

From farm and ranch to processor and supermarket, Texas agriculture faces unabated change. How it changes in response to current forces—such as environmentalism, new technologies, consumer issues, governmental regulation, and global markets—will profoundly impact agriculture for years to come.

The Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) program assists people in realizing their potential for leadership during this time of critical change.

Educational Leaders

The TALL program enables men and women from all areas of agriculture to:

- Increase knowledge and understanding of agriculture and related industries in the context of today's complex economic, political, and social systems
- Learn the processes of organizational decision making and the role of political institutions
- Acquire a greater appreciation of how agriculture must interact with society as a whole
- Develop skills necessary for leadership at local, state, and national levels and put those skills into practice

Participating in TALL

The TALL program is designed for men and women to enhance their leadership skills. Each class consists of at least 24 people, all of whom are associated with agriculture. Participants come from every sector of agriculture and all parts of Texas. Candidates apply for admission, indicating their reasons for wanting to participate. Successful candidates have demonstrated leadership potential and willingness to serve in decision-making roles upon completing the program.



Ernest Bailes, IV
Shepherd, TX

Founder/Owner Repro Select (Advanced Reproductive Technologies Company), partner in Rocking B Cattle Company



Amber Brady
Lubbock, TX

Attorney with focus on ag law, real estate transactions, administrative law, water law, wind energy transmission line siting; former Deputy Ag Secretary for South Dakota



Amanda Dyer
Benbrook, TX

Commodity trader specializing in ag risk management at Producers Trading Company. Rancho Espuela Cattle Company – family-owned cow/calf and stocker operation; Board of Directors - Texas Beef Council



Bruce Fleming
Friona, TX

CPA-AzTxCattle Company, owner Cherub Investments; farming (corn, grain, and silage) and agri-business



Tanya Foerster
Lubbock, TX

Capital Farm Credit Director of Advertising; Red Rock Land & Cattle Co/Ute Creek Cattle Company-family owned yearling cattle operation



Klint Forbes
Brownfield, TX

Producer of West Texas Guar-Design, owns and operates sole guar bean processing facility in US; farms - rotational crops: cotton, guar, corn, peanuts, wheat, silage, sunflower, milo



Jose Luis Garza
Rio Grande City, TX

District Judge, EcoTourism, attorney, cow/calf, hay production, high fenced intensive whitetail production



Michael Goudeau
Hungerford, TX

Partner in Goudeau Farms LLC., a commercial horse hay operation; farms rice and wheat; Goudeau Division of J.D.Hudgins Inc., raising reg. Brahman cattle, cow/calf/stocker operation; G&G Ag Services, a custom application service



Jim Hunt
Lubbock, TX

District sales manager-Netafim USA Irrigation Products



Mark Kubecka
Palacios, TX

Owner/operator of Kubecka Aquaculture (a multi-species food-fish production company); partner in M&W Kubecka Farms (corn, cotton, milo, rice), and VP of the Coastal Plains Groundwater District and VP of the Texas Aquaculture Association



Dave Lilley
Wichita Falls, TX

Attorney, CEO Trinity Hughes Construction, owns The Lilley Land & Livestock Company raising cattle, pecans, wheat, hay



Garry Merritt
Leakey, TX

Incoming Real County Judge, attorney representing ranchers and ranching families; cow/calf operation; cattle, sheep, and goat ranching



Mike Metzger
Ropesville, TX

Vice President - Ag Texas Farm Credit Services, provides financing to cotton farmers and agri-businesses



Marsha Moss
Amarillo, TX

Enviro-Ag Engineering Inc., technical specialist providing regulatory assistance to people in ag or related industries; family ranching - grassland, wheat/ryegrass production, and registered Angus cattle



Scott Piercy
Lubbock, TX

Sales manager of Poole Chemical Company - liquid fertilizer and sulfur-based industrial chemical manufacturing and distributing (four states) company and markets nationwide



Jason Pooley
Pampa, TX

Operations manager for Smithfield Premium Genetics, a Purebred Nucleus Swine Facility, (farrow to finish, boar stud, live haul, and feed logistics). Board member and Public Relations Officer for Texas Pork Producers Association



Kimberly Ratcliff
Oakwood, TX

Financial/budget manager-Caney Creek Ranch, hay, sprigs, cow/calf, reg. Charbray, semen and embryos; international cattle sales; ag grant writer, coordinator and recruiter for 100 Ranchers Inc.



