

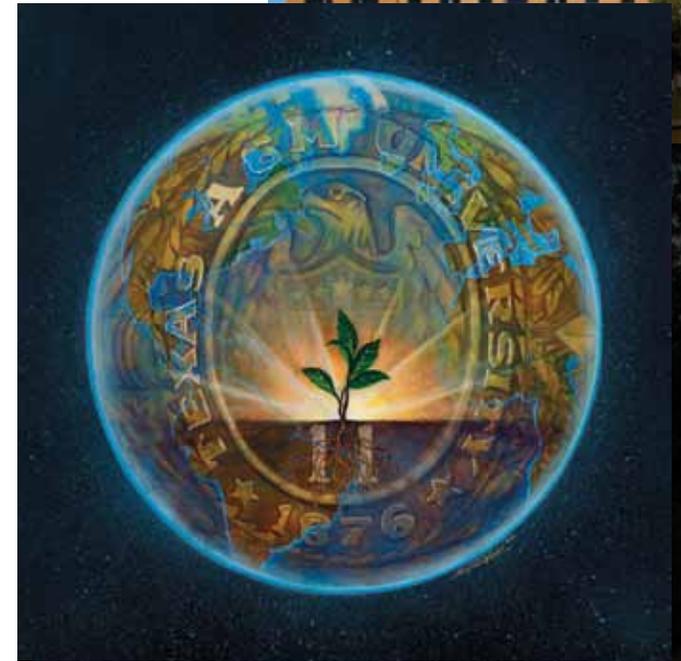
2006–2013

The Land-Grant College Heritage — and Future

The past seven years have been a time to honor established traditions within The Texas A&M University System and look ahead to the future in a changing world. In January 2008, a new branding campaign incorporated the name AgriLife, chosen to symbolize the idea that “Agriculture Is Life” because of its broad connection with everyday living through food, clothing, countless other products and processes, health care, and even biofuels to provide new energy sources. Texas Cooperative Extension became the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station became Texas AgriLife Research. The statewide centers also changed their names to Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Centers at their city locations. And Texas A&M AgriLife was designated as the administrative umbrella for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (which kept its name) and all four agencies. Another name change in 2012 added “A&M” to the agency names to better communicate our connection to the Texas A&M System.

In 2011, as the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences celebrated its 100th year — and in the same decade when Texas AgriLife Extension celebrated the 100th anniversary of the county Extension agent as well as the Texas Extension 4-H Centennial — construction was completed on a new Agriculture and Life Sciences Building and the AgriLife Center, Phase 1 of the new Agriculture Complex being built on Texas A&M University’s West Campus. The AgriLife Services Building was not far behind, ready for move-in in early January 2012.

As of 2013, the College includes 14 academic departments with nearly 40 undergraduate degree programs, emphases, and options, in addition to its more than 70 master’s and doctoral programs, including interdisciplinary degrees.



ABOVE: College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Centennial painting by Benjamin Knox, Aggie Artist, 2011

TOP: Agriculture and Life Sciences Building, completed in spring 2011

RIGHT: The AgriLife Center



March 12–20, 2006

Texas Forest Service firefighters join forces with local fire departments to combat the East Amarillo Complex Fire as it blazes over 907,245 acres in the Texas Panhandle, killing 11 civilians and one firefighter and destroying over 4,000 head of livestock and 89 structures.

Repeated and severe drought over the past years has reduced forage production in the Southern Great Plains region of Texas. The Research and Extension Center at Vernon establishes a five-year pasture management project to determine the best grasses, moisture containment, and management procedures to optimize year-round forage production in the semi-arid environments of the Texas Rolling Plains.

