

# Turnrow Tonight offers farmers an evening of entertainment, networking

The equipment's mostly out of the field in South Texas, which means it's time for an evening out of the field to celebrate another harvest. Join Texas Corn Producers (TCP) for its Turnrow Tonight event presented by Bayer CropScience in Gruene, Texas, on Saturday, Nov. 13.

The event isn't your typical ag day with countless speakers and mediocre food... Turnrow Tonight is a fun farmers' night out, boasting enjoyable conversation, a steak dinner and great music!

The evening will begin at 5 p.m. with an informative social hour designed to foster conversation on the efforts of the corn checkoff and association, as well as opportunities for Texas corn production moving forward. The evening will then flow into an enjoyable meal followed by musical entertainment – with a dance floor you'd certainly expect in historic Gruene, Texas. The dance and entertainment will conclude at 9 p.m.

Now that harvest is a wrap, join fellow farmers for this enjoyable event. Complete event details and registration information is available at [TexasCorn.org](http://TexasCorn.org).

Registration for the event is \$80 per person, which includes:

- **Social Hour:** Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Each registrant

receives one drink ticket. Additional drinks are available for purchase at the cash bar throughout the evening.

- **Dinner:** Meal will include a steak and white meat option, two sides and dessert.
- **Dance:** The Red Clay Strays will offer an evening of great music primed for a two-stepping good time.

TCPA members can enter their membership number at checkout to receive an exclusive \$50 discount on their registration. The TCPA member is the only individual eligible to receive the discount.

The event is made possible at a reduced ticket rate thanks to the support of Presenting Sponsor Bayer CropScience, as well as contributing sponsors, Ag Texas Farm Credit, BNSF, Capital Farm Credit and Corteva.

You don't have to miss out on the fun if your harvest is still in full swing. Turnrow Tonight will be in the High Plains of Texas in January too! Details will be released closer to the event.

For details and to register for Turnrow Tonight, visit [TexasCorn.org](http://TexasCorn.org) or scan the QR code below.



REGISTER NOW



Photo: Michelle Jones Photography



From Texas Corn Producers Board  
and Texas Corn Producers Association  
Fall 2021

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# CORNER Comments



**David Gibson**  
**TCPB Executive Director**  
**TCPA Exec. Vice President**

As harvest is wrapping up across the state, plans for next year are underway in all areas. This crop has seen a lot of movement in the price of corn and all inputs going into the crop, as well as equipment prices moving up and struggling to get parts for repairs.

Prices on the Chicago Board of Trade for Dec. '21 corn have had a large trading range for the past 12 months. The price ranged from a low of \$3.80 per bushel in Nov. of 2020 to a high of \$6.35 per bushel in early May. Dec. '22 has already traded in a range from \$3.86 to \$5.40 per bushel. These trading ranges have presented opportunities for producers to lock in or sell at some good prices, making a good marketing plan essential for farms.

The production in Texas this year has seen corn yields vary, but in gen-

eral most areas had average to above average yields. This was true for both grain and silage – the good yields were needed as input prices continued to rise through the year.

The quality of grain this year has been very good with only a few areas having damaged corn due to mycotoxins or other diseases. We have been made aware of a new issue showing in some corn with premature maturing or dying of the plant. We are working with plant pathologists to identify the problem and look for solutions. Please let us know when something new shows in your fields pertaining to plant health, as it is important to identify new problems as they develop.

Throughout this growing season we have seen input costs rise: with record or near record fertilizer prices at this time, some shortages of crop

*continued on p. 6*



**Robert Gordon**  
**TCPB Chairman**  
**Dalhart, Texas**

Across the state, many are starting to look to the year ahead and the lay of the farm landscape. Supply chain issues have hit many industries this year, unfortunately, the agricultural industry is no different. Of particular concern, is the supply and cost of fertilizer.

In conversations with farmers from the Valley to the Panhandle, there is a noticeable pressure on fertilizer sup-

plies. For farmers in South Texas ready to apply fertilizer in just a month or so, some are reporting price hikes nearly triple their usual budget. As farmers farther north are pricing out their options for fertilizer, prices are often at least double last year's budget. These price hikes are being seen as quotes are compiled – if the usual suppliers are able to ensure product at all.

Is fertilizer the new toilet paper?

In the early days of the pandemic, we all recall the rows of bare toilet paper shelves as customers were urged to ensure they had a supply on hand. There is some speculation across the agricultural industry that farmers could be encouraged to purchase at higher prices now with the "threat" of no supply in a few months. Yet, there is also a fear when the time comes to apply fertilizer they could have ample supply to have purchased – at a price that's far more reasonable.

