

## TEXAS PRICKLY PEAR COUNCIL

July 21, 1990

### FROM WHENCE WE'VE COME

W.A. Maltzberger  
Chairman  
Steering Committee  
Texas Prickly Pear Council

Last Summer, The Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas A&I University and the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute held a conference on developing prickly pear as a forage, fruit and vegetable resource.

Those of us attending the conference expressed a strong interest in working together. We've received a surprising amount of encouragement from the general public, conservationists, the scientific and agricultural communities.

We welcome you back, a lot has been accomplished and we invite you to join us in going forward. The Texas Prickly Pear Council is your organization.

After last year's conference a steering committee was formed and the Texas Department of Agriculture helped us draw up a charter and by-laws.

As envisioned, the Texas Prickly Pear Council will further the general welfare of its members through education and research, promotion, development, production, utilization and marketing of prickly pear cacti and the compilation and dissemination of scientific and other useful and worth while information. Today's conference is the outcome of a years hard work by the council.

I want to introduce Will Kay to you at this time. A native of Kingsville, Will (with encouragement from his father, Alvin Kay) did an economic evaluation on cultivated prickly pear as a high school project last year. His paper will be published in the proceedings of this meeting. When compared against the feeding of milo and cottonseed hulls as an emergency feed source, Will estimated feeding five year old prickly pear plants grown in rows 14.5' apart, could yield a savings of \$433.61 per acre in emergency feed cost. Will and Alvin are not without considerable experience. Alvin was instrumental in the development of and for many years marketed Agricultural Software Consultants, Inc., livestock feed ration mixing program, MIXIT-2.

We all owe thanks to our sponsors of this years meeting, Duane Baker of Ferrellgas, Joe Reeves of Reeves Roofing and Equipment Co., Jim Smith of H.E.B., Randy Kopplin of the Mid Coast Development Corp., Bruce Kraatz of Kraatz Nursery, and Mr. and Mrs. Cavazos of C.& C. Bakery. Will our sponsors and their employees please stand and introduce themselves.

We want to than Ernesto Villalobos, Marilyn Wahne-Magaro, Eddie Garza and The Texas Department of Agriculture for their help in organizing the Texas Prickly Pear Council. Will all the representatives of the Texas Department of Agriculture please stand.

Leah Daniels, Becky Ware Davis, Mary Sherwood, Ron Hamm and many others of Texas A&I University, The Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Institute and The Center for Semiarid Forest Resources deserve our thanks, will you all please stand.

The Texas Agricultural Extension service, particularly Buddy Johnson and Mary Mahoney deserve special thanks in helping make this meeting possible. Will everybody from the Extension Service please stand.

As members of the steering committee, Dr. Peter Felker, Lloyd Potts, Robert Mick, Joe Martinez, J.T. Garcia, Gilbert Hinojosa, Buddy Johnson and Alfonso Montalvo have given their time, a lot of work and travel to help put the Texas Prickly Pear Council together. Will the steering committee please stand.

Will those of you that attended last years conference stand.

We want to thank you all for your time, your interest and your help. As a fund raiser to help offset the cost of today's program we are selling chances on a drawing to be held this afternoon. Several exotic prickly pear plants and the first signed and numbered Texas Prickly Pear Council cap will be given as prizes. Your donations and membership dues in the Texas Prickly Pear Council are appreciated. Help us use them for our mutual benefit.

Our speakers have made a much appreciated gift of themselves, their experience and their time. We thank you.