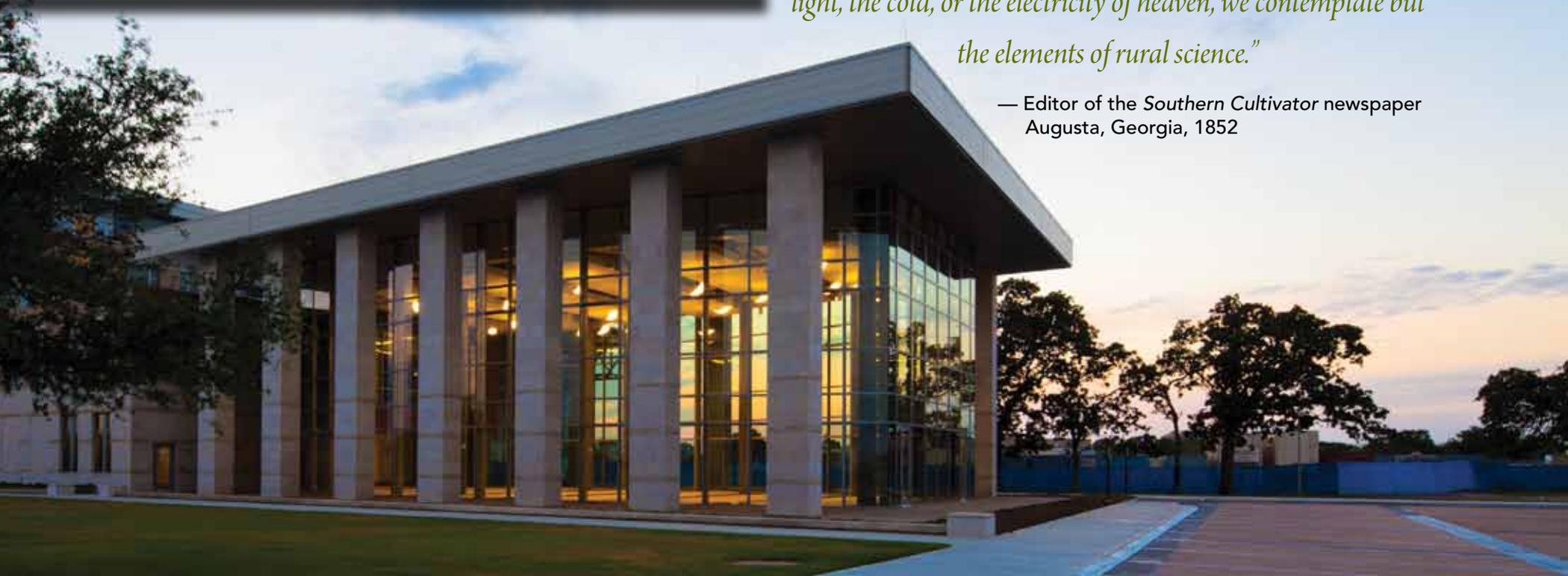
November 1, 2006





“The truth is, the American people have yet to commence the study of agriculture as the combination of many sciences. Agriculture is the most profound and extensive profession that the progress of society and the accumulation of knowledge have developed. Whether we consider the solid earth under our feet, the invisible atmosphere which we breathe, the wonderful growth and decay of all plants and animals, or the light, the cold, or the electricity of heaven, we contemplate but the elements of rural science.”

— Editor of the *Southern Cultivator* newspaper
Augusta, Georgia, 1852



The Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture is established at Texas A&M University in Borlaug's honor and in keeping with his Nobel Prize-winning work to feed the hungry in developing nations worldwide. It incorporates the faculty, staff, and projects of the International Agriculture Program at the university.

2006



The Sustaining Partnerships to Enhance Rural Enterprise and Agribusiness Development (SPREAD) project begins in Rwanda, to help farmers increase their income and improve their health and quality of life by forming agricultural cooperatives to develop and market their coffee and other high-value crops. This is a five-year effort funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and led by the Borlaug Institute.

2006

November 2006

Texas Cooperative Extension celebrates the centennial of the appointment of the first agricultural agent in the nation to serve a single county, W. C. Stallings, who was appointed for Smith County in 1906.



2006

Texas A&M organizes the Institute of Renewable Natural Resources. With offices in College Station, Gatesville, and San Antonio, the institute's mission is to promote the safety and sustainability of land, water, and wildlife.



In the 21st century, the focus of the College is to continue to provide students with “a practical education that has direct relevance to their daily lives,” whether in a classroom on campus, at a distance using new web-based technologies, or in an international setting in a study-abroad program.

With the evolution to a more global society, agriculture at Texas A&M expanded its outreach to other nations by establishing the Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture in 2006 to continue Borlaug’s work in a number of nations abroad. Borlaug received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007 at age 93. His death in 2009 left a legacy that the Borlaug Institute and other programs are well equipped to continue.

This has also been a period of renewed focus on biofuels, and in 2006 the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Texas Engineering Experiment Station formed an alliance to develop biofuels to meet the goals outlined in the 2005 U.S. Energy Policy Act. The alliance’s early focus was on high-cellulose plants such as sorghum, sugarcane, and switchgrass as biofuel feedstocks; other scientists were working on a variety of alternative fuels, including using composted cattle manure as a supplementary fuel to reduce emissions from coal-fired power plants through development of a fluidized-bed gasification system. AgriLife scientists and engineers also patented a process for using livestock manure as reburn fuel in a secondary combustion chamber to convert harmful nitric oxide to nitrogen gas, reducing the toxic gas by more than 80 percent. In 2007, the Experiment Station formed a partnership with San Diego, California–based firm General Atomics to develop and commercialize biofuels through farming microalgae. The alternative fuels industry has the potential to grow in the United States in the coming years, requiring more efficient production processes and quality standards. Biofuels from cellulosic biomass, such as algae, sorghum, and switchgrass, could increase domestic production of transportation fuels and energy, helping to reduce U.S. dependence on imported oil. It could also revitalize rural economies and decrease the environmental impacts of energy production and use. The Departments of Biological and Agricultural Engineering and Soil and Crop Sciences, along with Texas A&M AgriLife Research and



ABOVE: Algae raceway at the AgriLife Research Pecos Station

RIGHT: Dr. Bill Rooney, plant breeder, at high-tonnage sorghum research plot



The USDA announces the new \$5.3 million Iraq Agricultural Extension Revitalization project, in which Texas Cooperative Extension, through the Borlaug Institute, will lead a team of five land-grant institutions to improve Iraq’s agricultural extension and training. The team will help rebuild agriculture in the war-torn country, improve women’s health and nutrition, and develop youth leadership.

