



International Federation
of Agricultural Journalists
**Post-Congress
Agricultural Tours**
2009

SOUTH TEXAS TOUR

August 5 – 8

Wednesday, August 5

Fly Dallas to San Antonio (direct)

Seguin Livestock Auction, Seguin (tentative, time-permitting)

Graham Land and Cattle Co., Gonzales — This 30,000-head feedyard is one of South Texas' premier cattle feedyards. It is the exclusive feeder for HeartBrand Beef Co. and is a licensed feedyard of the Nolan Ryan Tender Aged Beef Program. In addition, Graham has a 14,000-head pasture operation, where calves can be grown on grass before they are finished in the feedyard. www.grahamfeedyard.com

Spoetzl Brewery, Shiner — Located in the tiny town of Shiner, this brewery has been producing Shiner beer, Texas' best-known brew, since 1909. Each visitor can sample any four of the company's eight different beers. www.shiner.com

Buckhorn Saloon/Texas Ranger Museum, San Antonio, dinner and entertainment — This Western-themed saloon and museum takes visitors back to the 1800s, when the famed Texas Rangers kept law and order throughout the state. It is located one block from the Riverwalk and two blocks from The Alamo fort. www.rangermuseum.com

Thursday, August 6

Free time to explore downtown San Antonio

74 Ranch, Campbellton, lunch and sporting clays — This 27,000-acre hunting resort offers commercial hunts for white-tailed deer, quail, dove, duck and turkey hunts, as well as fishing. www.74ranch.com

Smith Co-op Gin, Odem — Smith Gin is the largest cotton gin in plant size outside of Australia. Known for its efficiency, the present plant was built in 2004. It serves members from as far away as 200 miles away.

Gulf Compress and Port of Corpus Christi — The bulk of the South Texas cotton crop is exported from the Gulf Compress terminals on the bay in Corpus Christi.
www.caller.com/news/2008/jun/17/san-pat-man-is-ginner-of-the-year/ and
www.portofcorpuschristi.com/Business.html

Overnight in Corpus Christi

Friday, August 7

Cotton and milo operation, Robstown — In early August, harvesting is generally underway on the vast cotton farms in this fertile coastal region south of Corpus Christi.

Farm machinery dealership, Robstown (tentative, time permitting)

King Ranch, Kingsville, ranch/farm tours and lunch – The historic King Ranch is the nation’s largest and most famous ranch. Known for developing the Santa Gertrudis breed of cattle and raising top-notch quarter horses, cutting horses and thoroughbreds, “The King” also includes extensive farming and hunting operations. www.king-ranch.com

Peeler Hall of Horns, Texas A&M/Kingsville — This wildlife museum boasts a collection of more than 250 wildlife mounts from throughout North America

King Ranch Saddle Shop, Kingsville — Visitors can purchase mementos, including leather goods emblazoned with the King Ranch brand.

King’s Inn, Riviera, dinner

Overnight in Corpus Christi

Saturday, August 8

Texas AgriLIFE Mariculture Lab, Corpus Christi — Considered one of the top three shrimp research programs in the world, the Shrimp Mariculture Project supports the growth of Texas’ shrimp-farming industry. <http://ccag.tamu.edu/Port/port.htm>

Texas Parks & Wildlife Fish Hatchery, Corpus Christi — This state-run hatchery produces red drum and spotted sea trout for release into Texas bays.
www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/management/hatcheries/ccacpl.phtml

Fly Corpus Christi to Dallas-Fort Worth

CENTRAL TEXAS TOUR

August 5 – 7

Wednesday, August 5

Corn/wheat operation and grain elevator, Corsicana — Visit a typical family-owned and –operated crop operation in central Texas.

Trans Ova, Centerville, lunch and tour — A leader in cattle reproductive technology, Trans Ova offers cloning, in-vitro fertilization, embryo transfer, semen sorting and genetic preservation services. www.transova.com

Producers Co-op, Bryan – This is one of the largest farmer-owned agricultural supply cooperatives in the nation. Besides selling fertilizer, seed, petroleum and agricultural supplies, the co-op has a feed manufacturing division and offers agronomic consulting services. www.producerscooperative.com

Messina Hof Winery and Resort, Bryan, tour, dinner and entertainment by the Aggie Wranglers dance troupe — The family-owned Messina Hof includes a 42-acre vineyard, a winery, The Vintage House Restaurant and a bed-and-breakfast. www.messinahof.com

Overnight in Bryan

Thursday, August 6

Texas A&M University, College Station — Texas A&M is one of the leading agricultural research and teaching institutions in the United States. <http://tamu.edu>

Morning Option 1 – Institute for Plant Genomics and Biotechnology at the **Norman Borlaug Center for Southern Crop Improvement**, named for the world-renown Nobel Prize winner and Texas A&M faculty member. <http://ipgb.tamu.edu/borlaug.html>

Morning Option 2 – **College of Veterinary Medicine**, where teaching and research programs focus on topics ranging from cardiovascular disease to biodefense systems. <http://www.cvm.tamu.edu>

Afternoon -- **Texas A&M Beef Center**, recognized for applied research in animal genomics, meat science and food safety. <http://animalscience.tamu.edu/academics/beef/beef-center/>

Family-run cattle/cotton/grain farm, Bryan — Many outstanding farms are found in the Bryan-College Station area, where the rich soils of the Brazos River bottom produce outstanding cotton, corn, milo and hay crops.

