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A big thanks to all that made the Aggie Gathering at the tri-societies so much fun. It was a great side event to the scientific activities that our faculty, staff and students were so engaged in. Congratulations to all our award recipients. Our chili cook-off was a great success this year.

As this goes to press I will have just returned from the APLU (Association of Public and Landgrant Universities) meeting in Austin, Texas. It provided insight on how others are dealing with issues facing Universities as we face the future.

The World Food Prize and Borlaug Dialogue were great events. It is always rewarding to see that the legacy of Dr. Borlaug lives on. Dr. Runge is traveling to India at this time to share the vision and impact of the Beachell-Borlaug scholars program.

A special thanks to all that have supported our department over the past year. As we approach our annual Thanksgiving feast on Tuesday, November 22 we have much to be thankful for. I will be sharing in the feast from Amarillo as we are working to wrap up reviews for Amarillo and Vernon prior to Dr. Sweeten's retirement.

Students Attend Borlaug Symposium

Dr. Runge and the Monsanto Beachell/Borlaug Scholars traveled to the Norman E. Borlaug International Symposium in Des Moines, Iowa in October.

While in Iowa the group toured the Monsanto-Ankeny facility where several presented their research.

The Symposium is a three day conference which highlights cutting-edge issues in global food security and nutrition. It brings together farmers, researchers, business executives and policy makers from more than 60 countries.

The conference is held each year in conjunction with the awarding of the World Food Prize, which was originally envisioned by Dr. Borlaug.
Dr. Nithya Rajan and her colleagues believe organic grain and soybean crops have an enormous opportunity to satisfy demand for specialty feed for a growing niche livestock industry in Texas.

Rajan, a Texas A&M AgriLife Research crop physiologist in the soil and crop sciences department at College Station, recently received a three-year, $475,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant to study organic grain and soybean cropping systems.

Joining Rajan on this project are Dr. Muthu Bagavathiannan, AgriLife Research weed scientist, and Dr. Ronnie Schnell, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service cropping systems specialist, all in the Texas A&M department soil and crop sciences department in College Station.

Sam Houston State University will also be involved with the economics and social survey work, she said.

“Pathway to Organic: A Research, Extension and Education Project in the Southeast U.S. on Transitioning Cropping Systems” came about after the group’s discussion with an organic feed mill owner who described difficulties sourcing organic grain to meet the demands for certified organic feed products.

Texas lags behind in organic crop production, she said, and that has become a problem for the organic livestock sector of the state that is looking for grain crops such as corn and sorghum.

“Limited information on organic farming practices is available to producers in Texas, especially for large-scale grain production,” Rajan said. “Our goal is to identify organic cropping systems and management techniques for successful production of organic grain crops in Texas.”

Rajan said they have other specific goals with this study, including a greater understanding of the influence of organic management practices on nutrient cycling, greenhouse gas emissions, weed dynamics, water-yield relations and soil health.

“One goal of the project is to determine if there is an advantage for climate change mitigation by migrating to cropping systems that utilize cover crops and conservation tillage,” she said.

Weed control and nutrient management are major concerns for organic grain producers, Bagavathiannan said.

“We aim to develop best management practices for weed suppression and nutrient management through sound integration of fall-planted cover crops such as cowpeas and cereal rye-hairy vetch mixtures;” he said. “A unique treatment is double-cover cropping with a 60-day cowpea, followed by the cereal rye-hairy vetch mixture.”

Bagavathiannan said with a long growing season after crop harvest in southern Texas, “these cover crops will help reduce seed production from pigweeds and other summer-annual weeds that emerge after crop harvest, in addition to their value in weed suppression during the main grain crop production.”

The cowpea also is the first component of an intensive cover crop system to meet nitrogen demand, he said. The team hopes these practices optimize both productivity and profitability of organic grain cropping systems, specifically corn, grain sorghum and soybeans.

The final step will be for Schnell to develop an educational and outreach program for efficient transfer of project results to the various stakeholders. He will organize training efforts on the certification process, farm plan development, environmental benefits and best management strategies.

