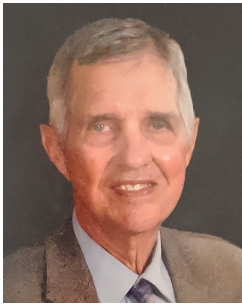


HONORING OUR PIONEERS

CLASS OF 2025 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

E.N. (Neil) Pack | Hutchinson County Farm Bureau

E.N. (Neil) Pack joined the Hutchinson County Farm Bureau board in 1967, two years after arriving in the Texas Panhandle from Waco with his family. His father-in-law, Woodville Jarvis, introduced him to Farm Bureau and the farming practices of the Panhandle terrain.

Pack served in many leadership roles with Hutchinson County Farm Bureau until his retirement in 2020, including president, vice president, legislative chairman, membership chairman and a member of the Resolutions Committee. He was a voting delegate at numerous state annual meetings. He and his wife, Carol, also attended two American Farm Bureau Federation conventions.

Pack's main cash crop on his dryland acreage was hard red winter wheat, but he also planted grain sorghum and hay grazer. Pack had a small cow-calf operation, as well.

He is an Army veteran and received an honorable discharge after serving two years in Berlin, West Germany.

Pack's interests have not been limited to farming, and he has made many contributions to his community in Hutchinson and Hansford counties. He became a licensed pilot in 1972 and has attained private, multi-engine, instrument and commercial pilot ratings. He served 15 years on the Hutchinson County Airport Board, serving several terms as chairman. Pack was elected by neighboring farmers to several terms on the Hutchinson County USDA's Farm Service Agency County Committee when it was known as the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Grateful for his life rooted in agriculture and his family, his passions are farming, cattle, flying an airplane, playing golf and supporting his community.



District 2

Jerry Don Glover | Bailey County Farm Bureau

Jerry Don Glover has been a lifelong advocate for agriculture at the local, state and national levels.

Glover's roots run deep in farming. He grew up in Lamb County, where his father ran a cotton gin before the family moved to Lazbuddie. After graduating from Lazbuddie ISD, he joined his father in farming until he married in 1961.

He and his wife, Donna, relocated to Hereford, where he farmed for nine years and began raising their family. They received the Lions Club's 1967 Farmer of the Year award.

In 1970, when his father retired, Glover moved his family to the family farm in Lazbuddie. Over the years, Glover expanded the farm and grew a variety of crops, including cotton, corn, wheat, grain sorghum, sugar beets and various vegetables. Glover also ran a cow-calf operation, grazing cattle on wheat pasture. The Glovers were named the Farm Family of the Year by the Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture in 1974.

Since becoming a Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) member in 1970, Glover has served as a director on the Bailey County Farm Bureau board. He has chaired the Wheat, Vegetables, Program of Work, National Affairs and AGFUND committees, as well as served as a member of the Corn, Cotton, and Beef Cattle committees. He served on the TFB Resolutions Committee on three different occasions.

Glover was a member, secretary and president of the Lazbuddie ISD board. He was elected to the Parmer County Farm Service Agency (FSA) committee, where he served as chairman for many years. He was later appointed by former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to chair the Texas FSA Committee. Glover served as a member and secretary-treasurer of the Texas Corn Producers Board (TCPB) during its initial seven-county phase and continued his service as executive director after a checkoff program expanded the TCPB statewide. From 1991 to 2000, Glover served on the USDA's National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economic Advisory Board. During this period, he also joined the U.S. Grains Council for a trade mission to Southeast Asia.



District 3

The late Jess G. Haralson | Montague County Farm Bureau

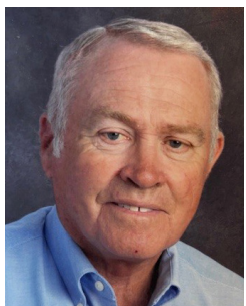
Few individuals exemplified the true spirit of agriculture like the late Jess G. Haralson. Deeply rooted to the red soil of Nocona, he was dedicated to advancing agriculture—not only for his family, but for his neighbors, community and future generations of rural Texas.

