

FY 2016 & 2017 EXCEPTIONAL ITEM

Eight of the last 15 years have delivered crippling droughts to the state, causing more than \$20.7 billion in direct losses to agricultural producers, while residents in hundreds of towns and cities have struggled with water supply and the resultant damage to lawns, gardens, plants and trees. The green industry in Texas has an annual economic value of more than \$8 billion and is of immeasurable value to Texans.



BENEFITS TO TEXANS

- Ensure a sustainable, profitable and competitive food, fiber, and green industry in Texas
- Protect and conserve the natural resources of the State through educational programs

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Funding will be used to support an equivalent of 10 specialists in water, production management and risk analysis. Operations will include multi-lingual educational materials, online development, and travel.

Programs will focus on:

- Education for ranchers and landowners on better stocking and destocking strategies for livestock and the assessment of drought affected forage resources to reduce economic loss and prevent irreversible damage to rangeland and pastures.

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REQUESTED AMOUNT
 (BIENNIAL):
\$2 MILLION

OBJECTIVE

Enhance drought response and preparedness in both rural and urban settings to improve management of livestock, crops, forages, rangelands and urban green spaces.



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Extension specialists will assist by developing multi-lingual educational materials, web-based resources, and in-person training.

For more information, contact:

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- Community education related to conservation, and education for individual water well-owners.
- Strategies to reduce damaging effects of wind erosion, including high residue tillage systems, rotational systems, cover crops, and other management strategies.
- Tactics for new and small landowners to more efficiently utilize their land and water resources to be more drought resilient.
- Proper selection, utilization and care of drought resistant turfgrass and landscape plants in cities.
- Rainwater harvesting and water reuse to reduce the use of critical water resources for municipal water supply.
- Irrigation training and CEUs for commercial irrigators/installers in urban areas.

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TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

What is AgriLife? It's a simple word for a diverse organization. With teaching, research, extension education, laboratory, and forestry facilities throughout Texas, we serve people of all ages and backgrounds. Led by Acting Vice Chancellor Dr. Bill Dugas, Texas A&M AgriLife includes the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Texas A&M Forest Service, and the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.