

District 4
Fannin County

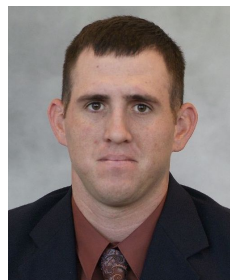


Cody Maxwell began his career as an Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent in August of 2012. Throughout his career with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Cody has focused his efforts of educational programming in beef cattle production, row crops, horticulture, and youth development. In 2015, Cody hosted 17 educational programs and a Master Gardener training. Four beef cattle programs were evaluated in 2015 to give a total economic impact of \$705,487 .

Achievement Award

Scott Willey

District 9
Fayette County



Scott Willey has served as the Agricultural and Natural Resources Agent in Fayette County, Texas since 2008. His programming efforts encompass diverse subject matters that include beef and forage, horticulture, new landowners, youth leadership, and youth livestock production. He works diligently with volunteer committees to build effective and timely programs to have the greatest impact through the implementation of best management practices. Scott received both his Bachelors and Masters degrees from Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

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.

Tanner Young	Briscoe County	District 1
Vikram Baliga	Lubbock County	District 2
Robert Ferguson	Mitchell County	District 2
Seth Hall	Wilbarger County	District 3
Charlie Martin	Jack County	District 3
Brian Whatley	Cass County	District 4
Doug Weir	Marion County	District 5
Ashley Pellerin	Smith County	District 5
Amanda Necessary	Andrews County	District 6
Lisa Brown	Menard County	District 7
Megan Parr	Ellis County	District 8
Paul Winski	Harris County	District 9
John Grange	Burleson County	District 9
Julie Zimmerman	Caldwell County	District 10
Bobby McCool	San Patricio County	District 11
Shelly Elfelt	La Salle County	District 12

Retirement Watches

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

2015—2016 Retirees

Jon R. Green	
Parker County.....	37 years, 11 months
J. Brad Morrison	
Young County.....	33 years
Keith Hansen	
Smith County.....	29 years, 7 months
Michael Morrow	
Lamar County.....	26 years, 7 months
Marty Jungman	
Hill County.....	20 years

2014—2015 Retirees

Jerry Nickerson	
San Augustine County.....	35 years, 2 months
Ken Johnson	
Tarrant County.....	34 years
Wade Hibler	
Burnet County.....	33 years, 3 months
Burt Williams	
Hansford County.....	30 years, 2 months
Richard Minzenmayer	
Runnels and Tom Green Counties.....	29 years, 11 months

Retirement Watch Sponsor

FiberMax Cotton
Bayer CropScience

Communication Awards

To recognize TCAA members who excel in communication to clientele.

Audio Recordings

1. Vikram Baliga Lubbock County
2. Stephen Janak Colorado County
3. Michael R. Hiller Jackson County

Computer Generated Graphics Presentation

1. Brian Triplett Red River County
2. Kimberly Benton Cherokee County

Personal Column

1. Michael W. Potter Montgomery County
2. Stephen Janak Colorado County
3. Beth McMahan Brazoria County

Feature Story

1. Michael W. Potter Montgomery County
2. Vikram Baliga Lubbock County
3. Jacob Read Spivey Tyler County

Newsletter, Individual

1. Stephen Janak Colorado County
2. David Clinton Annis, Jr. Denton County
3. Reggie Lepley Walker County

Newsletter, Team

1. Kimberly Benton/
Aaron Low Cherokee County
2. Michael R. Hiller/
Hannah Glaeser (FCS) Jackson County

Video Presentation

1. Vikram Baliga Lubbock County
2. Daphne Richards Travis County
3. Reggie Lepley Walker County

Fact Sheet

1. Vikram Baliga Lubbock County

Publication

1. Vikram Baliga Lubbock County
2. Robert K. Pritz Taylor County

Web Site

1. Reggie Lepley Walker County
2. Paul Winski Harris County
3. Vikram Baliga Lubbock County

Published Photo & Caption

1. Vikram Baliga Lubbock County
2. Stephen Janak Colorado County

Program Promotional Piece

1. Kara J. Matheney Washington County
2. Laura M. Miller Tarrant County
3. Randy Reeves Gregg County

Bound Book

1. John Gordy Fort Bend 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 complete 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.

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 winner were also honored at the NACAA meeting.

