

***SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL EVENTS
HISPANIC EMPLOYEES***

***SCS
TEXAS***

1948-1983

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

TEMPLE, TEXAS 76503

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE

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SILVESTRE GONZALEZ, HISPANIC COORDINATOR

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CLYDE MCQUEEN, RESEARCH

MAY, 1983

SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL EVENTS OF HISPANIC EMPLOYEES

SCS - TEXAS

(1948-1983)

-- First Hispanic Professional Employee in Texas

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>
Elias Guerrero	1948	Carrizo Springs

-- Employment of other Hispanic Professionals

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>
Enrique Flores (Engineering Tech)	1948	Benavides
Francisco Matanzo (Soil Scientist)	1949	Bryan
Robert Bravo (Soil Conservationist)	1951-52	Rio Grande City
Raul Guerrero (Engineer)	1952-56	Zapata
Flavio R. Gonzales (Engineer)	1954-66	Rio Grande City
Ray T. Margo (Soil Conservationist)	1956-61	Benavides, Edinburg
Silvestre Gonzalez (Soil Scientist, Soil Conservationist)	1957-65	Laredo, San Benito, Edinburg, Mission
Arnold Garza (Soil Scientist)	1958	Bryan
Dan Galvan (Soil Conservationist)	1958-59	Raymondville
Hector Guerrero (Construction Inspector)	1959	Taylor
Jesus M. Trevino (Soil Conservationist)	1959	Hempstead
Raul Hinojosa, Jr. (Range Conservationist)	1963-64	Laredo
Alfredo F. Arce (Civil Engineer)	1965	Seguin

-- District Conservationists

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>
Elias Guerrero	1948-72	Rio Grande City
Raul Guerrero	1956	Zapata
Ray T. Margo, Jr.	1961-74	Zapata, Benavides, Laredo
Silvestre Gonzalez	1966- present	Zapata, Rio Grande City
Ramon N. Garcia	1969- present	Benavides
Francisco L. Saenz	1969-76	Zapata
Antolin Gonzales	1974- present	Laredo
Mario L. Gonzales-Davis	1976- present	Zapata
Noe Garza	1977- present	Eagle Pass, Edinburg
Zaragoza Rodriguez, III	1979- present	Crystal City
Felix Saenz	1980- present	Falfurrias

-- District Conservationists (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>
Alberto Garcia, Jr.	1980- present	Mission
Jose C. Alaniz	1981- present	Eagle Pass
Salvador Salinas	1983- present	Van Horn

-- Area Conservationists

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>
Ray T. Margo, Jr.	1974-76	Alice

-- First Hispanic History Making Employees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>
Jose M. Trevino	Conservation Aid	1948	Rio Grande City
Francisco Matanzo	Soil Scientist	1949	Bryan
Robert Bravo	Soil Cons.	1951	Rio Grande City
Raul Guerrero	Engineer	1952	Zapata
Hector Gonzalez	Engineer Aid	1957	Rio Grande City
Raul Hinojosa, Jr.	Range Cons.	1963	Laredo
Beatrice Magana (F)	Adm. Assistant	1981	Temple
Olivia Pedraza (F)	Area Clerk	1981	Harlingen
Febe B. Wisener (F)	Soil Cons.	1981	San Marcos

-- USDA Superior Service Award

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>
Ray T. Margo, Jr.	District Cons.	1975	Laredo
Alfredo F. Arce	Engineer	1977	Seguin (posthumously)
Beatrice Magana	Secretary	1980	Temple
Alfredo V. Brijalba	Technician	1982	Marfa

-- Soil Survey Coauthors

<u>Name</u>	<u>Soil Survey</u>	<u>Date Published</u>
Daniel Arriaga	Jim Wells, Kinney, Maverick, Nueces	1956, 1967, 1977, 1979
Ernesto DeLeon	Erath	1973
Plinio Flores	Tom Green, Pecos, Victoria	1976, 1980, 1982
Ramon Garcia	Jim Wells, Nueces, San Patricio, Aransas	1965, 1979
Ramiro Molina	Bee	1981
Rosendo Trevino III	Comal, Hays	1983



Retired Resource Conservation and Development Coordinator Elias J. Guerrero

On April 19, 1948, Elias Guerrero transferred to Soil Conservation Service from Farmers Home Administration at Carrizo Springs, Texas. On November 14, 1948, he was transferred and promoted to Work Unit Conservationist at Rio Grande City. On July 20, 1952, he was promoted to GS-9 and on December 14, 1958, to GS-11 Supervisory Soil Conservationist. On November 26, 1972, he was promoted to GS-12 RC&D Coordinator of the Rio Bravo RC&D Project. He organized the Rio Bravo RC&D Project which was headquartered at Rio Grande City. Elias also assisted in organizing Soil and Water Districts in Starr, Zapata, Jim Hogg, and Webb Counties. He is married to the former Adela Garcia and has six children: Dr. Elias J. Guerrero Jr., Adriana M. Streetman, Rafael, Eduardo, Carlos, and Gilberto.



State Conservationist Ray T. Margo, Jr., Albuquerque, New Mexico

Ray T. Margo, Jr., began his career with Soil Conservation Service in Texas as a Soil Conservationist at Benavides and Edinburg from 1956 to 1961. Ray was a 1956 graduate of Texas A&M University. He served as District Conservationist at Zapata, Benavides, and Laredo from 1961 to 1974. In 1974 he became Area Conservationist at Alice, Texas. Ray was promoted and reassigned to New Mexico in 1976 as Assistant State Conservationist and later became Deputy State Conservationist. In 1980 he became the State Conservationist for New Mexico. Ray is a native of Rio Grande City. In May 1975 he received the USDA Superior Service Award in Washington D.C. He and his wife, Minerva, have five daughters, Sheila, Maricella, Yvonne, Carol and Jo Ann.

