

Ag Research Center to be dedicated in Corpus

CORPUS CHRISTI—Coastal Bend area residents and other Texas visitors will have an opportunity to view facilities and observe educational exhibits and demonstrations on May 17 when the new (TAMU) Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Corpus Christi is dedicated.

The Corpus Christi Center is the newest of nine TAMU Centers across Texas. Studies, investigations and educational programs at the \$500,000 Center are being designed

to serve the Texas Coastal Bend, said Dr. H.O. Kunkel, dean of agriculture at A&M.

Kunkel will serve as program chairman for the dedication at 11 a.m. at the Center, located 1.5 miles west of Clarkwood on State Highway 44.

The Calallen High School Band will provide special music for the dedication program. Guests will be introduced by Dr. Jarvis E. Miller, director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. Dan C. Pfann-

stiel, associate director, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, and Herb Helbig, chairman, Coastal Bend Agribusiness Council.

President Jack K. Williams will introduce the dedicatory speaker, State Rep. L. DeWitt Hale of Corpus Christi.

Clyde H. Wells of Granbury, president of the A&M System's board of directors, will respond to Hale's address.

Visitors will then tour facilities of the Center and view special exhibits

and educational demonstrations prepared by the Experiment Station and Extension Service staffs. Tours will be provided by members of the Corpus Christi A&M Mother's Club, Ethyl Walker, Barbara Priestmeyer, Elaine Richardson and Marie Speer.

The Corpus Christi Center is situated on land given by Sylvan Weil in memory of her late husband, a longtime Corpus Christi civic leader.

A 16-by-20-inch plaque placed at the main entrance to the Center in-

dicates that "The Center is dedicated to the agricultural improvement of the Coastal Bend of Texas."

The E. Eisenhauer Construction Co. of Corpus Christi built the facility, and Ben Christian was the architect.

Corpus Christi's new center will ultimately house a special task force of more than 20 research scientists of the Experiment Station and specialists with the Extension Service, plus technicians and a secretarial staff. Additionally, the Texas En-

gineering Experiment Station has requested to have two staff members assigned to the Center by 1975," said Dean Kunkel.

The main Center building includes two large classrooms, a multi-purpose auditorium, a conference room, library, 19 offices, an area for secretaries, five laboratories, and a storage room. A 150-by-60-foot metal shop building nearby will house equipment and may later be converted into additional labs, Kunkel added.

Studies and investigations centered at Corpus Christi—designed to serve the Coastal Bend—include seafood technology, production, coastal and estuarine studies and management, demonstrations and fish farming projects, recreational development, game management and harvest, oilseed crops, vegetable production, irrigation practices and soil management, cow-calf production, insect pest management, cotton grain production.

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