

## Welcome to the 2009 Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center Conference

Texas is a leading producer of plant food products that contribute to the state's economy. Historically, producers throughout the state and the nation have played a major role in the variety and supply of products from farm to table. Now, recent shifts in the produce industry related to fruit and vegetable consumption has people asking what do consumers want? Fruits packed with more nutrients? Better tasting vegetables? More variety? Texas AgriLife scientists are seeking answers to these questions.

Held in conjunction with the Texas Produce Convention, the one-day conference hosted by the Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center (VFIC), a part of Texas A&M University, was developed for scientists, educators, and consumers. Attendees will gain valuable information on current research through collaborative efforts of the interdisciplinary scientists within VFIC and a better understanding of changing consumer needs and how this affects produce for health from a regional, state and national perspective. Targeted sessions include real-world presentations and applications, a round table with producers, grocers, and restaurateurs discussing the health impacts of fruits and vegetables, current challenges and opportunities, and a research update on fruit and vegetable breeding and the environmental impacts of healthy compounds in produce that may prevent human disease.

The conference offers 7 CPEU hours for registered dietitians and dietetic technicians. The public is invited to view poster presentations and visit with the research scientists.

