

# Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Vernon

<http://vernon.tamu.edu>

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE RESEARCH

## **Mission:**

Develop nationally and internationally recognized science-based knowledge documenting natural resource management as a requirement for healthy, functional ecosystems, and disseminate guidelines for sustainable use of natural resources in semiarid environments, which undergird agricultural production and viable communities.

## **Major Focus:**

Rangeland Restoration. Develop restoration and management strategies for sustainable use of rangelands, concentrating primarily on potential biofuel sources, fire and grazing impacts, integrated wildlife and rangeland management, and mitigating impacts of invasive plants.

Livestock and Forage Production Systems. Strengthen forage/livestock production systems to sustain year-round grazing, reduce the economic costs of wheat pasture bloat, reduce purchased feed costs for beef herds, and increase beef production efficiency from improved forages.

Crop and Tillage Systems. Develop sustainable, water-efficient crop and tillage systems, with emphasis on subsurface drip irrigation, soil health, dryland crop production practices and new varieties of wheat and triticale for grain and beef production in the Rolling Plains.

Hydrology, Watershed Management and Water Quality: Develop management practices for protecting soil and water resources on cropland, pasture and rangeland.

Agricultural Resource Economics: Evaluate the economic and natural resources impacts of different cropping and rangeland management options.

## **Research Programs:**

Cropping/Tillage Systems  
Introduced Forage Systems  
Rangeland Ecology and Management  
Wheat Breeding and Management  
Stocker Cattle Nutrition  
Geospatial Hydrology and Ecological Modeling  
Agricultural and Natural Resource Economics

## **Special Initiatives:**

Developed the first hybrid grain sorghum.  
Improved long-term grazing systems for livestock, wildlife and water capture.  
Developed economical mesquite management programs.  
Developed new wheat varieties for beef and grain production.  
Introduced persistent cool-season forage and pasture crops with summer-dormancy trait.  
Developed economic thresholds for control of cotton insects.  
Range brush as biofuel feedstocks.

## **Resident Director:**

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### In Vernon

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## **Research Funding (FY 2012):**

\$1.66 million—Research  
\$0.28 million grants (5-year average)

## **Personnel:**

37 Full-time employees: 8 faculty and 29 support staff  
8 Part-time students and graduate students

## **Established:**

Since 1887, Texas A&M AgriLife Research has been an integral part of the Texas A&M System. AgriLife Research is the state's only agency dedicated to research and technology development in food, agriculture and natural resources. There are 13 A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Centers serving the specific research needs of each region and for agricultural and urban citizens across the state.

## **Facilities:**

The center at Vernon was created in 1971 as a part of Texas A&M AgriLife Research. The Chillicothe Station was established cooperatively by USDA and Texas A&M AgriLife Research in 1905. Together, the facilities include:

16,000 square feet of AgriLife Research office and laboratory space;  
20,000 square feet of shop, storage and work areas;  
7,500 square feet of greenhouses;  
804 acres of cropland;  
1,698 acres of rangeland.

Center Locations

