



...A report to Soil & Crop Sciences Faculty By David Baltensperger

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Department of Soil and Crop Sciences

Aggie Agenda

We are all anxious to hear how the budget sorts out now that the legislature has adjourned. Meanwhile the Board of Regents has given approval to a new hierarchy for our agencies. This has resulted in the development of a director position in TAES (which Dr. Mark Hussey was appointed to) and a Deputy Director position (that Dr. Bill Dugas was appointed to) – congratulations to Bill and Mark.

Thanks to all that helped host that meaningful breakfast for our graduates this spring! It is important to recognize the commitment of the families to the success of the graduates. This spring we had seven BS, five MS's, four PhD's from SCSC, and one MEPS PhD students receiving their diplomas. We are in a period of record crop prices and increased demand for plant based bio-fuels which brings our graduates to a place of great demand. These job opportunities need to be relayed to potential students to replenish the ranks and increase the supply to meet this new demand.

It is amazing how fast things change. Just a year ago, when I was interviewing for the job,

Texas was in the midst of a severe drought with fires rolling across large areas. Today we are nervously awaiting the crest of the Brazos River, hoping that our plot research is spared. Congratulations to our Extension and research faculty for continuing to make the adjustment and provide timely information on the stresses facing our clientele.

We are negotiating to fill the Turf Breeding position at Dallas, the Small Grains Breeding position at College Station and the Environmental Soil Science Position at Vernon. We are rapping up the interview process for the Soil Mineralogy position at College Station and are re-advertising the Forage Extension position at Overton.

Since the last newsletter, I had the opportunity to attend the Small Grains Advisory Committee meeting in Amarillo, the Etter field day, Weslaco and

will visit El Paso yet this week. In addition I had the opportunity to meet with the Southeastern Soil Physics group and the weed science training school here on campus.

Thanks to all that have met the deadline early for certifying your position descriptions on the electronic system and completing the staff evaluations. I can see the finish line on the annual faculty evaluations and appreciate the cooperation in getting the last ones scheduled in a timely manner.

This would be a great time **to write that journal article** as we can't do anything about the rain or the budget.

David

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UPCOMING FIELD DAYS

June 4 - 8

Texas 4-H Roundup
College Station, TX

June 5

Goliad County
Crops Tour - Jim
Wells County (PM),
2:00 start time (quail
& brush - no row
crops)

June 6

San Patricio County
Crops Tour

June 7

Nueces County
Crops Tour

June 11

Jackson County
Crops Tour - 4:00
pm Brackenridge
Park, Hafernick
Center

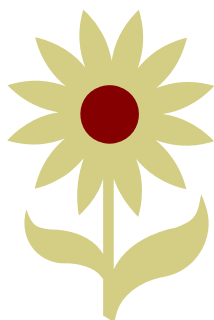
June 12

Kleberg County (AM)
TBA - no cotton test
planted

Dewitt County
Crops Tour (PM)

June 19

Stiles Farm Field Day
Thrall, TX



Position Updates

- Turf Breeding Position at Dallas - Offer Extended
- Environmental Soil Scientist at Vernon - Offer Extended
- Soil Clay Mineralogist at College Station - Interviews completed
- Wheat Breeder at College Station - Offer Extended
- Forage Extension Specialist at Overton - Open

Departmental Activities *by Travis Miller*

We had a successful field day with the Texas Turfgrass Producers in College Station on May 23. Approximately 55 turfgrass producers attended the field day, while turfgrass faculty from College Station and Dallas discussed the progress of ongoing research.

Extension faculty hosted a

Weed Science School for County Agents on May 22. Approximately 20 County Extension agents or Extension Agents-IPM attended. *Drs. Baumann, Morgan and McAfee* trained agents on weed control, herbicide symptomology and weed identification.

Gaylon Morgan had several

field days. I attended the Prosper field day on May 3. Dr. Baltensperger attended the North Plains Research Field Wheat Field Day at Etter on May 24.

Drs. Baumann and Chandler hosted a field day with Syngenta for local growers on May 24 at the TAMU Farm, featuring weed control and crop genetics. ✖



Welcome New Faculty

We would like to welcome **Danny Fromme** to the position of Assistant Professor/Extension Agronomist in Uvalde. Danny was previously employed as an Extension Agent - IPM in Wharton. He completed his Ph.D. this spring under Dr. Cothren.

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We're on the web!

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