

Out of this world agriculture may be futuristic in terms of widespread implementation. But for some, research is already under way. Among those studying the possibilities are researchers at The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in Ardmore. On April 5, through a grant from NASA, the Noble Foundation sent 14 Petri dishes with 50 to 150 seedlings up in the space shuttle Discovery and kept as many in a lab at the Kennedy Space Center. Elison Blancaflor, associate professor and researcher at the Noble Foundation, spoke of the project as part of the "Agricultural Discoveries & Innovations" session Tuesday during the 2010 World Creativity Forum at the Cox Convention Center. In general, the experiment was designed to see what, if any changes, the lack of gravity had on the growing plants in space compared to those on earth.