



### **Welch receives Texas A&M AgriLife Research Director's Award**

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VERTON – Sandra Welch was recently recognized with a Texas A&M AgriLife Research Director's Award in College Station.

The new Research Director's awards, established in 2018, recognize the achievements of those who have performed outstanding work that advances the agency's mission.

Welch was awarded the Administrative Support Staff award for her service as senior administrative coordinator at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Overton.

"Mrs. Welch is one of those Texas A&M AgriLife employees who causes the organization to continue functioning well in the face of personnel turnovers, policy changes, financial setbacks

and other assorted causes of disruption,” said center director Dr. Charles Long in his nomination letter.

Welch began her career as a secretary at the center in 1979. She is now responsible for assisting in the administration of management and fiscal functions at the center, including supervision of AgriLife Research office matters, oversight of secretarial and janitorial staffs and monitoring the budget throughout the year.

Long said Welch’s institutional and procedural knowledge enhance the center’s ability to meet its goals, and that her receptive attitude and constructive inputs have facilitated and improved its many successes and award-winning programs over the years. He added her efforts have also impacted the success of agriculture in East Texas.

Welch has also played an instrumental role serving on various committees for events from forage, livestock or horticulture field days and special commodity group meetings to annual Christmas season functions for employees, Long said.

She is also active in the Overton and surrounding communities through various positions as a booster, advisory board, committee and club member. Additionally, she is a long-time volleyball sports official for Texas Association of Sports Officials and official coordinator for UIL, parochial and private school volleyball tournaments.

“Sandra is one of the dedicated, long-term employees of Texas A&M AgriLife that all programs are built upon, who are often overlooked because much of what they do is behind the scenes, but without whom the smooth operation and excellent image of center programs would not be possible,” Long said. “She is indeed worthy of this award recognition.”

Welch said it was a privilege to be part of the AgriLife Research team and its mission to improve agriculture for Texans, the nation and world. She said receiving recognition for her part is “icing on the cake.”

“I am extremely excited and honored to receive this award,” she said. “Texas A&M AgriLife Research at Overton is a wonderful place to work. We have a great staff who work hard every day to support and contribute to agricultural research.”