

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE RESEARCH  
AND EXTENSION CENTER AT WESLACO

# TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

July 28, 2023

The Honorable Tano E. Tijerina  
Webb County Judge  
1000 Houston St. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Laredo, Texas 78040  
Phone: 956-523-4600  
Email: [webbcountyjudge@webbcountytexas.gov](mailto:webbcountyjudge@webbcountytexas.gov)

Dear Judge Tijerina,

Please accept this letter as notice of our intent to bring a recommendation forward to fill the County Extension Agent – Agriculture & Natural Resources position. Our process requires us to follow EEO guidelines and approved HR procedures for the Texas A&M System in filling all vacancies but also provides for additional procedures with our partners in County Government in Texas.

As such, following our process for advertising, interviewing, and considering all applicants for a position, we have arrived at a sole finalist that will serve as our recommendation to the court.

This applicant has been offered a conditional offer of employment subject to approval by the Commissioners Court. Employment is not finalized or official until/unless the Court approves.

Our recommendation to fill this position is Jeffrey Hester. We kindly ask that you inform court members of this request and take all necessary steps to place this on the agenda scheduled for **Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. The effective date of this action would be **September 1, 2023**. For the first 30 days, he would be training and fully on state payroll. Following the training period, he may be added to county payroll effective **October 1, 2023**, when he fully reports to the county. This letter also serves to verify the county's share of salary at \$24,939.

Please advise me of any additional information you may require or any questions you might have related to this item.

Sincerely,



Ruben J. Saldaña, Ed.D.  
District Extension Administrator

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service | District 12  
2401 E Business Hwy 83 | Weslaco, Texas 78596  
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*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.  
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating*



# Jeffrey Dale Hester

jeffhest16@gmail.com | 615-945-2101

1034 Larvotto Loop Laredo, TX 78045

## Professional Experience

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### Family Baptist Church

*June 2023-Present*

**Pastor**

*Laredo, TX*

### United ISD

*August 2023 - Present*

**Substitute Teacher**

*Laredo, TX*

- Responsible for maintaining educational lessons plans during the absence of the teacher.
- Crisis Prevention Intervention Certification
- Experience in PreK-12 classrooms, including SLC special education units.

### The University of Tennessee

*January 2017 – June 2021*

**Agriculture Extension Agent & County Director**

*Gallatin, TN*

*(Director August 2020 – June 2021)*

- Responsible for the management and supervision of 14 employees
  - Ensure accurate and timely paychecks
  - Motivate team collaboration and individuals on the team to be their best
  - Balance and Maintain accuracy of budget (*FY2021 \$506,000*)
  - Verifying and Approving ledgers and Quicken reports
- Responsible for planning, implementation of, and evaluating youth and adult programs within the county.
  - Program Experience:
    - Beef Cattle Production Management
    - Dairy Cattle Production Management
    - Horse Production Management

- Tennessee Beef Quality Assurance
  - Tennessee Youth Livestock Quality Assurance
  - Farm Financial Planning
  - Pasture Forage and Weed Management
  - Horse Judging
  - Livestock Judging
- Promoting programs through social media platforms and county website
- Preparing for each program through team collaboration, budget management, and organization
- Maintaining positive community relations to evaluate program needs assessments
- Liaison between The University of Tennessee and Governing Authorities
  - Maintain connection between the cities, county, and state government(s) with the university.
- Team Player mentality as office responsibilities were shared throughout the group
  - Manage public communication intake via on-site visits, telephone calls, emails, social media messages, etc.
  - Served as the on-site information technology personnel to help assist team members with basic computer/technology issues before reaching out to our professional services.

**Mount Hermon Baptist Church**

*February 2018 – June 2021*

**Associate Pastor**

Clarksville, TN

**Tennessee State University**

*December 2013 – January 2017*

**4-H Extension Agent**

Shelbyville, TN

**Edgemont Baptist Church**

*June 2014 – January 2017*

**Youth Pastor**

Shelbyville, TN

**Zoetis Animal Health**

*Summer 2013*

**Internship - Sales Representative**

Southeast Region, USA

- Assist with Marketing and Sales strategy meetings
- Help manage sales in the Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee
- Responsible for customer relations during the sales made for the summer o Achieve goals set while maintaining set budget and time scale

## Education

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### **The University of Tennessee Knoxville**

*Agriculture Leadership, Education, & Communications – M.S.*

**Graduated May 2020**

### **Austin Peay State University**

*Agriculture Sciences – B.S.*

**Graduated May 2013**

### **Sycamore High School**

*High School Diploma*

**Graduated May 2009**

## Professional Skills

- Microsoft (Outlook, Word, PowerPoint, Publisher, Excel, Teams)
- Social Media (Facebook, Instagram)
- Canva
- Inter/Intrapersonal Skills
- Zoom
- Google (Docs, Sheets, Forms, Classroom)

## Certification & Licensure

- University of Tennessee - Artificial Insemination Certification
- University of Tennessee - Beef Quality Assurance
- State of Tennessee - Livestock Quality Assurance Educator Certification
- State of Tennessee - Commercial Applicator Certification for Education
- Tennessee - Licensed Pastor (2016)
- Tennessee - Ordained Pastor (2021)
- American Red Cross - CPR/BLS (2020)

## Career Leadership Involvement

- University of Tennessee Leadership Team – Livestock & Forages
- University of Tennessee Extension Equine Workgroup
- University of Tennessee Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
  - Research Project: “Feeding the Starved Horse”
- Volunteer State Community College Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
  - Licensed Veterinary Technician Program Oversight Board
- Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation - Sumner County - Board Advisor
- High School CTE (Career Technical Education) Advisor

## **Distinguished Awards/ Honors**

- National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals - Distinguished Service Award (2017)
- George S. Foster Outstanding 4-H Agent (2016)
- Graduate of Delta Tau Alpha Honor Society (2013)

# Jeffrey Dale Hester

jeffhest16@gmail.com | 615-945-2101

1034 Larvotto Loop Laredo, TX 78045

## References

### **Bob Ary**

The University of Tennessee Extension - Retiree  
Gallatin, TN  
615.351.6254  
bobary@utk.edu

### **Jose Nava**

Nava Group, LLC  
Laredo, TX  
956.754.7739  
joseanava@sbcglobal.net

### **John Richardson**

Mount Hermon Baptist Church, Pastor  
Clarksville, Tennessee  
615-512-8331  
rhythmstcdr@bellsouth.net

### **Marcie Riis**

The University of Tennessee Extension - former administrative assistant  
Gallatin, Tennessee  
615.423.8181