

# III. Application Check List

Name of Applicant:\_\_\_\_\_

The following items must be filled out and filed with the TALL office by the March 15, 2026, postmarked deadline.

## I. APPLICATION

D - Applicant Agreement with signature

E - Application - TALL XX

F - Employer's Statement

## II. APPLICATION REFERENCES

A - Personal Applicant Confidential  
Recommendation Forms (non-family member)

B - Personal Applicant Confidential  
Recommendation Forms (non-family member)

C - Professional Applicant Confidential  
Recommendation Forms (non-family member)

D - Professional Applicant Confidential  
Recommendation Forms (non-family member)

***Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr.***  
***Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) Program***

**A:**

**Selection Procedure TALL XX 2026-2028**

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The Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr. Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) program is designed for men and women to enhance their leadership careers. This is a program sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, a part of the Texas A&M System. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of Texas and/or have agricultural investments in Texas with a commitment to Texas agriculture and associated industries. Oversight of the TALL Program is entrusted to the TALL Advisory Board. This board is comprised of leaders from across the state that is representative of agriculture and includes producers, business, commodity groups, members of government and academia. They establish parameters of the program and direct the Executive Director to administer the program within these guidelines. The board or its designees, Compliance Committee, will monitor participant compliance. Noncompliance could result in dismissal from the program.

**Following is the selection criteria:**

Applicant must be actively involved in farming, ranching or business closely related to agriculture which includes the food and fiber industries.

Applicants must have at least four (4) years of full-time employment experience past university graduation or at least eight (8) years of full-time employment experience past high school graduation for non-university graduates.

Men and women are equally encouraged to participate.

Spouse, brothers/sisters will not be selected in the same class

Faculty of colleges, universities, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M University System, and secondary school systems working in agricultural fields are not eligible to participate.

Candidates must document to the satisfaction of the selection committee that he/she will be able to be away from the farm, ranch, business and/or home as required for full participation in the program. A document is required stating that spouse, employer, partners or other persons with a vested interest understand the time requirements for participation and support the applicant's candidacy.

Applicant must demonstrate ability to participate meaningfully in academic seminars, outside reading, written assignments, and thorough self-expression during the selection interview.

The applicant must support and abide by all policies, rules and regulations of the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Advisory Board. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the program.

Applicants will be reviewed for the following qualities:

|                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Leadership Integrity     | Potential for Growth         |
| Leadership Effectiveness | Commitment to Participate    |
| Analytical Skills        | Vocational Commitment        |
| Communication Skills     | Overall Leadership Potential |

There are no specific education requirements.

***Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr.***  
***Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) Program***

**B:**  
**Selection Procedure TALL XX 2026-2028**

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**Participants**

The Selection Committee shall select approximately 24 participants from a pool of qualified applicants. Participants will be selected from across the state, without regard to socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. It is not unusual for candidates to apply more than once before acceptance. Repeat applications are encouraged.

Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements will be evaluated on the information obtained from the application form and references. The final selection will be made from those chosen by the Selection Committee for personal interview.

|                  |                                                               |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 15, 2026   | Applications postmarked and/or due in the TALL program office |
| Late March 2026  | Applicants notified on interview selection                    |
| April & May 2026 | Interviews with selected applicants                           |
| June 2026        | Cohort announced                                              |

**Proposed Calendar**

***(\*ALL Dates Subject to Change Due to Any Unforeseen Circumstances\*)***

| SEMINAR | LOCATION                                     | DATE                   |
|---------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1       | College Station                              | July 21-24, 2026       |
| 2       | Lubbock/Amarillo                             | October 19-23, 2026    |
| 3       | Austin/Edwards Plateau                       | January 19-23, 2027    |
| 4       | Washington D.C./ Maryland/New York           | April 3-10, 2027       |
| 5       | Houston/Gulf Coast                           | July 12-16, 2027       |
| 6       | California                                   | September 5-10, 2027   |
| 7       | Corpus Christi / McAllen                     | November 7-12, 2027    |
| 8       | Tyler/East Texas                             | January 16-21, 2028    |
| 9       | The Black Sea: Brussels/Romania/<br>Bulgaria | April 18 – May 1, 2028 |
| 10      | College Station - Graduation                 | June 16, 2028          |

