

# HONORING OUR PIONEERS

## CLASS OF 2024 TEXAS FARM BUREAU PIONEER AWARD WINNERS

They give everything to their farm, ranch, communities and consumers. For that, Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) recognizes them for what they are: pioneers in Texas agriculture.

Each year, 13 Texas farmers and ranchers and one retired professional staff member are honored with the Texas Farm Bureau Pioneer Award. They are selected for their contributions to agriculture and the organization, both through service and leadership.



### **District 1**

#### **Roddy G. "Bud" Allred, Sr. | Deaf Smith-Oldham County Farm Bureau**

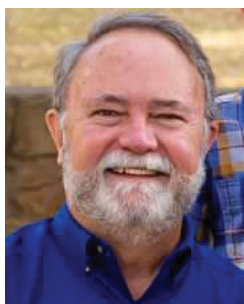
Roddy G. "Bud" Allred, Sr. is a farmer and rancher in Deaf Smith and Oldham counties who has a special talent in connecting and teaching youth about agriculture in an exciting and captivating manner.

Allred joined Farm Bureau in 1970 and was elected as director of the Deaf Smith-Oldham County Farm Bureau board in 1976. He served as president, chaired the Horse Commodity Committee, as well as was a member of the Ag in the Classroom and Nominating committees. When a volunteer was needed, Allred did not wait to be asked. He would stand up and take charge, resulting in frequent successful events and activities. He always volunteered for the annual Ag Day event, helping to bring agriculture to students at local schools. Allred attended numerous meetings and conventions, including the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) annual meeting and the TFB National Affairs Awards Trip in Washington, D.C. He served on the TFB Resolutions Committee on several occasions.

Allred's passion is to inspire the next generation to know and love agriculture. Most of the Deaf Smith-Oldham County Farm Bureau leaders grew up with Allred as their mentor, as he sponsored youth show projects, helped with Vega FFA ag mechanic projects and was driver of their projects to the various livestock shows. Today, at the age of 72, he continues to help Junior High School and High School students at the Vega ISD Agriculture Center.

For 14 years, he served in the Deaf Smith County Sheriffs Reserve, was president for 27 years of the Oldham County Junior Livestock Show and is Wildorado Cemetery president. Allred received the Heroes for Children award from the Texas State Board of Education, the Honorary FFA State Degree and Honorary Lone Star Degree.

The Deaf Smith-Oldham County Farm Bureau board stated, "Roddy has dedicated himself to the members of this county by devoting countless hours volunteering his time, knowledge and skills on county and state Farm Bureau committees and events."



### **District 2**

#### **The late Chris Cummings | Hale County Farm Bureau**

The late Chris Cummings always gave his all. From his time as a young man excelling in school and winning many awards during his journey through 4-H, to his time after graduation when he farmed with his dad and father-in-law while working four other jobs to provide for his family, Cummings was committed to excellence.

Cummings became branch manager at Helena Chemical in Lockney and built a great business with his simple core value: KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid). He valued his employees, treating them

as family, and he was kind and worked hard—a winning combination for his team’s success.

Cummings was a member of Farm Bureau for more than 20 years and served on the Hale County Farm Bureau board for 17 years. He was president for four years, as well as served two years each as vice president and as secretary. He also served on the Building, Scholarship and Nominating committees. He always volunteered at the annual Ag Day and Texas Food Connection Day events. Cummings prioritized the promotion of youth in agriculture, seeking out local youth to become involved in all Farm Bureau youth opportunities. He was a visionary, whose leadership and direction were instrumental in Hale County Farm Bureau winning the Outstanding County Farm Bureau Award in 2013 and 2014. Cummings and his wife, Jane, enjoyed attending county and state Farm Bureau meetings to help advocate for farmers and ranchers and the crops and livestock that they raise, as well as the Farm Bureau organization.

Cummings gave much of his time to his community, including serving as a Hale Center ISD board member, as a 4-H leader, a former president of Hale County Livestock Show board and its Sheep and Goat Superintendent at livestock shows. Cummings was a deacon of Hale Center Church of Christ, taught Sunday bible classes, hosted youth events and youth trips.

