

# Outstanding Achievement Award Citations - Academia/Research

## Dr. J. Richard Conner

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Dr. J. Richard Conner, Thomas M. O'Connor Professor, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management and the Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas A&M University, is awarded the SRM Outstanding Achievement Award, Research for his pioneering work as an Agriculture Economist specializing in the development of economically sustainable rangeland and ranch management strategies and tactics. Dr. Conner's research on the economic impacts of water harvesting through rangeland management has benefited thousands of landowners and hundreds of communities across Texas and will pay untold dividends for future generations. His research to develop Federal drought insurance policies for forage-based livestock producers is benefiting thousands of ranchers across the West. Likewise, his innovative rangeland and forest management decision support systems are helping landowners be better stewards of the land and manage rangeland resources for generations to come.



Dr. Conner's work has also inspired many of his students and colleagues. For example, Department Head, Dr. Van Tassel, wrote that "Working with Richard lit a fire within me that continues today. I will forever be grateful for his patience, understanding, guidance and enthusiasm during the time I worked for him. I credit Richard for much of the success I have had during my career." A former research associate at Texas A&M wrote, "With a strong staff and good training I was reasonably successful in meeting my personal goals as a research scientist for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. However, once I began working with Dr. Conner, my career goals, personal view-points, and awareness of the big picture simply exploded as he added a new component to my research. He became my closest colleague as he had a unique way of guiding both me and his graduate students to higher levels of understanding and achievement."