

A&M-Israel research sparks agricultural improvements

By James Florez
Reporter

The Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund has led to many breakthroughs in the field of agriculture engineering, a Texas A&M researcher said Wednesday.

BARD is a joint research effort between the United States and Israel. It provides about \$25.1 million in funds for American agricultural research.

Dr. Edward A. Hiler, head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering, was one of five speakers at an agricultural symposium highlighting joint Texan-Israeli research efforts.

The symposium, "Joint Texas-Israeli Agricultural Research," was sponsored by the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, the Institute of International Education and the Israel Club. It attracted about 50 people.

"There are great similarities between the agriculture of Israel and Texas," Hiler said. "I know there are great benefits to be derived from close cooperation and research."

"The Department of Agricultural Engineering has done a fair amount of joint research in the past 10 years, and because of the obvious benefits we intend to do a lot more in the future."

In his address, Hiler told the group about several major breakthroughs resulting from past joint research efforts.

Hiler said recent research done at A&M in conjunction with BARD led to the development of a modular system of handling and storing cotton, which strips cotton from the stalk and compresses it into huge bales.

The system, used throughout the United States and Israel, has greatly reduced the amount of labor and time needed to get the cotton from the field, he said.

Another breakthrough has been in the processing of cotton. A new selective, ginning process will greatly improve the quality of the cotton processed by the gin, he said. Although the system is not yet commercially available, he said laboratory tests have consistently produced uniformly long and strong cotton fibers.

Hiler said the percentage of fibers more than one inch in length (a quality standard used in cotton ginning) has risen 20 percent over conventional methods.

Joint research at A&M has led to the development of some promising technologies, Hiler said, including a new automated irrigation system to help farmers conserve more water. While the current center-pivot system of farmers is highly labor-efficient, Hiler said much of the water put out is lost from run-off.

Tests of the new system, conducted on the Texas High Plains, have shown a 25-percent reduction in water use and a savings of more than \$1 million.

Hiler said further joint research between Texas and Israel would help facilitate the development of growing technologies, such as agrobotics.

Part of recent agrobotics research has centered on what Hiler called "computervision." Hiler said processors would use computer-generated images to help select produce of uniform size and quality.

He said this same technology could be used by the shrimping industry.

Processors could use computer-guided, high-pressure water jets to dehead shrimp. This process would speed up processing time, greatly reducing the amount of spoilage and contamination, Hiler said.

Official: A&M receives more from BARD fund than most universities

By Becky Weisenfeld
Reporter

Texas A&M receives more money through the Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund than almost any other American university, Dr. Fowden G. Maxwell, department head of entomology, said Wednesday at the Joint Israeli-Texas Agricultural Research Symposium.

A&M receives 8 percent of a \$25.1 million budget, second to the University of California, which receives 15 percent. Maxwell said the percentages have not changed much over the last three or four years.

Maxwell received his master's degree and doctorate in entomology from Kansas State University. He worked briefly in the Secretary of Agriculture's office before coming to A&M. He has been involved in the BARD program nine years.

Israel has two panels governing BARD: a commodity advisory board that establishes goals and a peer-review panel responsible for approving future programs, Maxwell said. The United States is more complex because it has federal and state levels, he said.

"We have a much more bearable system," Maxwell said. "We tend to stress scientific merit."

In the United States, the peer-review board is the main guide in choosing programs to support, he said.

Either country can initiate research with two requirements. The research must be cooperative and of mutual benefit to both countries, Maxwell said.

A technical-advisory committee recommends a program to be awarded money; the proposal is reviewed by the BARD Board of Directors, he said.

When BARD began, the United States endowed \$40 million to the program, and Israel matched it, establishing an \$80 million fund. The basic amount was increased two years ago, Maxwell said.

BARD covers 11 areas: field crops, horticulture and forestry, plant protection, soil and water, harvest and food science, animal production and protection, agricultural engineering, agricultural economics, general, and agriculture.

The program began because of similar problems and conditions between Texas and Israel. Many of the solutions to Israel's problems have been modified for the United States.

Senate votes to increase jail time for convictions in violent crimes

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate Wednesday refused to debate a "whistle-blower" bill for employees but quickly approved a measure providing longer jail time for anyone who threatens others with violence.

The Senate, acting on 18 proposals in a session that lasted just over an hour, also approved and sent to the House bills that would:

- Establish a task force and child-care pilot programs for state employees in three larger cities. A previous task force surveyed 1,135 state employees and found that one in five had considered quitting his job as a result of child care problems.
- Authorize state agencies that practice cogeneration to sell their excess power. The bill also would create the State Cogeneration Council. Cogeneration is the production of

electric power and heat energy from one fuel source, most commonly natural gas.

- Extend the Texas Open Meetings Act to certain groups of judges acting in an administrative capacity.

In other business, Sen. Carl Parker got a 17-12 vote on his proposal to "do away with inhibitions of employees when it comes to complaining about unsafe conditions in the workplace."

However, he needed 19 votes to debate the bill.