**RIO GRANDE CITY
FIELD OFFICE
ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM
1948-1983**

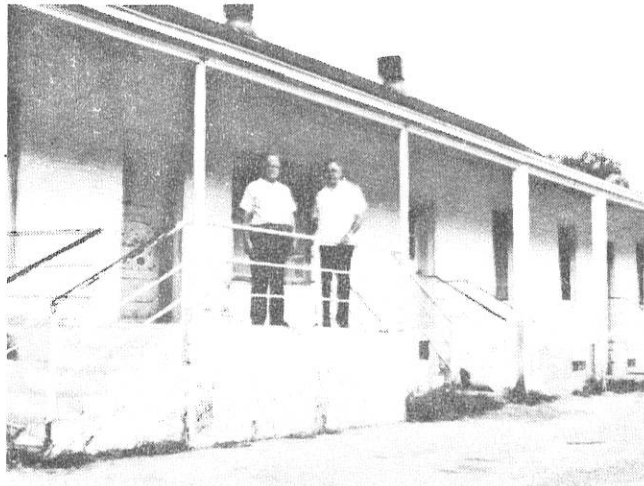


From 1948 to 1972 District Conservationist Elias Guerrero assisted the farmers and ranchers in the Starr Soil and Water Conservation District improve their ranches with new technology and innovations discovered in grasses and animal sciences. Rafael J. Guerrero, Soil Conservationist, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Eduardo C. Guerrero, Range Conservationist, Sterling, Colorado, sons of Elias, are employed by SCS.

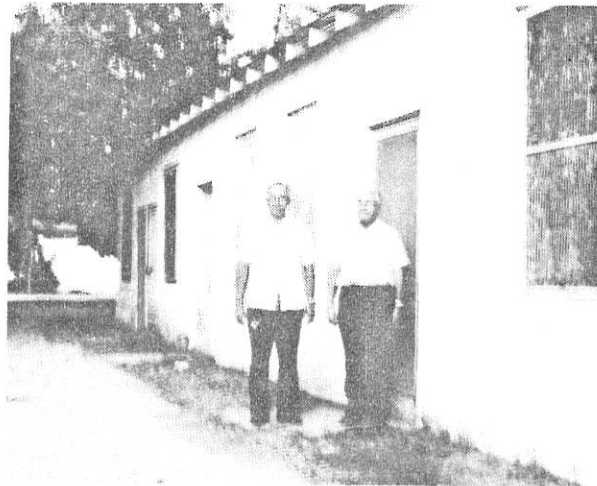


District Conservationist Silvestre Gonzalez

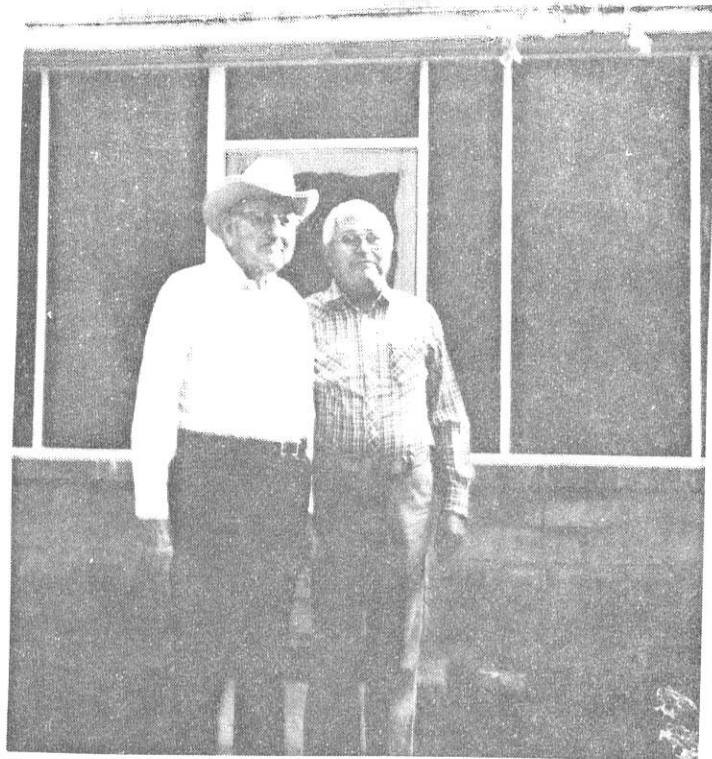
District Conservationist Silvestre Gonzalez assumed this position in 1972. He is the second district conservationist for the Rio Grande City Field Office. In addition, Silvestre is the Hispanic Employment Program Manager for Texas, a position he has held since 1976. During this period Silvestre has assisted in the recruitment efforts of more than 88 hispanic employees now with the Service. He received a Certificate of Merit for this effort in 1980. He and his wife, Alma, have twin sons, Eduardo, a senior medical student at UTMB in Galveston, and David, a junior dental student at UT dental school in Houston.



The Rio Grande City Field Office was established January 15, 1948. It was located in this building at historic Fort Ringgold. The field office staff included Work Unit Conservationist Elias Guerrero and Conservation Aid Jose M. Trevino. The field office staff was under the supervision of District Conservationist Carl F. Eminger, District 59, Laredo. This office assisted the Starr Soil and Water Conservation District Directors which included: Ray T. Margo, Chairman; Rafael A. Guerra, Vice Chairman; Amado Vera, Secretary; Ruben Guerra and Gorgonio Guerra.



The field office was located in this building at Fort Ringgold from 1948-1972.



Mr. R. T. Margo, left, and Mr. Elias Guerrero, right, discuss range grass problems at ranch headquarters in Starr County. From 1947-1950 Mr. Margo was the first chairman of the Starr Soil and Water Conservation District Board. Also, he was the first member of the Starr Soil and Water Conservation District with a conservation plan on his 7,000-acre South Texas ranch. In 1950 the first trial planting of buffelgrass was planted on this ranch. Mr. Margo is the father of Ray T. Margo and uncle of Elias Guerrero.



Starr County Soil and Water Conservation District

District - Cooperative Agreement

STARR COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Agreement No. 1

I, the undersigned cooperator, understand the purpose of STARR COUNTY Soil Conservation District, its objectives and program. I desire to use my land within its capabilities and to treat it according to its needs. To this end, therefore, I enter into the following agreement with the above-mentioned Soil Conservation District.

I agree:

1. To develop, as rapidly as feasible, with the assistance of the District, a conservation plan for my operating unit that will be mutually acceptable to me and the District.
2. To carry out such a mutually acceptable plan as rapidly as my resources and the help available to me from the District will permit.
3. To comply, in carrying out the conservation plan, with any applicable State laws governing the beneficial use of water.
4. To maintain all structures and other conservation measures which the District has helped me put into effect on my unit.
5. To pay the re the District a This is the first SWCD (any equipment furnished by the District a agreement entered with the
6. To use any c conservation Starr SCD e purpose specified in the 1/17/49
7. Use any mate January 17, 1949 :t for the purpose and in the manner provid.
8. That the members of the District governing body or their representatives will have the right of ingress and egress to my operating unit during the period of this agreement for the purpose of conducting surveys, planning and installing or inspecting conservation measures or structures.