2006



The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approves a Bachelor of Science degree in Ecological Restoration, to be offered by the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. This is the first such degree offered in the United States.

January 23, 2007



2006

The Agricultural Experiment Station and the Engineering Experiment Station form a bioenergy alliance to develop biofuels that will provide alternative energy sources as outlined in the 2005 U.S. Energy Policy Act. Research will focus on high-cellulosic plants such as sorghum and sugarcane, the use of composted cattle manure to reduce polluting emissions from coal-fired power plants, and new engines that will burn alternative fuels.



Marker-Assisted Selection and the Second Green Revolution

Norman Borlaug launched the first Green Revolution through traditional plant-breeding methods, and today's AgriLife scientists

are at the forefront of what could become known as the Second Green Revolution. This new revolution will be created through marker-assisted selection, or MAS (also known as marker-assisted breeding), which uses "DNA roadmaps" within a sequenced genome to more quickly determine which plants and animals have traits that make them healthier, more productive, and less susceptible to adverse conditions such as drought and disease. Finding the genetic markers associated with visible or measurable traits (phenotypes) in a crop variety or animal breed allows researchers to use state-of-the-art computer analyses called bioinformatics to bypass the months or years of breeding trials formerly needed to produce a desired hybrid. Using detailed genetic maps, they can analyze plant or animal tissue and immediately determine whether the organism contains the appropriate genes for the desired traits. If it doesn't, they can quickly move on to test another until the marker is found. Marker-assisted selection is of central importance to agriculture, the health sciences, and veterinary medicine.



Norman E. Borlaug, 93, receives the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor awarded by the U.S. Congress, for agricultural research that has fed the hungry worldwide. He is credited with having saved more than a billion lives that would otherwise have been lost to starvation.

July 17, 2007

March 6, 2007

The Department of Ecosystem Science and Management is formed through a merger of the Departments of Rangeland Ecology and Management and Forest Science.



2007

Texas Cooperative Extension enters the electronic media age with the launch of eXtension, a national information technology network that provides Extension information online throughout the United States. Extension also offers a number of online training programs for certification of workers such as child care providers, food safety personnel, and pesticide applicators.

Extension, are working on these issues as well as processes for turning the by-products of biofuels production into co-products such as feed supplements for livestock, farmed fish, and shrimp.

Continuing a keen interest in environmental stewardship, in 2006 the Experiment Station and Extension organized the Institute of Renewable Natural Resources. Bruce McCarl, Regents Professor of agricultural economics, won a 2007 Nobel Peace Prize as part of an intergovernmental panel studying and disseminating knowledge about man-made climate change. That same year, the Texas Forest Service began a new program to help timberland owners manage and preserve their forest ecosystems, and it became the first state forestry agency to become an authorized verifier for forestry carbon offset projects. The Texas legislature also required the Forest Service to conduct a study of forest biomass available for bioenergy use. AgriLife Research soil scientist Frank Hons investigated crops for their potential to capture excess carbon in the atmosphere and found that dryland wheat, sorghum, and bermudagrass hold promise for helping to remove carbon; this represents an additional benefit of growing crops for biofuels.

The Texas A&M Forest Service has made important contributions through its forest health and sustainability programs and its urban forestry programs and restoration projects. The pressing new challenges of the interface between undeveloped land and urban centers in Texas and throughout the southern United States have brought new issues to forest management, as new land development affects forest harvesting, wildlife habitat, water quality, wildfire regimes, and even communication. Through its new Changing Roles personnel-training curriculum, the Forest Service has revolutionized the way it delivers technical assistance and forestry across the state. As the state's premier disaster-response agency, the Forest Service continues to fight ever-larger forest and grass fires, aggravated by long-term drought in the state, which is also reducing crop and livestock production. The Texas Wildfire Protection Plan has been successfully tested and adopted as a national model. It calls for a five-part approach to disaster response: predictive services, prevention and mitigation, planning and preparedness, local capacity building, and rapid response.



ABOVE: Forest Service personnel survey resources for bioenergy potential.

RIGHT: Dr. Frank Hons, AgriLife Research soil scientist

Participation in the Master of Natural Resource Development online degree begins.

2007



Bruce McCarl, Regents Professor of agricultural economics — along with other members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — receives the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for efforts to document man-made climate change and disseminate knowledge about the issue.