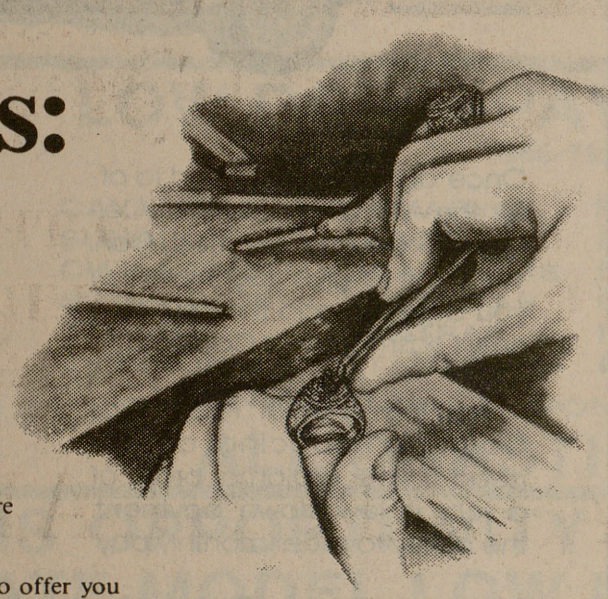
"I have amended the bill to make it a true whistle-blower bill, and all it does now is protect an employee who reports an unsafe condition that he finds on the job," Parker said. The Senate approved on voice

vote without debate a measure increasing the penalty for a "terrorist threat" from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by one year in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

The Senate also approved and sent to the House a bill that would allow state courts to dismiss "frivolous and malicious" cases, as well as those in which the plaintiff's allegation that he is a pauper turns out to be false.

A bill analysis noted that 45 suits by prison inmates had been filed in 28 different district courts in East Texas this year, and the attorney general has had no choice but to defend each case with motions and special exceptions, regardless of the merits.

Aggie rings: select your diamond today, wear it tomorrow.



You've worked hard for your Aggie ring, and you deserve a special diamond for it. David Gardner's Jewelers Gemologists are Aggies. We know the tradition behind having a diamond mounted in your Aggie ring.

We shop the diamond markets of the world to offer you the best value in diamond quality and cost. Choose from our special selection of diamonds.

We offer one day service on Aggie rings. You select your diamond today and we'll set it so you can wear it tomorrow.

DAVID GARDNER'S
JEWELERS GEMOLOGISTS

701 University Dr. East • Chimney Hill Retail Plaza (across from the Hilton) College Station, TX 77840 • (For repairs 846-0363)



THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL

Jack Daniels Tennessee Cooler 5° **\$4.⁴⁹**

Schencey Vodka 80° 1.75L **\$8.⁴⁹**

All German Wines 750ml **10% off**

693-2627

Cash or check preferred

1600 Texas Ave. S.



College Station

ATTENTION

COLLEGE SENIORS AND GRADUATES WHO NEED A CAR!

McDavid Oldsmobile has a special preferred financial plan for you.

- 90 Day deferral of the first payment
- Pre-approved credit with GMAC letter
- Only 5% down payment
- 3.9 annual percentage rate available
- No previous credit required

McDavid Suzuki has 4-wheel affordable fun.

- Over 100 new Samurais available.
- Convertible, hard tops, 4-wheel drive all available.



*48 payments with 10% down + TT&L. 11.9% apr financing with \$1,550 residual

Eligible Customers: Individuals who purchase or lease an eligible vehicle within six months prior to or one calendar year after the date of graduation from a four-year degree or graduate degree program; who are employed or have verifiable commitment for employment; and for whom there is no record of collection problems.



McDavid Olds/Suzuki

641-8400

OPEN TILL 9 PM MON.-SAT.
6800 GULF FREEWAY-HOUSTON

SAVE 40% to 75% AND MORE!

Two Days Only - Friday & Saturday 9:30am-5:30pm

SIDEWALK SALE

Domino's Pizza 50¢ per slice Coca-Cola 25¢	One Table SHOES Values To \$40.00 \$5	One Table SHOES Values To \$50.00 \$10	One Table SHOES Values To \$80.00 \$15	Nylon Tafeta SHORTS 99¢
	Men's Pull-Over SHIRTS Reg. \$11.95 \$5	Men's Tennis SHORTS Reg. \$14.95 \$5	Unlined Windbreakers \$5	Ladies SHORTS/TOPS \$2 & \$6
	Boy's SWIM SUITS \$6	Men's Munsingwear SHIRTS 1/2 Price	Odd 'N Ends WATER SKIS 1/2 Price	Swingster Softball UNIFORMS up to 60% off
Eureka TENTS 40% off	Water Ski VEST 1/2 Price	Weslo 14 Round Trampoline Reg. \$49.95 \$24.95	Spalding Golf Balls Reg. \$12.95 Doz. \$8.95	Inflatables Boats, Tubes Floats 1/2 Price
Coleman 34 Qt. PolyLite Cooler Reg. \$21.95 \$13.95	Rod & Reel Combs 1/2 Price	1-Group Graphite RODS 1/2 Price	Aluminum & Wood Baseball Bats 40% off	

Many, many other items to numerous to mention.

No Charge Cards, Please
All Sales Final-No Refunds or Exchanges
All Merchandise As Is
Quantities, Sizes & Shapes Limited

tri-state Sports Center

779-8776
2023 Texas Avenue
Townshire Shopping Center
Across From Krogers In Bryan

Call Battalion Classified 845-2611