# TALL XX PROPOSED CURRICULUM & CALENDAR

(\*ALL Dates Subject to Change Due to Any Unforeseen Circumstances\*)

| DATE                   | LOCATION                                           | ISSUE(S)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | LEADERSHIP THEME                                                      |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 21-24, 2026       | College Station<br>#1                              | Team & Group Dynamics, Semantics of Teams, TAM System, Professional Image & Etiquette, Challenge Course (ROPES), Bush Presidential Library, Brazos Valley Agriculture, Agriculture Research.                                                                 | Extension, Education, Expectations                                    |
| October 19-23, 2026    | Lubbock/Amarillo<br>#2                             | Feedlots, Packing Plants, Grapes, Wheat, Corn, Dairy, Cotton, Soybean, Grain Sorghum, Peanuts, Equine, Irrigation, Texas Tech University and Agriculture Research.                                                                                           | <i>Production, Producers, Progress</i>                                |
| January 19-23, 2027    | Austin/Edwards Plateau<br>#3                       | -State Government: Legislative Process, Agencies, Taxes & Appropriations, Trade, Judicial Process, Transportation.<br>-Water, Brush Control, Sheep, Goats and Wildlife                                                                                       | Leadership, Legislation, Laws                                         |
| April 3-10, 2027       | Washington D.C./<br>Maryland/New York<br>#4        | -National Government: Congressional Process, Agencies, Homeland Security, Financial District, Textiles, Trade, Transportation, Port Authority, Food Distribution, New England Agriculture, water, regulations and Labor.                                     | Leadership, Legislation, Laws / DC<br>Economics, Exports, Environment |
| July 12-16, 2027       | Houston/Gulf Coast<br>#5                           | Gulf Coast Agriculture: Equine, Agriculture, rice, cattle, fish, corn, farm equipment, environmental issues.<br>Urban Agriculture: retail markets, food distribution, food security, Ag Corporations, transportation, Port of Houston and Port of Galveston. | Exports, Economics, Environment                                       |
| September 5-10, 2027   | California<br>#6                                   | Ag Policy, Immigration, Labor, Environmental Issues, Endangered Species, Water-Energy, Regulation, Citrus, Cotton, Corn, Vegetables, Fruits & Nuts, Salinity, Air Quality, wineries, Salinity, Air Quality and Ag Policy.                                    | Employment, Emigration, Environment                                   |
| November 7-12, 2027    | Corpus Christi / McAllen<br>#7                     | South Texas Agriculture: Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Sugar Cane, Citrus, Vegetables; Irrigation Districts; Port Authority - Land & Sea; Immigration, Border Wall, Texas A&M Kingsville and Texas A&M Corpus Christi                                               | Exports, Economics, Emigration                                        |
| January 16-21, 2028    | Tyler/East Texas<br>#8                             | Forestry, Fisheries, Livestock, Poultry, Horticulture, Food Distribution, Value Added Processing, Endangered Species, Wetlands, Stephen F. Austin University, Agriculture Research.                                                                          | Production, Producers, Progress                                       |
| April 18 – May 1, 2028 | The Black Sea:<br>Brussels/Romania/<br>Bulgaria #9 | International Trade & World Markets, Production Practices, Critical Issues, Government Policy, Labor, Competitiveness, Foreign Cultures, Customs and Values.                                                                                                 | Competition, Communication, Culture                                   |
| June 16, 2028          | College Station                                    | TALL-Alumni Annual Meeting; TALL Advisory Board Annual Meeting and TALL Foundation Board Meeting                                                                                                                                                             | Graduation                                                            |

# C:

## EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TALL XX CLASS MEMBERS

### **EXPECTATIONS**

It is expected that TALL class members will actively participate in all meetings and activities with:

an open and inquiring mind, a  
willingness to learn,  
a respect for opinions of those not in agreement with their own,  
a commitment to communicate class activities and  
experiences,  
and a commitment to greater service for the betterment of agriculture  
in their own community, Texas, and the United States.

A time commitment of approximately 45 days is required during the two-year program period. Leadership is a commitment. If you are to participate, you must fulfill the obligation.

Communication and personal skill development are important parts of the curriculum with the idea that knowledge is good for the individual, only if it can be diplomatically shared with others.

### **CONDUCT**

Those selected for TALL are fortunate. Selection into the program automatically sets the participants apart, placing them among a highly acclaimed group. Each class member has proven to have leadership potential. Each is expected to conduct himself/herself as a responsible leader. The values of the TALL program are respected statewide, and each participant is expected to uphold those values. Along with the honor of being a member of TALL comes the responsibility to themselves, their classmates, and the agricultural community to exemplify the utmost personal and professional standards. TALL Alumni, Directors of the TALL Advisory Board, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and the hundreds of supporters expect mature and responsible behavior from all TALL participants.

