

OAP Big Forage Research Planning Meeting – December 10-11, 2024

Location: Conservation & Production Research Laboratory, Bushland, Texas

Virtual attendance was provided via Zoom.

Purpose: Discuss and learn about forage cropping system research needs and ongoing and past research in the Southern Ogallala aquifer region of Kansas, Texas, and New Mexico. Prepare for new OAP preplans – call for preplans will come out in late December.



Committee: Jourdan Bell, John Holman, Gary Marek, Steve Evett, Gwen Coyle

Format:

First Day: One-half day beginning at 12:00 noon with lunch and introduction, followed by keynote presentations, followed by presentations of newly funded OAP projects. Q&A after each presentation.

Second Day - 8:00 am to 11:00 am; selected presentations from other researchers, possibly those who submitted forage-related plans in 2024 that were not funded. Q&A after each presentation. 11:00 am to noon: Brainstorming on new research needs and approaches.

Agenda (with links to PDFs of presentations in many cases):

Industry Insights – 30 minutes each

- 12:00-12:30: Lunch and [Introduction](#) – Steve Evett, Ogallala Aquifer Program Manager
- 12:30-1:00: [Ogallala aquifer conditions in Kansas](#) – Brownie Wilson, Kansas Geological Survey
- 1:00-1:30: [Ogallala aquifer conditions in Texas/Eastern NM](#) – Ginny McGuire, USGS.
- 1:30-2:00: [Beef industry viewpoint](#) – Matt Davis, Texas Cattle Feeders Association
- 2:00-2:30: Dairy industry viewpoint – Darren Turley, Executive Director, Texas Association of Dairywomen. PDF not available.
- 2:30-2:40: Break

Research Keynotes – 30 to 45 minutes each

- 2:40-3:25: [Past Forage Studies and Economics in Western Kansas](#), Dr. John Holman, Professor of Cropping Systems/Agronomy, Western Kansas Agricultural Research Center, KSU, Garden City
- 3:25-4:10: [Forage Production with Limited Water](#), Dr. Jourdan Bell, Extension and Research Agronomist, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension, Amarillo
- 4:10-4:55: [Forage Production for the Dairy Industry](#), Douglas Duhatschek, Texas A&M University
- 5:00: Adjourn for the day – dinner on your own

New OAP Research – 15 minutes each

8:00-8:05: Introduction: Steve Evett

8:15-8:30: [Summer legumes an alternative protein source for the Ogallala Aquifer Region](#), John Holman

8:30-8:45: **An evaluation of limited irrigation forages in Western Kansas will lead to better farmer decision tools for maximizing economic returns under declining water availability**, Lucas Haag (virtual presentation, no PDF)

8:45-9:00: [Smart forage sorghum: Precision sensing for optimized irrigation water management](#), Hope Nakabuye, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Halfway, TX

9:00-9:15: [Identification of climate resilient alternative field and forage crops for the Southern Great Plains](#), Srini Ale, Texas A&M AgriLife (via zoom)

Other Research – (proposed but not funded by OAP in 2024) 15 minutes each

9:15-9:30: [Integrating forages and livestock to diversify dryland wheat-based cropping systems in the Ogallala region](#), Augustine Obour, KSU Ag Research Center, Hays

9:30-9:45: [Increasing starch digestibility of whole plant forage sorghum silage and high moisture grain sorghum](#), Juan Piñeiro, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Bushland

9:45-10:00: [Wheat forage research](#), Shannon Baker, Jason Baker, Jackie Rudd, Texas A&M AgriLife, Bushland, TX

10:00-10:15: Break

10:15-10:30: **Climate-resilient and Fumonisin-resistant Short-season Hi-A Corn for Silage and Grain Production in Texas High Plains**, Wenwei Xu, Texas A&M AgriLife, Lubbock, TX. No PDF.

10:30-10:45: **The impact of deficit irrigation on forage sorghum yield and water use**, Rocio Reyes-Estevez, KSU (virtual presentation, no PDF)

10:45-11:00: [Dominant multiple tiller \(mtl-D1\) as a promising trait for forage sorghum](#), Dr. Zhanguo Xin, USDA ARS, Lubbock, TX

11:00-11:15: Q&A

Wrap Up and brainstorming for the future

11:15-11:45: Discussion breakouts

12:15 pm: Lunch and adjourn the meeting

The Ogallala Aquifer Program (<https://ogallala.tamu.edu/>) is a research consortium of four universities in Kansas and Texas (Kansas State, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, and West Texas A&M) and the USDA Agricultural Research Laboratories in Bushland and Lubbock, Texas focused on sustaining economic activity from the Ogallala Aquifer through new water management technologies since 2003.