

Excerpt from the Helms Farm Research Report, 2001

Helms Research Farm
Texas A&M University System
Texas Agricultural Research and Extension Center
Lubbock/Halfway

Background and General Description

The Texas A&M University System purchased 373 acres of farmland from the estate of Ardella Helm in December 1999 for the purpose of conducting large scale research and extension programs to enhance producer profitability and sustainability in an irrigated environment. The farm is located 2 miles south of the Texas Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Halfway in Hale County.

Current projects at the Helms Research Farm involve production options and economics of subsurface drip irrigation (SDI) and site-specific farming. Other research projects will include weed and insect control, plant breeding and yield trials for several commodities and production systems projects.

The soils are predominantly deep clay loams and silty clay loams, with 0-1% and 1-3% slopes, moderately to moderately slowly permeable subsoils and high water and fertility holding capacities. Water wells in the area produce 300 to 500 gpm from pumping depths of 320 to 340 feet deep.

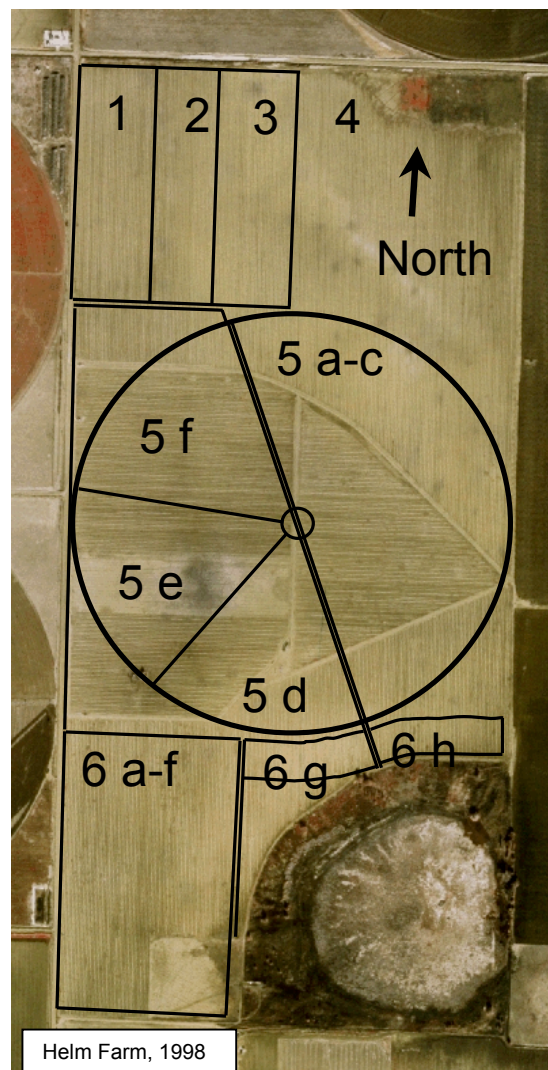
New installations at the Helms farm include 2 water wells, 1 130-acre center pivot, 9900 ft of underground water line, and 86 acres of subsurface drip irrigation. An additional water well and pipeline are planned in 2002.

Helms Committee

Helms Committee members make recommendations regarding the development and general research direction to Dr. Jaroy Moore, Resident Director, TAES, Lubbock.

Members include:

- Calvin Trostle, Agronomist-Grain Crops, TAEX
- Doug Nesmith, Farm Research Manager, TAES
- Gary Peterson, Sorghum Breeder, TAES
- Jim Bordovsky, Irrigation Engineer, TAES
- John Gannaway, Cotton Breeder, TAES
- Wayne Keeling, Agronomist-Weed Pests, TAES



Wenwei Xu, Corn Breeder, TAES, TTU