## **PARTICIPATION**

### **Attendance Requirement:**

Missed seminars cost both the participant and the program. It is realized that TALL class members have responsibilities to their families, professions, and organizations, and sometimes conflicts occur and/or are unavoidable. **TALL class members will be responsible for notifying the Program Director no later than 10 days before the seminar if they will not be present.** Attendance at all seminars is a priority concern of the TALL Advisory Board resulting in specific guidelines and disciplinary action in cases of unexcused absences. Assumed excused absences might be:

- Family Emergency
- Legitimate Business Emergency
- Illness
- Natural Disaster
- Legal Requirements

It is expected that each participant will attend every seminar in its entirety.

Unexcused absences, tardiness and early departures will be accumulated on an hourly basis to represent total missed seminar time.

Unexcused absences totaling one seminar will result in official notice of concern from the TALL Advisory Board.

Unexcused absences totaling two seminars will result in loss of the international experience. Unexcused absences totaling three seminars will result in dismissal from the TALL program.

There should be no late arrivals or early departures from the seminars. All absences, late arrivals and early departures will be recorded.

\* Details of the attendance policy will be explained and distributed at the first seminar.

### **Spouses**

It is very important that the spouses of TALL class members be knowledgeable of the program and supportive of participation of the spouse from the very beginning. A major commitment has been made by class participants and their spouses must pledge total support. It is TALL's aspiration for spouses to be an integral part of the TALL experience and to play a major role in alumni activities. Class member communication is encouraged with their spouse on all activities with participation allowed at graduation at your own expense.

## **Financial Obligations**

### **Tuition:**

If selected, a tuition fee of \$3,000 will be required. If preferred, tuition may be paid in three installments of \$1,000, with the first payment due by July 1, 2026, 2<sup>ND</sup> payment January 1, 2027, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1, 2027. Late payment could forfeit your participation in the class.

*In-state transportation to the meeting site and some miscellaneous expenses must be borne by the participant.*

### **Hotel Rooms:**

All TALL class members will share a room with an assigned roommate. Room assignments will change with each seminar. The cost of the room is paid by the TALL program.

### **Incidentals:**

All incidental expenses (i.e., parking, telephone, room service, bar, TV movies, etc.) incurred by participants at hotels must be paid by class members at the time of the service or departure.

### **Meals:**

Nearly all meals are arranged and paid for by the TALL program. At times group meal functions are impossible to organize requiring individual TALL members to arrange a "meal on your own."

### **Transportation:**

In-state transportation to the seminar site and some miscellaneous transportation expenses, i.e., taxi, must be borne by participant. Ex: Participant must be responsible for getting to and from College Station, Lubbock/Amarillo, Austin/San Angelo/Sonora, Houston, Corpus Christi/McAllen, Ft. Worth/Tyler/Nacogdoches.

Out-of-state transportation to the hub city and some miscellaneous transportation expenses, i.e., taxi, must be borne by participant. Ex: Participant must be responsible for getting to and from Sacramento/Fresno and Washington D.C./New York City.

International transportation to the in-state hub city and some miscellaneous transportation expenses, i.e., taxi, must be borne by participant. Ex: Participant must be responsible for getting to and from the Texas International airport selected by the TALL Program such as Houston or Dallas.

**\*(the hub is where the cohort convenes)**

## **DRESS CODE**

As with any business or distinguished program, participants should always present themselves in a professional manner. Following are dress codes and their definition:

| <b><u>Business Attire</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>MEN</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b><u>WOMEN</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business suit with collared shirt</li> <li>• Nice slacks or pressed khaki pants with collared shirt</li> <li>• Sports coat or jacket &amp; tie</li> <li>• Polished/clean shoes or boots</li> </ul>                                                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business suit or dress</li> <li>• Slacks or mid-length skirt with blazer or jacket and blouse</li> <li>• Flats or dress shoes or dressy boots (polished/clean)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b><u>Business Casual Attire</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b><u>MEN</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b><u>WOMEN</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nice slacks or pressed khaki pants</li> <li>• Dark denim jeans (must be clean and free of rips, tears, and fraying; may not be excessively tight or revealing)</li> <li>• Collared shirt or polo/golf shirt</li> <li>• Sports jacket or suit jacket (no tie required)</li> <li>• Polished/clean shoes/boots</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nice slacks/dress pants, pressed khaki pants or mid-length skirt</li> <li>• Dark denim jeans (must be clean and free of rips, tears, and fraying; may not be excessively tight or revealing)</li> <li>• Blouse, polo, sweaters, or cardigan</li> <li>• Blazer or jacket (optional)</li> <li>• Dresses and skirts or maxi skirts</li> <li>• Flats, sandals, low-heeled shoes or boots</li> </ul> |

