

# 2025 TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE Water Symposium AGENDA

August 12-14, 2025

Texas A&M Agrilife Research and Extension Center at Dallas  
17360 Coit Road, Dallas, TX 75252

## DAY 1: TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

- 8:00 a.m.** Registration and Refreshments (15 min)
- 8:15 a.m.** Welcome and Day 1 Kick off (30 min)  
*Introduction: Giovanni Piccinni, Ph.D., Director at the Texas Water Resources Institute*  
*Welcome and Extension Update: Rick Avery, Ph.D., Director at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service*
- 8:45 a.m.** Stakeholder Discussion (1hr 30 min)  
*Moderator: Katie Lewis, Ph.D., Associate Professor at Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Lubbock*
- 10:15 a.m.** Break (15 min)
- 10:30 a.m.** Stakeholder Discussion (1hr 30 min)  
*Moderator: Katie Lewis*
- 12:00 p.m.** Lunch
- 12:30 p.m.** Lunch Keynote (30 min)  
*Keynote Speaker: Sarah Rountree Schlessinger, CEO of the Texas Water Foundation*
- 1:15 p.m.** Panel Discussion: Municipal Water Supply Issues  
*Moderator: Ambika Chandra, Ph.D., Associate Director at Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center at Dallas*
- Panelist 1: Ron Garcia, Irrigation Superintendent at the City of Frisco
  - Panelist 2: Whitney Milberger, Communication and Conservation Manager at BGE, Inc.
  - Panelist 3: Allison Strube, Colorado River Municipal Water District
- 2:15 p.m.** Break (15 min)
- 2:30 p.m.** Panel Discussion: Water Policy in Texas  
*Moderator: Lucas Gregory, Ph.D., Associate Director at the Texas Water Resources Institute*
- Panelist 1: Stacey Allison Steinbach, Executive Director at the Texas Water Association
  - Panelist 2: Sarah Rountree Schlessinger, CEO of the Texas Water Foundation
  - Panelist 3: Amy Hardberger, Ph.D., Director of the Texas Tech Center for Water Law and Policy at Texas Tech School of Law
  - Panelist 4: Robert Mace, Ph.D., Executive Director at the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Texas State University
- 3:30 p.m.** Break (15 min)
- 3:45 p.m.** Panel Discussion: Water Supply in Texas  
*Moderator: Joseph Burke, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Lubbock*
- Panelist 1: Shane Walker, Ph.D., Director at the Texas Produced Water Consortium and Director of Water and the Environment Research Center at Texas Tech University
  - Panelist 2: Jason Coleman, General manager at the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District
  - Panelist 3: Phil Wilson, General manager at the Lower Colorado River Authority
- 4:45 p.m.** Thank you and Wrap up Day 1  
*Giovanni Piccinni*

## DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m.  | <b>Registration and Refreshments</b> (30 min)  |
| 8:30 a.m.  | <b>Welcome and Day 2 Kick off</b> (15 min)<br><i>Introduction and Opening Remarks: Giovanni Piccinni</i>                           |
| 8:45 a.m.  | Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Amarillo, <i>Brent Auvermann, Ph.D., Director</i>                              |
| 9:00 a.m.  | Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Lubbock, <i>Katie Lewis for Director Todd Baughman, Ph.D.</i>                  |
| 9:15 a.m.  | Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Stephenville, <i>João Vendramini, Ph.D., Director</i>                          |
| 9:30 a.m.  | Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Beaumont, <i>Mithila Jugulam, Ph.D., Director</i>                              |
| 9:45 a.m.  | <b>Break</b> (15 min)  |
| 10:00 a.m. | Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas, <i>Daniel Leskovar, Director</i>                                       |
| 10:15 a.m. | Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Uvalde, <i>Daniel Leskovar, Director</i>                                       |
| 10:30 a.m. | Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Weslaco, <i>Beth Racine, Ph.D., Interim Director</i>                           |
| 10:45 a.m. | Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center at El Paso, <i>Beth Racine, Ph.D., Director</i>   |
| 11:00 a.m. | <b>Break</b> (15 min)  |
| 11:15 a.m. | Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Overton, <i>Vanessa Olsen for Director Charles Long</i>                        |
| 11:30 a.m. | Texas A&M AgriLife Blackland Research and Extension Center at Temple, <i>Raghavan Srinivasan, Ph.D., Director</i>                  |
| 11:45 a.m. | Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Vernon, <i>Richard Vierling, Ph.D., Director</i>                               |
| 12:00 a.m. | Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Corpus Christi, <i>Juan Landivar-Bowles, Ph.D., Director</i>                   |
| 12:15 p.m. | <b>Break</b> (15 min)  |
| 12:30 p.m. | <b>Lunch</b> (1 hr, 15 min)  |
| 1:00 p.m.  | <b>Lunch Keynote</b> (30 min), by <i>Cliff Lamb, Ph.D., Director at Texas A&amp;M AgriLife Research</i>                            |
| 1:45 p.m.  | Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at San Angelo, <i>Russell Jessup, Ph.D., Director</i>                             |
| 2:00 p.m.  | Texas A&M Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, <i>Won Bo Shim, Ph.D., Professor and Department Head</i>                 |
| 2:15 p.m.  | Texas A&M Department of Soil and Crop Science, <i>David Baltensperger, Ph.D., Professor and Department Head</i>                    |
| 2:30 p.m.  | <b>Break</b> (15 min)  |
| 2:45 p.m.  | Texas A&M Department of Agricultural Economics, <i>Rodolfo Nayga, Ph.D., Professor and Department Head</i>                         |
| 3:00 p.m.  | Texas A&M Department of Biological & Agricultural Engineering, <i>Patricia Smith, Ph.D., Professor and Department Head</i>         |
| 3:15 p.m.  | Texas A&M Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology, <i>Katy Gonder, Professor and Department Head</i>                        |
| 3:30 p.m.  | <b>Break</b> (15 min)  |
| 3:45 p.m.  | Texas A&M Department of Horticultural Sciences, <i>Amit Dhingra, Ph.D., Professor and Department Head</i>                          |
| 4:00 p.m.  | Texas A&M Department of Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management, <i>Roel Lopez, Ph.D., Department Head</i>                   |
| 4:15 p.m.  | Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, <i>Roel Lopez, Director</i>   |
| 4:30 p.m.  | Texas A&M AgriLife Institute for Advancing Human Health Through Agriculture, <i>Marco Palma, Ph.D., Interim Associate Director</i> |
| 4:45 p.m.  | Texas Water Resources Institute, <i>Giovanni Piccinni, Ph.D., Director</i>   |
| 5:00 p.m.  | Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture and Development, <i>Elsa Murano, Ph.D., Director</i>                        |
| 5:15 p.m.  | <b>Thank you and Wrap up Day 2</b><br><i>Giovanni Piccinni</i>   |
| 5:30 p.m.  | <b>Pre-Dinner Mixer</b> (1 hr, 30 min)   |

## DAY 3: THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 8:00 a.m.  | <b>Registration and Refreshments</b> (30 min)  |
| 8:30 a.m.  | <b>Welcome and Day 3 Kick off</b> (15 min)<br><i>Introduction and Opening Remarks: Giovanni Piccinni</i> |
| 8:45 a.m.  | <b>Collaboration and Discussion</b> (1 hr, 15 min), <i>Lead by Joseph Burke</i>                          |
| 10:00 a.m. | <b>Break</b> (30 min)  |
| 10:30 a.m. | <b>Collaboration and Discussion</b> (1 hr, 30 min), <i>Lead by Joseph Burke</i>                          |
| 12:00 p.m. | <b>Thank you and Wrap up Day 3</b><br><i>Closing Remarks: Giovanni Piccinni</i>                          |