TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

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Patterson to tour Kenaf Ranch, draw attention to fiber's sustainable potential

AUSTIN — Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, will tour Kenaf Ranch, northwest of Lasara at 2 p.m. Friday, May 1 to view a demonstration of how this sustainable fiber-crop can help ease the impact of oil and gas exploration on Permanent School Fund lands.

"This crop has the potential to not only help minimize the impact of oil and gas production on state lands, it might even earn some money for the state's Permanent School Fund," Patterson said. "I'm very interested in exploring the potential."

Kenaf Boards & Butanol LLC, will demonstrate what it takes to grow kenaf and produce road mats that are already being used in the Texas oil fields.

Kenaf has been grown for both seed and fiber on a commercial basis since 1981. In 2000, more than 8,000 acres were planted in the Rio Grande Valley and over 100 local farmers have grown kenaf at least once, according to Kenaf Boards & Butanol LLC president Charles S. Taylor. Taylor said the crop has great potential for Texas.

"Current efforts are focused on using kenaf fibers to make engineered composites that can be used in unique environmentally sound projects that benefit Texans," Taylor said. "Progress is also being made on the conversion of some of the kenaf fibers into a quality transport fuel called Butanol."

WHO:	**Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office**
WHAT:	**Tour of Kenaf Ranch and a demonstration of how this sustainable fiber-crop can help ease the impact of oil and gas exploration on state lands**
WHERE:	**Kenaf Ranch, northwest of Lasara (see attached map)**
WHEN:	**2 p.m. Friday, May 1, 2009**
WHY:	**To view how this crop is grown and may be manufactured into sustainable products**

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