Rooted & Rising: CAFNR Celebrates Prairie View A&M University's 150th Homecoming with a Week of Panther Pride, Community and Giving

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Pictured above: 2026 Miss CAFNR, Raegan Hopes waves from the CAFNR Homecoming Day Parade float

Prairie View A&M University's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) brought energy, tradition and community engagement to the University's historic 150th Anniversary celebration, Rooted & Rising, with a weeklong series of events celebrating the college's agricultural legacy, strengthening alumni connections and supporting the future of Panther Nation.

From spirited student gatherings and professional networking to alumni celebrations and longstanding traditions, homecoming created opportunities for students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the college to reconnect with the people and purpose that continue to shape its impact. The week also highlighted the power of giving, as contributions from CAFNR helped secure approximately $27,000, plus a $20,000 Texas A&M University System (TAMUS) match during the Homecoming Giving Challenge, amplifying support for Prairie View A&M University and its continued growth.

The celebration began with Plant the Seed: CAFNR Spirit Kickoff, held at the Agriculture and Business Building and courtyard. The event set the tone for a memorable Homecoming week, bringing the CAFNR community together to celebrate Panther pride and the college's enduring commitment to agricultural education, innovation and service.

Celebrated annually on October 13, 1013 Day honors CAFNR's farm and beef cattle specialist teams and a heifer named for her ear tag number. 1013 has become the poster child for the Governor Bill and Vara Daniel Farm and Ranch, representing the college's agricultural research, hands-on learning and Extension outreach across campus. The celebration also highlights CAFNR's collaborative partnership with Prince Beef, reinforcing the importance of industry relationships in advancing agricultural education and engagement. As part of Prairie View A&M University's 150th Homecoming, 1013 Day reflected CAFNR's commitment to honoring its agricultural roots while cultivating partnerships and opportunities for the future.