The District agrees:

1. To supply a soil survey and land capability or site and condition map of the cooperator's operating unit.
2. To provide technical assistance available to it to help in the development and application of the conservation plan for the cooperator's operating unit.
3. To supply, in accordance with the provisions of the conservation plan, such equipment and materials as are available from the District and as are requested by the cooperator for carrying out the conservation plan.
4. That the technical assistance available to the District may be used in developing necessary changes in the conservation plan for the operating unit and to review any proposed major changes in the conservation plan.

It is mutually agreed:

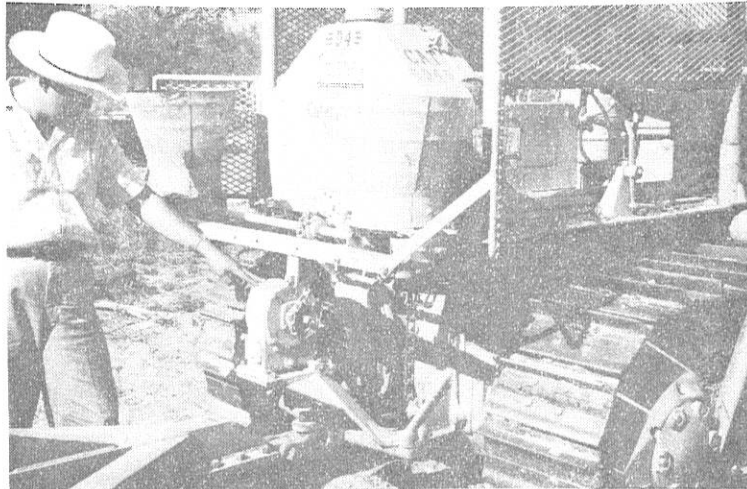
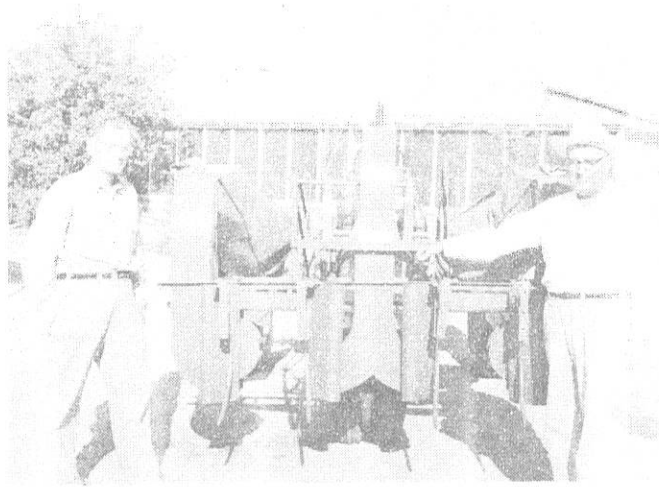
1. That neither the District nor the cooperator will be liable for damages to the other in connection with the installation of structures or other conservation measures unless such damages are caused by negligence or misconduct.
2. That in the event of the sale of the operating unit, neither the cooperator nor the new owner will be obligated to carry out the provisions of this agreement. However, the cooperator agrees to inform the new owner of the existing conservation plan for the unit and to advise him of assistance he may receive from the District in connection with the plan.

This agreement will become effective on the date of the last signature and may be terminated by mutual agreement of the parties hereto.

R. T. Margo 1-17-49 Daniel Garza Foreman
Name of Owner Date Name of Operator Operator, Santa Elena, Tex
Revised 7-12-99
STARR COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT Revised 4/73
By /s/ Rafael A. Guerra 1/17/49
Title Date



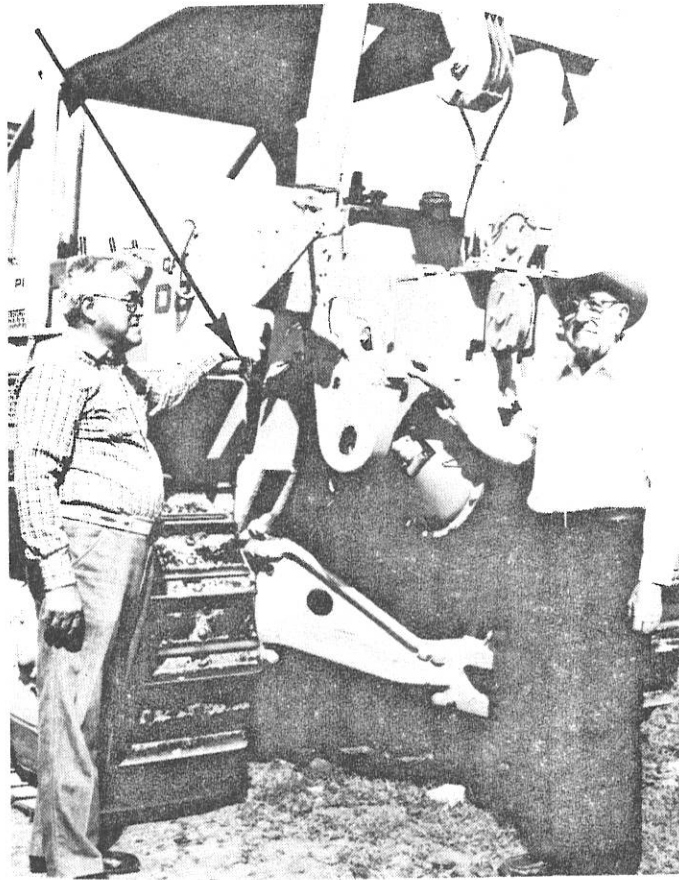
This burner is used to burn prickly pear spines so cattle may graze them. During the late 1940's and 1950's, a severe drought period, the prickly pear was used for livestock feed. It is a normal part of deer and javelena diet. Much of the brush and prickly pear infested rangeland in Starr County and South Texas has been planted to buffelgrass.



In 1950 as new seed technology was developed, special seeding equipment was needed. It was developed at the Margo ranch. They planted new range grass seed selections developed at the Soil Conservation Service Nursery at San Antonio.



Buffelgrass trial planting site. This is the 1950 site of the first trial planting of buffelgrass on the Margo ranch.