At an early age, Haralson helped his father work the land and raise cattle, sparking his life-long passion. Haralson attended Texas Tech University, refining his agricultural knowledge and, in 1960, earned a degree in Animal Husbandry. He worked as a crop consultant and salesman for Estes Chemicals in Wichita Falls and for 35 years helped countless farmers optimize yields and protect their crops. But Haralson truly enjoyed his time spent farming and ranching on the family land.

Haralson joined Montague County Farm Bureau in 1969 and became a pillar of the organization, serving as a director for 17 consecutive years. He also served on the Beef Cattle, Pecan and Feral Hog committees. Haralson attended many policy development meetings helping to set Farm Bureau policies followed today. He attended county and state conventions and Meet-the-Candidate meetings discussing issues that help protect the interests of farmers and ranchers. Haralson was involved in numerous Ag Day and Texas Food Connection Day activities, manned booths at Cattlemen's Roundup and supported youth in earning scholarships and by purchasing their projects at the Montague County Youth Fair.

Haralson was a board member of the Cooke County Electric Co-Op. He was a member of the Nocona Lions Club and received the Nocona Lion of the Year award. He also earned the Lone Star Award as a member of FFA. He was a member of the Church of Christ in Nocona, where he served on the Fellowship Committee.

Haralson and his family, in 2016, were recognized by the Texas Department of Agriculture in a Family Land Heritage ceremony for having owned and operated the same land for six generations. The family farm includes a native pecan orchard and a cow-calf herd and stocker operation that spans six counties that his sons and grandsons continue to operate.



District 4

The late Thomas Burton (Tommy) Webb | Johnson County Farm Bureau

The late Thomas Burton (Tommy) Webb was a lifelong Cleburne resident who served as a faithful mentor and steward to his students and peers. His values and morals positively impacted the agricultural community and local youth. His super-power was to lead by example.

Webb graduated from Cleburne High School (CHS), where he was active in 4-H and FFA, developing a high standard of showmanship by raising and showing animals. He served in the United States Army. Webb enrolled at Tarleton State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education and a master's degree in Agricultural Science. He married Dianne in 1969 and began teaching agricultural education at CHS in 1972. He was instrumental in FFA fundraisers, securing featured guests such as Jerry Clower, Tom T. Hall and Mel Tillis. He taught for 30 years and then returned to teaching at Walnut Springs ISD in 2014 before retiring again in 2023. By inspiring students and instilling good values, he helped many find success. Webb was a member of the Agriculture Teachers Association and was inducted into its Texas Hall of Fame.

In July 1996, Webb joined Johnson County Farm Bureau. He served as a director for many years and in the leadership roles of secretary treasurer, vice president and president. Webb chaired the Nominating Committee and served as a member of both the Executive and Livestock committees. He attended numerous meetings and events, sup-

ported youth projects and advocated for agricultural education. Webb visited with members of the legislature at the state Capitol in Austin. He also traveled to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Texas Farm Bureau National Affairs Awards Trip.

For more than 30 years, he was a member of the Johnson County Livestock Association board, serving as a livestock show judge and leader. He also held a position on the board of the Johnson County Utility District. Webb was dairy supervisor at the Fort Worth Stock Show and lamb supervisor for the State Fair of Texas. He was a member of the Field Street Baptist Church of Cleburne.



District 5 **Paul Michael Bayer | Lamar County Farm Bureau**

Paul Michael Bayer of Arthur City joined Lamar County Farm Bureau in 1987 and was appointed a director the same year. He has served Lamar County Farm Bureau as a director and as its National Affairs chairman for 37 years. Bayer has served twice as a member of the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Resolutions Committee. He has participated in three TFB National Affairs Awards Trips to Washington, D.C. and has met with state representatives in Austin to support eminent domain legislation. He also arranged local meetings with the area's representatives.

Bayer is a graduate of Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, Ontario. He was involved in poultry feed sales and the pork industry in Ontario, Canada. Bayer moved to Texas in 1983.

