



# ...A report to Soil & Crop Sciences Faculty by David Baltensperger

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I hope that many of you had a chance to catch the news this week and see Dr. Norman Borlaug as he accepted the Congressional Gold Medal from President Bush. The news has truly generated some wonderful press for Dr. Borlaug and soil and crop scientists everywhere. Thanks again and congratulations Dr. Borlaug!!



<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/07/20070717-1.html>

This past week I participated in the interview process for the RL position for the ARS cotton group here at College Station. We look forward to improving our long standing interaction with this group as the new RL is selected.

Many of our faculty participated in an outstanding field day at Beaumont where some

of the work of Drs. Lee Tarpley, Rodante Tabien, Gary McCullough and Mike Chandler were presented along with many other significant presentations. Congratulations to all on a fine tour.

Others of us were involved in discussion with Vice-Chancellor Murano to give her a sense of some of the activities in the department. I appreciate the participation of Steve Hague, Cristine Morgan, Gaylon Morgan, Tom Cothren, Jürg Blumenthal, Kevin McInnes, and Jacqueline Peterson.

This week I also had the opportunity to attend the Texas Turfgrass Association field tour held College Station. Congratulations to the TTA for such a fine tour.

We have been busy planning the initial move of the turf research area to the new area off of F&B road. All those with interest in turf research, extension and teaching are invited to a discussion on the initial plans for this move at 2:00 pm on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you are unable to attend and want to get specific ideas on the

table as we initiate the planning be sure to get your ideas to Richard White, Kurt Steinke or David Chalmers prior to August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

I have had the opportunity to work with the Texas A&M foundation on several projects over the past several weeks. Plans are well under way for this year's golf tournament at Dallas, which supports turfgrass research across the state. This year they are hoping for increased student and faculty participation in the event and it looks like things are in place to raise a record level of funds. We have also developed a plan for raising funds for the potential endowed forage chair, and are making progress on matching the commitments that the University made to the Waniska assistantship fund.

This week we (Dr. William Rooney) are hosting the Great Plains Sorghum Conference on Thursday and Friday. It will highlight much of our sorghum research in Texas along with special emphasis on our bio-energy efforts.

The soils critique was also held this week in Dallas, in-

# Aggie Agenda

volving many of our soil scientists in discussion about their research and priorities for the future. I am anxious for their report on new ideas.

Next week we plan to have a faculty advisory meeting so that I can gather some ideas on issues that need attention. Please share any of your ideas with a member of the faculty advisory board by Monday morning.

We continue our search for

an extension forage specialist at Overton. The search committee is set and they are preparing to initiate recruiting to refill Dr. Waniska's position.

## Congratulations!

Dr. Jacqueline Peterson is this issue's winner of the gold

housekeeping award for her organization and update efforts on her lab area.

David



**10th Annual  
Texas A&M Invitational Golf Tournament**

*Brookhaven Country Club in Dallas, Texas on September 9th & 10th*

- ♪ Maroon & White Evening - Sunday, September 9  
*Heavy hors d'oeuvres and wine, Silent & Live Auctions*
- ♪ Day of Tournament - Monday, September 10  
*Lunch, Tournament and Dinner & Awards Ceremony*

More details will be in the next Agenda




Brazos river crested again Monday with water seeping into many of the research fields on the farm.

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