Range seeding and brush control

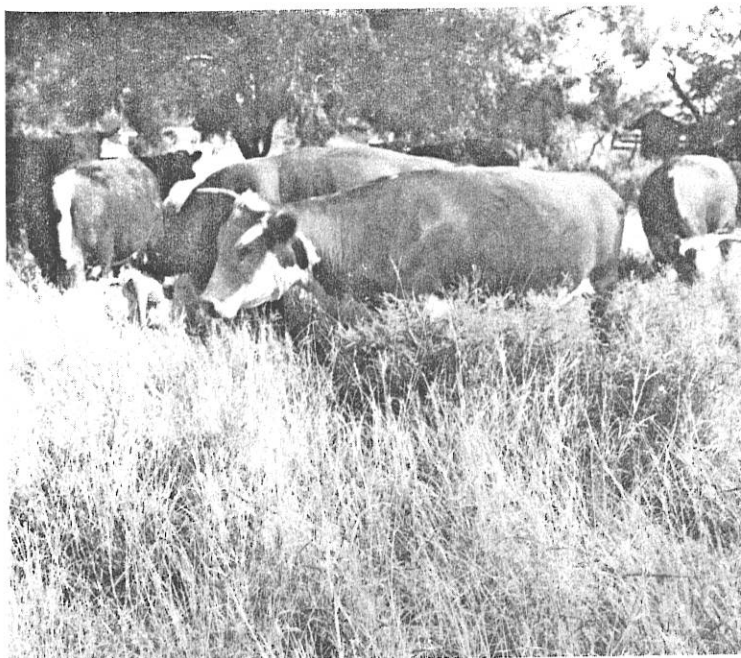
Mr. Margo and Mr. Guerrero show a modified seeder that uses engine exhaust gases to scatter range seeding during brush removal. This innovation eliminated the need to seed the cleared land after brush removal.



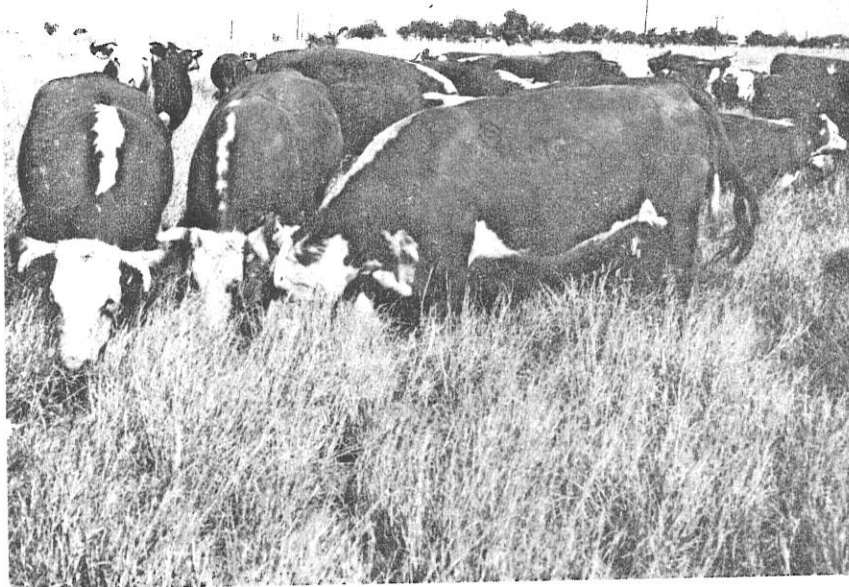
Buffelgrass field

The Soil Conservation Service San Antonio nursery released field trials of buffelgrass seed for planting in 1950. The Starr Soil and Water Conservation District purchased 100 pounds of buffelgrass seed from the Higgins farm of Southerland Springs near San Antonio for \$1,500. This money was appropriated by the Texas legislature. The 100 pounds of seed was then distributed and sold at cost to the following cooperators: R. T. Margo, Rafael A. Guerra, W. B. Osborn, Jr., Salvador Salinas (deceased), Manuel S. Munoz (deceased), and Dr. M. J. Rodriguez (deceased). The Soil Conservation Service assisted in providing technical assistance and the Starr SWCD provided seed drills to plant the seed in rows on rangeland owned by the district cooperators. From its humble origin in Africa, buffelgrass now occupies more than 400,000 acres of land in Starr County and South Texas. Buffelgrass has revolutionized the beef cattle industry in South Texas. The beef produced on an acre of land has increased from 8 pounds per acre to 50 pounds or more. It has been the salvation of the Starr County cattle industry and we owe a vote of thanks and gratitude to the early pioneers and former leaders of the Starr Soil and Water Conservation District.

Source: District Annual Report by Romeo Alaniz, May 4, 1972.



From 1950 to 1972 more than 400,000 acres of ranch land in Starr County and South Texas were seeded to buffelgrass.

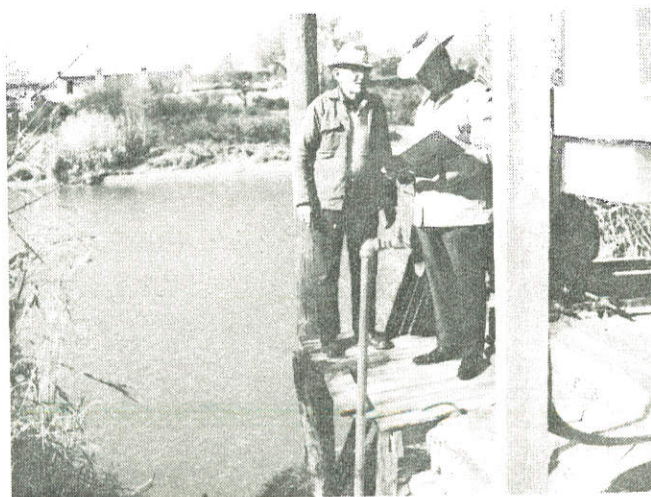


Buffelgrass increased pounds of beef from 8 pounds per acre to 50 pounds or more per acre. It has revolutionized the South Texas cattle industry.



Buffelgrass also provides a source of cover for deer and quail. Wildgame plays an important role in supplementing the ranchers' income in South Texas. Technical assistance on game management is provided by Soil Conservation Service biologists and technicians from the Rio Grande City Field Office to SWCD cooperators.