As the state's checkoff, Texas Corn Producers Board (TCPB) aims to educate policy influencers on the current atmosphere surrounding fertilizer and its impact on Texas farms. There seems to be several factors playing into the current fertilizer market from supply chain with product coming in

from overseas to tariffs placed on these products. It's important we ensure that policy makers grasp the farm's impact if 1) farmers are forced to purchase fertilizer at prices 2-3 times greater than normal, and 2) farmers are unable to apply the necessary fertilizer to produce a quality, abundant crop.

TCPB is staying in communication with National Corn Growers Association, and other commodity groups to ensure they understand the farm landscape as Texans are largely some of the first farmers in the U.S. to be dealing firsthand with needing to tackle this issue for their farms. In addition to these education efforts, TCPB is exploring avenues to ensure there is the necessary research to detail the impact through data that underscores the need to address this important issue.

As farmers continue to operate on thin margins, we know taking the hit of a skyrocketing, limited fertilizer market simply isn't sustainable for the industry. If you haven't already, I encourage you to evaluate your fertilizer needs and determine the best steps forward for your farm in the near future, as resolution to this issue is a long-game effort and not something we'll likely see overnight. 🌽





# THE VOICE: Association News

## A note from the President...



**Charles Ring**  
**TCPA President**  
**Sinton, Texas**

Small business owner. Mechanic. Engineer. Agronomist. Strategist. Boss. Client.

As farmers, we wear many hats. The one I left off this list is perhaps one of the most essential to ensuring the rest stay in business: advocate.

Over the years I've had the privilege of serving as an advocate for agriculture - my advocacy role has

evolved and varied based in the time I had available to give and the needs of the industry.

I want to encourage you to consider the role you can play as an advocate for agriculture - particularly through Texas Corn Producers Association (TCPA).

A new opportunity TCPA has is its Turnrow Tonight event happening the evening of November 13 in Gruene, Texas. This event offers an evening of networking with fellow farmers away from the field, elevator or coffee shop. This is a way to gain familiarity with the efforts of the association in a casual atmosphere that offers an evening away from the farm for you, your partner and friends. Remember, your TCPA membership gives you a \$50 discount on your registration. I hope you'll join me for this event.

Additionally, the association continues its advocacy efforts with legislators both in D.C. and Austin. Multiple times per year, TCPA makes trips to visit with these decision makers during session or in their home districts. Building and maintaining relationships with pol-

icy makers is essential to ensuring agriculturists have a voice for the sound farm policy needed to continue domestically producing quality, affordable food. Each time we make one of these trips, we invite TCPA members to join us in advocating in-person.

The role of advocate can also be fulfilled without stepping foot off your own farm. Sharing your farm story and expressing how policy and regulatory changes could impact your farm business are essential when TCPA issues calls to action throughout the year.

Finally, your annual membership in TCPA is what allows the organization to ensure farmers' voices are heard. Keeping your membership active is an important piece of involvement.

Regardless the avenue you take in fulfilling your role as an advocate, I hope you know you can count on TCPA to amplify your voice. If there are ever any issues impacting your farm that you feel need to be addressed, please reach out to a local director or the office. 🍌

**Register NOW for Turnrow Tonight in Gruene, Texas, on Saturday, Nov. 13!**  
**Complete details at [www.TexasCorn.org](http://www.TexasCorn.org)**

## TCPB election, continued from p. 3

Schleicher, Shelby, Smith, Somervell, Sterling, Sutton, Tarrant, Terrell, Titus, Tom Green, Travis, Trinity, Upshur, Upton, Val Verde, Van Zandt, Ward, Williamson, Winkler, Wise, and Wood counties.

There is **one seat** open for election in **Voting Region Five**, which consists of Atascosa, Bexar, Brooks, Cameron, Dimmitt, Duval, Frio, Hardin, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, Maverick, McMullen, Medina, Nueces, Starr, Uvalde, Webb, Willacy, Zapata, and Zavala counties.

Voters will be voting for qualified candidates who have sought nomination within the respective TCPB

voting regions where elections are to occur. In Voting Region Two, **Kyla Hamilton of Lubbock County**, **Hagen Hunt of Hale County**, and **Braden Gruhlkey of Randall County** have been nominated for one of the three seats. The nominee for the Voting Region Three seat is **Bruce Wetzel of Grayson County**. The Voting Region Five seat nominee is **Ben Gwynn of Nueces County**. Voters may also vote for board members by "writing in" the name of any eligible producers.