The project will include conducting a three-year field study and a two-year demonstration in a farmer’s field.
The Texas High Plains high winds are known for causing more than just bad hair days; they are a major contributor to the spread of wheat curl mite-transmitted viral diseases in wheat.

Cultural control is not very effective because the wind can spread the mites and thus devastating diseases such as wheat streak mosaic virus, said Dr. Shuyu Liu, Texas A&M AgriLife Research small grains geneticist in Amarillo.

In a paper, Wheat Curl Mite Resistance in Hard Winter Wheat in the U.S. Great Plains, published recently in Crop Science journal, the wheat genetics research team at Amarillo led by Liu outlined how the better control will come through genetics.

In addition to the wheat genetics team, the work was supplemented by the pathology program led by Dr. Charlie Rush, the wheat breeding program by Dr. Jackie Rudd and the physiology program led by Dr. Qingwu Xue, all in Amarillo.

The genetics research team attacked the problem with a two-pronged approach – study the mites to determine what they attack the hardest and study the wheat varieties to see which provide the most resistance and what prompts that resistance.

In the study, he said, they applied molecular techniques to differentiate the various mite collections from different regions. They identified one Texas collection virulent to wheat lines with rye translocations, and determined wheat varieties with only the rye chromosome fragment will be susceptible.

His team applied molecular techniques to identify the genes within the wheat that provided the mite resistance. That resulted in a newly validated protocol used to screen hard winter wheat lines and cultivars for resistance to the wheat curl mite.

“In our screening, there were relatively high numbers of wheat lines from the Texas A&M breeding program that exhibited resistance to the wheat curl mite, which was mainly due to the utilization of TAM 112 sources in the crosses,” Liu said.

TAM 112 is a popular cultivar for its drought tolerance and had been identified by the Texas A&M wheat breeding program as having resistance to wheat curl mite and wheat streak mosaic virus under field conditions.

Through the newly developed protocol, Liu’s team determined that TAM 112 and its derived lines, including TAM 204, have the resistance gene from Aegilops tauschii, an annual goatgrass that is an ancestor of bread wheat.

Both Aegilops tauschii and the rye influence provide TAM 112’s wheat curl mite resistance, he said. The one from rye doesn’t work against some of the wheat curl mite populations in Texas, but it does have value in many field situations.

This research clears up some confusion as to why some TAM 112 progeny were not consistently resistant. Only the Aegilops tauschii gene gives resistance to the most prevalent wheat curl mite strain.

Now wheat breeders can develop other wheat curl mite-resistant varieties by using genetic markers to get the most effective gene and avoid testing lines with inconsistent resistance, he said.
New program offered by AgriLife Extension at annual farm show

By: Kay Ledbetter

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be offering something a little different at this year’s Panhandle Farm and Ranch Management Symposium during the Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show, Nov. 29-Dec. 1.

“We are calling the program RRAD as it emphasizes Researched, Relevant information provided by AgriLife and encourages Discussion and interaction,” said Danny Nusser, AgriLife Extension regional program leader in Amarillo.

The RRAD program will be in the Grand Plaza of the Amarillo Civic Center, 401 S. Buchanan St. in Amarillo. It will follow the annual Amarillo Chamber of Commerce luncheon, beginning at approximately 1 p.m. and concluding around 5 p.m.

“This program is designed to allow producers an opportunity to gain research-based, relevant knowledge on topics important to them,” Nusser said. “In addition, we will focus on allowing producers time to interact and share experiences related to these topics and get questions answered.”

Producers will have a choice of six sessions they can attend. Each session will be 1 hour and 15 minutes. At the conclusion of each session, producers can move to a different location and topic.

“Some sessions will be repeated and some will only be offered in one time slot, so producers will need to pick and choose what they want to hear about,” Nusser said. “We will be offering speakers and discussions on six different topics during each session and will rotate three times. This allows producers to hear about three topics in the afternoon.

“This presentation approach allows producers to attend the sessions of interest and come and go as they please,” he said. “We felt like this new approach could meet individual needs for information and time. It also allows producers to contribute to the discussion about their experiences and opinions related to each topic.”