**\*\* Seldom will shorts be appropriate. However, if those occasions arise participants will be notified. \*\***

**C:** continued

**MISCELLANEOUS**

(Please Initial in designated area)

X

1. **Narratives** - A narrative report (at least 3 pages, typed if possible) will be required after each seminar and due 2 weeks after the last day of the seminar. The narrative should report on the following: 1) What was learned each day, 2) What change has taken place in your attitude concerning you, your life, your job, your career, your family or any other changes, 3) What was different about your expectations of this seminar, 4) What did you bring back to be shared to help trade relations, future markets, incorporate new and old innovations, utilize new technology and to educate your colleagues.

X

2. **Evaluations** - An evaluation will be required after each seminar and due 2 weeks after the last day of the seminar. The evaluation form will be provided by the TALL office.

X

3. **Speaking Engagements** - Following each of the eight sessions, every participant will be required to provide a minimum of two speaking engagements, educational talks, press releases (or a combination thereof) within their community and/or industry regarding their class activities and experiences of that session. These will be shared with all class participants at the next session. (They might include: Farm Bureau, FFA Chapter, 4H Clubs, civic organizations, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service area committees, church groups, commodity groups, office co-workers, etc.)

X

4. **Homework assignments** - Homework will be assigned by teams. The assignment will include research on Texas, California, Washington DC/New York City and the location of the international trip.

**Items 1-4 are strict requirements promulgated by the TALL Advisory Board. Failure to comply with any of the specified items or failure to meet requirements will result in dismissal from the program.**

5. **TALL briefcases, name badges and notebooks** - The TALL briefcases, name badges and notebooks are provided to your courtesy of the TALL Program. You are required to wear your name badge at each session and if you lose your name badge you will incur the cost of a new one.
6. **Passports** - Each TALL XX participant will be required to have a passport by January 1, 2027. Forms may be obtained from the post office. You will need a legal (certified copy) of your birth certificate to obtain a passport. Passports will be used for security clearance while traveling.
7. **Numbering system** - Each TALL XX participant will be assigned a permanent Arabic number to be used to speed up roll call and account for attendance.
8. **Punctuality** - Being on time is of utmost importance. Each participant is expected to be on time if not early for each planned activity.
9. **Thank you notes** - Following each seminar, thank you notes will be required to be sent to speakers and sponsors. The TALL thank you notes will be provided to you and should be sent out by 2 weeks from the last day of the seminar.

**C: continued**  
**MISCELLANEOUS**

10. **Presiding participants** - For each session, TALL participants will oversee a portion of the program. Responsibilities will include: 1) introduction of speakers; 2) take photos during each session; 3) obtain addresses of each speaker and/or sponsor, i.e. collect business cards; 4) present each speaker with tokens/gifts provided by TALL office; 5) oversee on-site classroom set-up (~~seating~~, lighting, audio-video equipment, refreshments, and meals).
11. **International Scribing** - Participants will be assigned to scribe a portion of the international seminar. Responsibilities include taking notes of who spoke to the class, what was presented, all activities that occurred during their assigned time, including a journal of the day's experiences. (*This is different from the narrative.*)
12. **Starting and ending times** - The starting time for each in-state seminar will begin at **1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and end on 1:00 p.m. on Fridays.** On rare occasions this might change, however, all participants will be notified in advance.
13. **Address or e-mail changes** - Each TALL participant is responsible for updating their address and/or e-mail with the TALL office in a timely manner.
14. **Cellular phones** - All cell phones will be required to be turned off during any TALL session. However, they may be used during breaks or after seminar sessions.
15. **International trip** - Each TALL participant is expected to attend the International seminar; however, in the event that the participant cannot attend, the TALL participant is ~~required to~~ **notify the TALL Director in writing by February 1, 2027 that they cannot attend.** If the participant does not provide the requested notice, he/she will be required to pay for the cost of their participation in the international experience.
16. **Alcohol - No** TALL program funds are expended for alcoholic beverages. Individual purchases of alcoholic beverages should not be consumed during seminar activities. Intoxication is grounds for dismissal and/or termination. Tardiness due to the consumption of alcohol will not be tolerated.
17. **Tobacco** - The use of any tobacco product is forbidden during indoor meetings and/or classroom activities.