Bayer lost a friend in March 2015 in a grain bin suffocation accident. In response to the tragedy, he raised \$15,000 to purchase three grain bin rescue tubes that were given to fire departments in Paris (Lamar County), Bonham (Fannin County) and Sulphur Springs (Hopkins County). Bayer organized training for 300 full-time and volunteer fire fighters and arranged for a refresher course. This Lamar County Farm Bureau project was awarded a TFB County Activities of Excellence Award and was then exhibited at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in Orlando, Florida. The project has a continual impact. For example, in 2023, the Bonham unit used the rescue tube to save an entrapped employee in Wolfe City.

In 2016, Bayer organized a seminar on Sharing the Highway with Agriculture. He designed and distributed Farm Bureau slow-moving vehicle key chains as a continued reminder.

Bayer started a school garden project in 2020 with five local school districts, providing soil and seed. He helped Lamar County Farm Bureau provide T-shirts for all exhibitors at the junior livestock show in 2021 and 2022. Bayer has been instrumental in Lamar County Farm Bureau's financial support of local volunteer fire departments, local food banks, drought and fire relief efforts, and helped facilitate a Canning and Preserving class.

He is involved in his church's parish council and member of Knights of Columbus. He is a 92-gallon blood donor, regularly giving since 1959.



District 6 **Lynn Halfmann | Concho County Farm Bureau**

For decades, Lynn Halfmann has been a pillar in agriculture and a leader in his community. He is highly respected for his constant dedication to Farm Bureau, to farming and for his involvement in community support services.

Halfmann became a member of Farm Bureau in 1984. He has been involved in Farm Bureau for more than 40 years with three county organizations: Midland County Farm Bureau, Tom Green County Farm Bureau and Concho County Farm Bureau.

He was the Midland County Farm Bureau president for 18 years and served on its Policy Development Committee. Halfmann was a director at Tom Green County Farm Bureau for five years. And since 2023, he has served as a board member for Concho County Farm Bureau, where he is also on the Policy Development and National Affairs committees. Halfmann has served on the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Resolutions Committee. He has attended numerous meetings and events throughout the years, including many TFB annual meetings and the 2025 American Farm Bureau Federation Convention as a voting delegate.

In 1980, Halfmann became a charter member of Cayanosa Cooperative Gin. He was a director from 1990-2006 of the Midkiff Farmers Co-op. He was always-on-the-ready as a trained member of the Midkiff Volunteer Fire Department, as well as volunteering for 20 years for the Midkiff Volunteer Ambulance Service.

Halfmann is a God-loving family man. He is a member of Saint Lawrence Parish Catholic Church and Saint Ambrose Catholic Church, having served on the parish council. Halfmann is a member of the local Knights of Columbus.



District 7
Will Frey | Mason County Farm Bureau

Will Frey serves as a cornerstone of Mason County Farm Bureau, with a legacy built on decades of faithful service and exceptional leadership. He has strengthened rural communities, supported youth and worked to advance agricultural sustainability for generations to come.

Growing up on his family farm shaped Frey's lifelong commitment to agriculture. After his involvement in 4-H, Frey pursued and earned a degree in Agricultural Education from Texas A&M University. He initiated his career as a teacher before transitioning to an agent with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Then in 1970, Frey became Mason County's Extension agent to coach a state-winning 4-H livestock judging team and guided farmers through challenges such as the first New World screwworm epidemic. In 1977, he left the Extension service to eventually own the Fredonia Peanut Company, a stock store and peanut processor, where he also advised local growers on seed, fertilizer, feed and more. After major changes to peanut regulations in 1996, he shifted his business, focusing on hands-on agriculture and expanding his cattle operations in Mason and Concho counties.

A dedicated Farm Bureau member since 1966, Frey was elected to the Mason County Farm Bureau board in 2015, serving as both vice president and president and as a member of the Scholarship Committee. He organized many Ag Days, led annual county meetings and was active in Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) policy efforts, such as eminent domain reform. Frey attended numerous meetings, including county presidents' conferences, policy development sessions and annual meetings for both TFB and American Farm Bureau Federation, among others.

