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TEXAS ALLIANCE FOR WATER CONSERVATION

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Davis College

DAVIS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & NATURAL RESOURCES
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Front Cover by Clara Hunsaker
Back Cover by Luke Duenes

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In this issue:

The Texas Alliance for Water Conservation strives to conserve water and soil for future generations in collaboration with producers to identify agricultural production practices and technologies that, when integrated across farms and landscapes, will reduce the depletion of ground water while maintaining or improving agricultural production and economic opportunities.

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Rep. Trent Kelly (R-MS) Files the "Farmer Assistance and Revenue Mitigation Act of 2024"

Article From Plains Cotton Growers Newsletter 10/25/2024

Rep. Trent Kelly (R-MS) has introduced the Farmer Assistance and Revenue Mitigation Act of 2024 (The FARM Act) which would provide emergency assistance to producers of eligible commodities for which the expected revenue in crop year 2024 is below the projected per-acre cost of production. Acres planted or prevented from being planted in 2024 to the following crops would be eligible for assistance: barley, corn, cotton, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, large chickpeas, oats, peanuts, rice, small chickpeas, soybeans, other oilseeds, and wheat. FARM Act payments are calculated as follows:

FARM Act Payment = (Projected Cost – Projected Returns) x Eligible Acres x 60% where:

Projected Cost is the per-acre cost published by USDA's Economic Research Service for corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, rice, sorghum, oats, and barley and otherwise as determined by the Secretary in a similar manner.

Projected Returns for corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton, rice, sorghum, oats, and barley are determined by multiplying the projected 2024 marketing year average price published in the WASDE by the 10-year national average yield for the eligible commodity and otherwise as determined by the Secretary.

Eligible Acres consist of 100% of the acres planted to an eligible commodity plus 50% of the acres prevented from being planted to an eligible commodity in crop year 2024, as reported to FSA by the producer.

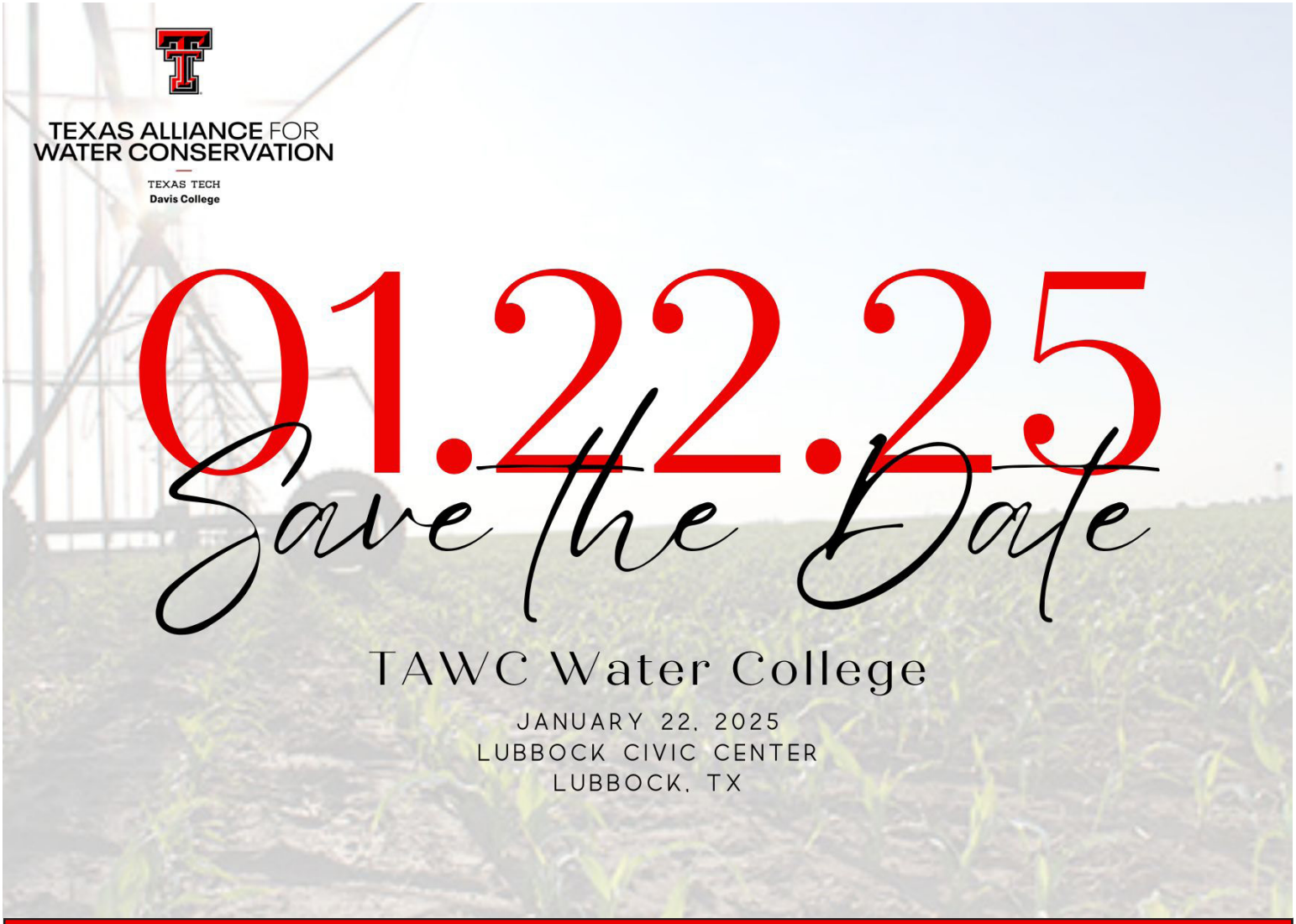
Existing provisions relative to attribution of payments, actively engaged in farming, and other regulations apply. With respect to payment limitations, persons or entities that derive less than 75% of their income from farming, ranching, or forestry are subject to an overall limitation of $175,000 per person or entity. Persons or entities that derive 75% or more of their income from farming, ranching, or forestry are subject to an overall limitation of $350,000 in assistance per person or entity.

