

By: Sheffield

H.C.R. No. 211

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, For 100 years, scientists at the Blackland Research  
2 and Extension Center have worked to ensure a safe and affordable  
3 food supply, protect the environment, and invigorate the economy;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, The Blackland Experiment Station, Substation No. 5,  
6 was authorized by the Texas Legislature in 1909 to conduct research  
7 on cotton root rot and a variety of other soil and crop problems;  
8 the Research and Extension Center today occupies a 542-acre site in  
9 the south-central part of the Blackland Prairie region, on the  
10 southeastern edge of Temple; it is one of 13 off-campus stations  
11 affiliated with The Texas A&M University System as part of Texas  
12 AgriLife Research, the state's premier research agency in  
13 agriculture, natural resources, and the life sciences; and

14           WHEREAS, In 1931, the Blackland Research and Extension Center  
15 began soil and water research in cooperation with the USDA Soil  
16 Conservation Service; its early projects also included hybrid corn  
17 breeding and research in cattle grazing and feeding; in recent  
18 years, researchers have used weather data collected over many  
19 decades to develop important guidelines for conservation and  
20 improved crop performance, and studies of mechanization for major  
21 crops, especially cotton, have provided information of great value  
22 to farmers and agricultural agencies; and

23           WHEREAS, The Blackland Research and Extension Center shares  
24 research facilities with the Grassland, Soil, and Water Research

1 Laboratory of the USDA/Agricultural Research Service, and their  
2 scientists have cooperated closely for more than 80 years;  
3 Blackland Research and Extension Center researchers also  
4 collaborate extensively with their counterparts from the Natural  
5 Resources Conservation Service and the Environmental Protection  
6 Agency; the large national Conservation Effects Assessment Program  
7 to quantify the environmental benefits of USDA conservation efforts  
8 is among the key projects made possible by these relationships; and

9       WHEREAS, Responding to the needs of Texas residents, the  
10 center is currently undertaking research related to healthy rivers  
11 and streams, rangeland drought monitoring and management,  
12 agriculture and natural resource risk management, and other crucial  
13 issues; over the past century, the distinguished scientists and  
14 dedicated staff of the Blackland Research and Extension Center have  
15 been instrumental in improving land, water, and soil resources in  
16 Central Texas, and they continue to enhance our knowledge of  
17 agriculture and the environment while developing new technologies  
18 that benefit countless people in our region and elsewhere; now,  
19 therefore, be it

20       RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas  
21 hereby congratulate all those associated with the Blackland  
22 Research and Extension Center on the occasion of its 100th  
23 anniversary and extend to them best wishes for continued success in  
24 their noteworthy endeavors; and, be it further

25       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
26 prepared for the Blackland Research and Extension Center as an  
27 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives and

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1 Senate.