

Conserve Texas Water

LEARN, PARTICIPATE, AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



THE BLUE LEGACY AWARD in agriculture is presented by the Water Conservation Advisory Council to showcase producers who enhance water conservation while maintaining profitability. Nominate someone today at www.savetexaswater.org.

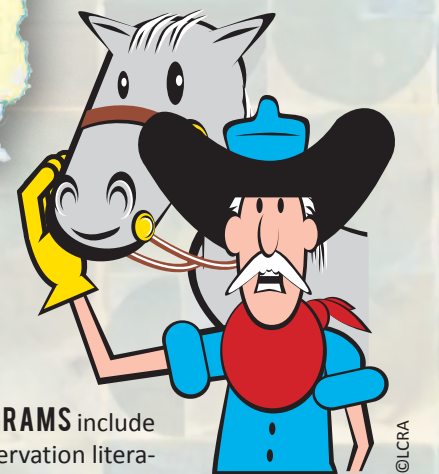
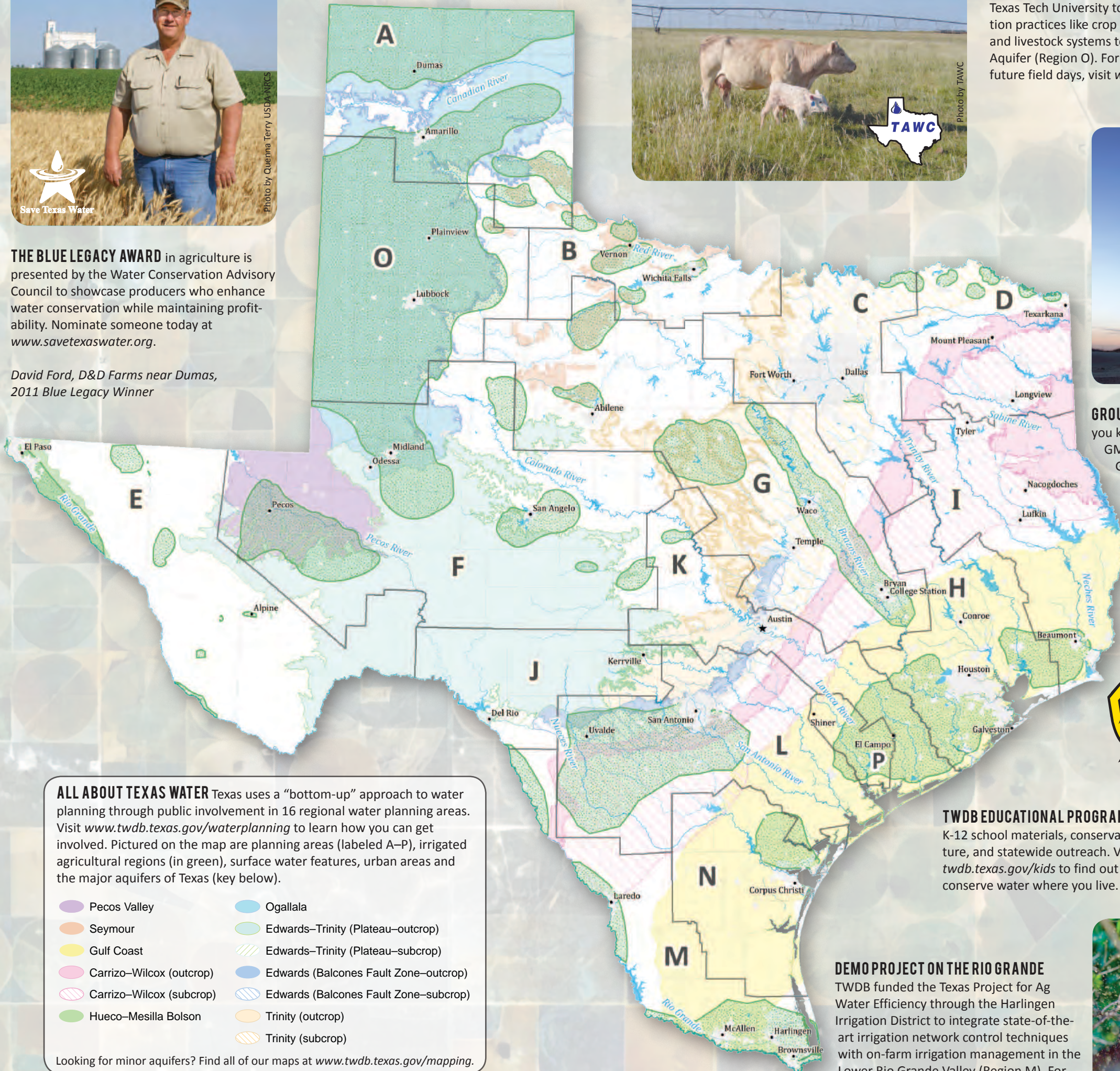
David Ford, D&D Farms near Dumas, 2011 Blue Legacy Winner



DEMO PROJECT ON THE HIGH PLAINS TWDB funded the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation through Texas Tech University to explore agricultural production practices like crop rotations and integrated crop and livestock systems to slow depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer (Region O). For information on findings and future field days, visit www.depts.ttu.edu/TAWC.



GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT Did you know GCDs work together within GMAs to develop DFCs by using GAMs that TWDB runs to estimate MAGs? Huh? Visit www.twdb.texas.gov/groundwater to learn about this alphabet soup of acronyms and how groundwater is managed near you.



TWDB EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS include K-12 school materials, conservation literature, and statewide outreach. Visit www.twdb.texas.gov/kids to find out how to conserve water where you live.

DEMO PROJECT ON THE RIO GRANDE TWDB funded the Texas Project for Ag Water Efficiency through the Harlingen Irrigation District to integrate state-of-the-art irrigation network control techniques with on-farm irrigation management in the Lower Rio Grande Valley (Region M). For information on findings and future events, visit www.TexasAWE.org.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TWDB has provided low-cost financial assistance for water-related infrastructure projects since 1957. From agency inception through 2012, TWDB has provided more than \$14 billion in grants and loans.

Southmost Regional Water Authority's brackish groundwater desalination plant, Brownsville.

Texas Water Development Board

WWW.TWDB.TEXAS.GOV/CONSERVATION



Our Mission

The Texas Water Development Board's mission is to provide leadership, planning, financial assistance, information, and education for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas.

All Texans are **CHALLENGED TO CONSERVE** our limited surface water and groundwater supplies.

Texas ag producers work every day to generate quality food, fiber and feed crops with a decreasing amount of available irrigation water. Awareness of our most vital resource and the importance of conservation continues to grow throughout the state.

TWDB educates Texans about our water resources and regional water planning to ensure sustainable and affordable water for Texas. We have an online catalog of reports on myriad water issues, including reports on ag water conservation projects.

In addition, TWDB's website has information about these topics and much more!

- Water loss audits
- Water resources planning
- Maps and GIS data
- Financing for water projects
- Education materials for grades K-12
- Lake levels
- Drought information



WaterIQ.org is a public awareness water conservation program that educates Texans through a variety of materials and a dedicated network of groups and communities.




WaterDataforTexas.org provides the most comprehensive information available on current conditions in major water supply reservoirs in Texas.

HOW DO TEXAS AG
PRODUCERS DEAL WITH
drought?



www.twdb.texas.gov

 www.facebook.com/twdboard

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AGRICULTURAL WATER
CONSERVATION IN TEXAS

Texas Water
Development Board



Agriculture

is an essential part of the Texas economy and the largest water use sector in the state. Texas farmers and ranchers are leading the way in agricultural water conservation, implement-

WATER IS LIMITED. INNOVATION IS *unlimited.*

ing regional water planning strategies to address future water needs. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) helps ag producers deal with a limited and decreasing supply of water while maintaining productivity and economic viability.

TWDB's Agricultural Water Conservation Grants and Loans

TWDB ag grants fund projects that lead to innovations in water use efficiency, energy savings, reduced pumping costs and actual water savings. Projects include installation of measuring devices, water conservation education programs, improvements to irrigation systems, research on drought tolerant crops, irrigation system audits and on-farm demonstration projects.

Between 1985 and 2012, TWDB funded innovation in agricultural water conservation through **\$16.7 MILLION** in ag grants and **\$58.8 MILLION** in ag loans.

TWDB grants and loans provide funding to political subdivisions (such as soil and water conservation districts, groundwater conservation districts and irrigation districts) to implement water conservation management strategies identified in the most recently approved Regional or State Water Plan.

TWDB's voluntary irrigation metering program helps participating districts measure irrigation

water use. Producers receive flow meters at a reduced cost, and districts gather valuable data useful for planning and management of the resource.

Contact your local district to see whether you can participate in a TWDB-funded agricultural water conservation project.



Agricultural Water Conservation Demonstration Initiative Grant Projects

In 2004, TWDB authorized funding for entities to create two large-scale demonstration projects.

These projects (see poster on the back of this page) provide access to field-tested, water-saving solutions through education and outreach to local producers.

- In the Southern High Plains, the Texas Alliance for Water Conservation quantifies ag production practices and technologies that reduce the depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer while maintaining production and profitability. This producer-led project bridges the gap between research and real world agricultural production systems.
- In the Lower Rio Grande Valley, the Texas Project for Ag Water Efficiency integrates state-of-the-art irrigation water distribution network control and management techniques with on-farm irrigation management. This project highlights the importance of irrigation efficiency in both district conveyance systems and on-farm cropping systems.

Best Management Practices

Best management practices are voluntary measures intended to save a

quantifiable amount of water within a specified timeframe.



TWDB's online best management practices guide, a result of the work of Texas citizens with expertise in water conservation, outlines conservation measures that are useful, proven, cost-effective and gener-

ally accepted among conservation experts (www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation).

Today Texas ag producers are implementing best management practices like these:

- Installing Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA) center pivot sprinkler systems to achieve application efficiencies of 95% or better.
- Using advanced irrigation scheduling, including deficit irrigation strategies, to maximize water use efficiency by applying only as much water as crops need at particular growth stages.
- Converting unlined irrigation ditches to poly pipe to eliminate evaporation and seepage losses at a minimal cost per foot of pipe.

Visit www.savetexaswater.org to participate in the best management practices development and review process.