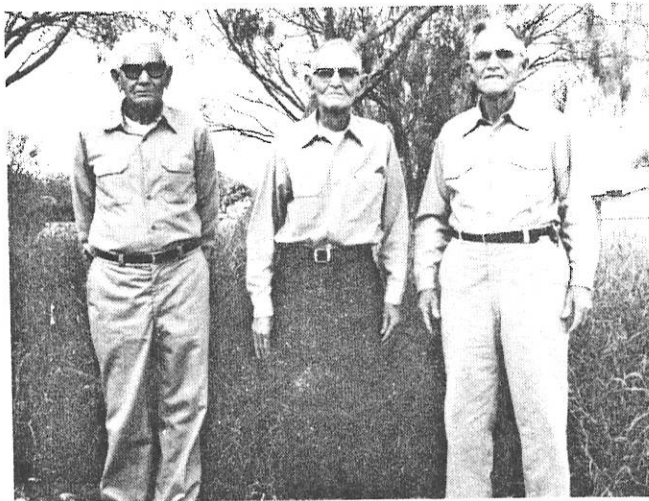
FRONTON COOPERATIVE GROUP PROJECT



Reynaldo Barrera and District Conservationist Silvestre Gonzalez review group plan. The Fronton Cooperative has a historical pool allotment of 3 acre-feet per acre allocated from the Rio Grande since 1912. Federal Judge Reynaldo Garza negotiated the water rights for the group.



Organized in 1939, the Farm Security Administration, USDA, financed pumps, pipes, and power equipment for the project in 1940. SCS surveyed, designed, and laid out the irrigation system in 1939. Mule teams provided the power to cut ditches and laterals for the distribution system.



Left to right: Elias Barrera (member), Reynaldo Barrera (chairman), and Eugeno Barrera (member), all charter members of the Fronton Cooperative since 1939.



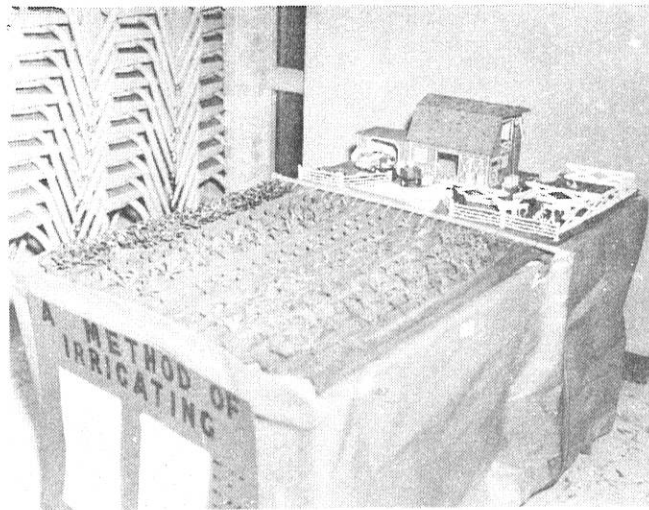
Cooperative Chairman Reynaldo Barrera checks pump output at the main irrigation distribution lateral.



Group Meeting

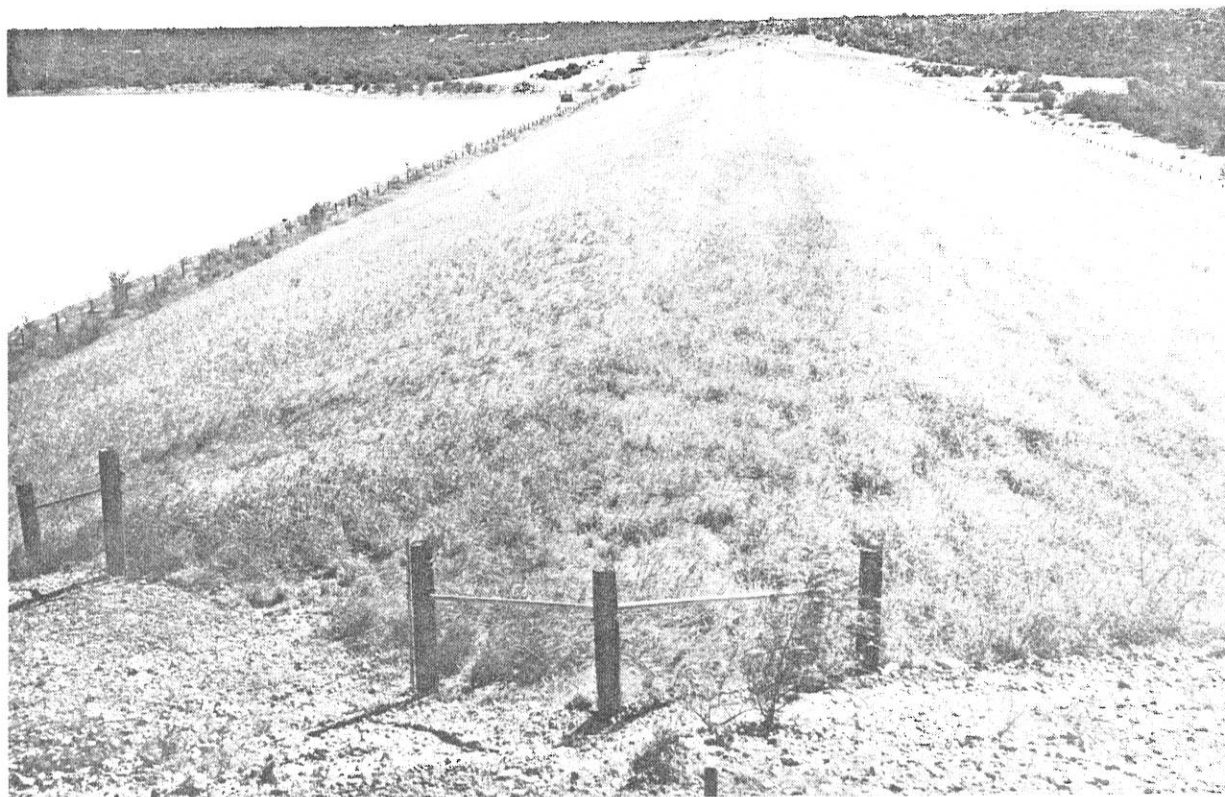


The Starr Soil and Water Conservation District and Soil Conservation Service have helped the cooperative maintain the irrigation and distribution system since 1949.



Education

The Rio Grande City field office displays an educational exhibit that points out an irrigation system that conserves water and improves water distribution.