Cummings always kept Hale County Farm Bureau’s best interest at heart. He and Jane passed away unexpectedly in a flooding accident on July 21, 2022.



### **District 3** **Tommy Henderson | Clay County Farm Bureau**

In 1987, Tommy Henderson joined Farm Bureau and became a Clay County Farm Bureau board member, always willing to speak up for agriculture.

Henderson served on the board for several years before becoming president from 2009-2021. He also served in the role of secretary-treasurer and is currently vice president. He served on the Hay and Forage, Cotton, Wheat, and Membership committees. Henderson also served on the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Resolutions Committee, two terms on the TFB Wheat Advisory Committee and is a longtime AGFUND contributor. He attended countless meetings, including the

TFB National Affairs Awards Trip to Washington, D.C., and several AFBF Wheat Committee meetings (three times in Washington, D.C., and twice in California).

Henderson has advocated for Texas agriculture in various parts of the country. He testified in Austin in support of eminent domain reform, participated at the public meeting at the Highway 79 bridge regarding the Red River dispute, attended a U.S. House committee meeting, and has visited with the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), as well as with U.S. Sen. John Cornyn and members of Congress. Henderson visited with the Texas Public Policy Foundation to advocate for landowners in the *Aderholt vs. BLM* case, resulting in BLM’s withdrawal and admission of using the wrong survey techniques.

He was involved in his community. Henderson served on a variety of different organizations, including the local USDA Farm Service Agency and when it was formally known as the ASCS and CFSA. Henderson also served nine years on the Byers ISD school board, two years as vice president and three years as president. He was a member of the local United Methodist Church, served as chair of the Administrative Council, and as chair of Trustees. He has supported the Whispers of Hope in Wichita Falls with donations and volunteer work for over 20 years. He has also supported the local fire department and assisted several students with college.

Henderson began farming in 1975 after graduating from Texas A&M. He is a continued supporter and spokesman for agricultural issues important to Texans.



### **District 4** **Steven Don Patman | Ellis County Farm Bureau**

Steven Don Patman has always had ties to Farm Bureau, as he and his family have been active Farm Bureau members for several generations. Patman started farming on his own in 1975, renting 2,200 acres. In 1983, Patman and his dad started a partnership that is still operating today.

In high school, Patman received the Star Greenhand Degree of his FFA chapter, then was awarded the Star Chapter Farmer, the Lone Star Degree, as well as the Star Award for district American FFA Farmer. In 1976, he was the first in Waxahachie High School’s history to earn the American FFA Degree. He began raising Charolais cattle in high school, purchased with a FSA’s

Beginning Farmer loan.

Patman was elected to the Ellis County Farm Bureau board in 1979, serving six years as president. He took an active part in most all county committees and is currently chairman of the Wheat, Hay and Forage and Small Farm and Ranch committees. Patman has attend numerous county and state conventions and meetings. He served twice on the Texas Farm Bureau's Young Farmer & Rancher Advisory Committee and was chosen runner-up for the 1986 Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher Award.

He was chair of the county's Integrated Pest Management Committee for 31 years until the program ended. For 33 years, Patman has served on the board of the Nash-Forrester Water Supply Corporation and has served six years on a Cotton Stripper Focus Group for John Deere to better develop the baler stripper. He currently serves on the local Farm Service Agency County Committee's advisory board representing southern Ellis County.

Patman continues to demonstrate leadership skills and commitment to his farming and ranching operations. In 2009, he was voted Premier Charolais Breeder in the United States. Patman has dedicated his time to support his community, Farm Bureau and works toward agricultural innovation.



### **District 5** **Byron Eric Lum | Bowie County Farm Bureau**

Byron Eric Lum became a member of Bowie County Farm Bureau in 1992 and soon after became a near-permanent fixture on the county board, advocating tirelessly for agriculture.

