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AgriLife Extension's TALL class set for High Plains visit Oct. 28-29

Writer: Steve Byrns, 325-653-4576, s-byrns@tamu.edu

Contact: Jett Major, 806-746-6101, j-major@tamu.edu

LUBBOCK – Texas AgriLife Extension Service's TALL XI class is heading to the South Plains to tour area agriculture on Oct. 28-29.

TALL, a statewide leadership development program, stands for "Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership." Six West Texans are among this year's 24 participants.

They are: Grady Martin, Plains Cotton Cooperative Association director of sales, Lubbock; Matthew Moore, Matt Moore Farms, Shamrock; Rex Ralston, Ralston Land and Cattle/Hansford Air, Inc., Gruver; Koby Reed, Southwest Council of Agribusiness, membership director, Lubbock; Joe Will Ross, Jackson Walker, LLP, San Angelo; and Mason Vaughan, First National Bank of Eldorado, senior vice president, Eldorado.

While in the Lubbock area, the group will be briefed by industry, political and civic leaders and tour Texas Tech University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service plant stress lab, Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Lubbock, Buster's Gin at Ropesville, American Cotton Growers Denim Mill at Littlefield, and White Energy Ethanol Plant and Mark Marley Farm at Plainview.

The group will then travel to Amarillo for the remainder of the session.

The TALL program consists of several sessions over a two-year period. One session is a national trip to Washington, D.C., another is to Mexico. Organizers report that the program amounts to 455 hours of intensive training for each participant.

The goal is to develop a network of top agricultural-minded leaders from a variety of backgrounds to serve as ambassadors for Texas agriculture, according to Jett Major, AgriLife Extension administrator at Lubbock.

A special reception honoring the TALL XI class is set for 6-7 p.m. Oct. 28 at the Market Alumni Center on the Texas Tech University Campus. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Major at 806-746-6101 Ext. 4043 (leave him a voice mail).

To learn more about the TALL program, call 979-845-1554.