The program is being sponsored by Texas Wheat Producers, Plains Cotton Growers, Texas Sorghum Producers and Texas Corn Producers, so there will not be a registration fee, Nusser said.

There will be the potential for up to three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units in the areas of laws and regulations, integrated pest management and general. The CEU’s will only be offered for those topics focusing on issues related to pesticides.

The following is a list of the stations, topics and AgriLife Extension personnel who will be speaking during each of the three rotations:

Station 1 — Crop Market Outlook and Opportunities – Dr. Steve Amosson, economist, Amarillo; J.R. Sprague, county agent, Lipscomb County; and Scott Strawn, county agent, Ochiltree County.

Station 2 — Texas Department of Agriculture Laws and Regulations – Austin Voyles, county agent, Potter County; and Rick Auckerman, county agent, Deaf Smith County.
— Cotton Variety Selection for Northern Counties – Dr. Seth Byrd, cotton agronomist, Lubbock; Voyles; and Auckerman.
— Texas Department of Agriculture Laws and Regulations – Voyles and Auckerman.

Station 3 — Sunflower Production, Dr. Calvin Trostle, agronomist, Lubbock; and Mike Bragg, county agent, Dallam and Hartley counties.
— Grasshopper Biology, Control and Potential Damage – Dr. Ed Bynum, entomologist, Amarillo; Marcel Fischbacher, county agent, Moore County; and Bragg.
— Corn Hybrid Options – Silage, Feed Corn, etc. – Dr. Jourdan Bell, agronomist, Amarillo; and Fischbacher.

Station 4 — Current Issues and Future Farm Bill Decisions – Commodity organization representatives and Dr. J. D. Ragland, county agent, Randall County.
— Current Issues and Future Farm Bill Decisions – Commodity organization representatives and Ragland.
— Current Issues and Future Farm Bill Decisions – Commodity organization representatives and Ragland.

Station 5 — Wheat Fungicide Chemistry and Mode of Action – Dr. Ron French, plant pathologist, Amarillo; J.R. Sprague, county agent, Lipscomb County; and Scott Strawn, county agent, Ochiltree County.
— Financial Tech Tools in Agriculture – DeDe Jones, risk management specialist, Amarillo; and Bradford.
— Financial Tech Tools in Agriculture – Jones and Bradford.

Station 6 — Stocker Cattle Health/Supplementation Opportunities – Dr. Ted McCollum, beef cattle specialist, Amarillo; and Dale Dunlap, county agent, Wheeler County.
— Stocker Cattle Health/Supplementation Opportunities – McCollum and Dunlap.

For more information, contact Nusser at 806-677-5600 or the local AgriLife Extension county agent.
Unique data for forage sorghums, including varying feed values and management needs of different hybrids, is coming out of a Texas A&M AgriLife trial being conducted near Bushland.

“On the Texas High Plains, forage sorghums are a very good fit with the livestock industry, especially as dairy and beef cattle forage needs increase at the same time as we become water-limited across the Ogallala Aquifer region,” said Dr. Jourdan Bell, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agronomist in Amarillo.

Forage sorghums are a drought-tolerant, water-efficient alternative to corn, Bell said.

“While corn is often the silage of choice because of its feed value, forage sorghums have a feed value 80 to 90 percent of corn, if managed properly,” she said.

“However, producers are recognizing that we are really going to have to manage our forage sorghums for optimum quality and production, even more so now with the additional concerns about the sugarcane aphid.”

Bell said the data from the forage sorghum trials on a cooperative farmer’s land near Bushland will be unique because she is working with Dr. Ed Bynum, AgriLife Extension entomologist, and Dr. Ted McCollum, AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist, to evaluate the effect of the sugarcane aphid pressure on forage sorghum production and quality.

“There is such a vast difference in production and quality between sorghum types and hybrids, so it’s really important that we evaluate different forage sorghums specifically for silage to help producers optimize not only their production with regards to tonnage but also the quality at harvest.”

That’s where the value of the forage sorghum trial, currently in its third year, comes in, Bell said. Her work is a continuation of long-term research conducted at Bushland for over 15 years.

