

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DODGE CITY, KANSAS -- The Great Plains Foundation 2002 Symposium, "Air and Water Resources in the Great Plains," will be held April 1-3 at the Texas A&M University Research and Extension Center located at 6500 Amarillo Boulevard West.

This is the 7th such event, and only its second time in Texas. Other symposia were previously hosted in Kansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska.

Symposium planners have issued their initial call for technical research papers and posters, both professional and student participation is invited. The poster session will feature a graduate and undergraduate student competition with monetary awards on April 2.

Abstracts for technical papers and poster session should be submitted by email before Feb. 18, to Jan Scoggins-Waite, symposium coordinator at gpf@dc5.starrtech.net. Participants will receive notification of acceptance on Feb. 28. A proceedings document containing all technical papers will be published and available for purchase at a later date.

"We encourage graduate and undergraduate students whose major professors or research advisors are faculty members in any participating university, college or research agency to submit an abstract to enter the student poster competition," said Greta Schuster, assistant professor for integrated pest management at West Texas A&M University, who will be coordinating the student competition with David Parker, WTAMU assistant professor of agricultural engineering and environmental systems.

Judging for the student competition will run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., April 2. Students must be available to discuss their work with the judges. Poster session winners will be announced on April 3, at the beginning of the final day's program. Awards will be \$100 for first place, \$75 second, and \$50 third. Information is available through Schuster (806) 651-2280 or David Parker (806) 651-5281.

The Symposium will open with a reception on April 1 at the Ambassador Hotel with exhibits and posters. Topics slated for discussion on sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday include using and protecting the region's air and water resources, water conservation, air and groundwater quality assessment, irrigation, CAFO regulations, wind energy, odor and dust management.

The symposium is sponsored in part by the Kansas/Nebraska and Oklahoma-Texas area offices of the Bureau of Reclamation, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Texas Council of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, SWCS Golden Spread Chapter, USDA-Agricultural Research Service, Texas A&M Agriculture Program units -- Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and Texas Cooperative Extension, and several regional commodity organizations and water districts, among others.

The public is encouraged to attend all or part of this educational event. For information and registration details, contact the Great Plains Foundation at (620) 227-5024, or by e-mail: gpf@dc5.starrtech.net

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