



# Texas County Agriculture Agents Association Annual Meeting & Professional Improvement Conference

**July 28-31, 2019**  
Galveston, TX

## Tours

- ◆ Marine ◆ Agriculture
- ◆ Horticulture ◆ Spouse ◆ Youth



## Moody Gardens Hotel

Room rate: \$179/night  
good from July 23 thru Aug 3

Make reservations by

- ◆ Calling 1-888-388-8484  
(Block: County Agrl Agents Assn)

- ◆ [Online](#) (ONLY use if staying during conference dates July 28-31. If arriving early or staying after conference please CALL for reservations)



# Agent, Spouse, and Youth Tours

## Marine Tours (two options)

**Tour 1:** Explore the commercial fishing industry of Galveston Bay during tour of a local seafood supplier! Learn how the industry has changed to reduce bycatch (unwanted species caught while commercial fishing), adjusted to regulations, become advocates for themselves and dealt with the impacts of hurricanes. Bring your coolers, too! You may want to purchase some of the freshest seafood on the Gulf.

Grab Your Life Jacket! End the tour with a trawl trip on the Texas A&M Galveston Research vessel, *The Earl L. Milan*! Explore physical, chemical and biological oceanography aboard. Sort and identify finfish and shellfish from the trawl and check out the mud for bottom-dwelling animals. See and learn about the Port of Galveston which features oil rigs, cruise ships, container ships as well as a historical waterfront.

**Tour 2:** Visit Galveston NOAA Lab to learn about the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, the northern most coral reefs in U.S. Discover how lion fish, an invasive predator, is changing the coral reefs, then, check out sea turtles. Learn how research conducted by NOAA is protecting endangered sea turtles and how Texas Master Naturalist volunteers assist in research and education!

Hit the fishing docks with fisheries specialists to learn about economic importance of the snapper, shrimp, oyster, and crab fishing industries. From the docks, head over to the SEAGULL II, a 50' catamaran which docks at the Texas Seaport Museum. We will join marine biologists for the Marine Biology Tour of Galveston Bay! See dolphins, trawl for marine organisms and explore Galveston Bay's rich history.

## Agriculture Tour

Start the day by visiting the leading supplier of hybrid rice seed in the western hemisphere, RiceTec. See their greenhouse, rice fields, seed production facility, the lab, and harvesting and planting equipment..

End the day with a sweet treat at Froberg's Farm & Country Store. Since 1936 they have been offering homegrown fruits, vegetables and delicious fried pies. Along with touring the farm and store, we will visit Greak's Smokehouse with homemade jerky, sausage and other meats.

## Spouse Tours

**Day 1:** Enjoy a leisurely morning walk through historic Galveston viewing sculptures carved from trees impacted by Hurricane Ike. Tour the historic Bishop's Palace, completed in 1892 and named as one of Americas 100 most influential Victorian residences. After lunch end the day with a relaxing wine tasting and wind down at Haak Winery.

**Day 2:** Head to Pier 21 to learn about the Great Storm of 1900 and tour the Seaport Museum and 1877 Tall Ship Elissa. Enjoy a relaxing seafood lunch at Fisherman's Wharf, overlooking the bay. Spend the afternoon with a leisurely walk through the Strand and Arts District to do some shopping and sightseeing, or just relax in the cafe of your choice. End the day with a behind-the-scenes tour of The Grand 1894 Opera House.

## Horticulture Tour

*Seeding Galveston's* mission; provide year-round sustainable sources of nutritional food choices for residents of Galveston. Visit their urban farm sites developed on vacant land around the island.

Admire a behind the scenes tour of the Horticulture greenhouses that support the Rainforest Pyramid and then tour the Pyramids. On a guided-tour you'll get a rare, up-close, and interactive experience with endangered plants such as the Corpse Flower Giant Amazon River Otters to Saki Monkeys and an array of birds!

## Youth Tours

**Day 1:** Kids and adults "Gather on the Gulf" for a day at the beach. Kayak, build sand castles, and work with Master Naturalist to sein for sea life while learning about beach restoration and sea turtles. There's free time to enjoy sun and water.

**Day 2:** Start by visiting Moody Gardens exhibits and hands-on squid dissection. Excitement continues with afternoon spent at Schlitterbahn Water Park. Fun at Schlitterbahn will continue into the evening for those youth old enough.

**Attractions pass:** \$48/person for *multi-day pass*, good for *length of conference* (normally \$65/person/day). Families can visit attractions at their leisure and even go back for more if they want! Includes Aquarium, Rainforest, 3-D Theater, Discovery Pyramid, & Palm Beach.