# **D:**

## **Application Agreement TALL XX 2026-2028**

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*The Application Agreement refers to pages 4-8 which outlines:*

### **THE EXPECTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TALL XX CLASS MEMBER**

The development of leaders in agriculture requires a great deal of dedication from all involved parties, so please affirm your support and commitment to the TALL Program by affixing your signature and the respective date below. Your signature indicates that you have read, understood, and agree to abide by the expectations, responsibilities, and requirements presented forth in this document. Furthermore, you agree that once tuition has been paid, there is not a refund, full or partial.

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**Participant Name:**

**Date:**

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**Participant Signature:**

***Governor Dolph Briscoe Jr.,  
Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL)***

**E:  
Application**

**TALL XX  
2026-2028**

Governor Dolph Briscoe Jr., Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) invites you to apply to be among a select group of outstanding leaders. **TYPE ONLY**

**1. Personal Information:**

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|                                       |       |        |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Name: Last<br>(As used on Picture ID) | First | Middle |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------|

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Name Preferred on Name Tag

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|               |      |       |          |
|---------------|------|-------|----------|
| Home Address: | City | State | Zip Code |
|---------------|------|-------|----------|

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County

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|                             |                |             |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| (   )                       | (   )          | (   )       |
| Home Phone (plus area code) | Business Phone | Cell Number |

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|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Name of Company or Business | Position Title |
|-----------------------------|----------------|

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|                  |      |          |
|------------------|------|----------|
| Business Address | City | Zip Code |
|------------------|------|----------|

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|                 |      |          |
|-----------------|------|----------|
| E-mail Address: | Work | Personal |
|-----------------|------|----------|

E: Application TALL XX - Continued

**2. Have you applied for the TALL program previously?**

Yes

No

If yes, in what years

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**3. Did you participate in 4-H or FFA?**

Yes

No

If yes, how many year and in which county or school district

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**4. How did you find out about the program?**

Alumni

Class Member

Board Member

Extension

Media

Sponsor

Ag Leader

Commodity Leader

Other

**5. Work Experience:**

List years of employment post University graduation or if you did not attend University, list years of employment post High School Graduation. *\*Note: Required 3 years full-time employment post University graduation or 7 years full time employment post High School Graduation.\**

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E: Application TALL XX - Continued

**6. Education and Training:**

Provide information regarding your education including high school, university, graduate school or other pertinent education (school/location, years attended, degree). List all schools and universities attended by name.

List high school:

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List university or universities:

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Describe other education and training:

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**6. Occupation Information:**

Current occupation:

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Company or farm/ranch name:

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Position:

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E: Application TALL XX - Continued

**Commodities/products/services:**

I have significant involvement in agricultural production and/or rural communities:                      Yes                      No

I have a significant involvement in agribusiness or providing services to agriculture:                      Yes                      No

**Agricultural Production Experience:**

List and describe your full-time and part-time production (farming, ranching, growing, managing) agricultural experience. Include all livestock, crops, location, size and related data. (Ex: produce beef, corn, wheat, cotton, poultry, hay, etc.)

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**Agribusiness Working Experience:**

List and describe any non-production or agri-business related to agriculture (i.e., Ag chemicals, Ag education, Ag sales, etc.). List the most recent first

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**7. Organization and Community Experience:**

List major awards or recognition received to date. Include educational institutions, college level, business or field endeavors. (Specify school name)

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E: Application TALL XX - Continued

Describe your volunteer, civic, community and church related activities

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Outline your leadership role in developing and carrying out a specific program or project. (Note any special awards or recognition.) Include specific examples of your leadership experience, memberships and service.

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List and briefly describe any other accomplishments, skills and awards that you consider significant.

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**8. Personal Travel, Interests:**

List three books, articles, movies or speakers that have given you useful insights during the past years.