Lum was elected to the Bowie County Farm Bureau board and served in the offices of secretary for five years, vice president for three years and president for four years. He also served on the Horticulture, Sheep and Goat, Youth and Dairy committees. He attended the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Annual Meeting 15 times, traveled twice to Washington, D.C., for the TFB National Affairs Awards Trip, attended multiple county, district and state meetings representing Bowie County Farm Bureau and attended a TFB commodity meeting to train on the use of Kaput Feral Hog Bait.

Lum's contributions to agriculture, especially Farm Bureau, are innumerable. He was a part of the TFB 2020 Vision Committee, served twice on the state Resolutions Committee and on the TFB Nursery/Greenhouse Advisory Committee, as well as the Agritourism and Direct Marketing Advisory Committees.

He has not only impacted Bowie County Farm Bureau but has also made a positive difference in his community. Lum is a deacon at First Baptist Church of New Boston, a lifetime member of the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association, a founder of the annual Four States Agricultural Exposition held in Texarkana and its Four States Horticulture Contest. Lum is also a two-time Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Award recipient and a member of the Planning Committee for the Boxelder Cemetery's annual Memorial Day Veteran's Recognition Ceremony.

Lum is very proud to have developed and presented numerous trainings to Master Gardeners and producers on blackberry, peach, blueberry and pecan production. His wisdom and knowledge about Texas farming is inspirational to people he encounters.



### **District 6** **Pete Case | Tom Green County Farm Bureau**

Pete Case has been a member of Tom Green County Farm Bureau since 1978. He joined the county board of directors in 1989 and has served terms as president and vice president.

At the county level, Case served on the Budget, Goals, Sheep and Goat, Executive and Beef committees. He has been instrumental in budget planning for Tom Green County Farm Bureau.

On the state level, Case has served on the Sheep and Goat, Wildlife, Project 2000 and Beef committees. He was chair of the Beef Advisory Committee.

He has served on the Cattlemen's Beef Board and the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Beef Committee. He was chair of the AFBF Beef Committee in 2005. He was twice a voting delegate at AFBF annual conventions. Case was appointed to a special AFBF committee to study packer ownership in 1999. He also served in 1996 on a Senate appointed panel review for Fund for Rural America grants.

Case was president of the Concho County Hereford Association and held other leadership positions in the Hereford business, including the Texas Hereford Association board of directors, and has served as a voting delegate of the American Hereford Association.

In nominating Pete Case for the Pioneer Award, the Tom Green County Farm Bureau said, "Pete is in charge of our budget committee and was instrumental in getting a new building constructed. He made sure funds were available to pay for the building and the land."



## **District 7** **The late Daniel Redman | Runnels County Farm Bureau**

The late Daniel Redman became a Farm Bureau member in 1955 and served on the Runnels County Farm Bureau board for 31 years. He devoted countless hours to Farm Bureau events and promoting agriculture.

Redman served on the Membership, Cotton, Wheat, Beef Cattle and Feed Grains committees. He was a loyal member who always helped with Farm Bureau activities, faithfully attending county conventions and other meetings. Redman was a voting delegate at numerous state annual meetings.

He grew cotton, milo, hay grazer, wheat, pecans and raised cattle for over 55 years. Redman and his family were awarded the Texas Land Heritage Award by the Texas Department of Agriculture for their continuous farm and ranch operation of 100 years.

Redman was a board member of Miles Cotton Ginners, Rolling Plains Cotton Growers in Sweetwater, Cotton Oil Mill in Lubbock, Runnels County Appraisal District, the local Farm Service Agency and the Miles Young Farmers Association. He was also a member of the local Lions Club, Miles ISD school board, American Legion and served as commander of the Rowena Veterans of Foreign Wars post. Redman belonged to the Texas Scottish Rite. He was president of the local Masonic Lodge and received the prestigious Golden Trowel, the highest award an individual lodge can bestow on a member, for his outstanding leadership and his 50 years of devoted service.

He received the Appreciation Award for his service as a board member of the Coleman Rural Electric Cooperative. Redman was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Miles.



