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**Cooperative Management Letter**  
is supported through funding from the  
Roy B. Davis Distinguished Professorship  
in Agricultural Cooperation at  
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**Fact Sheet**

# The Texas Center for Cooperative Development

*The recent award of a competitive grant will expand the existing level of service to cooperative businesses through Texas Cooperative Extension. This renewed commitment to the cooperative community will operate under the banner of the Texas Center for Cooperative Development (TCCD).*

Recently, USDA Rural Development awarded grants to 22 organizations nationwide for the purpose of operating a cooperative development center. One of these awards has been granted to Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE), part of the Agriculture Program at Texas A&M University.

**The Need for a Center**

Past support of Texas cooperatives from TCE has come mainly in the role of a single state extension specialist and holder of the Roy B. Davis Distinguished Professorship in Agricultural Cooperation. While this formal commitment to cooperatives has been well received, the scope of cooperative programming has been limited due to a simple lack of personnel dedicated to this task.

The grant was won on the tenant that not only has TCE provided valuable service to the cooperative community, but that service could be expanded and improved with additional monetary support. In other words, the activities you see outlined here are not new, simply created for the sake of obtaining a grant, but an aggressive plan of work that has been in existence for the past few years, and shaped by the cooperative community. The Center dedicates additional TCE personnel to the cooperative cause and adds two entirely new personnel for the coming year.

**Relationship to TACC**

It should also be noted that all the projects outlined here are meant to be highly complementary to the already high quality support provided by the Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council (TACC). For this reason, the advisory board for the Center is comprised of TACC members. The state extension specialist for cooperatives has enjoyed a close relationship to TACC over the years. This grant will only serve to strengthen these ties and more closely coordinate the work between TCE and TACC. This generous grant will enable TACC to match the growing needs of Texas cooperatives now and in the future.

**Personnel**

Dr. Greg Clary	Rural Entrepreneurship
Dr. Danny Klinefelter	Agribusiness Management
Dr. Ashley Lovell	Accounting, Finance
Dr. Dean McCorkle	Economic Impact Analysis
Sarah McMahan	Community Development
Dr. John Park	Cooperative Marketing and Management
New Hire 1	Feasibility Coordinator
New Hire 2	New Educational Media

**Advisory Board**

James Deatherage	Producers Cooperative Assoc.
Tommy Engelke	Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council
David Fields	Southern Cotton Growers Association
Dr. Phil Johnson	Texas Tech University
Lynn Scherler	CoBank

**Technical Support Activities**

- Member Loyalty (with Olton Grain Cooperative as pilot study)
- Cooperative Risk Management (with Petersburg Grain as pilot study)
- Marketing Fresh Cut Citrus (in cooperation with Texas Citrus Mutual)
- Strategic Planning Assistance
- Project Feasibility Assistance

**Educational Support Activities**

- Best Practices Benchmarking
- Director Compensation Study
- CD-ROM or Web Based Training
  - New Cooperative Directors
  - County Extension Agents
- Cooperative Management Letter