



Texas Irrigation Expo | 2010

## Texas Irrigation Expo to Showcase Products That Help Farmers and Irrigation Districts Conserve Water

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### CONTACT

Wayne Halbert, General Manager  
Harlingen Irrigation District-Cameron County #1  
956-423-7015

Mercedes - Companies across Texas and the United States that provide water conservation technology and services to farmers and irrigation districts are coming to the Rio Grande Valley this fall as part of the Texas Irrigation Expo, to be held October 21 and 22 at the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show Grounds in Mercedes.

Major out-of-state sponsors include an Australian company with offices in California and Colorado that manufactures water control gates and automation software, a California, company that offers field monitoring stations and software, a Louisiana company that manufactures PVC pipe that's used for irrigation, and a South Dakota company that produces heavy-duty mowing and vegetation maintenance equipment. There are also plenty of companies representing every corner of Texas who will be in attendance.

"We are very happy about the support we've received for this event," said Wayne Halbert, the general manager of the Harlingen Irrigation District-Cameron County #1. "Our indoor exhibit space is nearly full, and several pieces of large equipment will be on display outside the show grounds. We just want to make sure everyone knows they're welcome to attend this free event and learn more about how farmers and irrigation districts can conserve water."

Agriculture is already using less water, thanks to more efficient irrigation practices, along with the conversion of farmland to urban and suburban use. According to the State Water Plan of 2007, by 2060 municipalities in Texas will need an additional 8 million acre-feet of water, while agricultural water needs will drop from 10 to 9 million acre-feet per year.

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The Texas Irrigation Expo is partially funded by a grant from the Texas Water Development Board as part of the 10-year Agricultural Water Conservation Demonstration Initiative (ADI), a research project to explore on-farm water conservation methods. Project participants include the Harlingen Irrigation District-Cameron County #1, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, FARM Assistance, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Delta Lake Irrigation District.

The Texas Irrigation Expo begins on Wednesday, Oct. 20, with an invitation-only reception for sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, and invited guests. Appearing at this event will be Carlos Rubinstein, the former Rio Grande Watermaster who now serves as a commissioner for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and Edward Drusina, the U.S. Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission. At the end of the evening, winners of a statewide science contest focused on water conservation will be announced.

On Thursday, Oct. 21, there will be more than five hours of presentations on the various ways to conserve water for agriculture. A free lunch will be served, and then conference attendees can choose to go on one of two tours of demonstration sites that are using different irrigation techniques, or stay on site for product demonstrations. On Friday, Oct. 22, there will be a half day of presentations, including CEU-eligible pesticide training by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

It's free to attend the Expo, but reservations are required. Only those people who are registered are guaranteed to have a lunch ticket. Please view the Expo's program and register online at [www.texasirrigationexpo.org](http://www.texasirrigationexpo.org).

The Expo is generously supported by the following sponsors:

- **Platinum Sponsors** - A.W. Blair Engineering, Fresno Valves & Castings, H&V Equipment Services, Rio Grande Regional Water Authority, NRS Consulting Engineers, Rubicon, and the Texas Irrigation Council;
- **Gold Sponsor** - Tiger Corporation
- **Silver Sponsors** - Eagle Automation Corp., La Playa Mapping, PureSense, and Soileau Industries; and
- **Bronze Sponsors** - Odessa Pumps, Netafim USA, True Point Solutions, Advanced Process, Sutron Corporation, and Superior Water Screen Company.

Gold, Silver, and Bronze level sponsorships are still available. Companies involved in manufacturing, selling, financing, or servicing the irrigation industry are encouraged to sponsor this event.

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The following companies will be exhibiting information about their products and services throughout the event:

- C.C. Lynch & Associates
- Delta Plastics
- Dynotek
- Eagle Automation Corporation
- Earthtec Solutions
- Fresno Valves & Castings, Inc.
- GeoShack
- Great Plains Meter (McCrometer)
- Hach Hydromet
- Hi-Tech Irrigation
- Holt Agribusiness
- Holt Cat
- Huesker Inc.
- National Pump Company
- Netafim USA
- Odessa Pumps
- PureSense
- Ram Services
- Rubicon
- Senninger Irrigation Inc.
- Soileau Industries
- Sutron Corporation
- Texas Plant & Soil Lab
- TML Intergovernmental Risk Pool
- Tiger Corporation
- Trac-N-Trol
- True Point Solutions

Additionally, the following non-profit organizations and governmental agencies will be distributing information about their water conservation initiatives:

- Texas Water Development Board
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas AgriLife Extension
- Texas Water Resources Institute
- Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Geologic Survey-Texas Water Science Center
- Rio Grande Regional Water Authority
- Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership
- Valley Land Fund
- Alliance for Water Efficiency
- International Boundary and Water Commission
- Texas Department of Agriculture GO TEXAN Program

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For more information about the Expo, please contact Tom McLemore at the Harlingen Irrigation District-Cameron County #1 (956-423-7015) or Robyn Hadley at WaterPR (512-477-5445).

Reservations to attend this free event can be made at [www.texasirrigationexpo.org](http://www.texasirrigationexpo.org).