The Bushland forage sorghum trial includes over 100 different sorghum hybrids, including forage and grain sorghum types.

Measurements are being taken for yield and quality at harvest, she said. While finished silage is ultimately a result of the product used, it is important the end users recognize that the quality of the silage also can be affected by their management.

Bell, who also has a Texas A&M AgriLife Research appointment, is conducting a secondary study, funded by the Texas Grain Sorghum Board, to evaluate ensiling duration with a select forage sorghum. She will be aided in the research by a West Texas A&M University graduate student.
“We are looking at forage that has been ensiled for 30, 60 and 120 days to optimize the feed value — both digestibility and carbohydrate availability — for a forage sorghum that has been processed with both a cracked and uncracked berry.”

Another area of concern for the end user is the grain processing, she said. Often times the sorghum berry is not cracked when it is ensiled, which can reduce the feed value and the carbohydrate availability.

“So we are looking at forages where the berry has been cracked as well as where it has been unprocessed, so we can see how ensiling duration might affect the feed value,” Bell said. “Ultimately, the silage is only going to be as good as the forage that was used and how that was managed.”

One added challenge this year has been sugarcane aphids, she said.

“We have sprayed sugarcane aphids twice throughout the growing season, however, there is concern that there are potential reductions in both yield and quality. So we have a very timely opportunity to evaluate its effect on production and quality of the forage.”

Bell said several different forage sorghum hybrids have been infested at different levels with sugarcane aphids, and will be ensiled to determine the effect of sugarcane aphid level of infestation on that end-use product.

“That’s something that is very unique,” she said. “At this time, there is nobody else who will have that data.”

Bell reminded producers that just because forage sorghums are drought tolerant, that does not necessarily mean they can avoid irrigation. Forage sorghums managed for optimum production can use three-tenths to four-tenths of an inch of water per day at periods of peak water demand on the Texas High Plains.

“So it is up to the producer to determine what their yield goal is, what maturity class they need to plant and how they are going to manage that crop to optimize production,” she said. “Of course, with that, they need to know what their end user wants – just roughage or something with a greater feed value.”

Bell said harvest continues on the forage sorghum trial, with results expected in a month or so. The optimum harvest for forage sorghums is at soft dough, but this trial includes multiple maturity classes and forage types. They range from early maturing hybrids to the photoperiod-sensitive hybrids that do not initiate heading until the day length is less than 12.5 hours, or around mid-October on the Texas High Plains.

“This has really extended the harvest times and slightly delayed the complete data collection,” she said.

The complete set of data will be posted online at http://amarillo.tamu.edu under the Agronomy tab in the next couple months.

To listen to an interview with Dr. Bell:

Click Here

or go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPjPD4DjuaA&feature=youtu.be
Individuals from Texas A&M University were recognized during the “Resilience Emerging from Scarcity and Abundance” international annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America.

The annual meeting of the three societies was held Nov. 6-9 in Phoenix, Arizona, with more than 4,000 attendees expected. The annual awards are presented for outstanding contributions to agronomy through education, national and international service, and research.

“It reflects the stature of our department nationally to have so many Texas A&M AgriLife scientists honored with these prestigious awards,” said Dr. David Baltensperger, soil and crop sciences department head in College Station.

**Dr. David Stelly** was recognized as a Crop Science Society of America Fellow. He is a professor of cytogenetics, genetics, genomics and plant breeding in the soil and crop sciences department with a joint appointment to Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M in College Station.

Stelly graduated with a bachelor's from the University of Wisconsin, a master's in plant breeding and cytogenetics from Iowa State University, and doctorate in plant breeding and genetics from the University of Wisconsin.

The award citation stated he is internationally recognized for cotton cytogenetics, cytogenomics, reproductive cytology, genetics, applied genomics and wide-cross breeding research.

He has authored over 150 peer-reviewed articles, and has held leadership positions in domestic and international organizations that increased the vivaciousness of plant breeding research and education, and ushered forth quantum leaps in cotton genomics.