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E: Application TALL XX - Continued

Briefly describe your foreign travel, if any. Indicate countries visited, travel dates, purpose of travel (business or pleasure):

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List interests, hobbies:

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**9. Essay Section:**

Answer the following questions on separate pages. Confine your answers to the specified word limitation. Put your name on each sheet of paper. Be sure that the separate pages are all attached to the application before mailing.

- A. Please justify your inclusion in either category of participation:  
(1) Production Agriculture, (2) Agribusiness (100 words or less)

Eligibility Requirements: Each applicant must be able to justify placement in one of the following two categories:

**Category I (production agriculture):** The applicant must have a significant involvement as an owner, operator, employee, officer, or director of a farming or ranching operation or major division of a cooperation where the principal portion of the income is a direct result of the production of crops, ornamental and/or turf crops and livestock, including horses.

**Category II (agribusiness):** The applicant must have a significant involvement in the business of buying, from selling to educating, financing or providing other services to farmers, ranchers and persons or organizations engaged in or serving production agriculture and/or the food and fiber industry. Persons employed by public agencies, providing such services to agricultural producers, are equally eligible to apply. ("Faculty of colleges, universities, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and secondary school systems working in agricultural fields are not eligible to participate." Selection Criteria, page 1).

- B. Please discuss an important issue facing agriculture today. What is one specific idea of yours for addressing the issue? (250 words or less)
- C. Please discuss an important community or state issue. What is one specific idea of yours for addressing this issue? (250 words or less)
- D. Help us learn something about what is important to you and why. What relationships, feelings, and ideas do you value? What do you stand for or against? Why should you be selected to participate in this program? What does leadership mean to you? How would you expect to use the knowledge and experienced gained? (400 words or less)

Please read before signing:

I certify that all the statements made in this application are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and are made in good faith. I know and understand that all items may be verified. I agree and understand that any misrepresentations or omission of material facts herein may cause disqualification of my application. I agree to release any information contained in my application and all attachments.

I understand that the number of applicants may be greater than the number of positions, and only some of the applicants may be invited for interviews. I give my permission for this application, including all attachments, to be shared and/or copied for these purposes. I understand that the final selection of applicants is the sole responsibility of the Board of Directors of the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program.

If selected, I have my company/organization support for my participation, and I will make every effort to attend all nine (9) seminars and one (1) graduation in their entirety. I understand that excessive absence will be reported to the TALL Advisory Board for potential action, including termination from the program. Also, if selected, I will remit to TALL the tuition fee of \$3,000. I understand the tuition fee is non-refundable.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

Deadline: Application and requested materials must be  
postmarked NO LATER than March 15, 2026

Your application cannot be considered until all requested  
information and attachments have been received.

**SEND TO:**

**Please return by March 15, 2026 to:**

Jim Mazurkiewicz, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus, Regents Fellow and Leadership Program Director  
Governor Dolph Briscoe Jr., Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) Program  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
Texas A&M University System  
2137 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843  
979/845-1554

[jim.mazurkiewicz@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jim.mazurkiewicz@ag.tamu.edu)

[jennifer.martinez@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jennifer.martinez@ag.tamu.edu)

All applicants will be notified of the Selection Committee's decision by June 2026

***Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr.***  
***Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL)***

**F:**  
**Employer Statement TALL XX**

**2026-2028**

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Investment in agricultural leadership requires that many people become involved. Your employee has indicated an interest in the Governor Dolph Briscoe Jr., Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) program under Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service which is an agency of the Texas A&M University System, thus committing himself/herself to participation in eight training seminars over a two-year period. Attendance at all seminars and graduation is crucial to the success of the educational experience. Please indicate your support and commitment to this important program by answering yes and affixing your signature below. This document will serve as approval for your employee to become involved.

Yes, I understand that \_\_\_\_\_ will be away from his/her position for nine (9) seminars and one (1) graduation over a two-year time period. I understand that in-state seminars will usually be held Tuesday through Friday. A seven-day seminar will occur in Washington D.C. and New York as well as an international study of approximately 12-15 days will take place during the second year of the curriculum.

Yes, I have been provided, by the applicant, a proposed curriculum and calendar.

Yes, he/she has my authorization to participate in the Governor Dolph Briscoe Jr., Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) Program.

