from farm and ranch to processor and supermarket, Texas agriculture faces unabated change. How it changes in response to current forces—such as environmentalism, new technologies, consumer issues, governmental regulation, and global markets—will profoundly impact agriculture for years to come.

The Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) program assists people in realizing their potential for leadership during this time of critical change.

Educational Leaders

The TALL program enables men and women from all areas of agriculture to:

- Increase knowledge and understanding of agriculture and related industries in the context of today’s complex economic, political, and social systems
- Learn the processes of organizational decision making and the role of the political institutions
- Acquire a greater appreciation of how agriculture must interact with society as a whole
- Develop skills necessary for leadership at local, state, and national levels and put those skills into practice

Participating in TALL

The TALL program is designed for men and women to enhance their leadership skills. Each class consists of at least 24 people, all of whom are associated with agriculture. Participants come from every sector of agriculture and all parts of Texas. Candidates apply for admission, indicating their reasons for wanting to participate. Successful candidates have demonstrated leadership potential and willingness to serve in decision-making roles upon completing the program.

Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership
TALL Mission Statement:
TALL will create a cadre of Texas leaders to help ensure effective understanding and encourage positive action on key issues, theories, policies, and economics that will advance the agriculture industry.

TALL Advisory Board
TALL is guided by an advisory board of 24 outstanding leaders with the following officers:
Chairman—James L. Powell
Executive Secretary—Roddy Peeples

Alumni Association
At least 10 years of experience is needed to reach the educational level of TALL graduates. As a result, alumni of TALL become a valuable resource to rural Texas and the agricultural industry. Graduates use their new knowledge and skills to garner leadership roles. Many become active in local organizations, while others pursue even loftier positions.

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Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership
Class XII
2010–2012
Program Participants

Action-Oriented Program
TALL is a practical, action-oriented, two-year program in which participants meet eight times. Six of the meetings are held at different sites across the state. The program includes the following activities:

- Seminars with experts and group discussions enhance participants’ knowledge and understanding of key subjects for today’s agricultural leaders. Their studies include leadership development, communication skills, economics and policy, international trade, agricultural institutions and agencies, urban/rural relations, and issues affecting agriculture, such as water and energy.
- On-site tours and studies of agriculture-related businesses and industries help participants discover firsthand procedures and problems in production marketing and financing.
- Meetings with leaders of government and businesses complement seminars on local, state, and national issues, and are a focus of the first year of the program. TALL participants travel to Washington, D.C., and New York City for direct exposure to the varied social and economic conditions impacting agriculture.
- International study is the highlight of the program’s second year, with TALL XII traveling to India. The tour focuses on international communications, ecology, government policy, economics, social problems, and educational opportunity. Participants return with greater insights into agriculture’s global problems and challenges.

Supporting TALL
The TALL program is conducted by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, an agency of the Texas A&M System. This intensive leadership development program also depends on the backing of individuals in agriculture and agriculture-related industries and public-spirited citizens. We invite you to consider participating or encouraging others to join us in providing support for the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership program.

Ilona Schilderink
Hart, TX
Owner Spandet Dairy; former ag teacher in The Netherlands

Cassie Schulte
Canyon, TX
Marketing and technical service manager for QDG, LLC (feed marketing firm for all co-products produced at the two White Energy, LLC ethanol plants in the Texas Panhandle, commodity trader)

Jimmy Schulz
Wharton, TX
Farmers Coop of El Campo sales and new projects coordinator (agromony, ag chemicals, seed, fertilizer, feed, hardware, ginning, elevators, cotton bale warehousing, ag technology and data processing)

Scott Taylor
Katy, TX
Territory sales manager in Central Texas for Monsanto Co’s National Brands Seed and Traits Business - DeKalb corn and grain sorghum seed, Delta and Pineland cotton seed, Augrow soybean seed, and Monsanto’s biotechnology traits for corn, cotton, and soybeans

Kip Thompson
Johnson City, TX
Owns Harvest House Farms (beef, pork, lamb and goat custom processing), former President of Texas Association of Meat Processors

Darren Turley
Dublin, TX
Texas Association of Dairymen Executive Director; Turley Dairy-family owned, milk production; sells replacement stock

David Waggoner
Hilltops, TX
Attorney with focus on ag law, real estate law, banking law, non-profit organizational law and certified mediation services; prior experience with Member of Congress, Legislative Affairs, former Special Assistant to USDA Secretary in Washington, DC

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Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Services are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.
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