## **District 8** **Edward "Earl" Minze | Freestone County Farm Bureau**

Edward "Earl" Minze has been involved in agriculture for more than 65 years. While in high school, he built up a herd of beef cattle, laying the foundation of his love of ranching and agriculture.

In 1966, Minze took a job as a soil technician with the USDA Soil Conservation Service. He worked with farmers and ranchers of Hill, Navarro, Polk, Tarrant and Wise counties to build ponds, plat terraces and improve conservation. Minze retired in 1991 to devote his time to the operation of his family cattle ranch.

He joined Farm Bureau in 1977 and was elected director of the Freestone County Farm Bureau board in 1992. Minze has served in the office of vice president for two years, president from 1995 to 2016, and currently, since 2016, is serving as secretary-treasurer. He was a member of the Animal Health committee and the state Beef and Resolutions committees. Minze was a member of the Texas Farm Bureau Task Force that studied the impact of reopening the Canadian border for beef imports. He recruited participants to attend Municipal Fire Training schools and Youth Leadership Conferences. Because of his encouragement, many youth competed in the county's queen contest and Free Enterprise Speech contests and earned scholarships.

Minze knows the importance of agriculture, so much so that he actively promotes Farm Bureau and agriculture throughout his county. Plus, he is an active member of his community.

He is a deacon and lifelong member of New Hope Baptist Church in Streetman. Minze and his wife Sherrill have three children, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



## **District 9** **Ted Britton | Anderson County Farm Bureau**

Ted Britton became a member of Anderson County Farm Bureau in 2003 and soon after became a near-permanent fixture on the county board, advocating tirelessly for agriculture.

Britton served as vice president for 10 years, president for four years, and currently is board secretary for Anderson County Farm Bureau. He served on the Scholarship, Hay and Forage, Public Relations and Policy Development committees. He helped develop the county's Youth Ambassador Project, organize Texas Food Connection Day events, which helps feed 500 low-income families each year, and implement the county's Ag Day event. Britton served four years on the Texas Farm Bureau Hay and Forage Advisory Committee and twice on the state Resolutions Committee.

He was president and currently is vice president of Tucker Water Supply. Britton is treasurer for the local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension board, chaired its Economic Development Committee, member of its Beef and Forage Production, Livestock Management and Water Conservation committees, and assists in coordinating and sponsoring Ag Producer Meetings.

Britton is a board member for Shelby Savings Bank's Economic Development Board, a deacon at Bassett Baptist Church, vice chairman of the Ag Advisory Board for U.S. Representative Jake Ellzey, as well as a member of the Anderson County Buyers Group. Britton is proud to have been a board member for the Anderson County Youth Livestock Association, the Texas High School Rodeo Association and the Neches and Trinity Valleys Groundwater Conservation District. He is past president for Region IX Texas High School Rodeo Association and the Westwood FFA Support Group.

Britton began his agricultural career as a ranch manager for Lamb Ranch and other ranchers over the years. He also worked as a livestock inspector for the Texas Animal Health Commission, then went on to establish Rafter "8" Farm & Ranch Supply, which he continues to operate. He has run a cow-calf operation since 1981.



**District 10**  
**Clarence W. Earles | Webb County Farm Bureau**

Clarence W. Earles grew up in a rural area of Laredo raising chickens, cattle and sheep. Later, he met Socorro Lopez, a fourth-generation cattle rancher from Zapata County. They married in 1976, and Earles began running the wildlife aspect of his wife's family cattle ranch, balancing habitat restoration and cattle operations.

In 1998, Earles helped create one of the first wildlife co-ops in Texas. It consisted of six other ranches to improve the land, which encompassed over 50,000 acres, and recover all wildlife populations, particularly the white-tailed deer. In 2001, he was instrumental in the creation of the Arroyo Veleno Wildlife Management Co-Op. Their work was recognized in 2012, as the co-op received the Lone Star Land Conservation Award by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

In 2007, the Earles ventured into owning their own ranch, separate from the family ranch, and purchased 1,300 acres in McMullen County.