Stelly is active in Crop Science Society of America, International Cotton Genome Initiative, National Association of Plant Breeders, and a member of others. He served as a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee that recently published a review on genetically engineered crops.

**Dr. Jane Dever,** an AgriLife Research cotton geneticist in Lubbock, was named as an American Society of Agronomy Fellow.

According to the award recognition, Dever, as the Cotton Improvement Program project leader in Lubbock, is a recognized expert on seed and germplasm issues. Her research focus includes developing new and differentiated germplasm with enabling technology, and screening exotic germplasm collections for native traits to be used in breeding cotton.

She has co-developed over 30 cultivars and 32 germplasm lines, mentored graduate students and visiting scientists, and authored 26 peer-reviewed and 118 professional publications.

Dever is a recipient of two Vice Chancellor’s Awards in Excellence, the Cotton Genetics Research Award, organic cotton Golden Hoe Award and Blue Legacy Award in Agriculture.

She earned her bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate all from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, with concentrations in textile technology and management, crop science and agronomy, respectively. She has been with AgriLife Research since 2008, working previously with Bayer CropScience.

Continued on next page
**Dr. Steve Hague**, associate professor of cotton genetics and breeding in the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Cotton Improvement Lab in College Station, will be receiving the Crop Science Teaching Award from Crop Science Society of America. Hague earned his bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University-Commerce, a master's degree from Texas Tech University and a doctorate from Texas A&M University. He was a cotton and soybean agronomist at the Louisiana State University AgCenter, and a transgenic cotton breeder for Bayer CropScience before joining Texas A&M University in 2006.

Hague's award recognition states that through his teaching appointment, he teaches conventional undergraduate courses – plant breeding and genetics, and international cropping systems.

He has trained a dozen graduate students and led several high-impact learning experiences for undergraduate students such as study abroad programs to Mexico and Australia, internships, undergraduate research and crops judging.

He has been an invited speaker at national and international teaching conferences, and served and chaired on multiple ASA and CSSA educational committees as well as committees for his department and university.

**Dr. Sam Feagley**, AgriLife Extension state soil and environmental specialist in College Station, was presented the Agronomic Resident Education Award.

Feagley earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Texas A&M and his doctorate from the University of Missouri. He has received the Irrometer Award and is an Agronomy Fellow. He has received numerous teaching awards from Louisiana State University and Texas A&M.

Feagley is known nationally and internationally for his research in nutrient management from organic and inorganic nutrient applications, land reclamation of surface-mined lands, saline/sodic soil remediation and revision of the Texas Phosphorus Index, according to the award documentation. He has authored over 50 peer-reviewed publications.

During his career, he has garnered over $3.7 million in grant funding; chaired five doctoral students, 11 master in science and three master in agriculture students; served on 24 doctoral, 26 master in science and three master in agriculture committees, and taught over 2,400 students through seven undergraduate courses and three graduate courses since 1979. Additionally, he has taught over 14,300 people through Extension programs since 1994.

**William Peebles**, a senior plant and environmental soil science major at Texas A&M, was recognized by the Golden Opportunity Scholars Institute through the Agronomic Science Foundation.

This scholars program matches undergraduates with scientist mentors. The program encourages students to pursue careers in the agronomic, crop and soil sciences. It is supported by the Golden Opportunity Fund through the Agronomic Science Foundation.

Peebles works at the Texas A&M Cotton Improvement Lab, where he assists with cotton breeding efforts and conducts undergraduate research, and is the merchandise coordinator for the Texas A&M Agronomy Club.

Following completion of his bachelor’s degree, Peebles plans to pursue a master's degree in plant breeding, according to his award information. He hopes to be a plant breeder one day for a university or a non-profit organization with the goal of improving food security.
Good late-summer rains improved conditions for cotton in the Rolling and High Plains regions of Texas and likely mean an above-average crop for 2016, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts.

Dr. Seth Byrd, AgriLife Extension cotton agronomist, Lubbock, said cotton harvests in two top cotton producing regions began on a small scale a few weeks ago but should ramp up soon. So far, the cotton fields there look better than expected.