2007

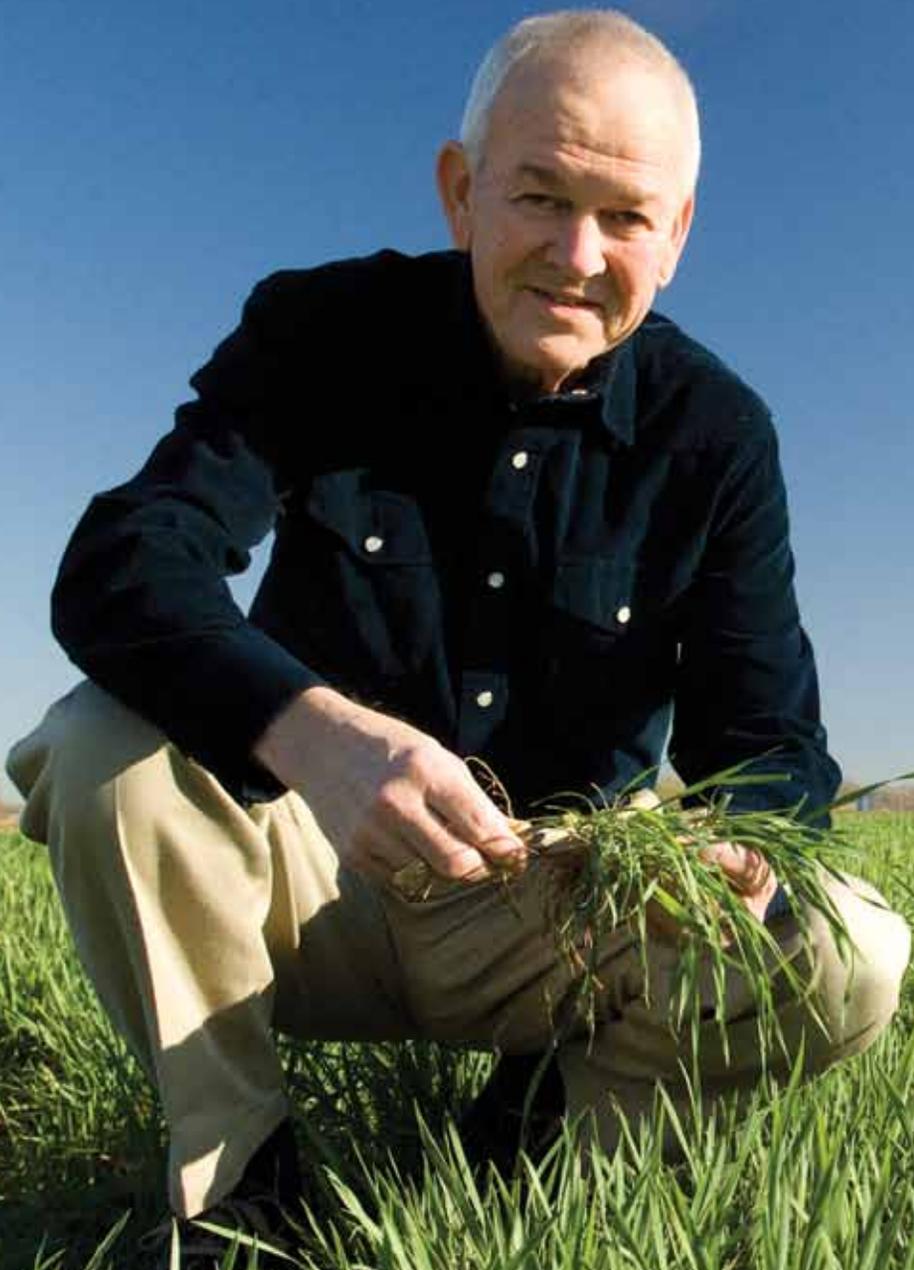
2007

The Texas Forest Service begins revising its educational programs to help new small timberland acreage owners wisely manage and preserve their forest ecosystems.



“U.S. agricultural lands have an estimated potential to store an additional five billion metric tons of soil carbon by 2050.”

— Dr. Frank Hons, Soil Scientist
Texas A&M AgriLife Research



The Chicago Climate Exchange® (CCX) makes the Texas Forest Service the first state forestry agency in the nation to become an Authorized Verifier for Forestry Offset Projects. The CCX is currently the only market that trades forestry carbon. Landowners realize that the carbon stored in their forests has economic and environmental value.

2007



2007

The Experiment Station and San Diego, California–based firm General Atomics form an alliance to research, develop, and commercialize biofuel production through farming microalgae. The U.S. Department of Defense awards them a multi-year grant for algae research and development. Soon after, the alliance receives a \$4 million grant from the State of Texas Emerging Technology Fund to develop an algae test facility in Pecos, Texas. The facility opened in 2010.



2007

The Texas legislature passes a bill requiring the Texas Forest Service to conduct a study of forest biomass availability for bioenergy. It also increases the funds assessed for the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program from \$15 million to \$30 million.

The past half-decade was also a time to come to terms with the shortage of clean water supplies and protect aquifers, lakes, streams, watersheds, and wetlands. Part of the conservation effort was the formalization of Earth-Kind® landscaping initiatives by Texas A&M AgriLife horticulturists to save water and energy, reduce fertilizer and pesticide use, and reduce yard waste entering landfills. And the Texas Water Resources Institute continued the multi-year Rio Grande Basin Initiative to protect and conserve a water source critical to South Texas and Northern Mexico. Water has been and will continue to be a primary area of emphasis for Texas A&M AgriLife, with drought and increasing usage causing water shortages in Texas and in many other regions of the United States. The College, AgriLife Research, and AgriLife Extension are working on water quality projects including on-site wastewater management and industrial wastewater treatment systems, emerging contaminants in surface waters, watershed protection plans, turfgrasses and ornamental plants that can tolerate more saline irrigation water, rainwater-harvesting systems, desalination processes, and state and national water policies. Irrigation continues to be a major focus of research in West Texas, where the LEPA and subsurface drip irrigation systems were developed and where large-scale AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension programs enhance the profitability and sustainability of crop production. The Forest Service's water quality programs help loggers, resource managers, and landowners reduce the level of pollutants reaching the state's water resources through a system of voluntary best management practices.



