

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE

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WILLIAMSON COUNTY RESIDENTS APPOINTED TO BOARD BY GOVERNOR RICK PERRY February 7, 2008 (Williamson County, TX) – Williamson County Commissioner Lisa Birkman, Precinct 1, and Williamson County resident Stan Ray were appointed to the board of the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority (TAFE) by Governor Rick Perry. The two were officially seated on the board on February 1, 2008.

TAFE's primary objective is to aid agricultural and rural businesses. Since its inception in 1987, through the Financial Assistance Programs, TAFE has provided a guaranty of over \$65 million in loans totaling over \$77 million. The above amounts encompass 115 loans to 71 borrowers and have created over 2,200 jobs in Texas. Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples also serves on the board along with several other citizens from the fields of banking and higher education. Commissioner Lisa Birkman is a sixth generation Williamson County native. Her family has owned a farm in the Leander area for over 150 years. She graduated from Georgetown High School and Texas A&M University. She worked for 13 years as a teacher in the Central Texas area and served on the Brushy Creek MUD Board. Commissioner Birkman was the first woman to be elected to a seat on the Williamson County Commissioners Court and has served since May 2004. She lives in the Cat Hollow area with her husband and two daughters.

Mr. Ray has become very familiar with TAFE's cause through his work as vice president of corporate relations for the Farm Credit Bank of Texas. Mr. Ray also sits on the board of the Texas FFA Foundation and the National Council for Farmer Cooperatives, and is the founder of his own international non-profit agricultural development organization. After working in Washington he moved to Georgetown and is married and has two children.

Both Commissioner Birkman and Mr. Ray are very proud to have been selected by Governor Perry for their positions in TAFE. "I am honored to have been selected by the governor for this position and look forward to serving all the citizens of Texas on the TAFE board," said Commissioner Birkman.