"Producers had low expectations for dryland fields because of a hot, dry July, but they seem happy with where the crop is at this point," he said.

Byrd said leaf grades, which are determined by the amount of plant material left in lint, was a big issue last year. With about 4,000 bales ginned, Byrd said this year’s small sampling of cotton showed leaf grades in the 2-3 range.

"It's pretty clean cotton so far," he said.

Dr. Gaylon Morgan, AgriLife Extension state cotton specialist, College Station, visited the Rolling Plains last week and said overall, fields represented "one of the better crops they've had in quite some time."

“They caught some more timely rains than previous years and the dryland crop looks like it could be 25 percent better than average, especially in the Northern Rolling Plains.”

Not enough cotton had been harvested to give a good indication about fiber quality, Morgan said.

He said there were issues with weather, pests and diseases. Hail storms led to substantial damage for isolated fields, and stink bugs surprised producers by the amount of damage they caused in some areas. Bacterial blight also impacted production in some of the northern tier counties of the Rolling Plains.

Byrd and Morgan said irrigated fields looked very good and the rainfall also reduced irrigation costs. Morgan estimated 10-15 percent of dryland fields were defoliated, while irrigated and late-planted fields still had a significant number of green bolls.

Morgan said temperatures were at or above 90 degrees and were expected to remain in the region for a while before cooler temperatures return. Fields in the Rolling Plains were planted later than usual due to late May rains, and fields in the High Plains, which are typically harvested late, could be later than usual also.

There remains some concern of frost for some late maturing cotton, Byrd said.

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**Arbor Day Celebration**

The Texas A&M Soil and Water Conservation Society - Student Chapter hosted a booth during the Celebration of Arbor Day event.

Society President Ellen Pennington (ESSM), pictured, Vice President Vanessa Limon (SCSC) and David Bryant (SCSC) and assisted with the booth.

Dr. Jacqui Aitkenhead-Peterson is one of the group’s faculty advisors.

The event was organized by the Texas A&M Tree Campus USA committee.
Agricultural Sustainability in a Challenging Marketplace will be the keynote luncheon theme during the 55th Blackland Income Growth Conference Dec. 13 at the Extraco Events Center, 4601 Bosque Blvd. in Waco.

The conference is sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Waco Chamber of Commerce.

Julie Borlaug, associate director of external relations at the Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture at Texas A&M University in College Station, will be the keynote luncheon speaker.

“...The BIG Conference features a number of commodity sessions including beef, horse, horticulture, cotton grain, rural land management, forage and wildlife designed to help producers improve profitability and enhance stewardship practices,” said Robin Liebe, conference chair and McLennan County agriculture producer.

The Mid-Texas Farm and Ranch show will also be held in conjunction with the conference showcasing the latest in farm and ranch equipment, seed, chemicals and ag-related services and technologies.

Registration on Dec. 13 to attend all commodity sessions is $20 and includes lunch. On Dec. 14, a BIG Recertification will be held and cost is $60 and includes lunch. Call 254-757-5180 to preregister or $70 at the door.

A private applicator training will also be held. Cost is $75 with lunch included. To pre-register, call 254-582-4022.

For complete schedule of sessions and speakers, download the conference brochure at http://bit.ly/17IGNEB.

To read Blair Fannin’s complete article Click Here.
Agronomy Students Represent well at SASES

Several undergraduate students from the Soil and Crop Sciences Department travelled to Phoenix, Arizona, last week for the Students of Agronomy, Soil and Environmental Sciences (SASES) meeting held in conjunction with the annual meetings for CSSA, SSSA and ASA.

Sydney O’Daniel, Matthew Wilhelm and Lorena Valle teamed up to take first place in the poster contest with their poster illustrating the “Aggie Corn Maze for Agricultural Outreach”.

Payne Whatley teamed up with two students from Minnesota and a student from Colorado to become Quiz Bowl Champions, defeating several teams, including the Aggie team made up of Lorena Valle, Rory Tucker, Jonathan Prieto and Wilhelm.