Corn producers eligible to vote in the elections are persons residing in the counties stated above engaged in the business of producing corn

or causing corn to be produced for commercial purposes, including the owner of a farm on which corn is produced and the owner's tenant or sharecropper.

The elections will be held by mail ballot. Ballots containing the nominations of all persons who have validly filed will be available Oct. 25, 2021, at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service offices in each of the appropriate voting regions, or by writing TCPB.

For a ballot to be valid, it must be mailed to the TCPB, 4205 N. Interstate 27, Lubbock, Texas 79403, with a postmark date of no later than Nov. 15, 2021. 🍌

# Successful succession: Preparing for your farm business transition

## Part two

The last edition of *The Kernel* introduced the topic of what it takes for a successful succession. Hanging many the farm hat isn't something many enjoy the thought of, but it's important to have plans in place for when it's time to do so – or should something happen unexpectedly.

Texas Corn Producers (TCP) recently hosted a series of Successful Succession workshops across the state. In these workshops, Tiffany Dowell Lashmet, an agricultural law specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, guided Texas farmers in knowing where to start and gathering the information they need before they even step foot in a lawyer's office to draft a will.

The first two steps are to 1) create a flight plan, and 2) communicate and strategize. These steps were reviewed in more depth in the last edition of *The Kernel*, and can still be accessed on the TCP website.

### Design Business Succession

The third step of a successful succession is designing a business succession. The crux of this step is thinking through one question: What are you going to do with the farm? There are a number of answers to this question:

- **Sell:** If you plan to sell, who will you sell it to?
- **Leave to One Heir:** Who will it be left to? Who else should be considered?
- **Divide Equally:** How do you want the farm equally distributed?
- **Divide Equitably:** How could the farm be equitably distributed?

When developing this piece of the plan, give careful consideration to who will be involved in daily operations, strategic decisions and financial stake. Think through if new roles must be created or the impact on existing roles.

With any transition in ownership, it's important to consider the knowledge loss when one generation steps

away with often decades of knowledge. In designing the business succession, think through the necessary training, education or experience the incoming generation needs. When thinking of these generation changes, it's important to consider how much control of the business the founding generation is willing to relinquish.

Beyond the day-to-day operations, one should consider the business itself. Is it necessary to form an entity or even beneficial? It's also important to look at the tax landscape and consider implications both now and in the future.

Naturally, in the agricultural industry thought should be given to liability and crop insurance, as well as what's necessary to meet farm program payment guidelines.

Thinking through the intricacies of a business succession can equip the next owners to sustain the farm and achieve the desired results designed by the founding generation.

### Develop Estate Plan

The next step in succession planning is to develop an estate plan. This consists of:

- **Will:** A document that state how property is distributed at death. In Texas, this can be handwritten or typed; however, a typed document requires two witnesses.
- **Advanced Directive:** This instructs your physician to provide or withhold artificial life sustaining procedures in the event of a terminal or irreversible condition.
- **Medical Power of Attorney:** Designates an agent to make medical decisions should you be incapacitated.
- **Durable Power of Attorney:** Gives authority to an agent to manage property on your behalf.

Additionally, some people may need a trust, out of hospital do not resuscitate order (DNR), or document providing for care of dependent.

### Draft & Implement the Plan

The final step of planning for a successful succession is to draft and put together the entire plan. It's important to ensure you've had conversations and gone over the details of your wishes with your team, including your attorney, accountant, banker and family.

The plan should be reviewed and/or updated following major life events such as marriage, birth of children, death of family members, divorce, or the purchase/sell of property. An annual review of the succession plan, documents and beneficiaries is encouraged. It's also important to continue conversations about the plan with family or stakeholders in case there are any changes.

### More Detail

TCP has resources available for farmers on its website as they build a succession plan. These resources include detail video with Dowell Lashmet reviewing each step of a successful succession. These videos encompass what was presented at the in-person TCP workshops. Additionally, the slide deck from these workshops are available, as well as a resource guidebook to help farmers walk through the development of a plan. Access all these materials at [TexasCorn.org/Growing-Opportunities/Successful-Succession](https://TexasCorn.org/Growing-Opportunities/Successful-Succession).

