

Farm Bureau News Brazos County

P.O. Box 6568, Bryan, Texas 77805

September 2008

Telephone: (979) 776-8789

Join us for our 2008 annual meeting

The Brazos County Farm Bureau extends an invitation to all members to attend its annual meeting scheduled for Oct. 2, 2008, according to Norval Sells, county president. The meeting will be held at the Brazos Center in Bryan, beginning at 6 p.m.

A buffet meal will be served to members prior to the meeting. Dinner tickets will be \$3 per person, children six and under will eat free. Tickets will be available for purchase at the county office. You may also mail in the money with the reservation form. If you have any questions, please call the office at 979-776-8789. Your name will be used for many prize drawings. You must be present to win. Come and join the fun! The guest speaker will be Tad Duncan.

Tad Duncan serves as associate director of Research, Education and Policy Development for the Texas Farm Bureau. He assists County Farm Bureaus in developing and implementing agricultural and educational activities for their local schools. He also plans and coordinates the Summer Agricultural Institute for elementary teachers. He designed and supervised construction of eight Mobile Learning Barn trailers to help with Farm Bureau's agriculture education efforts. The trailers are used statewide at Ag Days, livestock shows, schools and other events where Farm Bureau wants to "tell agriculture's story." A native of Beeville, in South Texas, Duncan graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in agricultural education and science.

Duncan and his wife, Lynda, live in Peoria, where they raise beef cattle and meat goats. They have two married daughters and three grandsons.

Officials support eminent domain reform

Officials from Brazos County joined more than 1,000 other local elected representatives in 170-plus counties in calling on state lawmakers to reform eminent domain laws when they participated in the recent Farm Bureau survey.

"We started this process with two primary goals in mind," Brazos County Farm Bureau President Norval Sells said. "First, we wanted to make eminent domain the local issue that it rightly is, and second, we wanted to bring the issue into the clear light of day."

The eminent domain survey consisted of five questions addressing the pillars of eminent domain reform: good faith negotiations with landowners, fairer treatment under the law for everyone involved, and a tightening of definitions under which taking of property might occur. It was launched in the wake of Gov. Rick Perry's veto of HB 2006, which would have clarified many of the legal tenets guiding eminent domain.

"I believe our results are showing that many local elected officials feel exactly the way we do about reforming eminent domain," Norval said. "People are fed up with an eminent domain system that is out of control and they want to see a change."

Oil price spike puts farmers in grim situation

Most anyone who has paid a visit to the grocery store or gas pump lately can attest that prices are high and getting higher.

There's no relief in sight, and things could get a lot worse before they get better, a leader of the Brazos County Farm Bureau said, particularly for America's farmers and ranchers who have become the backbone of food supplies the world over.

"I've farmed for many years," Jay Wilder, Brazos County Farm Bureau Board member, said. "I've seen dozens of grim situations in agriculture. They pale in comparison to the major problem that is shaping up in our industry at this very moment."

Indeed, food prices for the consumer have increased in recent months, Wilder said, but they are still a bargain. As a percentage of disposable income, Americans still enjoy the lowest food prices of any country on the planet.

Some groups have incorrectly pointed to increased commodity prices as a culprit in these price increases. But that is simply not true, the farm leader said. Wilder said the real culprit is the high price of oil.

"Prices of petroleum-driven crop inputs have blown through the roof," Wilder said. He described the current situation as a "slow train wreck" for the farmers of Texas.

"The situation we are in now will not change unless the price of oil is reduced significantly," he said. "Even with commodity prices at record levels, some farmers are being forced into making major modifications in the way they farm, including reducing the amount they produce. And if that happens, consumers and farmers alike could share in a farm crisis the likes of which we've never seen."

Annual Brazos County Farm Bureau Meeting and Banquet

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

HOW MANY ATTENDING: _____

PLEASE RSVP ON OR BEFORE SEPT. 26, 2008 BY 5 P.M. CALL 979-776-8789.

BRAZOS COUNTY FARM BUREAU • P.O. BOX 6568 • BRYAN, TEXAS 77805

Youth awarded scholarships

Pioneer Scholarship

Terra Dolleen Hausenfluck received a \$2,000 Brazos County Pioneer Scholarship and a \$750 Brazos County Farm Bureau scholarship. The scholarship applicant or parents/guardians must be Farm Bureau members for 30 days prior to application, must be a high school senior graduating in the spring and carry a grade point average of 3.0. The Brazos County scholarship must also be an active FFA and/or 4-H member. Terra is the daughter of Terry and Dolleen Hausenfluck of Bryan. She attended Bryan High School and has made plans to attend Kilgore College in Kilgore. She will complete her education at Texas A&M with a degree in Kinesiology/Education.



*Terra Dolleen
Hausenfluck*

Brazos County Scholarship

Rose Elizabeth Pauler was the recipient of a \$750 Brazos County Farm Bureau scholarship. She is the daughter of Donald and Terrie Pauler of Bryan. Rose is a graduate of Bryan High School and will be attending Texas A&M University as a Forensic and Investigative Science major.

You are invited
to the
**Brazos County
Farm Bureau
Annual Meeting**

*When: Oct. 2, 2008
6 p.m.*

Where: Brazos Center

Buffet Meal Provided

*Please RSVP to
(979) 776-8789
by Sept. 26*

Farm Bureau praises TxDOT I-69 decision

Brazos County farmers and ranchers are hoping that the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) recent announcement to make use of existing roadways in its plan for Interstate 69 is a positive sign when it comes to the ongoing battles with the Trans-Texas Corridor.

"TxDOT is finally beginning to listen to rural Texans," Norval Sells, president of the Brazos County Farm Bureau said.

Some 28,000 Texans, including many Brazos Farm Bureau members, criticized the proposed transportation project during public meetings. Most expressed concern over land lost to the multi-lane corridor, diminished access to their properties or property split by the project.

Farm Bureau has actively urged state officials to make use of existing rights-of-way whenever planning roadways to meet the transportation issues of a growing Texas. Despite those urgings, TxDOT plans for the controversial Trans-Texas Corridor have often called for all-new tollway constructions outside existing highway footprints.

In June, however, the agency officially announced it would make use of existing highway rights-of-way for the I-69 construction. Newly-constructed lanes will be tolled; however, existing lanes will remain free. Most of that project will follow the path of Highway 59.

"This is a step in the right direction," Sells said. "But we must keep up the pressure on TxDOT during the next legislative session to ensure they keep these promises."

Secretaries gather FB information at annual conference

County Farm Bureau secretaries from across the state attended a conference in Waco, July 28-30. County Farm Bureau secretary Olga Morales attended the conference.

TFB staff discussed membership benefits and services, policy procedures, and innovative ways that secretaries may promote agriculture and membership in their county.

OFFICERS:

President: Norval Sells

Vice Pres.: Chris Duewall

Sec.-Treas.: John Miller

DIRECTORS:

Jay Wilder

Andy Scasta

Jason Wendler

Michael Noak

Darlene Nichols

Mark McMath

OFFICE SECRETARIES:

Olga Morales, Office Mgr.

Thelma Davila

Georgeanne Birgham