Watersheds

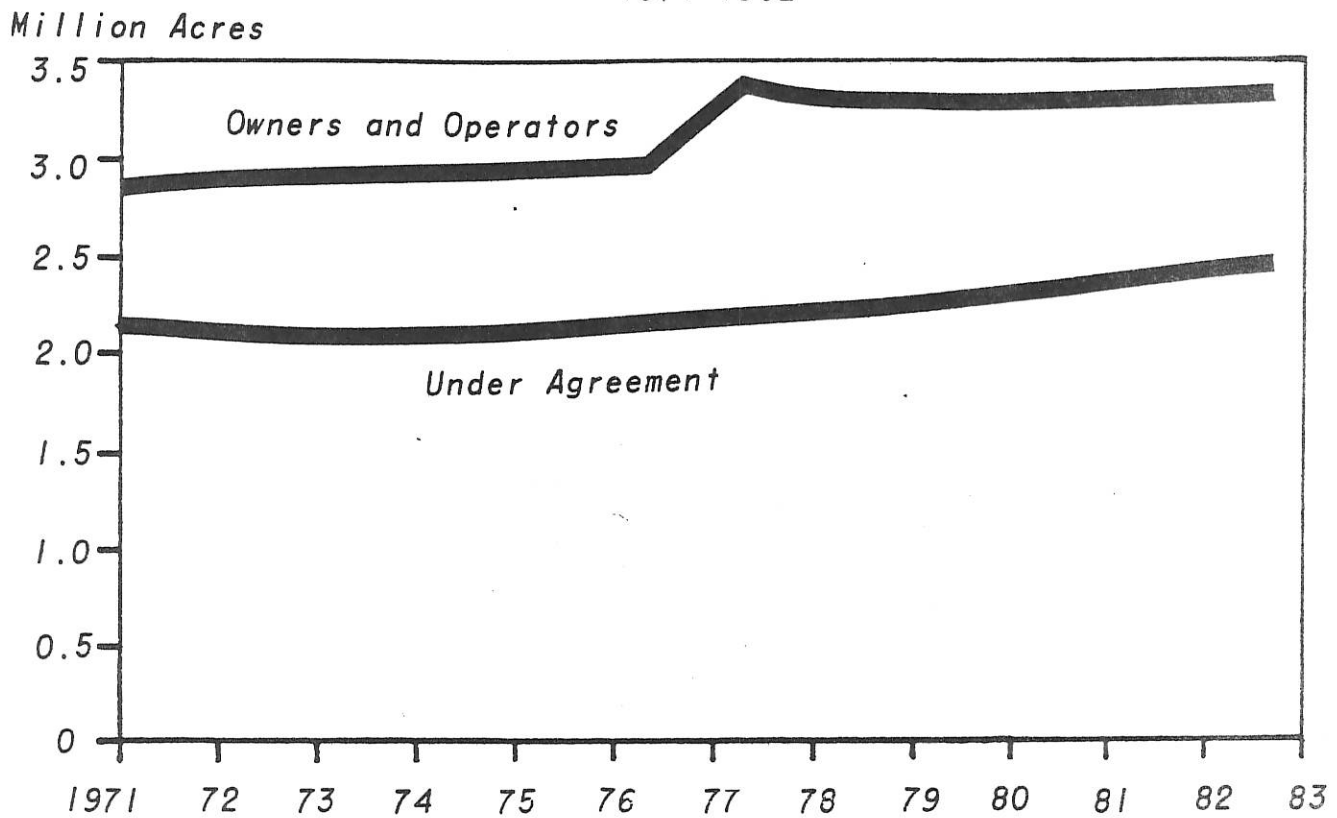
Site 7, Olmitos-Garcias Creek Watershed, 24 hours after a 6-inch rain on the upper part of the watershed temporarily detains floodwaters and prevents flooding downstream.



Safety

During the summer of 1982, this six-foot rattlesnake was killed by Range Conservationist Dario A. Salinas on the R & R Ranch while chaining root plowed site.

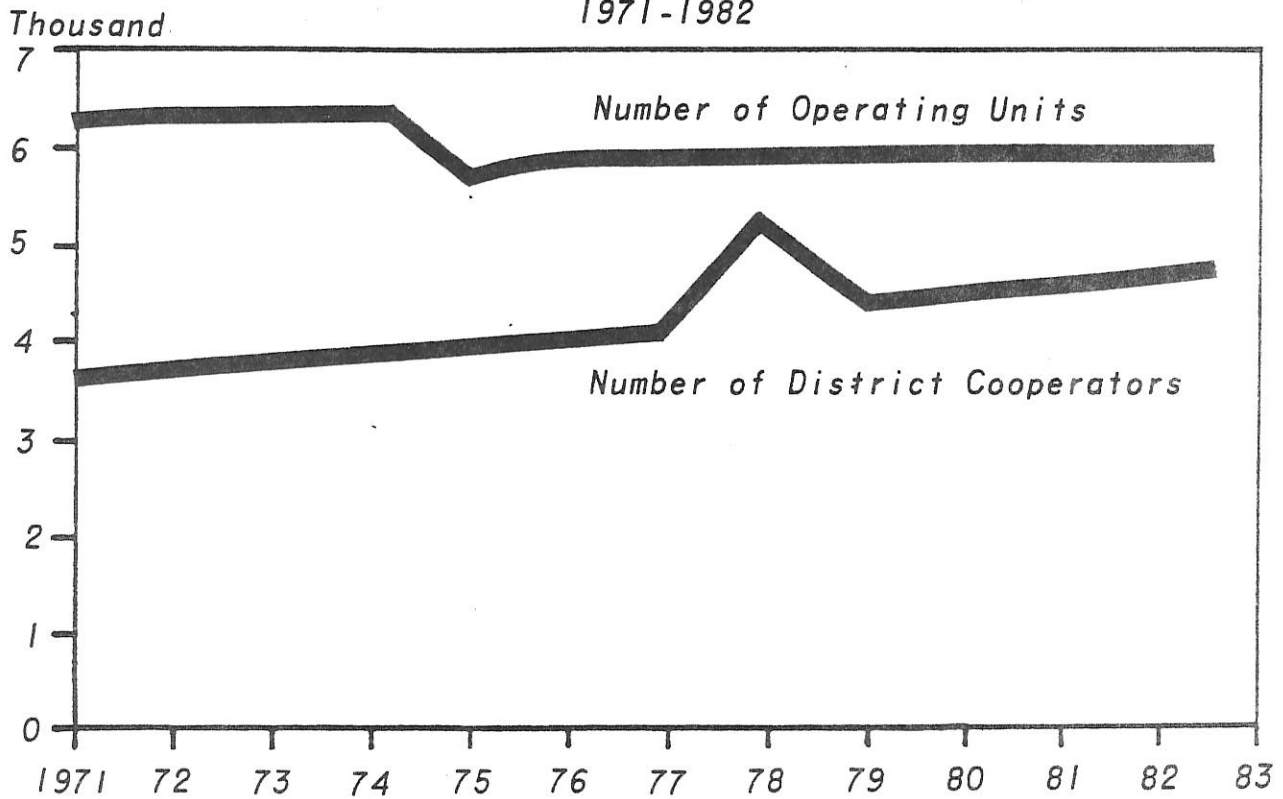
TEXAS
TRENDS IN HISPANIC OWNERSHIP OF LAND
1971-1982