FREE RESOURCE GUIDE  
& STEP-BY-STEP VIDEOS  
AVAILABLE ONLINE

—  
**TEXASCORN.ORG**



## Field notes: Texas corn crop progress

The long-awaited harvest season has made its way throughout the state. Catch a glimpse of Texas Corn Producers board members' perspectives of this fall's crop progress and outlooks in their respective regions.

### Region 1: Panhandle

**Wesley Spurlock, Sherman, Co.**

Spurlock reports that Region One's harvest is roughly 50% complete throughout the area. He notes the region has had a smooth go with this year's harvest and are seeing good cuts every day. Spurlock expects the region as a whole to have an above average, good corn crop for the 2021 harvest.

### Region 2: South Plains

**Max Swinburn, Castro Co.**

Earlier-planted corn in Region 2 is out of the fields, but some of the later corn is still waiting to be harvested due to rain delays. Swinburn notes that price jumps in fertilizers and energy have been a challenge for farmers across the region. He says that this year's corn crop has looked promising thus far, and he expects to see above average yields.

### Region 3: North Texas

**Chad Wetzel, Grayson Co.**

The corn harvest in the northern part of Region Three is finished and

experienced below average yields. Wetzel notes that the rain posed many challenges in late spring, which could be the cause of this year's yields coming in 20-30% below. Lately, the weather has been in Region Three's favor and they have been able to begin preparing for next year's harvest.

### Region 3: Central Texas

**Aaron Martinka, Milam Co.**

Martinka reports that corn in Central Texas has been harvested for the year. Many farmers in this area experienced delayed growth from the snowstorm in February, which set everyone back roughly a month. Martinka mentioned having faced weed pressure during mid-summer due to the amount of rainfall they received. He says they are moving forward with preparations for next year's crop, but feel behind because of the late harvest. Overall, Central Texas saw above average yields during this year's harvest.

### Region 4: Coastal Bend

**Charles Ring, San Patricio Co.**

The corn harvest in Region 4 has been done since July, Ring reports. Although the harvested corn did have some discolored kernels there was no sprouting. He notes that the overall yields and bushel weights looked good

throughout the region. Ring has been shipping corn south and expects to continue to do so for quite some time. He also mentioned the late rain also brought in lots of weeds. Feral hog damage also caused for some quality loss in his own fields. While farmers throughout the region have had their share of troubles, Ring speculates that the area's crop fared well.

### Region 5: South Texas

**Colin Chopelas, Nueces Co.**

Chopelas reports that Region 5 harvested in July as planned, while experiencing some rainfall. The region averaged roughly 100 bushels per acre. He says that although they received excessive amounts of rainfall the corn wasn't harmed, it only pushed back their harvest a little longer. He expects to see more corn acreage next year as a direct effect of the amount of milo that was harmed during the heavy rainfall in the spring. Chopelas notes the rainfall lately has been good and is putting lots of moisture in the ground as they prepare for next year's crop.

## Gibson comments, continued from p. 2

protection products, and increasing issues with availability of parts for farm equipment. I know some producers are being encouraged to pre-purchase many of your inputs for the 2022 crop. This is a hard decision to make as you would need capacity to take delivery and store until it is used. It also

opens a chance that if product prices go down you could be left to deal with having overpaid. Management decisions may have never been this hard to make when so much is at risk.

With voting being open in three of the regions for board members for Texas Corn Producers Board (TCPB),

I encourage you to cast a ballot for your director. These producers work tirelessly on all producers' behalf to provide leadership for the projects funded by TCPB. Please feel free to contact any of the directors or our office at any time with questions or issues that we may address.

## Advocating on the Hill, continued from p. 3

### • Supply Chain: Input Costs Put Strain on Slim Margins

Farmers are operating on thin margins, and price hikes and supply issues for materials from fertilizer to steel are impacting family farms. Farmer members shared their personal stories of how difficult it is to obtain nec-

essary parts for repairs, and plan for the coming year's fertilizer needs.

TCPA was represented at these meetings by: President Charles Ring of Sinton, Past President Wesley Spurlock of Stratford, Board Member Colin Chopelas of Corpus Christi, Member Gina Sugarek of Skidmore,

Executive Vice President David Gibson, Industry Affairs Director Angie Martin, Communications Director Stephanie Pruitt, and Producer Relations Director Bryce White.

TCPA's members make these and other advocacy efforts possible. Find out how to get involved at [TexasCorn.org](https://TexasCorn.org).