This endeavor led Earles to Webb County Farm Bureau. He became a member and was invited to a Webb County Farm Bureau board meeting, which consisted of only three others. He saw a need to be filled and became a board member, serving in the office of secretary, then vice president and by 2010 was president of the board. He inherited a board in dire straits and unrecognized at the state level. He enlisted other board members, and through his leadership, built a financially strong board that was recognized and represented at the state level. He served on the Budget, Nomination, Scholarship and Youth committees, and initiated youth scholarships awarded annually, as well as supporting students' projects at both the Zapata County and Webb County fairs. At the state level, Earles served on the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) State Resolutions Committee and was a member of the TFB Wildlife and Game Ranch Advisory Committee when the first cases of Chronic Wasting Disease were detected in Texas.

Earles received the McMullen County Conservation Award. He served on the local Texas A&M AgriLife Advisory board and director for 10 years of the local Red Cross, which he oversaw disaster relief during Hurricane Allen.



**District 11**  
**Donald Wayne Fuchs | Brazoria-Galveston County Farm Bureau**

Donald Wayne Fuchs joined Farm Bureau in 1969 when he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Lamar University. Afterward, he spent 20 years working in the petrochemical industry, retiring as Superintendent of Maintenance. Fuchs grew up on the family farm but didn't become a full-time farmer until 1989, when his aging father needed his help. He ran the farm for 30 years, growing cotton, corn, grain sorghum and raising cattle.

Fuchs was elected to the Brazoria-Galveston County Farm Bureau board in 1997, serving 24 years in the roles of director, president, vice president and secretary-treasurer. He served on the Policy Development, Youth Activities, Program of Work, National Affairs, Scholarship, Budget, By-Laws and Education committees. He also served on the Building Committee, helping to build several structures used for Ag Days. He spearheaded and chaired the committee that created the county's Agriculture Programs Coordinator position. Fuchs also served on the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Cotton Advisory Committee. He has attended almost every TFB Annu-

al Meeting and TFB-sponsored conference during his tenure as a director, as well as attending the National Affairs Awards Trip twice and four times to the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention. He met several times with Brazoria and Galveston counties' legislative representatives, and he testified in the Texas Senate in support of eminent domain reform. Fuchs is a senior cabinet member of AGFUND. He always volunteered at Ag Days, Food Connection Days, county fairs and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. He believes it is vital to educate youth and adults on the importance of agriculture. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he aided TFB's Helping Hands program by presenting a check to the local Meals on Wheels service. He continues to be active in Farm Bureau.

Fuchs is a 46-year member of the Angleton Lions Club, a former president and current treasurer. He and his wife JoAnn are active members of St. John Lutheran Church of Angleton, having served on Church Council, Building Committee and as an usher.



## **District 12** **Wayne Wolf | DeWitt County Farm Bureau**

Wayne Wolf has been a faithful member of DeWitt County Farm Bureau since the early 60's. His involvement in Farm Bureau and in numerous organizations reflects his dedication to agricultural concerns.

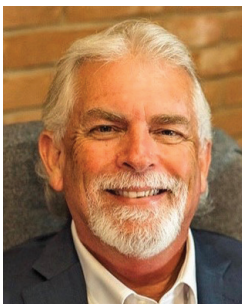
Wolf served as president, vice president and secretary-treasurer for DeWitt County Farm Bureau. During his tenure, his goal was to increase local and regional awareness of Farm Bureau and is proud to have aided in the county's continuous membership gain of 75 years. He served on the Beef Cattle, Budget, Membership, Environmental, Nominating, Policy Development and Public Relations committees. Wolf attended many county events, state annual meetings, an American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting and the 2008 National Affairs Awards Trip to Washington, D.C. He is a strong supporter of eminent domain reform and testified in Austin at the Sunset Advisory Commission during the Eagle Ford oil boom.

Wolf has introduced agriculture to many over the years—sometimes dressed as a pioneer, Uncle Sam or with the use of the Texas Farm Bureau Mobile Learning Barn—at Cuero Turkeyfest, Ag Days, Constitution Week, Food Connection Days and local parades. He contributed books to school libraries, funding for local youth scholarships, local stock shows and student visits to the Red Barn farming community in Seguin.

