



‘Til the Job is Done

From the time he was a young boy, Dr. Justin Weinheimer had important ethics and morals instilled in him by his parents. Being an only child and growing up on the family ranch in Stonewall, Texas, he helped his father on a daily basis with the ranch and family-owned heavy equipment business. Weinheimer continued to work for his father while in high school when he was not working at the veterinary clinic and judging livestock, land and poultry.

“Justin has what I call the agricultural work ethic,” said Dr. Phillip Johnson, Charles C. Thompson Chair in Agricultural Finance. “You work until you finish the job.”

Phillip Johnson continued by saying Weinheimer is not afraid to take on new responsibilities, is easy to work with, and sometimes the problem is holding him back a little bit.

Weinheimer, an assistant research professor of agricultural economics, graduated from Fredericksburg High School in Fredericksburg, Texas, in 1999. After high school, Justin attended Howard Community College for two years on a full scholarship to judge livestock. He graduated from Texas Tech University in 2004 with a Bachelor of Animal Science.

After talking with the veterinarian he worked for in high school, Weinheimer decided a career in veterinary medicine was not the path for him. He earned his Master of Agricultural Economics in 2006 in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Texas Tech. He received his Doctorate of Agricultural Economics at Texas Tech in 2008.

Weinheimer was hired by Texas Tech University’s Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics as a Post Doc Research Assistant by Phillip Johnson after receiving his doctorate degree. Johnson and Weinheimer have worked closely over the years researching water and working with the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation. Weinheimer spends 40% of his time working with the TAWC traveling across the state and country giving presentations and attending conferences. With the TAWC, he works with budgets, models and economic outlooks for the future. The rest of Weinheimer’s time is spent researching a variety of agricultural and economic topics for the university and collaborates efforts with the university.

“A big part of what we do as a college is to educate,” said Weinheimer. “While we focus on educating within the university, we also focus on outside people. We need to travel and take

advantage of educating outside groups and show what we have to offer.”

September 2011 was a month of promotion for Weinheimer. He was elected to a position on the water conservation advisory council under the Texas Water Advisory Board in Austin. He is serving a six year term and represents higher education interests for the state of Texas. The council is comprised of 26 members from major entities in the United States, and they meet about 15 times a year. Their job is to research and evaluate conservation efforts in the state of Texas and report the findings to the legislature.

Weinheimer was also promoted to assistant research professor and assistant director of the CASNR Water Center. With the promotion, Weinheimer works closely with Dr. Jeff Johnson, associate director of the CASNR

Water Center and a professor of agricultural economics. Jeff Johnson said the CASNR Water Center is a group of professors from each department in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources. The center was formed to make it easier to put a committee together when proposals come into the college.

While Weinheimer’s career involves reading a multitude of articles, he hates to read books for pleasure. Phil Johnson says Weinheimer would rather be in his garage welding. Weinheimer said he prefers to repair projects than build new projects. He also spends a week or two a year traveling by mule in the mountains and fishing with his father.

In March, Weinheimer accepted a job as Crop Improvement Director of the United Sorghum Checkoff Program. **T**