The table below provides an estimate of the per-acre payments under the FARM Act. This analysis from the Texas A&M Agricultural and Food Policy Center uses estimates from the October 2024 WASDE for the marketing year average price along with harvested acre yields from NASS. These are merely estimates and are subject to change, however, proposals are starting to take shape, and the levels of support being discussed would provide a meaningful amount of assistance to help offset losses in 2024 which is much needed.

Estimated Per-Acre Payments For Select Commodities Under the Farm Act

	2024 Cost of Production*	2024 Marketing Year Average Price**	10-Year Average Yield***	2024 Revenue	2024 Projected Returns	Payment Factor	Estimated Payment Per Acre
Corn	$877.53	$4.10	173.33	710.65	(166.88)	60%	100.13
Cotton	$902.14	$0.66	861.80	568.79	(333.35)	60%	200.01
Peanuts	$1,172.96	$0.265	3,907.80	1,035.57	(137.39)	60%	82.44
Rice	$1,309.79	$0.156	7,532.20	1,175.02	(134.77)	60%	80.86
Sorghum	$435.83	$4.10	67.36	276.18	(159.65)	60%	95.79
Soybeans	$620.03	$10.80	49.76	537.41	(82.62)	60%	49.57
Wheat	$413.20	$5.70	47.48	270.64	(142.56)	60%	85.54

*https://www.ers.usda.gov/webdocs/DataFiles/47913/cop_forecast.xlsx?v=7421.1
**Based on October 2024 WASDE
***Based on NASS harvested acre yields



11th Annual Water College

The Texas Alliance for Water Conservation will host its 11th Annual Water College on January 22, 2025, at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center in Lubbock, Texas. This event connects today's producers, crop consultants, and researchers with the latest in conservation practices, technologies, and agricultural issues.

"In our region, regardless of what agricultural commodity you are trying to produce, our primary limiting factor is water," says TAWC Project Director Samantha Borgstedt. "Water college is a great opportunity for producers to hear detailed presentations and visit with their peers to determine ways they can remain economically viable in this time of rising input costs and decreasing water availability."

As always, company and organization booths will be set up at the Civic Center providing a great area for attendees to view the latest technologies and producer programs. Those interested in having a booth at this event can find more information on the TAWC website or contact Samantha Borgstedt at samantha.borgstedt@ttu.edu.

Once again we will be having a photo contest open to all ages at our Water College. Details are on the following page. Send in your favorite photos to enter!

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PHOTO CONTEST

Show your photography skills & win cash prizes

CONTEST DEADLINE
JAN. 15

WINNERS ANNOUNCED
JAN. 22

CASH PRIZES
1ST - $250
2ND - $150
3RD - $100

Photos capturing the relationship between water, soil, plants, and livestock on the Texas High Plains.

File size: 1 to 6 MB

Please submit photos taken between Jan 1, 2024, to Jan 1, 2025.

Open to Everyone.
One photo entry per person.

Winners will be announced & displayed at the 11th Annual Water College hosted by Texas Alliance for Water Conservation on January 22, 2025, at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center in Lubbock, Texas.

GIVE US YOUR BEST SHOT!

SUBMIT ALL IMAGE FILES TO DR. KALA RAJAN, KRAJAN@TTU.EDU

email photos to : krajan@ttu.edu

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Field Days

Field Days have always been a central part of the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation. These events give attendees an opportunity to see the field sites and technologies used. It is a great opportunity to visit with the producers involved in the project about what irrigation methods, technologies, tillage practices, and other management practices have and have not worked for them.

This year's TAWC Field Day was held at the farm of a cooperating producer Lloyd Arthur's farm on Thursday, August 29th, in Ralls, Texas. About 50 producers, crop consultants and researchers attended the event. This field day featured presentations from

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two producers discussing irrigation and soil management transitions due to declining availability of irrigation water and drought weather conditions. Producer presentations also discussed the economics involved in transitioning their farm from irrigated to rain-fed (dryland).

The field portion of the Field Day included looking at cotton and sorghum irrigated by drip and pivot systems. Technologies featured and discussed were Goanna and Autonomous Pivot. Consultants from these companies were present to detail how these technologies work, cost of use, and benefits each can bring a producer.

The Sorghum Field Day was held September 11, 2024, on the Texas Tech Research Farm at New Deal with around 100 participants. That included presentations by members of the teams working on different themes under climate smart commodities grant covering topics related to impacts of sorghum-cotton rotation on soil physical-chemical properties, soil health and GHG emission, developing regional proxies using remote sensing and UAV, sociological barriers and social change aspects, economic and environmental sustainability, sensors based technologies for irrigation scheduling and GHG emission measurements.

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