

The Texas Water Symposium

Created in partnership by; [Schreiner University](#), [Texas Tech University](#), [Texas Public Radio](#), and [Hill Country Alliance](#).

Session 1:

Thursday

Oct. 13, 2011

Texas Tech University Campus in Junction

Drought: What, Where, Why and When...will it end?"



Some predict the Texas drought could last until 2020. Panelist John Nielsen-Gammon, who serves as Texas State Climatologist and professor of atmospheric sciences at Texas A&M, says the culprit is the likely establishment of a new La Niña in the central Pacific Ocean. A La Niña is formed when colder than usual ocean temperatures form in the central Pacific, and these tend to create wetter than normal conditions in the Pacific Northwest but also drier than normal conditions in the Southwest. A La Niña has been blamed for starting the current drought but the new one, which began developing several weeks ago, is likely to extend drought conditions for Texas and much of the Southwest. **Panelists:** John Baccus, TTU, Natural Resource Management: impacts on fish and wildlife; John Nielson Gammon, State Climatologist: science and climatology; Bruce McCarl, Texas A&M, Agricultural Economics: agricultural and economic impacts; and Todd Votteler, Guadalupe Blanco River Authority: Texas drought history.

Water, essential for life, is our most precious and valuable natural resource. But water supply is limited and under increasing pressure from a growing population. How will we protect this resource and plan for a sustainable future? There is a great need for a water-literate public; decisions being made today have far reaching and long lasting effects for our children and future generations.

The 2011-2012 Texas Water Symposium Series will provide perspectives from policy makers, scientists, water resource experts and regional leaders. Join us as we explore together, the complexity and challenges in providing water for Texans in this century. Each session is free and open to the public. The hour-long program begins at 7:00 pm, followed by discussion time with Q&A. The events are recorded and aired on Texas Public Radio one week later.

For more details about the Texas Water Symposium:

www.schreiner.edu/water