# ODDS *and* ENDS



## Outstanding Corn Specialist Award to Jourdan Bell

Texas Corn Producers Board (TCPB) recently recognized Jourdan Bell, a regional research and extension agronomist for Texas A&M AgriLife Research, as its 2021 Outstanding Specialist for her dedication to her research that benefits corn production in the state.

Bell has focused her research on the relationships of soil, plants and water, and finding sustainable ways to conserve natural resources.

Growing up in a farming and ranching family in the Amarillo area, Bell always knew the importance of water to the agricultural industry – especially to the Panhandle region. This led her to pursue an undergraduate degree in general agriculture and a master's in plant, soil, and environmental science from West Texas A&M University. In 2007, she went back to school to work on a doctorate in soil science from Texas A&M University.

Seven years later, Bell made her way back to Amarillo where she began work in her current position at AgriLife Research.

Today, her work is focused on the water issues that farmers suffer from in the Panhandle, such as limited rainfall and limited underground water resources. When West Texas suffered from the 2011 drought, Bell learned about the damage brought to crops from environmental stresses and knew that her research needed to be dedicated to helping farmers avoid these troubles again.

She has turned her attention and research to primarily focus on water storage in the soil and minimizing the evaporation of the water. Bell said that focusing on conserving water for future generations is just as important as conserving water for current day usage.



*Jourdan Bell (right) accepts the TCPB Outstanding Corn Specialist award from Industry Affairs Director Angie Martin*

Her research helps sustain the land for generations to come, while also conserving the most important natural resources.

## New administrative intern joins TCP

This fall, Hollie Hons from Falls City, Texas, joined the TCP team as an administrative intern.

Hons attends Texas Tech University where she is pursuing a degree in agriculture and applied economics, as well as a degree in finance.

She credits her parents, community, and involvement in FFA for her passion and interest in agri-

culture. In high school, she was involved in FF, 4-H and the National Honor Society.

Hons aspires to be a research economist when she completes her college career.

In her role at TCP, she will assist staff in a number of areas including research, assessments and other administrative duties.



*Hollie Hons joins TCP as an intern*

## Youth scholarship applications now open

Students have the opportunity to apply for scholarships through Texas Corn Producers Association (TCPA) through January 31, 2022. The TCPA student scholarship application opened online at TexasCorn.org on October 1 to student members.

Each year, TCPA awards \$1,000 scholarships to two high school se-

niors and two college undergraduate students.

To be considered for this scholarship students must:

- Be an active TCPA student member
- Submit a resume and reference letter
- Answer essay questions

Applicants must be a student or

grower member of TCPA to qualify for all scholarship opportunities. Included with TCPA student membership is a complimentary membership with NCGA — making students eligible for even more benefits and national scholarship opportunities.

Visit TexasCorn.org for complete details and to apply.

# Directors

**Daniel Berglund**, Wharton Co.

**Colin Chopelas**, Nueces Co.

**Robert Gordon**, Hartley Co.

**Braden Gruhlkey**, Randall Co.

**Ben Gwynn**, Nueces Co.

**Kyla Hamilton**, Lubbock Co.

**Mark Howard**, Hartley Co.

**Hagen Hunt**, Hale Co.

**Todd Kimbrell**, Hill Co.

**Aaron Martinka**, Milam Co.

**Larry Mason**, Dallam Co.

**Joe Reed**, Swisher Co.

**Charles Ring**, San Patricio Co.

**Austin Sage**, Hartley Co.

**Wesley Spurlock**, Sherman Co.

**Jim Sugarek**, Bee Co.

**Max Swinburn**, Castro Co.

**Bart Thoreson**, Sherman Co.

**Dee Vaughan**, Moore Co.

**Bruce Wetzel**, Grayson Co.

**Chad Wetzel**, Grayson Co.

**Russell Williams**, Hartley Co.

**Steve Yoder**, Dallam Co.

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## MAILING PANEL



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## Upcoming Events

Visit [www.TexasCorn.org](http://www.TexasCorn.org) for the most up-to-date list of industry meetings and other upcoming events.

Nov. 13 | Turnrow Tonight | Gruene, Texas

Nov. 15 | TCPB Elections Close in Regions 2, 3 & 5

Jan. 4-6 | Texas Corn Producers (TCP) Board Meetings | Lubbock, Texas

## Support our Corporate Members



**Town & Country Agribusiness**  
[www.myfarmagent.com](http://www.myfarmagent.com)

Learn how you can become a corporate member at [www.TexasCorn.org](http://www.TexasCorn.org)