Source: SCS Summary 1971-1982

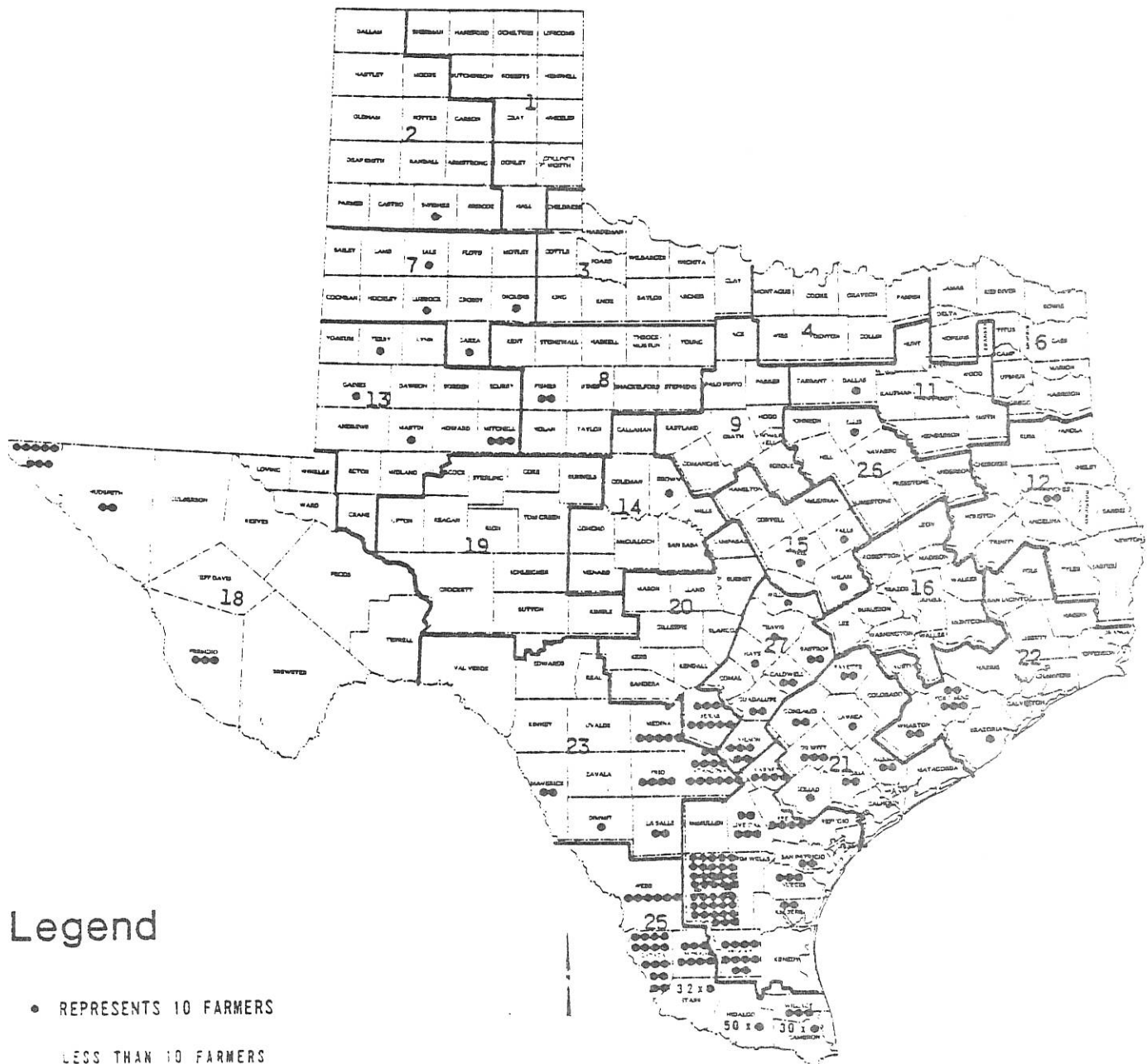
TEXAS

TRENDS IN NUMBER OF HISPANIC OPERATING UNITS AND
DISTRICT COOPERATORS
1971-1982



Source; SCS Summary 1971-1982

DISTRIBUTION OF HISPANIC FARMERS TEXAS 1974



NOTE: In Some Counties Numbers Rounded To Ten.

Source; U.S. Census of Agriculture 1974

BASE COMPILED FROM USGS NATIONAL ATLAS, 1970 EDITION

REVISED OCTOBER 1976 BASE 4-R-23877

HISPANIC EMPLOYEES BY GRADE & CLASSIFICATION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>GR/CLASS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>COLLEGE</u>
<u>DISTRICT CONSERVATIONISTS</u>			
Alaniz, Jose C.	GS-11-DC	Eagle Pass	TX A&I
Garcia, Alberto, Jr.	GS-11 DC	Mission	TX A&I
Garcia, Ramon N.	GS-11 DC	Benavides	TX A&I
Garza, Noe	GS-12 DC	Edinburg	TX A&M
Gonzales, Antolin	GS-11 DC	Laredo	TX A&I
Gonzalez, Silvestre	GS-11 DC	Rio Grande City	TX A&M
Gonzalez-Davis, Mario L.	GS-11 DC	Zapata	TX A&I
Rodriquez, Zaragoza, III	GS-11 DC	Crystal City	TX A&M
Saenz, Felix, Jr.	GS-11 DC	Falfurrias	TX A&I
Salinas, Salvador	GS-11 DC	Van Horn	TX A&M
<u>SOIL CONSERVATIONISTS</u>			
Bermudez, Abelardo, Jr.	GS- 9 SC	Cuero	TX A&I
Escobar, Mario	GS- 9 SC	Crystal City	TX A&I
Garcia, Antonio A.	GS- 7 SC	Graham	TX A&I
Garza, Fernando H.	GS- 9 SC	Weslaco	TX A&I
Hinojosa, Arturo, Jr.	GS- 5 SC	Iowa Park	TX A&I
Ibarra, Arturo D.	GS- 9 SC	Eagle Pass	TX A&I
Longoria, Osvaldo, Jr.	GS- 9 SC	Tahoka	TX A&I
Lopez, Rufino	GS- 9 SC	Comanche	SWTSU
Morales, Isidro Y., Jr.	GS- 9 SC	Bay City	TX A&I
Ozuna, Romeo J.	GS- 9 SC	Falfurrias	TX A&I
Ramirez, David R.	GS- 9 SC	Decatur	TX A&I
Rodriquez, Elias C.	GS- 7 SC	Tulia	ASU
Trevino, Rosendo, III	GS- 9 SC	Sinton	TX A&I
Villarreal, Raul F.	GS- 9 SC	Hempstead	TX A&I
Wisener, Febe B. (F)	GS- 5 SC	San Marcos	SWTSU
Yzaguirre, Humberto	GS- 9 SC	Kingsville	TX A&I

