



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

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Department of Soil and Crop Sciences

Aggie Agenda

Opportunities are increasing as several of our scientists recently received Sun, Monocot, Tx-Cot, Cropping Systems, NSF, NRI, EPA, industry, commodity board, and other grants. Congratulations to all of the successful teams. This might be a good time to think a bit about maintaining successful relationships with each granting agency by reviewing their reporting and publication notification requirements. Good project management is more than good science; it includes helping the funding entity meet their reporting requirements. I wish you the best of success with these grants and good luck in the search for additional funding.

The faculty advisory committee met on August 3rd to review some of the strategies for dealing with opportunities to serve our clientele in Northeast TX, the status of current position recruiting and what priorities we are seeking with the administration including federal and state initiatives. We hope to highlight the potential for increased aflatoxin research, an urban initiative and the potential for improved funding for nutrient management through an assessment program.

It appears that most of the curriculum reports are submitted. We will move forward rapidly to get the paper work done to change from AGRO to SCSC. We are developing plans to assess our curriculum late this summer for implementation during the

spring. Please consider how we might better assess the value of our curriculum in developing the next generation of Soil and Crop scientists.

The advisory group also discussed follow-up to our bio-energy discussions. Dr. Blumenthal will lead the web site development and Dr. Vietor will work to identify seminar speakers and topics for a bioenergy theme. Bio-energy continues to take a large amount of my daily planning time. This week we met with representatives from International Finance and Chevron. I am working to develop a draft for a longer term approach to management of the bioenergy efforts. If you have ideas please share them at this time.

The group even took a little time to discuss potential social activities to help tie the department together and we are currently planning a hot dog feed soon after classes start. We are also planning to celebrate this year at ASA - so save Tuesday evening for Aggie festivities.

We had a good discussion on several changes that might be implemented in the future. If you have ideas or suggestions for improving the department please let me or one of the advisory group members know. Some suggestions from our brainstorming included: development of a semi-annual success stories type of newsletter, development of a

course with mass appeal, contemporary instrumentation for our research including a centralized core facility for molecular markers.

I hope to have the opportunity to get to know each of you a bit better over the next few months and on that note, I hope to have small group social events over the next several months, beginning with the assistant professors. I look forward to meeting with all of you during this time period.

International Programs is currently recruiting for an Associate Director. Dr. Runge chairs, and I serve on this committee. On the 25th we narrowed the candidate pool to four. We look forward to increased linkages with the department as this position is filled.

A good portion of my time is being vested in developing long-term potential donors to the department. Many of these interactions are kept quiet, some wish to be more open about their search. Please recognize that while not much of this can be discussed openly that many of you will be called on over time to meet with potential donors. Thanks for your cooperation.

Congratulations to Benjamin Beyer who was just named to the C. Everette Salyer Fellowship in Cotton Research to support his Ph.D. program. The proposed research (Measurable



TEXAS A&M
AGRICULTURE

Future Events

August 10
Graduation

August 23
Small Grains Meeting
Dallas

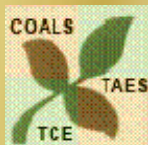
August 27
Beginning of Fall Semester

Aug. 28 - 30
PU 790 Retreat
Camp Allen

Sept. 5 & 6
Texas Biodiesel Conference
Austin

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traits from various physiological characteristics to determine those that would be most useful to plant breeders developing drought resistant cultivars, and potential cover crops for increased water retention in the soil and effects they would serve for cotton production) is particularly relevant to the Texas and US cotton industries. The Fellowship is in the amount of \$20,000.00 per year and will be available beginning September 1, 2007.

A farewell BBQ for Bill Ocumpaugh is planned for the late afternoon and evening on September 8, 2007 at the Pogue AgriPartners Lake Farm in Kenedy, TX. The location is 6 miles west on Hwy 72 from Kenedy. Please RSVP the number attending to mjgreen@ag.tamu.edu or cacardwell@ag.tamu.edu no later than August 20, 2007. *Please see attached information.*

Contributions toward a gift will be

accepted at TAES - Beeville, 3507 Hwy 59 E., Beeville, TX 78102. If paying by check or money order, please make it payable to Marsha Green.

Get Well:

Jennifer Moore is recovering from a snake bite received while working in the cotton fields this week.

Dr. Chandler is recovering from a recent eye surgery that will keep his activities minimized for at least three weeks.

Betty Priest is recovering from surgery.

Congratulations:

Dr. Provin and his family on the arrival of their new baby girl.

Welcome:

We would like to welcome Tiffany Green to the department. She is the new administrative secretary in

the instruction office.

Next week I plan to get to Dallas and Stephenville to review opportunities in North Texas and to develop plans for the Texas A&M Invitational Golf Tournament. Please see the attached flier for your opportunity to participate in the Maroon and White evening as well as the Golf Tournament on Sunday, September 9 and Monday, September 10.

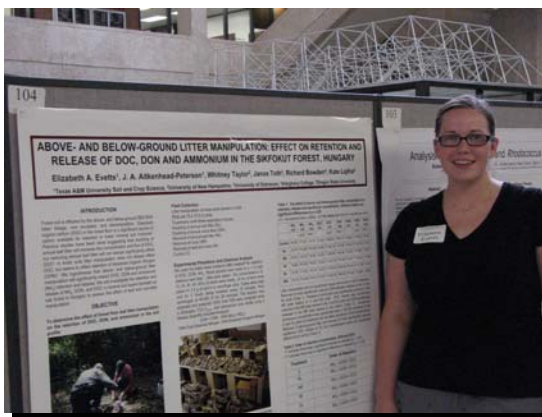


Congratulations!

This issue's winner of the "Gold Housekeeping Award" is the old farm service area. Thanks to all who have pitched in and helped to clean up this area. Let's all make an effort to keep this area organized and continue to make further improvements.

David

Department Activity



Elizabeth Evetts presented a poster at the Undergraduate Research Reception.

We're on the web!
<http://soilcrop.tamu.edu>