



**Grass Roots Award-County Extension Agent Winner
Derek Scasta, Navarro County**

The 2008 recipient of the TSSRM Grass Roots- County Extension Agent Award is Derek Scasta, CEA-Navarro County. Mr. Scasta serves as County Extension Agent and conducts quality and relevant education in the field of Agriculture and Natural Resources Management in Navarro County, Texas. Derek has provided outstanding leadership in promoting sound rangeland management principles to county landowners. Derek has developed and coordinated 21 county and multi-county educational programs for landowners focusing on rangeland and wildlife management, livestock production, weed and brush control, pesticide applications and natural resource management. Derek provides Navarro County producers with a radio show 3 times per weeks and a weekly newspaper article referencing topical agricultural issues.

Derek has also been very involved in pasture and grazing management as evidenced by his promotional efforts to quality educational programs in Navarro County. Derek has developed and coordinated 8 field and forage (hay) crops educational programs (county and multi-county) for landowners focusing on alfalfa production, row crop production (cotton, corn, Milo, wheat), biofuel crops, etc.

Derek has additionally been involved in numerous result and demonstration projects in the county, focusing his efforts on providing recent and relevant data to county producers. Derek has developed and maintained result and demonstration projects in the following areas: Overseeding Legumes in Coastal Bermuda Pastures, Rangeland Monitoring, Chemical Control of Prickly Pear, Chemical Control of Eastern Persimmon, Field Crops (Corn, Milo, wheat, oats, cotton, cotton defoliation), Pecan Variety Performance Evaluations, Pecan Nut Casebearer Pheremone Trapping, Quail Nest Depredation, Rainwater Harvesting, and Xeriscaping to Improve the Landscape, etc.

Derek Scasta has served as a director for the Youth Range Workshop in 2006 and 2007. In 2008 Derek was selected as is the current Chairman of the Texas Section Society for Range Management's Youth Activities Committee. Derek has written articles for Extension newsletters and the Texas Section's Grass Roots Newsletter promoting the Youth Range Workshop.

Derek has as well provided leadership to local 4-H groups. Derek has supervised 4H livestock projects including: cattle, sheep, goats, swine, rabbits and poultry. He has coached 4H livestock judging teams (2004-2006) which qualified for the 2006 state contest; 11 youth. He has coached 4H Range Plant ID and Range Evaluation teams and provided field and class training; 9 youth. He has supervised the Texas State Youth Water Camp in 2005 and 2006 which involved 20 participants. He led the Rangeland Watershed Management Project group. Derek also provided a Water Conservation educational program in 2005 and 2006 to 300+ youth each year.