HISPANIC EMPLOYEES BY GRADE & CLASSIFICATION (CONTINUED)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>GR/CLASS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>COLLEGE</u>
<u>ENGINEERS</u>			
Luna, Manuel, Jr.	GS-9 Ag. Engr.	Uvalde	TX Tech
Mireles, Ricardo	GS-9 Ag. Engr.	Rosenberg	TX A&M
Rodriquez, Ricardo R.	GS-7 Ag. Engr.	San Benito	TX A&M
<u>SOIL SCIENTISTS</u>			
Arriaga, Daniel	GS- 9 SS	Carrizo Springs	TX A&I
Flores, Plinio H.	GS- 9 SS	Victoria SSP	Oklahoma State
Molina, Ramiro	GS- 9 SS	Beeville SSP	TX A&I
<u>RANGE CONSERVATIONISTS</u>			
Baeza, Antonio L.	GS- 7 RC	Hamilton	UTEP-SRU
Barrera, Hector R.	GS- 9 RC	San Antonio	Sul Ross
Cantu, Ruben	GS- 7 RC	Crowell	TX A&I
Castro, Russell O.	GS- 9 RC	Bandera	Sul Ross
Cavazos, Rudy R.	GS- 9 RC	New Braunfels	TX A&I
Dominguez, Tomas	GS- 9 RC	Midland	TX A&M
Garcia, Vivian	GS- 9 RC	Ft. Stockton	TX A&I
Hernandez, Humberto	GS-11 RC	Pampa AO	TX Tech
Leal, Alfonso G.	GS- 9 RC	Breckenridge	TX A&M
Leyva, Agustin A.	GS- 7 RC	Junction	TX A&I
Logan, Kenneth (LOWP)	GS- 7 RC	Ozona	TX A&I
Morales, Mario A.	GS- 7 RC	Zapata	TX Tech
Perez, Adolfo, Jr.	GS- 9 RC	Benavides	TX A&I
Resendez, Antonio	GS- 9 RC	Van Horn	TX A&I
Rodriguez, David	GS- 9 RC	Mason	TX A&M
Salinas, Dario	GS- 9 RC	Rio Grande City	TX A&I
Sanchez, Homer	GS- 9 RC	Jayton	TX A&M
Trevino, Roel E.	GS- 9 RC	Edinburg	TX A&I

HISPANIC EMPLOYEES BY GRADE & CLASSIFICATION (CONTINUED)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>GR/CLASS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<u>SOIL CONSERVATION TECHNICIANS</u>		
Brijalba, Alfredo	GS- 7 SCT	Marfa
Canales, Mateo, Jr.	GS- 6 SCT	Alice
Castillo, Michael A.	GS- 6 SCT	Eagle Pass
DeLosSantos, Adrian	GS- 5 SCT	Raymondville
Esquivel, Rudy G.	GS- 6 SCT	Snyder
Garcia, Eddy M.	GS- 6 SCT	Rosenberg
Gonzalez, Hector	GS- 6 SCT	Rio Grande City
Gonzales, Manuel S.	GS- 5 SCT	Ft. Stockton
Hernandez, Richard T.	GS- 6 SCT	Pearsall
Lara, Carlos Diaz	GS- 4 SCT	Stinnett
Marroquin, Manuel, Jr.	GS- 6 SCT	Sweetwater
Martinez, Jose Noe	GS- 6 SCT	Benavides
Mottel, Thomas A.	GS- 4 SCT	Beaumont
Perez, Cresencio G.	GS- 6 SCT	Seguin
Rueda, Enrique	GS- 7 SCT	El Paso
Renteria, Juan	GS- 6 SCT	Edinburg
Salinas, Juan N.	GS- 6 SCT	Mission
Ybarra, Francisco M.	GS- 6 SCT	Taylor
<u>CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIANS</u>		
Cavazoa, Juan H.	GS- 7 CET	Laredo
<u>SURVEYING TECHNICIANS</u>		
Perez, Ruben R.	GS- 5 Survyg. Technon.	Seguin WCS
Rangel, Adam G.	GS- 4 Survyg. Technon.	Seguin WCS
<u>CONSTRUCTION INSPECTORS</u>		
Rangel, Richard	GS- 7 Constr. Insp.	Corsicana WCS

HISPANIC EMPLOYEES BY GRADE & CLASSIFICATION (CONTINUED)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>GR/CLASS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>COLLEGE</u>
<u>CLERICAL</u>			
Avila, Molly L. (F)	GS- 6 Area Clk.	Amarillo AO	-
Cisneros, Edna (F)	GS- 3 Clk-Typist	Harlingen AO	-
Larson, Elia (F)	GS- 5 Area Clk.	Austin AO	-
Pedraza, Olivia (F)	GS- 5 Area Clk.	Harlingen AO	-
Salinas, Enedina (F)	GS- 5 Secretary	Temple SO	-
Trigo, Anna M. (F)	GS- 4 Clk-Typist	Alice AO	-
Vargas, Rosa (F)	Gs- 4 Mail Clk.	Temple SO	-
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE</u>			
Magana, Beatrice (F)	GS- 7 Adm. Asst.	Temple SO	U.T. Austin
<u>STUDENT TRAINEES</u>			
Escamilla, Gerard	GS- 5 ST(SC)	Hondo	TX A&I
Fuentes, Gary	GS- 5 ST(SC)	Cotulla	SRSU
Guerra, Dario, V., III	GS- 4 ST(AE)	Weslaco	TX A&M
Mesa, Esteban S.	GS- 5 ST(SC)	Alpine	SFASU
Pena, Juan M.	GS- 4 ST(SC)	San Benito	TX A&I
Quintero, Jimmy R.	GS- 4 ST(AE)	Crowell	TX Tech
Trevino, Anita L.	GS- 4 ST(SS)	Beeville	TX A&M