Whatley also placed third in the speaking contest, and gave a presentation about the Aggie Agronomy Society activities.
This year over 3,800 people visited the Corn Maze. The maze is a student-run event put on by the TAMU Agronomy Society.
Soil and Crop held a raffle and the first Chili Cook-off as part of the university's charity campaign. There were twelve entries in the cook-off, with entries ranging from a ghost pepper hot meat chili to a vegetarian chili made with assorted greens.

Dr. Doug Steele, AgriLife Extension Director, Sandra Lorenz of the Brazos Valley Food Bank, and Chad Lester, a local firefighter, served as judges. Winners of the chili cook-off were:

1st - Alisa Hairston
2nd - Brian Pfeiffer and Amani Kyanam
3rd - Jonathan Moreno and Brady Grant.

Joni Fields-Surovik and Carol Rhodes were the raffle winners.

The combined efforts raised $656 which will go to the Food Bank. The organizing committee, led by Barbara Childress, are looking forward to the second annual cook-off next fall.

In Sympathy and Concern

Please keep these members of our Soil and Crop Sciences family in your thoughts and prayers.

Dr. Robert Lemon (former State Cotton Extension Specialist) and his family as they mourn the loss of his mother, Rosa “Lillie” Lemon, 92, of Caldwell. Lillie passed away November 11. Visitation and a Rosary were held Nov. 13, with funeral services Monday, Nov. 14.

Sarah Ajayi and her family as they mourn the loss of her father, Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Ajayi. Dr. Ajayi was the Archbishop of Lagos state (retired) in the Methodist Church in Nigeria. He passed away at the Methodist Hospital in Sugarland Nov. 9. Sarah is a graduate student working on her Ph.D. in Agronomy with Dr. Amir Ibrahim.

Dr. B.B. Singh as he recovers from a recent surgery.

Dr. Fred Miller as he recovers from a recent stroke. The stroke did not impact him physically, but greatly impacted his speech and understanding. He is currently undergoing therapy to recover his speech.
Retirement Reception

honoring

S. Delroy Collins

Wednesday, December 7
3:00 p.m.
Heep 440

Delroy is retiring after more than 40 years of sorghum research in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences and the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology. Please take this opportunity to wish him the best as he begins a new phase of his life.

Department of Soil and Crop Sciences
November
5 - 10 - ASA - CSSA - SSSA Meeting - Phoenix, AZ
8 - ASA-CSSA-SSSA Aggie Mixer - 5:30 pm - Hard Rock Cafe - Phoenix AZ
18 - Leadership and Legacy
21-22 - Annual Reviews - Amarillo and Vernon
22 - Annual Turkey Dinner
29 - Commodity Classic
29 - Dec. 1 - Amarillo Farm and Ranch Show
November 30 - Dec. 2 - Texas State Support Committee Project Review Meeting - Lubbock

December
1 - College Holiday Social
3-5 - CSSP - Washington D.C.
6-7 - Texas Plant Protection Conference - Bryan-College Station
8-9 - America Seed Trade Assn. - Chicago, IL
13 - 15 - Texas Turfgrass Annual Conference and Show - San Antonio
13 - Blackland Income Growth Conference - Waco
16 - College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Graduation - 2:00 p.m.
19 - Faculty Meeting - 1:30 p.m. - Dr. Elsa Murano presenting

January
4-6 - Beltwide Cotton Conference - Dallas, TX
9 - 13 - AgriLife Conference - TAMU campus, College Station
11 - Department Awards - Annual Faculty/Staff Meeting 1:15  Heep 101
16-17 - Turfgrass Producers of Texas - Premier Best Western, Bryan TX
18 - Global Pulse Day - more info at http://pulses.org/global-pulse-day
January 31-Feb 2 - Texas/Oklahoma Cotton Physiology Meeting - College Station Hilton

Save the Date
Feb. 9-11 - Plant Science Research Network - Phenomics, Tuscon, AZ
Feb.11 - Aggieland Saturday
Feb 16-20 - AAAS Annual Meeting - Boston, MA
Feb. 17 - Plant Breeding Symposium - MSC
Feb. 28 - Inventory Completion Goal