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Purple variety of sweet potato

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GOV. BILL & VARA DANIEL FARM & RANCH



Prairie View A&M University's College of Agriculture and Human Sciences is home to a 788-acre farm which serves the needs of the Academic, Extension and Research programs. The Gov. Bill and Vara Daniel Farm and Ranch serves as a platform for high-quality, practical, hands-on teaching, impactful and novel research, and effective and engaging extension programs.

Future Plans

- Bringing technology to the farm
- Meat processing laboratory
- Student run farmers market
- Promote Chancellor Sharp's Healthy Texas initiative
- Live - Learn - Earn farm based dorm experience
- Youth development through H.T. Jones Elementary partnership

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The farm engages in beef cattle production, dairy and meat goat production, forage production, agriculture and natural resources, and horticultural crop production in both field and greenhouse settings. These enterprises serve as foundational resources for teaching, research and extension and create opportunities for integration of extension demonstration and data collection for dissemination through ongoing operations, and offer access to physical resources (space, livestock, etc.) to support current and emerging Cooperative Extension Program needs.

Under the direction of the CAHS Dean and Director of Land-Grant Programs, Dr. Gerard D'Souza, a Farm Task Force (FTF) was developed and charged with the mission to explore strategies to promote greater interaction and integration between the three mission areas (research, extension, academics.) Additionally, the team set out to formulate an integrated plan to make more effective use of this 788-acre strategic asset. Since its inception, the FTF has put in place a streamlined procedure to request use of the farm. The FTF teamed up with the newly developed Agro-Innovation and Technology Center (AITC), under the direction of Mr. Ashwani Srivastava, who created an online farm digitization and management implementation system. This was developed as part of the Smart Agriculture framework. The primary purpose of farm digitization is to build the technology infrastructure so that the college can leverage the power of agricultural intelligence and related technologies in teaching, outreach and research activities. This project will also assist in tracking and transferring research and extension projects, in-field trials, discoveries and innovations in an efficient way using enterprise data integration to engage limited resource farmers and other stakeholders. The farmOS software allows remote research management, farm record keeping which allows the scientists and managers to plan and track various types of farm activities on a plot by plot basis, manage livestock, crops, farm equipment and other farm resources. The future goal is to implement the Farm Enterprise Resource Planning system to integrate farm operations on an enterprise level and achieve good agricultural practices.