ABOVE: Texas Master Gardeners partner with Habitat for Humanity to brighten families' newly built homes with landscaping.

RIGHT: Rio Grande, near El Paso

Ed Huston, small-ruminant researcher at the Research and Extension Center at San Angelo, chairs the National Research Council committee writing *Nutrient Requirements of Small Ruminants*. This landmark publication, representing a lifetime of research conducted in Texas and around the world, is used internationally to formulate diets for sheep, goats, cervids, and new world camelids.

2007



2007

Longtime faculty members Drs. Joe and Christine Townsend endow the COADC Joe D. Townsend '67 Leadership Fellows program to support undergraduate leadership studies in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications.

As part of rebranding efforts, Texas Cooperative Extension is renamed the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station becomes Texas AgriLife Research. These two agencies, with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Texas Forest Service, and TVMDL, are gathered under the new organizational name Texas A&M AgriLife.

June 2008



“The products of early discovery are the fuel for the engine that enables the major advancements in capacity for the food and agriculture system. AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension actively engage industry, which is the economically necessary link making the products of discovery available to farmers, ranchers, and urban dwellers.”

— Neville P. Clarke, Director Emeritus
Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

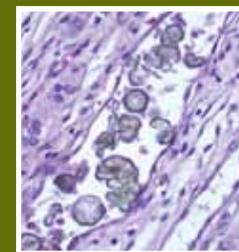


December 2008

Mark A. Hussey is appointed vice chancellor and dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences and director of Texas AgriLife Research. After receiving his master's degree and doctorate at Texas A&M, he was an assistant professor at the Weslaco Center, assistant professor and professor in Soil and Crop Sciences (1985–2001), department head (2001–05), associate director and director of AgriLife Research, and interim vice chancellor and dean.

AgriLife Extension celebrates the 100th anniversary of Texas 4-H: the centennial of Jack County agricultural agent Tom Marks's organization of the Boys' Corn Club in 1908.

2008



2008

TVMDL is one of the nation's first laboratories to alert veterinarians and federal agencies to the presence of melamine in companion animal feed. This results in a national reevaluation of the animal food inspection process.



The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) saw expansion during this period, with a new poultry diagnostic facility in Gonzales and a new Biosafety Level 3 laboratory in Amarillo. Recognizing that approximately 75 percent of recently emerging infectious diseases affecting humans are diseases of animal origin and that about 60 percent of all human pathogens are zoonotic, TVMDL and the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense (FAZD Center) are monitoring the increasingly global movement of people and animals and the effects of human populations expanding into previously undeveloped areas. The agency participates in the global One Health/One Medicine Initiative, which seeks to improve and defend both human and animal health by integrating human and veterinary medicine. TVMDL personnel also work together within a quality management system to ensure continuous improvement in the agency's services, and they participate in an external accreditation process to ensure conformance to recognized veterinary laboratory standards, including environmental health and safety standards.

Crop improvement has been a goal of AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension from the beginning, and new research in this area is looking to the future. At the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Lubbock — in a region where over 3.4 million acres of cotton are planted each year — an exotic cotton germplasm screening program seeks useful characteristics in wild and obsolete cotton stocks from U.S. Department of Agriculture, French, and Russian collections in an effort to develop cotton cultivars that will produce quality fiber in the face of drought, cold, insect, and disease stresses. And Texas A&M AgriLife continues to make improvements in Texas crops, including cotton, wheat, grain sorghum, corn, rice, sugarcane, and forage.



The Texas Forest Service responds during a wildfire season that lasts from January to August. It also manages response to Hurricanes Dolly and Ike (including the first mobilization of the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System) and the flooding of Presidio County.

2008



2008

Ralph Moore, a rose breeder known as the Father of the Miniature Rose, donates his cultivars and breeding materials from a 70-year career to the Rose Breeding and Genetics Program, established in 1990 by Robert Basye in the Department of Horticultural Sciences. The donation allows the program to combine the superior range of horticultural traits from Moore's work with Basye's disease-resistance traits.



2008–09

The Texas Forest Service works with AgriLife Extension and Texas Master Gardeners to help remove and replace trees damaged or destroyed in Galveston by Hurricane Ike, which caused over \$350 million in timber damage throughout East Texas.



Vice Chancellor and Dean Mark Hussey, with the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences and the Borlaug Institute, hosts a 95th birthday luncheon for Dr. Norman Borlaug in Dallas. At the event, Monsanto announces a \$10 million grant establishing the Beachell-Borlaug International Scholars Program.

March 25, 2009



Texas A&M AgriLife hosts the groundbreaking of the new Agriculture and Life Sciences Complex on the west campus of Texas A&M University in College Station, with Phase 1, the Agriculture and Life Sciences Building and the AgriLife Center, to be completed by spring 2011. The new buildings reflect The Texas A&M University System's commitment to energy-efficient green building.