Employer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

***Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr.***  
***Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL)***

**A:**

(1 of 2 PERSONAL Applicant Confidential Recommendation Forms) Must be a  
NON-Family member

**Personal**

**Applicant Confidential Recommendation Form TALL XX**

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

TO THE RECOMMENDER: The individual forwarding this recommendation form is applying to the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program. The program is designed to prepare and motivate men and women in agriculture for more effective leadership. Your recommendation is helpful in our selection process and in assessing the applicant's qualifications.

I know the applicant:    Thoroughly \_\_\_\_\_    Fairly Well \_\_\_\_\_    Not Well \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

In what capacity do you know the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

| Please respond to the following:                                  | Exceptional | Very Good | Average | Not Able to Determine |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|-----------------------|
| Potential to provide leadership                                   |             |           |         |                       |
| Communication skills, oral/written                                |             |           |         |                       |
| Openness to ideas and ways of thinking outside current profession |             |           |         |                       |
| Esteem in which applicant is held in the industry                 |             |           |         |                       |
| Maturity level                                                    |             |           |         |                       |
| Ability to relate to and work with others                         |             |           |         |                       |
| Potential for growth through program                              |             |           |         |                       |
| Self confidence                                                   |             |           |         |                       |
| Overall assessment of leadership potential                        |             |           |         |                       |

(Please continue on back)

**A: Personal Applicant Confidential Recommendation Form - Continued**

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide your frank evaluation of the applicant and indicate your reasons why the agricultural industry and Texas would benefit through this individual's participation in the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) program.

(You may write on additional sheets if needed.)

(All recommendations are confidential and for the Selection Committee use only.)

**PLEASE TYPE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recommender Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title/Position

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business/Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please return by March 15, 2026 to:**

Jim Mazurkiewicz, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus, Regents Fellow and Leadership Program Director  
Governor Dolph Briscoe Jr., Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) Program  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
Texas A&M University System  
2137 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843  
979/845-1554  
[jim.mazurkiewicz@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jim.mazurkiewicz@ag.tamu.edu)  
[Jennifer.martinez@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Jennifer.martinez@ag.tamu.edu)

***Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr.***  
***Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL)***

**B:**

(1 of 2 PERSONAL Applicant Confidential Recommendation Forms) Must be a  
NON-Family member

**Personal**

**Applicant Confidential Recommendation Form TALL XX**

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

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How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

In what capacity do you know the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

| Please respond to the following:                                  | Exceptional | Very Good | Average | Not Able to Determine |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|-----------------------|
| Potential to provide leadership                                   |             |           |         |                       |
| Communication skills, oral/written                                |             |           |         |                       |
| Openness to ideas and ways of thinking outside current profession |             |           |         |                       |
| Esteem in which applicant is held in the industry                 |             |           |         |                       |
| Maturity level                                                    |             |           |         |                       |
| Ability to relate to and work with others                         |             |           |         |                       |
| Potential for growth through program                              |             |           |         |                       |
| Self confidence                                                   |             |           |         |                       |
| Overall assessment of leadership potential                        |             |           |         |                       |

(Please continue on back)

**A: Personal Applicant Confidential Recommendation Form - Continued**

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide your frank evaluation of the applicant and indicate your reasons why the agricultural industry and Texas would benefit through this individual's participation in the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) program.

(You may write on additional sheets if needed.)

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**PLEASE TYPE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recommender Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title/Position

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business/Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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[jim.mazurkiewicz@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jim.mazurkiewicz@ag.tamu.edu)  
[Jennifer.martinez@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Jennifer.martinez@ag.tamu.edu)

***Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr.***  
***Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL)***

**C:**

**Professional**

**Applicant Confidential Recommendation Form TALL XX**

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|-----------------------|
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| Communication skills, oral/written                                |             |           |         |                       |
| Openness to ideas and ways of thinking outside current profession |             |           |         |                       |
| Esteem in which applicant is held in the industry                 |             |           |         |                       |
| Maturity level                                                    |             |           |         |                       |
| Ability to relate to and work with others                         |             |           |         |                       |
| Potential for growth through program                              |             |           |         |                       |
| Self confidence                                                   |             |           |         |                       |
| Overall assessment of leadership potential                        |             |           |         |                       |

(Please continue on back)

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide your frank evaluation of the applicant and indicate your reasons why the agricultural industry and Texas would benefit through this individual's participation in the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) program.

(You may write on additional sheets if needed.)