Frey was active in his community, serving as Mason County Commissioner. He was a board member of Mason ISD, Mason County Tax Appraisal District, Mason County Appraisal Review, Concho Valley Workforce Development and Family Resource Network. He was an instrumental figure in the 2015 reorganization of the Mason County Livestock Show and Expo. He is a devoted member of River of Life Church, where he served as an elder and spiritual leader for more than a decade.



District 8
The late Edwin W. Lehmann | Milam County Farm Bureau

The late Edwin W. Lehmann of Buckholts has served his country and Milam County agriculture with distinction.

He joined Farm Bureau around 1951.

Lehmann served Milam County Farm Bureau as president for four years and on the board for about 24 years. He attended three meetings in the early 1970s at the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) headquarters office for county Farm Bureau board members. Lehmann participated in many meetings with State Rep. Dan Kubiak in Austin to promote TFB policy positions. He traveled to Washington, D.C., representing Milam County Farm Bureau as a participant of the TFB National Affairs Awards Trip.

Lehmann was an active leader with the Buckholts Scout Troop and as a member of the Buckholts ISD School Board. He was a longtime member, Sunday School superintendent and teacher at Hope Lutheran Church of Buckholts.

Lehmann volunteered for the U.S. Navy in July 1943 at the age of 17 years, 1 month. He served his country for four years, including two years in World War II's Pacific theater from November 1943 to December 1945. He was recognized with the Asiatic-Pacific Star, American Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal and Philippine Liberation Medal. Lehmann was honorably discharged in June 1947.



District 9
John F. Gaulding, Jr. | Jefferson County Farm Bureau

John F. Gaulding, Jr. is a third-generation rice farmer and a 1968 Texas A&M University graduate. He served in the U.S. Army until 1971. After, he purchased his farm in Jefferson County to begin growing rice with his father. In an effort to diversify his farm in the early 1980s, Gaulding tried growing soybeans, but in 1990, turned to crawfish farming to start Southeast Texas Crawfish Farm. He continues to farm rice while incorporating crawfish into his operation.

Gaulding joined Jefferson County Farm Bureau in 1971, and in 1984 was elected to the board, where he served in many capacities, including vice president and president. He chaired the National Affairs, State Affairs and Rice committees, as well as served on the Jefferson County Ag Task Force. Gaulding served on the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Rice Advisory Committee and American Farm Bureau Federation's Rice Advisory Committee. He attended countless meetings and conferences. He travelled to countries, including China, Cuba and the Philippines, to share his knowledge of rice and crawfish farming. Gaulding is proud to have hosted many elected officials, schools and farmers to his rice and crawfish operations to share his knowledge about farming. He is honored to have Southeast Texas Crawfish Farm featured in TFB's Farm From School program and a "Meet a Farmer" video.

Gaulding's contributions to agriculture are innumerable, and he has received many honors and recognitions over the years. Some of those awards include Conservation Farmer of the Year, Conservation Forrester of the Year, Farmer of the Year by the Texas Rice Festival, Agricultural Award by the Winnie Chamber of Commerce and the Servants Heart Award by Cathedral in the Pines.

Throughout Gaulding's 54-year agricultural career, he has remained steadfast during the highs and lows of farming and has used his voice to promote the essential needs of the Texas farmer and to explore ways to improve agriculture. The Jefferson County Farm Bureau board said "Gaulding's impact on agriculture is immeasurable, and he continues to be a leader in the agriculture community."



District 10

Pete J. Pawelek | Atascosa County Farm Bureau

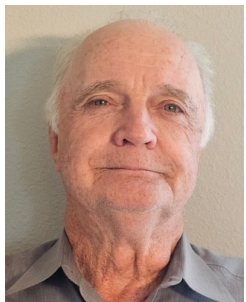
Pete J. Pawelek is a lifelong advocate for agriculture, dedicated to volunteering his time and expertise. He represents local farmers and ranchers by bringing important agricultural issues to the attention of legislative officials.