May 22, 2009



Spring 2009

The Texas Forest Service unveils its first statewide tree inventory, the Forest Inventory and Analysis. The report shows that Texas has 60 million acres of forestland, more than any other state in the continental United States. The Forest Service uses this information to help landowners better manage their resources, and the census reflects Texas's commitment to the environment.



A growing Texas, national, and global population brings unique challenges to produce food for populations that are increasingly disconnected from agriculture. The few continue to feed the many; population growth has not increased the number of food producers. Animal scientists in particular will need to continue producing safe, high-quality animal protein while ensuring the efficient use of scarce resources, the proper handling and ethical use of animals, and minimal environmental impact. Department of Animal Science researchers engage all of these aspects by translating discoveries in foundational biology into optimized meat production. They also transfer new technologies to producers around the world through significant outreach programs. The department actively recruits students from diverse backgrounds and emphasizes experiential learning through internships, study abroad programs, and international livestock production, which will help them succeed in the global marketplace.

Food safety has also become a more intense area of research. Current research by the Texas Food Safety Engineering group in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering focuses on efficient irradiation treatments for fresh produce, meat, and other food products using electron beam (E-beam) technology to prevent foodborne illnesses. At the AgriLife Research National Center for Electron Beam Research, food scientists have invented the Maxim Chamber, a novel technology for using E-beam irradiation in a controlled, uniform dose to kill bacteria on foods with irregular surfaces, such as cantaloupe, mangoes, and meat carcasses. This is the first known application of its kind, and it represents an important breakthrough in food safety and phytosanitation.



Some 12,000 head of cattle displaced by Hurricane Ike in September 2008 were rounded up and transported to safer pastures in Operation No Fences, coordinated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency accepts the Plum Creek Watershed Protection Plan developed by AgriLife Extension and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. The plan protects a 397-square-mile watershed in central Texas and is the first in the state to be accepted by the EPA.

2009

September 12, 2009

Norman E. Borlaug dies at age 95, leaving behind a legacy of feeding the world's hungry and an institute at Texas A&M committed to carrying on his life's work.



2009

AgriLife Extension and the Texas Department of Agriculture enter into a partnership to help Texas fruit and vegetable growers put standardized Good Agricultural Practices into place by developing a manual of operating procedures for their farm. These practices will help prevent contamination of fresh produce at the farm level.



International Agriculture and the Father of the Green Revolution

An inspiration to farmers and fellow scientists worldwide, Norman Ernest Borlaug earned the title Father of the Green Revolution by developing — with colleagues during 20 years of research as part of an agricultural program in Mexico — a dwarf variety of wheat that was highly productive and disease-resistant and did not break in the fields with the weight of the mature grain. This successful new variety was planted to feed the hungry in Mexico, India, and Pakistan and later in Central and South America, the Near and Middle East, and Africa. Borlaug's work earned him, in 1970, the honor of being the first agriculturist to win the Nobel Peace Prize. This award was just the beginning of dozens he would receive throughout the rest of his life, including the Congressional Gold Medal in 2007, at age 93.

Borlaug came to Texas A&M University in 1984 as Distinguished Professor of International Agriculture. He

worked tirelessly to teach and mentor the agriculturists of the future. A firm believer in adequate food for all of the world's citizens as a road to peace and justice, Borlaug also continued to do fieldwork for many years after he joined the Texas A&M faculty.

Today, the Norman E. Borlaug Center for Southern Crop Improvement, the Borlaug Fellows Program, and the Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture honor his legacy. Since Borlaug's death on September 12, 2009, they have carried on his life's work through scientific training, collaborative research, and effective partnerships among universities, governments, industry, and nongovernmental organizations worldwide. The Borlaug Institute and its partners in the U.S. Department of Agriculture conduct more than 50 programs that help feed the hungry in developing nations, bring economic opportunities to the poor through farming cooperatives, improve agricultural technology, and foster youth development.

Through the generosity of the Borlaug family and with the support of the Vice Chancellor and Dean for Agriculture and Life Sciences at Texas A&M University, a 20,000-record repository of Borlaug's papers spanning his career from 1960 to 1979, including the Nobel Peace Prize year, is now available online (<http://borlaugarchives.tamu.edu>) in a searchable database as part of the Borlaug Digital Archive. In the future, the repository will also include notes, lectures, and correspondence from Borlaug's office on the campus of Texas A&M University covering the period from 1984 to 2008, as well as papers from his early career. The archive is open to scholars and the general public and is intended to build on Borlaug's lifetime of research to inspire future agriculturists.

Earth-Kind® landscaping initiatives are formalized to include water conservation, energy conservation, pesticide and fertilizer use, and the reduction of yard waste entering landfills.

2009



2009

Charles Rush, plant pathology professor and researcher at the AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Amarillo, reaches a breakthrough after two years of research on zebra chip disease, which causes potatoes to be unsuitable for making potato chips. His research on the potato psyllid, the insect vector, contributes to better disease management and reduced pesticide use and is critically important to the state's large potato crop.



