

GOING NATIVE WITH LEGUMES:

RANGELAND RESTORATION, CULTIVATED PASTURE & PRAIRIE RECONSTRUCTION

J.P. Muir¹, T.J. Butler², W.D. Pitman³, J. Lloyd-Reilley⁴, P.D. Maywald⁵ & R.T. Cragar⁴

¹Texas AgriLife Research, ²The Nobel Foundation, ³Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, ⁴Natural Resource Conservation Service, ⁵Texas A&M Kingsville

Goal: Develop herbaceous ecotypic germplasm for regional use

Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana (south-central USA)

Approach:

- Collect germplasm in remnant native grasslands
- Inter-specific comparisons
 - Ease of establishment
 - Vigor
 - Seed production & ease of harvest
- Intra-specific comparisons
 - Herbage yield
 - Herbage nutritive value
 - Seed yield
- Multi-environment evaluation
- Seed increase
- On-ranch adaptation trials
- Commercial distribution
 - Private partnership



Why natives?

- Locally adapted
- Lower weed potential
- Germplasm conservation