Agency Overview

Texas A&M AgriLife Research is the state’s premier research and technology development agency in agriculture, natural resources, and the life sciences. Headquartered in College Station, AgriLife Research has a statewide presence, with scientists and research staff on other Texas A&M University System campuses and at the 13 regional Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Centers.

We conduct approximately 580 projects each year, with more than $190 million in research funding. AgriLife Research helps to improve the productivity, efficiency, and profitability of agriculture. At the same time, we focus on conserving natural resources and protecting the environment.

AgriLife Research has 550 doctoral-level scientists spanning many disciplines, from genetics and genomics to air and water quality. The annual economic gains from investments in Texas’s public agricultural research are estimated at more than $1 billion. By collaborating with other institutions and agencies, commodity groups, and private industry, AgriLife Research is helping to strengthen the state’s position in the global marketplace by meeting modern challenges through innovative solutions.
In addition to collaborations with departments within the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and TVMDL, AgriLife Research also includes six institutes:

- National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense (FAZD)
- Institute for Obesity Research & Program Evaluation
- Institute of Plant Genomics & Biotechnology
- Institute of Renewable Natural Resources
- Norman E. Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture
- Texas Water Resources Institute

Texas A&M AgriLife Research Headquarters
Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center
Texas A&M AgriLife Research Stations

Dr. Craig L. Nessler was named director of Texas A&M AgriLife Research in December 2009.

Dr. Nessler’s began his 30-year career as an assistant professor of biology. During his 21 years on campus, he rose in rank to professor and associate head in the Department of Biology. He left in 2000 to head the Department of Plant Pathology, Physiology and Weed Science at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg.

In 2004, Dr. Nessler was promoted to director of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station and associate dean for research in Virginia Tech’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. During his tenure leading the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, the college rank rose from 14th to 5th nationally in National Science Foundation research expenditures among agricultural and natural resource programs.

Dr. Nessler earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in biology at the College of William and Mary. He earned his doctoral degree in plant science, with a pharmacology minor, from Indiana University in 1976.

Physical/Mailing Address:
Agriculture & Life Sciences Building
600 John Kimbrough Blvd., Suite 512
2142 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-2142

Phone/Fax/Email:
Phone: (979) 845-8486
Fax: (979) 458-4765
Email: AgriLifeCR@tamu.edu