AgriLife Extension, which has been teaching food safety practices to consumers for nearly a century, has now established the Food Protection Management Program, which provides food safety education for Texas retail food establishments. In the fall of 2010, Texas A&M AgriLife announced a new food safety initiative that will address prevention, intervention, economic analysis, policy and risk, and training and communication. It will follow work being done at the national level with the recent creation of the federal Food Safety Working Group. The new Center for Food Safety is now under construction on the campus in College Station. It will allow scientists to build on their current food safety research and conduct in-depth research on pathogenic microorganisms to prevent foodborne illness.

The control of insects, including the mosquito (which can carry or transmit such diseases as West Nile virus, St. Louis encephalitis, dengue, malaria, and canine heartworm), is a major concern in Texas, as are harmful invasive insect species, which cause expensive crop and other losses. Entomologists and horticulturists often work together to use genetics to develop host-plant resistance to insect pests, such as psyllids, which damage potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, and citrus. The Department of Entomology and its AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension colleagues are seeking ways to control these populations through environmentally sustainable programs. And entomology students are learning to solve criminal and other thorny investigative issues through the Forensic and Investigative Sciences degree program, which prepares them to apply scientific research to law enforcement through the collection, preservation, and analysis of evidence.



TOP: Technicians at the Space Food Research Facility in the National Center for Electron Beam Food Research operate equipment to heat-process food pouches.

BOTTOM: Extension Cooking Well with Diabetes class

RIGHT: Dr. Jim Olson, Experiment Station entomologist, taught classes in forensic entomology.



2010

AgriLife Research and the Department of Entomology open the Janice and John Thomas '59 Honey Bee Facility, providing for the continuing study and development of the honey bee as a beneficial insect that contributes over \$500 million annually to agriculture through crop pollination. Apiculture had been taught at Texas A&M since 1904, and A&M researchers had long collaborated with the Texas Beekeepers Association.

TVMDL in Amarillo holds a groundbreaking ceremony for a new Biosafety Level 3 laboratory addition and renovation of the sample receiving and processing area. The new laboratory will supplement the BSL-3 lab in College Station and allow for rapid, early detection of foot and mouth disease and other highly pathogenic animal and zoonotic diseases in the Texas Panhandle.

March 2010





Mrs. Mary Ruth Patranella retires from the dean's office of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences as the longest-serving staff member in Texas A&M University history, with 61 years of service.

December 2010



2010

The Texas A&M University Insect Collection in the Department of Entomology — begun in 1902 by E. D. Sanderson — is recognized as one of the top university-based insect collections in the United States. With nearly 2.5 million fully curated specimens, it is used by entomologists around the world for studies of the biodiversity, classification, and evolution of insects.

November 24, 2010

AgriLife Research releases 'TAM 113', a new variety of wheat tested and proven for recommended production on the Texas High Plains. The variety has been recognized for its improved bread-making qualities.



From traditional agronomics to state-of-the-art health care, Texas A&M AgriLife is finding solutions to today's — and tomorrow's — challenges. AgriLife scientists conduct basic, applied, and translational research, finding the scientific building blocks of an issue and then using those fundamentals to improve life. As we look back on the past 150 years of the Morrill Land-Grant College Act and forward to the next 150, AgriLife is moving toward an increasingly multidisciplinary approach, conducting research with multiple partners in educational institutions, state and federal agencies, stakeholder groups, and industry. We are also taking on the challenges of a global economy and population. Through teaching, research, extension, and service, Texas A&M AgriLife helps people to live better in both urban and rural communities and successfully adapt to a rapidly changing world.



LEFT: Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences students design park and urban development projects.

ABOVE: AgriLife biofuels researchers study algae as a potential energy source.

RIGHT: Raising swine and other livestock teaches 4-H'ers responsibility.

TOP RIGHT: Rice combine, Beaumont Center

FAR RIGHT: Texas Master Gardeners make gardening easy by installing handicap-accessible beds, Tarrant County.



TVMDL's new 2,950-square-foot Sam and Sally Glass Poultry Diagnostic Laboratory in Gonzales is officially dedicated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The new facility includes a Biosafety Level 2 laboratory that will play a critical role in detecting and containing exotic Newcastle disease, avian influenza, and other diseases that could threaten the Texas poultry industry.

February 2011

2010

Miles Phillips, working within the Nature Tourism program in the Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences, visits sites along the Texas Gulf Coast following the BP oil spill disaster to help restore and maintain the valuable tourism industry in the region.





Joanne Lupton, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science, is appointed to the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine. Lupton's research focuses on the effect of diet on colon physiology and colon cancer, with a particular focus on dietary fiber and n-3 fatty acids. She holds three patents related to the genetics of colon cancer and its detection.

July 1, 2011

Spring 2011

The new Agriculture and Life Sciences Building is completed and ready for move-in by College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and Texas A&M AgriLife administration, as well as three College departments: Agricultural Economics; Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications; and Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences.





*“I have seen the director of the Texas Forest Service
literally shed tears at the damage
inflicted by wildfire.”*

— Robert D. Baker, Professor Emeritus
Forestry, Texas A&M University

The grand opening is held for the new Agriculture and Life Sciences Complex on the Texas A&M University West Campus in College Station. The Agriculture and Life Sciences Building, The AgriLife Center, and the AgriLife Services Building are completed this year.