Texas Disposal Systems Exotic Wildlife Ranch, Buda, dinner and sporting clays — More than 1,200 animals from 31 different species roam this 800-acre rolling ranch that was once a landfill

for refuse. Visitors can shoot clay pigeons, photograph wildlife and dine in the ranch's rustic lodge. www.texasdisposal.com

Overnight in Austin

Friday, August 7

HEB Central Market, Austin — This Texas-based grocery store offers shoppers unparalleled freshness and selection, from organic fruits and vegetables to locally grown cut-flowers to more than 700 cheeses from around the world. www.centralmarket.com

Stiles Farm, Thrall — The nonprofit, self-supporting farm is operated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service for the purpose of demonstrating the latest crop research and best management practices to farmers. <http://agnews.tamu.edu/showstory.php?id=561>

44 Farms, Cameron, lunch and tour – Located in the Heart of Texas, the century-old 44 Farms is a purebred Angus operation known for its top-quality genetics. In 2008, 44 Farms merged its cattle operations with Ankony Farms, creating a herd of more than 3,000 head of Angus cattle. www.44farms.com

Return to Dallas-Fort Worth

WEST TEXAS TOUR

August 5 – 8

Wednesday, August 5

Fly to Lubbock (direct)

Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock, lunch and self-guided tour — The history of ranching, pioneer life and the American livestock industry is preserved at this museum located on the edge of the Texas Tech University campus. The 30-acre site is home to nearly 50 historic ranch buildings and a large collection of early ranching artifacts and Western artwork. www.depts.ttu.edu/ranchhc/

USDA Cropping Systems Research Lab, Lubbock — U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists here focus on understanding the effects of water and heat stress on local crops, and developing cotton germplasm that performs well on the hot, dry West Texas plains. www.csrl.ars.usda.gov

PYCO cottonseed mill, Lubbock — With more than 90 member gins, PYCO is the largest cottonseed co-op in the southern U.S. It produces cottonseed oil, whole cotton seed, hulls and meal.

ACG Denim Mill, Littlefield — Owned by Plains Cotton Co-op, this state-of-the-art mill produces denim for brands such as Wrangler, Levi-Strauss and Lee. www.pcca.com/Denim/

Cap*Rock Winery, Lubbock, reception and dinner — Early August is crushing time at Cap*Rock Winery, which receives its grapes from local vineyards. The stunning Southwestern – style winery uses a German stemmer-crusher, German presses and an Italian bottling line. www.caprockwinery.com

Overnight in Lubbock

Thursday, August 6

Cotton farm, Crosbyton — Cotton drives the economy in this community, east of Lubbock.

6666 Ranch, Guthrie — Established in 1870, the storied Four Sixes covers one-third of a million acres and is home to 7,000 head of mother cows and herd of quarter horses that includes some of the most winning bloodlines in the country. www.6666ranch.com

Bradley 3 Ranch, Memphis — Genetics have been a key factor in this registered Angus operation, ever since the Bradley family began performance-testing their herd in the 1950s. They pioneered the concept of value-based marketing when they established and later sold B3R Meats, a natural-beef packing plant that integrated beef production and marketing from the ranch through the feedlot, packing plant and retailer. www.bradley3ranch.com

American Quarter Horse Association Hall of Fame and Museum, Amarillo, reception and dinner — This stunning museum showcases the history and modern activities of the American quarter horse through audiovisual and hands-on exhibits as well as artifacts and artwork. www.aqha.org

Overnight in Amarillo

Friday, August 7

Dawn Custom Cattle Feeders, Dawn — Located in the heart of cattle-feeding country, this modern feedyard has the capacity to feed nearly 18,000 head of cattle. It is owned by a group of local farmers and ranchers, who use it to add value to their own cattle and grain. They also offer the feedyard's services to other cattle producers throughout the country. www.dccf.com

Lunch in the town of Hereford

White Energy (ethanol), Hereford — Built in 2008, this ethanol plant has the capacity to produce 100 million gallons of ethanol annually. With its location in one of the largest concentrations of cattle feedyards in the world, the plant has a ready market for the distiller's grains it produces. White Energy was the first ethanol producer in Texas.

www.white-energy.com

Irrigated corn farm, Hereford area — Visit one of the many corn operations that supply the region's feedyards.

Palo Duro Canyon State Park, barbecue steak dinner and outdoor musical play — Performed in the outdoor amphitheater in the rugged Caprock Canyon, the spectacular drama "Texas!" tells the history of West Texas, and features music, dancing, galloping horsemen, fireworks and simulated lightning. The State Park encompasses 30,000 acres of scenic beauty, and is located at the head of the 100-mile-long canyon. www.palodurocanyon.com

Overnight in Amarillo

Saturday, August 8

Wildorado Wind Ranch, Wildorado — Built in 2007, the 70 wind turbines at this wind ranch produce 161 megawatts of electricity, enough to serve 50,000 homes. It sits on 16,000 acres.

www.cielowind.com

Fly Amarillo to Dallas-Fort Worth