Pawelek became a member of Atascosa County Farm Bureau in 1978 and has served on the organization's board since 1981. For over four decades, he served the organization in its three leadership roles, each for six years: secretary-treasurer, vice president and president. Pawelek is an active member of numerous committees, including Beef Cattle, State Affairs, National Affairs,

Labor Relations, Policy Development and Membership. He attends the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) annual meeting and TFB Summer Conference. Also, he was a member of the TFB Beef Advisory and TFB Resolutions committees.

From 2019-2024, Pawelek was a TFB state director, serving in 2022 as secretary-treasurer. During his tenure on the state board, he chaired the TFB Resolutions Committee and served on other state committees, including Public Affairs, S.M. True, Jr. Agricultural Scholarship Selection, several task forces and two strategic planning committees for state infrastructure. He helped coordinate collaborative events with leadership from three board districts. Pawelek participated in at least five TFB National Affairs Awards Trips to Washington, D.C., is an avid advocate of TFB AGFUND and has discussed agricultural issues with many state and U.S. senators and representatives.

Pawelek's dedication to his community is evident in his extensive involvement, including his role as a trustee on the Pleasanton ISD board. He helped establish the Pleasanton Young Farmers Group and the Pleasanton Ag Boosters, serving as an officer for the latter. He is an honorary FFA member in both Pleasanton and Jourdanton and serves as an adult leader for Mesquite 4-H. Pawelek serves as an officer on the Atascosa County Livestock Show board. He is also a member of the Atascosa Cattlemen's Association, the Atascosa County Peanut Growers Association and the Cowboy Fellowship in Jourdanton.



District 11

Ronnie B. Floyd | Grimes County Farm Bureau

Ronnie B. Floyd has devoted a lifetime to agriculture and has an unwavering commitment to the community. Floyd is active in agricultural development and education and works tirelessly to protect farming and ranching interests.

He attended Blinn College and transferred to Sam Houston University earning a bachelor's degree in animal science with a minor in biology. Raised on the family dairy farm that pioneered artificial insemination, Floyd led to modernizing the dairy with automatic milking technology. He became a partner in 1971 and sole owner of the farm in 1991, growing sorghum, hay and silage and custom-blending cow feed. Floyd has hosted countless student field trips at the dairy. In 2003, he closed the 60-year-old dairy, shifting focus to run a cow-calf operation, until retiring in 2015.

Floyd is a longtime Farm Bureau member and director of Grimes County Farm Bureau board. He chaired the Environmental Committee for 10 years and currently serves on the Program of Work Committee. He is an avid volunteer at the annual Ag Day event and supports Texas Farm Bureau's policy development, focusing on important topics, including support of eminent domain reform.

Floyd received the 4-H Meritorious Service Award, honoring his involvement and contributions to the Double S 4-H Club. He is a cornerstone of Roans Prairie community after becoming a founding member in 1982. Floyd is president of the Roans Prairie Community Center and volunteers at the Shiro Civic Association. He served as a voting delegate for both the National Milk Producers Federation and Dairy Farmers of America, a director of the local USDA Farm Service Agency and a member of the Brazos Valley Producers Cooperative Association.

As a volunteer for the Navasota Grimes Chamber of Commerce, Floyd pioneered its Ag Breakfast program that funds scholarships and grants. He serves on the Grimes County Fair Association and is a lifetime member of the Dairy Scramble Committee. In 2004, the family farm—then 173 years old—received the Texas Department of Agriculture's Family Land Heritage Award. The recognition is a true testament of Floyd's motto and focus of "plan for the future, while protecting the past."



District 12

Janice Ohrt | Victoria County Farm Bureau

Janice Ohrt has demonstrated a lifelong passion for agriculture, Farm Bureau and its mission. She has dedicated decades to promoting agriculture and to helping strengthen the voice of the farmer and rancher.