September 23, 2011



In Texas's worst fire season on record, fueled by historic heat and drought, the Texas Forest Service leads the response by local, state, and national firefighting teams as more than 31,000 wildfires burn 4 million acres, destroying 2,947 homes and claiming 10 lives. The record for most homes destroyed by a single wildfire is set by the Bastrop Complex fire. But 38,962 homes are saved — a record for firefighters in a single fire season.

2011



December 2011

Howard Hesby Student Atrium is dedicated in the Kleberg Building honoring longtime faculty member and student advocate Dr. Howard Hesby.





Technology Commercialization: Research in Action

Texas A&M AgriLife researchers are encouraged to explore possible intellectual property rights in conjunction with publishing in peer-reviewed journals. Through the Office of Technology Commercialization, the university and agency seek out companies working in compatible areas of research. This has led to a number of successful partnerships in which the AgriLife agency, The Texas A&M University System, and students and faculty in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences have benefited from financial support for their work. These partnerships can result in internships, fellowships, and even industry careers for Texas A&M students. They also bring timely new scientific and biomedical innovations and new plant varieties to the public and to growers. Following are a few examples of Texas A&M AgriLife technology commercialization efforts.

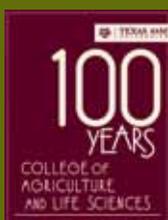
Texans have long benefited from the wheat, sorghum, corn, cotton, sugarcane, vegetable, and ornamental plant varieties developed and patented by Texas A&M AgriLife scientists. The Texas Foundation Seed Service, a nonprofit,

stand-alone unit of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, links AgriLife scientists with companies interested in licensing and marketing these improved varieties. By handling the business aspects of new seed and propagated plant materials, the foundation frees scientists to concentrate on their research. All funds generated by the sale of foundation seed go back into the effort to provide better crop varieties to the state's agricultural industry and to home gardeners.

An assistant biological and agricultural engineering professor whose research is supported by AgriLife Research has developed a novel chemical water treatment that significantly reduces key contaminants such as selenium, mercury, arsenic, and chromium. It also reduces contaminants such as nitrate, some solvents (including chlorinated compounds), and atrazine. The water treatment can be used in coal-fired electric power plants, mining operations, petrochemical refineries, municipal water supplies, and many other industries and will help them meet new Environmental Protection Agency regulations taking effect in 2014.

A soil and crop scientist has developed new gluten-free wheat cultivars. Flour made from this new wheat has increased dough extensibility needed for making pizza and tortillas, without compromising strength. Bakers can now make these products at a lower cost and without using dough conditioners and chemical reducing agents. The new wheat is not genetically engineered and can be bred through traditional methods.

Food engineers are improving the freshness of fresh-cut fruits and vegetables while maintaining their bite-feel and extending their shelf life. The process uses food-grade natural antimicrobials applied in a protective coating in a way that does not affect the smell or taste of the treated produce.



Farmers Fight, a student movement dedicated to telling agriculture's story, led by freshman Mason Parish and other student leaders, hosts a day of "ag-vocacy" at Texas A&M.

April 12, 2012

Dr. Martha E. Couch is inducted into the National 4-H Hall of Fame in recognition of her 53 years of service to 4-H, both as a member and throughout her 36-year career with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. She retired as associate director for 4-H and Youth Development in 2008.

October 12, 2012

2011

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences celebrates the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the A&M College's School of Agriculture, in 1911. The year is filled with special events to commemorate the centennial.



September 1, 2012

After approval by the Board of Regents, The Texas A&M University System incorporates "A&M" into the names of its seven state agencies, including the AgriLife agencies, to better align their affiliation with the A&M System.





The Thomas Hilderbrand Equine Complex breaks ground to build world-class equine facilities for the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.

October 2012



2012

Texas Forest Service personnel assist landowners and assess damage to property and resources of the state as inflicted by a year-long drought and wildfire season.





Students Giving Back: Even Before Graduation

Giving back to Texas A&M University is a longstanding tradition among former students, but in November 2012, a group of *current* students decided to take a step toward reversing that trend.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Council officers Mollie Lastovica, Stefen Tucker, Deanna Bosse, Justin Benavidez, and Whitley James formalized the \$25,000 Texas A&M University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Council Endowed Scholarship for future students. It is rare for current students to give to scholarships, much less to endow one, since the average age of a person making an endowment is 69.

The five officers, representing the College's 7,265 students, used money left over from Agriculture Career Exposition events, in which potential employers rent exhibit space for a student job fair. By moving its career day to the College's headquarters, the students had saved money and were encouraged by their advisor, Dr. Chris Skaggs, to find a way to use it rather than having it sit in an account. The officers brainstormed about possible uses and decided on a scholarship. The idea was unanimously supported by the 57-member council when presented at their first meeting of 2012.

Recognizing the impact that scholarships have had on their own lives, the council officers and members find it especially rewarding to know that future students will benefit from the scholarship beginning in 2013, when the first \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded — before most of the council members themselves have graduated.

The criteria for selection for the scholarship include any student in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences with a 3.0 or higher grade point average who has demonstrated leadership ability and involvement in extracurricular activities and service in the community.

The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and the Texas A&M Forest Service celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Land-Grant College Act of 1862.

2012

