

Texas Hispanic Farmer and Rancher Conference



The conference was designed to aid agriculture producers with the most influential issues affecting producers today. As part of the conference, Texas State Senator Juan Hinojosa addressed the audience in regards to the state government and how agriculture impacts and is impacted by legislation.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville, students from left to right: Sammy Guerra, Kristina Cardenas, Harley Guzman, Allison Watts and Esmeralda Gutierrez

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The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) hosted a Texas Hispanic Farmer and Rancher Conference in McAllen, Texas on December 6-7, 2018. The educational conference had speakers from USDA-NRCS, USDA-FSA, USDA-ARS, Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Veteran's Commission, Texas Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas Grazing Land Coalition, Texas International Produce Association, Texas Center for Local Food, Grow Local South Texas as well as speakers from Texas A&M University—Kingsville, University of Texas-RGV, Texas A&M AgriLife, University of Arkansas, University of Georgia, North Carolina State Extension, Texas A&M, Clemson University and the University of Kentucky.

Students at a table (back left) with Dr. Consuelo Donato and Dr. Tanner Machado listening to a speaker. Also pictured is Dr. Catherine Simpson from the TAMUK Citrus Center

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Over the two days, there were workshops that addressed four main areas: 1) small producers, 2) ranching, 3) farming, and 4) southern sustainable agriculture research and education (SSARE). From TAMUK, there were eight undergraduate students who attended the conference with three TAMUK faculty. The students included Kristina Cardenas, Sammy Guerra, Esmeralda Gutierrez, Harley Guzman, Jennifer Mendez, Ayla Rangel, Yolanda Reyes, and Allison Watts. Allison, Harley, Kristina and Sammy received scholarships from NCAT.

Speaking to the audience was Bertha Venegas with USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)