

June 5, 2009



## **“Texas Irrigation Expo” To Be Held in Rio Grande Valley**

Harlingen – The Rio Grande Valley will be the site of a major, statewide exposition on agricultural irrigation to be held in October 2010. The two-day event will include presentations by expert speakers, tours of demonstration sites currently using on-farm water conservation tools and techniques, a scholarship contest for high school students, and hundreds of exhibitors displaying the latest technology and equipment.

The Harlingen Irrigation District (HID) is coordinating the event as part of the state’s *Agricultural Water Conservation Demonstration Initiative* (ADI), which is funded through a grant from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The ADI project began in 2005 to demonstrate techniques to maximize efficient water use through on-farm applications and irrigation district delivery systems. Dozens of farms across the Rio Grande Valley have volunteered for the project, and are currently testing different irrigation techniques on a variety of crops.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Texas A&M’s AgriLife Extension Service, the Delta Lake Irrigation District, Axiom-Blair Engineering, and WaterPR are working with HID on the project, which now includes the Texas Irrigation Expo.

HID General Manager Wayne Halbert said, “We have several goals for this event – to inform irrigation districts across the state about the types of equipment, technology, and funding that are available to improve water efficiencies; to show farmers the techniques and tools that can be used throughout the year to deliver and monitor water levels; to encourage high school students to conduct science projects that involve water conservation; and to give companies that manufacture, install, and sell irrigation and farming equipment an opportunity to showcase their products and services.”

Some of the earlier successes of the ADI project include the construction of a flow meter demonstration and calibration facility where hands-on training events are held, the addition of real-time water delivery data on the HID website ([www.hidcc1.org](http://www.hidcc1.org)), and demonstrations of various irrigation techniques on crops grown in the Valley. Annual reports on the ADI project are available on the TWDB website at [www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/conservation/agdemos.asp](http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/conservation/agdemos.asp).

The irrigation exposition will be held at the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show Grounds in Mercedes October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010. The event will be free to the public. For more information, please contact Robyn Hadley at WaterPR, 512-477-5445.