Excellence in 4-H Programming

Michael R. Hiller, Jackson County

Search for Excellence in Crop Production

Michael R. Hiller, Jackson County

Search for Excellence in Consumer or Commercial Horticulture

Michael R. Hiller, Jackson County

Search for Excellence in Livestock Production

Chad Gulley, Smith County

Search for Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture

Mark Brown, Lubbock County

Outstanding County Agricultural Agents Awards
Partner Organizations

Texas Association of Dairymen

Texas Corn Producers Board

Texas Cotton Producers

Texas Grain Sorghum Producers Board

Texas Extension Specialists Association Award

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association

Texas Wheat Producers Board

Willis Gass Soil Fertility Award

TCAAA Poster Awards

Applied Research
Extension Education

TCAAA Scholarship Awards

Youth Scholarships

Emma Batchelor
Sarita Cavazos
Cheyenne Hill

Agent Advanced Degree Scholarships

Robert Ferguson—Mitchell County
Courtnei Munson —Midland County

TCAAA Specialist Awards

District 8 TCAAA Distinguished Specialist Award

Dr. Jason Johnson
Associate Professor and Extension Economist



Jason Laurence Johnson is an Associate Professor and Extension Economist with Texas A&M University and Texas AgriLife Extension. He has primary responsibility for the education and applied research program in Agricultural Economics in the 21 counties comprising District 8 where he has served for almost 20 years. His scholarly activities include participating as the principal investigator on 25 grants totaling over \$2.8 million, 10 refereed journal articles, 35 Extension publications, and 25 published abstracts and proceedings. He has made over 160 professional presentations at the national, regional and state levels. and experience he brings to that everyday work makes him a truly distinguished specialist.

The agents in District 8 are especially grateful that he has also made over 700 multi-county and county level educational presentations. His areas of programming expertise include: farm/ranch management, price risk management, range and natural resource management and family financial planning. He has completed the Series 65 Uniform Investment Adviser Law Exam and is a Registered Investment Advisor with the Texas State Securities Board. This has allowed him to develop and deliver relevant financial educational programs related to asset allocation, retirement and financial considerations for both farm and non-farm families.

Dr. Johnson is as comfortable with less traditional agricultural audiences as he is with traditional audiences. He currently serves as a member of the Annie's Project National Leadership Team, the Women in Ag Extension Learning Network and on the Board of Directors for the Annie's Project not-for-profit Foundation and has been instrumental in bringing Annie's Project to Texas.

He received his Ph.D. and B.S. in agricultural economics from Texas Tech University and holds a Master's degree in agricultural economics from Louisiana State University and is a fourth generation Texas rancher.

Jason says "this is the best award you can receive as a Specialist because it is great to be recognized by those who work alongside you on a daily basis." The dedication, knowledge and experience he brings to that everyday work makes him a truly distinguished specialist.

TCAAA Specialist Awards

TCAAA Distinguished State Specialist Award

Tiffany Dowell Lashmet
Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist



Tiffany Dowell Lashmet is the go to specialist in Agricultural Law for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. She is the author of the award winning **Texas Agriculture Law Blog** and strives to keep us all up to date on the many legal issues impacting Texas agriculture. She writes and speaks about water law, oil and gas law, leasing, property rights, right to farm statutes, and animal cruelty issues. Her ability to translate legal language into easily understandable presentations and publications is greatly appreciated by agents and our clientele. In person or via technology, she handles complicated questions honestly and gracefully which means she is always a valued participant in any program.

Since joining Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in 2013, Tiffany has had a big impact, providing presentations at over 150 county, regional, state and national conferences and programs. From Culbertson County to College Station, her enthusiasm for providing the very best information on a wide variety of legal subjects in an equally wide variety of venues is inspiring. One agent said that her willingness to fit yet another engagement into her busy schedule was a “real breath of fresh air.”

She grew up on a family farm and ranch in Eastern New Mexico, received her Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness (Farm and Ranch Management) at Oklahoma State University, and her law degree at the University of New Mexico. Prior to joining Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Tiffany worked for 4 years at a law firm in Albuquerque practicing civil litigation. She is licensed to practice law in New Mexico and Texas.

Upon hearing that she had been selected as the recipient of this award, Tiffany responded “I’m so honored by that! I love working with agents, so I’m not sure there is any better award I could have gotten.” The members of the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association are grateful to have the opportunity to work with Tiffany Dowell Lashmet.

