

From: [David Baltensperger](#)
To: [C Wayne Smith](#); [David Stelly](#); [Bill Rooney](#)
Subject: Fwd: Sugarcane Breeder position
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2009 11:46:36 AM
Attachments: [Sugarcane Breeder position \(144 KB\).msg](#)

Bill,

Please help me out with some thoughts. Thanks.

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ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Genetic Improvement of High Biomass Crops

The Texas AgriLife Research Center at Weslaco is seeking an experienced Plant Geneticist to join its expanding research program in plant improvement and biotechnology. Employing the latest advances in molecular biology, genomics, breeding and sustainable production systems, this program is developing next generation crops for emerging high priority markets such as biofuels and high value products. Built by design, these crops will form an important part of the 21st century agricultural economy in Texas and the southeastern US.

The successful applicant will develop and lead an internationally recognized research program resulting in new commercial crops based on high biomass germplasm, including species of the *Saccharum* complex such as *Micanthus*, *Erianthus*, etc. Applicants should possess: a PhD in Plant Genetics, Molecular Biology or a closely related field; 5+ years research experience breeding and performing molecular characterizations of high biomass crops and/or C4 grasses; a desire to work in a team-based, multidisciplinary research program; strong written and oral communication skills; and a demonstrated ability to provide scientific program leadership and effectively manage a technical support staff. Preferred candidates will also have research experience in a successful program for commercial sugarcane development; experience working in team-based or corporate research environment; and a demonstrated ability to develop grants and publish in peer reviewed journals. The successful applicant will be expected to develop a well-funded and internationally recognized research program.

This position is a 100% research, full-time appointment at the Associate Professor level. The successful candidate will also be a member of the faculty of the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences at Texas A&M University.

Qualified individuals should apply online at <http://greatjobs.tamu.edu> (refer to NOV # 04276) by completing the online faculty form and attaching a short cover letter, a curriculum vitae, and contact information (name, address, phone number, email address) for at least three professional references. For additional information please contact John L. Jifon, Search Committee Chair, at jljifon@ag.tamu.edu or (956) 968-5585. Review of applications will begin on June 15, 2009 and continue until the position is filled.

The Texas AgriLife Research Center at Weslaco is part of the Texas A&M University System. Strategically located in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, the Center works in close partnerships with academic, government and corporate scientists to develop commercially valuable knowledge and technology. The Center is well funded and equipped to successfully carry out the program objectives, including infrastructure and facilities to conduct comprehensive development and testing of next-generation crops in the laboratory and the field. The Center's private sector partners provide market-based feedback to guide the Center's programs toward commercially successful outcomes.

The Texas A&M University System and Texas AgriLife Research are equal opportunity employers.

From: [Gould Mike](#)
To: [David Baltensperger](#)
Subject: Sugarcane Breeder position
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2009 9:52:05 AM
Attachments: [Plant Geneticist Assoc Prof Announcement.doc](#)
[ATT00351.htm](#)

Hi David,

As you know, we have been actively searching to fill the vacancy created when Dr DaSilva left. However, because of the significant expansion of the research program associated with that position, we broadened the scope of our search to include not only experience in sugarcane breeding, but also experience with genetics, molecular biology and genomics of other high-biomass grasses (a copy of the position announcement is attached). It has been difficult to find a single candidate that meets these criteria. After interviewing four candidates, the Search Advisory Committee has identified two outstanding candidates [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Together these two outstanding scientists provide an excellent fit to meet the Center's research needs today and to continue its growth in the future. Both candidates were recruited under the original posting and thoroughly evaluated by the Search Committee in both Weslaco and on campus. I believe that it is in the best interests of AgriLife and the Weslaco Center to offer positions to both candidates.

The original posting was at the Associate Professor level. However, based upon their credentials and discussions with HR, I expect to offer both candidates positions at the Assistant Professor level. In addition, I am proposing that the breeding position [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] associated with the Horticulture Dept.

Please let me know me if you have any objections or concerns with this plan, or would like additional information on the candidates.

By the way, I believe you originally suggested [REDACTED] as a candidate for the position. That turned out to be an excellent choice and the Committee and I thank you for bringing her to our attention.

Mike
Mike Gould
Center Director