



**Contact:**  
Shelly Nutt  
Executive Director  
Texas Peanut Producers Board  
(800) 734-0086

**For Immediate Release**  
*High Resolution Image Attached*

## **Texas hosts national Peanut Leadership Academy**

**LUBBOCK, Texas (August 11, 2011)** – Peanut growers from across the nation made a visit to Texas for the [Peanut Leadership Academy](#), sponsored by [Syngenta Crop Protection](#) and the [American Peanut Shellers Association](#), this week to learn about the Texas agricultural industry and gain further leadership training.

The Academy provides extensive leadership training for young farmers in effort to prime the next generation of leaders in the industry. It also gives producers insight on the many obstacles farmers face across the country.

Participants came from Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida and Texas, for three days of training and exploring the area's agricultural industry. Aaron Martin and Jarred Ericson, both from Brownfield, Texas, are enrolled in this year's leadership program, and were excited to show the Southeastern producers the ins and outs of Texas agriculture. The Academy toured Ericson's farm to see his planting and harvesting equipment, peanut crop and how differently his operation is run.

"I think the greatest benefit of the program is learning the diversity of other farmers across the country," Ericson said. "All producers face problems, but I've learned that we all deal with different types of problems."

In addition to visiting Ericson's farm, the Academy toured the American Cotton Growers denim plant, Breedlove Foods Inc., Birdsong Shelling facility, and a local vineyard.

TPPB Executive Director Shelly Nutt says the Academy is an asset to producers and a program the industry needs.

"This program brings farmers together to grow as agricultural leaders and experience farming practices that are different than what they've grown up around," Nutt said, "I think it's crucial to maintaining a strong relationship for agriculture across the country because by the end of the tour, leadership participants have walked in other producers' shoes."

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*The Texas Peanut Producers Board is a statewide board funded by a voluntary checkoff program. TPPB is responsible for coordinating peanut research, promotion and marketing programs. For more information, visit [www.TexasPeanutBoard.com](http://www.TexasPeanutBoard.com) or contact TPPB Communications Director Stephanie Pruitt at [stephanie@texaspeanutboard.com](mailto:stephanie@texaspeanutboard.com).*