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PLEASE TYPE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recommender Name

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Title/Position

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Business/Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

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City, State, Zip Code

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Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

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[Jennifer.martinez@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Jennifer.martinez@ag.tamu.edu)

***Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr.***  
***Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL)***

**D:**

**Professional**

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| Openness to ideas and ways of thinking outside current profession |             |           |         |                       |
| Esteem in which applicant is held in the industry                 |             |           |         |                       |
| Maturity level                                                    |             |           |         |                       |
| Ability to relate to and work with others                         |             |           |         |                       |
| Potential for growth through program                              |             |           |         |                       |
| Self confidence                                                   |             |           |         |                       |
| Overall assessment of leadership potential                        |             |           |         |                       |

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Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

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Recommender Name

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Title/Position

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Business/Organization

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Mailing Address

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City, State, Zip Code

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[Jennifer.martinez@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Jennifer.martinez@ag.tamu.edu)

***Governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr.***  
***Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership (TALL) Program***

**TALL XX CURRICULUM &  
CALENDAR**

(\*ALL Dates Subject to Change Due to Any Unforeseen Circumstances\*)

| DATE                   | LOCATION                                              | ISSUE(S)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | LEADERSHIP THEME                                                      |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 21-24, 2026       | College Station<br>#1                                 | Team & Group Dynamics, Semantics of Teams, TAM System, Professional Image & Etiquette, Challenge Course (ROPES), Bush Presidential Library, Brazos Valley Agriculture, Agriculture Research.                                                                 | Extension, Education, Expectations                                    |
| October 19-23, 2026    | Lubbock/Amarillo<br>#2                                | Feedlots, Packing Plants, Grapes, Wheat, Corn, Dairy, Cotton, Soybean, Grain Sorghum, Peanuts, Equine, Irrigation, Texas Tech University and Agriculture Research.                                                                                           | Production, Producers, Progress                                       |
| January 19-23, 2027    | Austin/Edwards Plateau<br>#3                          | -State Government: Legislative Process, Agencies, Taxes & Appropriations, Trade, Judicial Process, Transportation.<br>-Water, Brush Control, Sheep, Goats and Wildlife                                                                                       | Leadership, Legislation, Laws                                         |
| April 3-10, 2027       | Washington D.C./<br>Maryland/New York<br>#4           | -National Government: Congressional Process, Agencies, Homeland Security, Financial District, Textiles, Trade, Transportation, Port Authority, Food Distribution, New England Agriculture, water, regulations and Labor.                                     | Leadership, Legislation, Laws / DC<br>Economics, Exports, Environment |
| July 12-16, 2027       | Houston/Gulf Coast<br>#5                              | Gulf Coast Agriculture: Equine, Agriculture, rice, cattle, fish, corn, farm equipment, environmental issues.<br>Urban Agriculture: retail markets, food distribution, food security, Ag Corporations, transportation, Port of Houston and Port of Galveston. | Exports, Economics, Environment                                       |
| September 5-10, 2027   | California<br>#6                                      | Ag Policy, Immigration, Labor, Environmental Issues, Endangered Species, Water-Energy, Regulation, Citrus, Cotton, Corn, Vegetables, Fruits & Nuts, Salinity, Air Quality, wineries, Salinity, Air Quality and Ag Policy.                                    | Employment, Emigration, Environment                                   |
| November 7-12, 2027    | Corpus Christi / McAllen<br>#7                        | South Texas Agriculture: Cotton, Grain Sorghum, Sugar Cane, Citrus, Vegetables; Irrigation Districts; Port Authority - Land & Sea; Immigration, Border Wall, Texas A&M Kingsville and Texas A&M Corpus Christi                                               | Exports, Economics, Emigration                                        |
| January 16-21, 2028    | Tyler/East Texas<br>#8                                | Forestry, Fisheries, Livestock, Poultry, Horticulture, Food Distribution, Value Added Processing, Endangered Species, Wetlands, Stephen F. Austin University, Agriculture Research.                                                                          | Production, Producers, Progress                                       |
| April 18 – May 1, 2028 | The Black Sea:<br>Brussels/Romania/<br>Bulgaria<br>#9 | International Trade & World Markets, Production Practices, Critical Issues, Government Policy, Labor, Competitiveness, Foreign Cultures, Customs and Values.                                                                                                 | Competition, Communication, Culture                                   |
| June 16, 2028          | College Station                                       | TALL-Alumni Annual Meeting; TALL Advisory Board Annual Meeting and TALL Foundation Board Meeting                                                                                                                                                             | Graduation                                                            |