

*News Release*

For immediate release  
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TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD TAKES PART IN  
AGRICULTURAL WATER CONSERVATION DEMONSTRATION  
INITIATIVE IN THE HIGH PLAINS

AUSTIN – (August 17-18, 2009) – The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) provides support for a long-term agricultural water conservation demonstration initiative in the High Plains region of Texas. The initiative, called “An Integrated Approach to Water Conservation for Agriculture in the Texas Southern High Plains,” began in 2005 and includes 30 cooperator demonstration sites covering over 4,000 acres in Hale and Floyd Counties. The goal of the initiative is to demonstrate how to reduce total water required by agricultural production while ensuring a level of profitability to sustain producers, families, and area communities.

On Aug. 17, local cooperators, including the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District and Texas Tech University, hosted an informational meeting on the demonstration initiative. State Senators Robert Duncan and Kel Seliger, both from the High Plains, spoke at the meeting. Also in attendance were State Representative Delwin Jones of Lubbock, Brice Foster from U.S. Representative Randy Neugebauer’s office, Sarah Clifton from State Senator Robert Duncan’s office and representatives from numerous local, state, and federal agencies.

Aug. 18 events included a field tour and a noon luncheon. Speakers at the luncheon included Keith Franks, representing U.S. Senator John Cornyn, who is a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, U.S. Central Region Conservationist Thomas Christensen and United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Texas State Conservationist Don Gohmert and Harlingen Irrigation District manager Wayne Halbert.

Also in attendance were initiative participants and scientists from Texas Tech University, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas AgriLife Research, High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, and local agricultural producers. Other attendees included representatives from the USDA Agricultural Research Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Geological Survey, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and TWDB staff.

More information about the initiative is available at the TWDB's Web site [www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/conservation/agricons.asp](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/conservation/agricons.asp).

The TWDB is the state agency charged with collecting and disseminating water-related data, assisting with regional planning and preparing the State Water Plan for the development of the state's water resources. TWDB administers cost-effective financial programs for the construction of water supply, wastewater treatment, flood control, and agricultural water conservation projects.