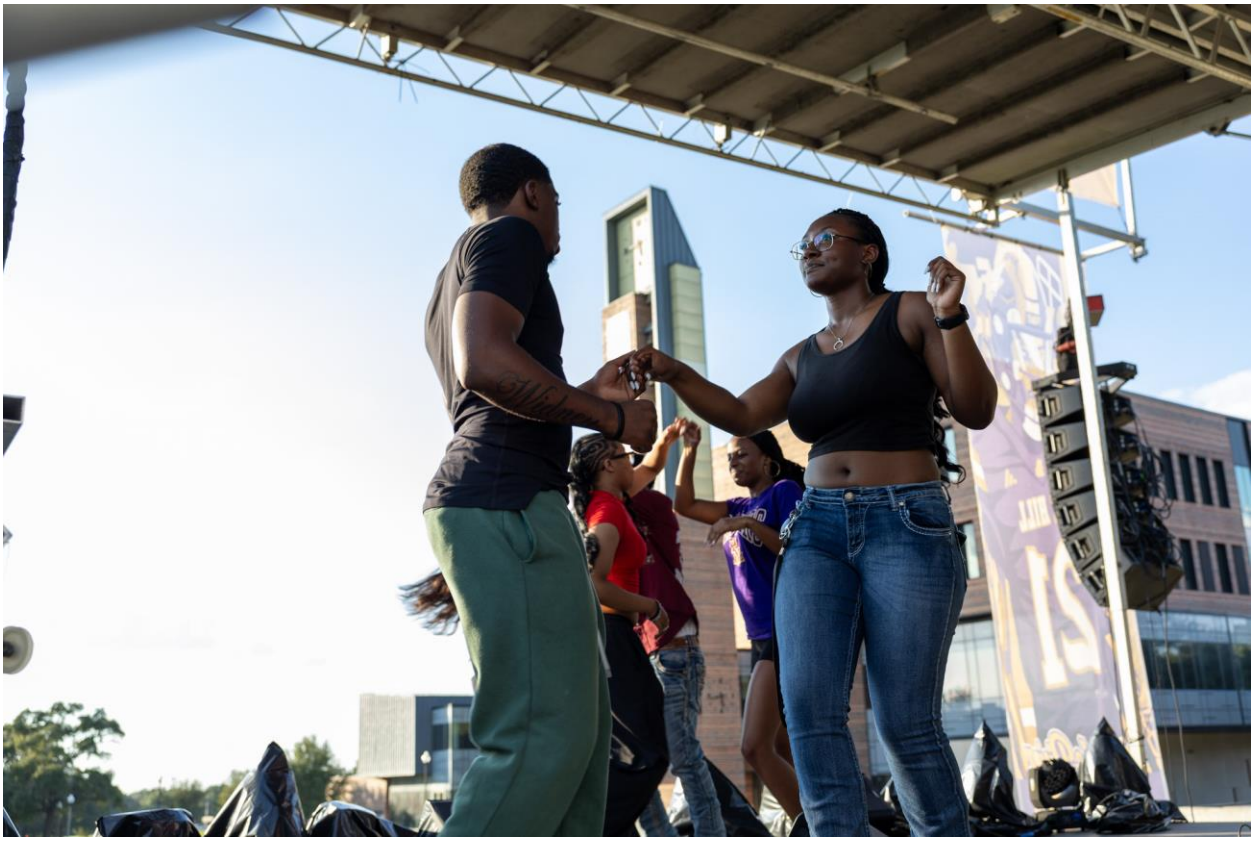


Pictured above (Left to Right): Damion Turner- Beef Cattle Specialist, Dr. Tamra Tolen-Assistant Professor, Dr. TeKedra Pierre-Director of CAFNR Marketing & Communications, Dr. Lea Ann Kinman-Meats Extension Specialist, members of the Prince Beef team: Llyod Prince, Coi Prince, Anthony Prince

On Wednesday, CAFNR continued the festivities with CAFNR Game and Movie Night at Alumni Field and the Agriculture and Business Building courtyard. The gathering offered students and members of the university community an opportunity to unwind, build connections and enjoy the fellowship that makes Homecoming a signature Prairie View A&M tradition.

Thursday brought a full day of professional engagement and celebration. At the Governor Bill and Vara Daniel Farm and Ranch, CAFNR Boots, Brews & Business highlighted the intersection of agriculture, entrepreneurship and professional networking. The event provided an opportunity for participants to connect around shared interests and explore the relationships that help advance agricultural industries and opportunities for future generations.

The evening continued with Zydeco Line Dance Night, where music, movement and fellowship brought the CAFNR community together at Alumni Field and the Agriculture and Business Building courtyard. The celebration also included CAFNR Homecoming Alumni Reception – Cocktails in the Courtyard, hosted in the Agriculture and Business Building courtyard. The reception offered alumni, faculty, staff and friends an opportunity to reconnect, celebrate shared experiences and strengthen their ties to the college.



Students dancing on stage during Zydeco Line Dance Night in outside of the Ag. Business Building during Homecoming Week

Homecoming Saturday began early with the Lindsey Weatherspoon Annual Breakfast, held across the Agriculture and Business Building, courtyard and Alumni Field. As part of CAFNR's Homecoming traditions, the breakfast provided a gathering place for alumni, students, university supporters and community members to celebrate Prairie View A&M's legacy while looking toward its future.

Beyond the week's festivities, CAFNR's participation in the Homecoming Giving Challenge demonstrated the lasting value of collective investment in the university. Contributions from CAFNR helped unlock a $20,000 TAMUS match, underscoring how the generosity and engagement of the college community can extend the reach of individual gifts and create additional opportunities to support Prairie View A&M's mission.

The matching contribution served as a meaningful highlight of a Homecoming celebration centered not only on honoring the university’s 150-year history, but also on investing in the generations who will carry its legacy forward.

Throughout Rooted & Rising, CAFNR embodied the spirit of Prairie View A&M University: honoring its roots, celebrating its people and cultivating opportunities for the future. Through events that brought together students, alumni, industry partners and friends, the college demonstrated that its impact reaches far beyond the classroom and into the communities, industries and relationships it serves.

As Prairie View A&M University looks ahead to its next chapter, CAFNR’s Homecoming celebration reaffirmed a shared commitment to growing together—rooted in tradition, strengthened by community and rising toward an even greater future.