He is an active board member of Green DeWitt and Arneckeville historic schoolhouses, having attended each school. He was a Cuero Chamber of Commerce member and assisted with chuck wagon cooking for community functions. He won 2005 Farmer's Share Excellence Award at Cuero's Agriculture Appreciation Day.

Wolf raised cattle all his life, running a cow-calf operation on 850 acres, and sells commercial heifers. He operated Wolf Eggs, a commercial business with 12,000 laying hens, selling eggs to area hospitals, nursing homes and restaurants. He also raised Hampshire hogs earmarked for sale to 4-H and FFA students.

He is a lifelong member of Zion Lutheran Church and has served as its secretary, treasurer, vice president and Sunday School superintended and teacher. Wolf and his wife Sonja have four children and four grandchildren.



## **District 13** **Dale Murden | Cameron County Farm Bureau**

Dale Murden is a member of the Cameron County Farm Bureau and has led a prolific career in agriculture. He oversees many facets of the family farm, Rio Farms, a research and demonstration working farm encompassing 30,000 acres of irrigated farmland in a three-county area of deep south Texas.

Murden joined Farm Bureau in 1988 and served on the Hidalgo County Farm Bureau board from 2000 to 2009. He was a member of its Citrus, Sugar and Grain Sorghum committees, as well as on the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Citrus Advisory Committee, the TFB Resolutions Committee and the American Farm Bureau Federation Sugar Advisory Committee. Murden was elected to the TFB board of directors in 2009 and served six years.

He is president and chief executive officer of Texas Citrus Mutual and Affiliates. He oversees its daily operations that represent the South Texas citrus industry, provides crop insurance to Texas' Valley region growers of citrus, cotton, grain sorghum, corn, onions and other products, and manages citrus pest and disease suppression programs. He is an influential spokesperson, having spoken at various annual meetings and industry events, and he traveled to China to speak to 700 Chinese personnel regarding the growing and merits of U.S. grain sorghum. Murden has testified before both state legislative and national congressional committees concerning sugar, sorghum and fruit and vegetables.

Murden served on the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, United Sorghum Checkoff program committee, National Sorghum Producers, Delta Lake Irrigation District board, Edinburg Citrus Association, Texas Citrus Exchange, and two USDA Agriculture Trade Advisory committees: Sweeteners and Fruits and Vegetables.

He was awarded the FFA Lonestar Farmer Degree in 1980, the 2009 “Man of the Year” award from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, King Citrus LXXX in 2017, Farm Bureau’s Outstanding Service to Agriculture in 2006 and 2015 and Outstanding Service to Agriculture in 2003 from Cotton and Grain Producers.



## Staff

### Jamie Gipe | Director of Membership and Special Projects

James (Jamie) Gipe served as the director of Membership and Special Projects at Texas Farm Bureau. In this role, Gipe coordinated programs relative to membership growth, retention, strategy and analysis. He also oversaw special projects for the organization, including the AgLead-Farm-Lead advanced agricultural leadership development program.

During his more than 41-year Farm Bureau career, Gipe served the organization in several key positions, including as director of the Organization division, as director of Staff-Leader Development and as director of the Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) program.

His work benefitted many Texas Farm Bureau efforts, including urban relations, meeting planning, youth activities and member benefits, among others.

A native Kentuckian, Gipe graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a bachelor’s degree in management. He began his Farm Bureau career in September 1978 as a field representative for Kentucky Farm Bureau. He accepted the YF&R coordinator role with Texas Farm Bureau in May 1981.

Gipe has served in leadership roles with various local civic-minded organizations, including the United Way of Waco-McLennan County. Gipe also served on the Heart O’ Texas Fair Complex board of directors and executive committee, fulfilling the treasurer and vice chairman roles and chaired several key committees.

Gipe is married to the former Merle Parnell, his high school sweetheart. They are members of First Woodway Baptist Church and have served in multiple church leadership roles while living in the Waco area. They have two married children, a daughter and son, and have five grandchildren.