Ohrt joined Victoria County Farm Bureau in 1969. She was later elected to its board of directors, served 12 years, with 10 of those years in the role of secretary-treasurer. Ohrt was a member of the Scholarship Committee and chaired the Policy Development, Ag in the Classroom, State Affairs, National Affairs and AGFUND committees. She was instrumental in keeping the organization active to engage youth with agriculture, hosting many Ag Day events and working with the local radio stations during events. She consistently attended leadership conferences, national affairs conferences and Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) annual meetings, where she was recognized as a TFB Star Recruiter for signing up new members. Ohrt no longer serves on the board, but she continues to assist with events and attends membership meetings.

Ohrt served on the TFB Resolutions Committee and worked the Planting the Seed program to help schoolchildren grow an understanding of agriculture. She also was a participant of the TFB FarmLead V class, a two-year leadership development program that helped members learn more about agricultural policy and advocacy, enhanced communications skills and facilitated meetings with elected officials, industry representatives and farmers.

Ohrt is active in her community and devoted to her faith. She serves as a precinct chair for the Victoria County Republican Party and is a member and secretary of the DeWitt County John Birch Society. Ohrt is a member of Texas Catholic Daughters of America, St. Michael's Catholic Daughters of America Court #347 and a longtime member of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church. She is a Crisis Pregnancies volunteer for The Gabriel Project of the Crossroads in Victoria.

She and her husband, David, have three children and nine grandchildren, of which she strives to instill her deep respect for agriculture and community service that has defined her life's work.



District 13

Gregory M. Edelen | Jim Wells County Farm Bureau

Gregory M. Edelen of Alice joined Farm Bureau in 1994. He has represented and served the Farm Bureau organization and Jim Wells County agricultural interests with commitment and distinction.

He served Jim Wells County Farm Bureau as president from 2013-2016 and as vice president from 2001-2004. Edelen provided leadership as a member of the Jim Wells County Farm Bureau committees, including Policy Development, State Affairs, Membership, Ag in the Classroom and Food Connection Day.

Edelen was a member of the Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) Resolutions Committee, and he attended at least three TFB National Affairs Awards Trips to Washington, D.C., to promote TFB policy with the Texas Congressional delegation. Throughout his years of service, Edelen has taken a strong interest in policy development and continuously provided leadership in this process.

Edelen is a promoter of Farm Bureau and did so by promoting membership during the annual Jim Wells County Fair where he also served as chairman of the Jim Wells County Fair Association Merchants Building for four years.

Edelen has represented Jim Wells County Farm Bureau by attending "Meet the Candidate" forums whenever possible and reporting back to the board his thoughts on the candidates. He is a strong supporter of agricultural education for our youth. He served on the planning committee and provided live poultry exhibits and served as a presenter at the annual Jim Wells County Ag Fair (Ag in the Classroom) that hosts 800-1,000 fourth-grade students and their teachers annually to teach them about agriculture. Edelen has also been actively involved with the annual Food Connection Day, engaging with consumers about their food and donating to local charities.

He is a member of the South Texans' Property Rights Association, Knights of Columbus Council #2992, Jim Wells County Extension Row Crops Committee and a past member of the Kiwanis Club of Alice.



Staff
Mike Gerik | Executive Vice President

Mike Gerik retired on July 1, 2025, as executive vice president of Texas Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company and Texas Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company.

His nearly 45-year career with Texas Farm Bureau's affiliated companies began in 1980 in Policy Services.

In 1985, he transferred to the Underwriting department and then moved to the Research and Development department in 1988.

He was promoted to vice president of the Administration department in 1995 and became the vice president of Policy Services in 2000.

In 2003, Gerik was promoted to vice president-state manager of Texas Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company.

In June 2006, he advanced to the position of senior vice president of Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company and his title was changed to executive vice president of Texas Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company and Texas Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company effective Jan. 1, 2009.

Gerik led the insurance companies through countless storms, the coronavirus pandemic and other major milestones in Texas Farm Bureau's history.

He is a Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter and graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a Bachelor of Business Administration.

Gerik is married to his wife, Cyndi, and they have two sons: Craig and his wife, Kathy, and Chris and his wife, Mallory. They have four grandchildren: Ava, Bowen, Wren and Wells.