



AgEco Friday Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



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You're invited to the
GROUND BREAKING
OF
THE GARDENS
AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

June 17, 2016 at 2:00 PM

Upcoming Events

June

17th-The Gardens Ground-Breaking Ceremony
19th-Father's Day

July

4th-Independence Day
Holiday

Rosson's Roundup

As we approach the Summer Solstice (June 20, 5:34 p.m.), it's time to crank up the AC and try to stay cool. We had a remarkably wet Spring, with much cool weather. It's over. And the onslaught of heat and humidity begins.

Earlier this week I attended the Inaugural Gulf Shipping Conference in Houston. Monday evening's reception was followed by a full day Tuesday that discussed some interesting aspects of what's affecting port growth and economic development Houston and the surrounding areas. The growth of plastics production and export via Houston to developing Asia took center stage for most of the morning. This entire industry centers on the production and separation of the components of natural gas, of which Texas has much. The lack of road/rail transportation and related infrastructure were cited as the most limiting constraints to growth and the success of the plant expansions and construction now taking place. The need for High Capacity Corridors leading into and out of the ports in the Houston area is one possible solution that will not only allow each truck to transport more weight, but will distribute that weight more evenly across the truck's axels and lead to less wear and tear on road surfaces. Even if this is not approved in the near term, expect to see up to 500 more containers moving on Texas roads daily in the very near future. This new cargo translates into at least 250 more trucks on the road each day. Most of the afternoon was devoted to a discuss of the importance and efficiency of being able to use both truck and rail to manage greater volumes of cargo and minimize damage to infrastructure. We also had a panel discussion on Cuba in which I participated. My main message was that over time, with political and economic improvements, a market can be developed there. For now, it's difficult and fraught with regulation, leading many potential exporters to become discouraged and give up. But to succeed, we need to maintain a presence in the market and keep Texas products in front of Cuban buyers. The final session was a roundtable discussion by some of the ports in the Gulf: Tampa Bay, Alabama, Houston and New Orleans. The main focus was on being ready for the Panama Canal Expansion, which is going to happen this summer. This was an excellent event and well attended by about 275 port officials, ocean, rail and road carriers and exporters.

Thursday, Norma Pantoja and I attended the first University Police Department workshop on Campus Carry. It was a very informative session and if you plan to carry a handgun on campus, I'd urge you to attend one of the upcoming sessions.

The search for a new department head in Animal Science is underway and Thursday at noon I had the chance to meet with the first of three candidates, Dr. Michael Looper who is currently the department head at the University of Arkansas. The other two will be here on June 30 and July 7. They are Dr.s Kevin Pond (Head, Colorado State) and Cliff Lamb (Asst. Director of NFREC at University of Florida).

Finally, a note of general interest: Vernie Glasson, Executive Director, Texas Farm Bureau will retire June 30 after 43 years of service. Si Cook will be taking over as the new Executive Director at that time. Please congratulate them both.

Have a great weekend and try to stay cool!

Upcoming Birthdays

Richard Conner	6/22
Dean McCorkle	7/3
Lora Monsees	7/5
Ron Knutson	7/12
Caroline Gleaton	7/14



**2016 AGECE Project
Group Meetings
July 13 – 15, 2016
La Torretta Lake Resort
Montgomery, Texas**

Position Announcements

EXTENSION AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST, KANSAS FARM MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, SOUTH-EAST This is a joint appointment between KFMA SE and K-State Research and Extension. Kansas Farm Management Association, Southeast (KFMA SE), with offices in El Dorado, Chanute, and Ottawa, Kansas, provides a farm business analysis educational program to member farm families in a 20 county area. Principal crops are soybeans, corn, wheat, hay/forage and grain sorghum. This is also a livestock intensive area of Kansas. Average farm size is 2,200 acres. LOCATION: Chanute, Kansas. RESPONSIBILITIES: Plan and develop an Extension educational farm business management program for commercial farms cooperating with the Farm Management Association in Southeast Kansas. Provide technical expertise to the area Extension educational program in farm management. APPLICATION DATE: Screening of applications will begin on July 18, 2016, and will continue until the position is filled. Please submit a cover letter, resume, three reference letters, and all official transcripts to assure a review. The starting date is on or after August 15, 2016 and is negotiable with the KFMA, SE Board of Directors and KFMA Executive Director. Send cover letter, resume, and official transcripts; and, arrange for three letters of reference to be sent. Application material may be sent electronically to Mary Hunninghake (mhunningh@ksu.edu) For more information, contact: Kevin Herbel, Executive Director, Kansas Farm Management Association Program. Office/Mobile: (785)532-8706; or, e-mail: kherbel@ksu.edu. The KFMA program website is www.AgManager.info/KFMA

EXTENSION AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST, KANSAS FARM MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, NORTH-EAST This is a joint appointment between KFMA NE and K-State Research and Extension. Kansas Farm Management Association, Northeast (KFMA NE), with offices in Holton, Hiawatha and Council Grove, Kansas, provides a farm business analysis educational program to member farm families in a 16 county area. Principal crops are soybeans, corn, wheat, alfalfa hay and other forages. This is also a livestock intensive area of Kansas. Average farm size is 1,700 acres. LOCATION: Council Grove, Kansas. RESPONSIBILITIES: Plan and develop an Extension educational farm business management program for commercial farms cooperating with the Farm Management Association in Northeast Kansas. Provide technical expertise to the area Extension educational program in farm management. APPLICATION DATE: Screening of applications will begin on July 18, 2016, and will continue until the position is filled. Please submit a cover letter, resume, three reference letters, and all official transcripts to assure a review. The starting date is on or after August 15, 2016 and is negotiable with the KFMA, NE Board of Directors and KFMA Executive Director. Send cover letter, resume, and official transcripts; and, arrange for three letters of reference to be sent. Application material may be sent electronically to Mary Hunninghake (mhunningh@ksu.edu) For more information, contact: Kevin Herbel, Executive Director, Kansas Farm Management Association Program. Office/Mobile: (785)532-8706; or, e-mail: kherbel@ksu.edu. The KFMA program website is www.AgManager.info/KFMA

[Click here for more position announcements](#)

Faculty, staff, and graduate students are encouraged to submit articles and photos on current events

Deadline for all submissions is noon, Thursday.

Please send your information to valnoyes@tamu.edu