Darren Rozell
Tyler, TX

Owner/manager Rozell Peach Farm, Rozell Sprayer Mfg, Red River Specialties



Linda Ryan
Austin, TX

Co-owner of Third Coast Coffee Roasting Co. (Certified Organic, Fair Trade Coffees directly sourced from 20 small farmer cooperatives in 15 countries, distributed internationally)



Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership



Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership

Class XII
2010-2012
Program Participants

TALL Advisory Board

TALL is guided by an advisory board of 24 outstanding leaders with the following officers:

Chairman—James L. Powell
Executive Secretary—Roddy Peebles

Alumni Association

At least 10 years of experience is needed to reach the educational level of TALL graduates. As a result, alumni of TALL become a valuable resource to rural Texas and the agricultural industry. Graduates use their new knowledge and skills to garner leadership roles. Many become active in local organizations, while others pursue even loftier positions.

TALL Mission Statement:

TALL will create a cadre of Texas leaders to help ensure effective understanding and encourage positive action on key issues, theories, policies, and economics that will advance the agriculture industry.



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Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Services are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

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Action-Oriented Program

TALL is a practical, action-oriented, two-year program in which participants meet eight times. Six of the meetings are held at different sites across the state.

The program includes the following activities:

Seminars with experts and group discussions enhance participants' knowledge and understanding of key subjects for today's agricultural leaders. Their studies include leadership development, communication skills, economics and policy, international trade, agricultural institutions and agencies, urban/rural relations, and issues affecting agriculture, such as water and energy.

On-site tours and studies of agriculture-related businesses and industries help participants discover firsthand procedures and problems in production marketing and financing.

Meetings with leaders of government and businesses complement seminars on local, state, and national issues, and are a focus of the first year of the program. TALL participants travel to Washington, D.C., and New York City for direct exposure to the varied social and economic conditions impacting agriculture.

International study is the highlight of the program's second year, with TALL XII traveling to India. The tour focuses on international communications, ecology, government policy, economics, social problems, and educational opportunity. Participants return with greater insights into agriculture's global problems and challenges.

Supporting TALL

The TALL program is conducted by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, an agency of the Texas A&M System. This intensive leadership development program also depends on the backing of individuals in agriculture and agriculture-related industries and public-spirited citizens. We invite you to consider participating or encouraging others to join us in providing support for the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership program.

Iлона Schilderink
Hart, TX

Owner Spandet Dairy; former ag teacher in The Netherlands

Cassie Schulte
Canyon, TX

Marketing and technical service manager for QDG, LLC (feed marketing firm for all co-products produced at the two White Energy, LLC, ethanol plants in the Texas Panhandle, commodity trader)

Jimmy Schulz
Wharton, TX

Farmers Coop of El Campo sales and new projects coordinator (agronomy, ag chemicals, seed, fertilizer, feed, hardware, ginning, elevators, cotton bale warehousing, ag technology and data processing)

Scott Taylor
Katy, TX

Territory sales manager in Central Texas for Monsanto Co.'s National Brands Seeds and Traits Business - DeKalb corn and grain sorghum seed, Delta and Pineland cotton seed, Asgrow soybean seed, and Monsanto's biotechnology traits for corn, cotton, and soybeans

Kip Thompson
Johnson City, TX

Owns Harvest House Farms (beef, pork, lamb and goat custom processing), former President of Texas Association of Meat Processors

Darren Turley
Dublin, TX

Texas Association of Dairymen Executive Director; Turley Dairy-family owned, milk production; sells replacement stock

David Waggoner
Hillsboro, TX

Attorney with focus on ag law, real estate law, banking law, non-profit organizational law and certified mediation services; prior experience with Member of Congress, Legislative Affairs, former Special Assistant to USDA Secretary in Washington, DC