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## **Regional Pecan Show Winners Named**

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ABILENE – Two top pecan growers from San Angelo made this year’s Texas Cooperative Extension West Regional Pecan Show a family affair by taking grand champion honors in their respective categories. The show was Dec.10-11 in Abilene.

Cindy Hanks swept the Classic Division with her variety seedling entry. Her uncle, LeRoy Olsak, who has pecan trees in Schleicher County, nabbed top honors in the Commercial Division with his Western variety.

Reserve grand champion honors in the Classic Division went to Chester McCowan of Runnels County and his Nacono variety. Reserve grand champion in the Commercial Division was awarded to an Oconee variety entered by the Landers Pecan Farm in Menard County.

Melissa Clifton, Extension horticulturist in Taylor County, said more than 150 entries were received from some 20 counties.

“We had some excellent entries, but the numbers were down at the regional show because of the lack of entries from some of the counties,” said Clifton. “This can be attributed to the two late freezes we had around Easter. The unexpected cold weather hit many of our western counties hard.”

The favorable weather and low insect pressure in and around Abilene and San Angelo contributed to higher yields resulting in poorer quality, she said.

Judges were veteran pecan experts Zan Matthies, retired Extension agent in Pecos County, and Sammy Helmers, retired Extension horticulturist from El Paso.

Complete results of the show are attached: