



Extension Education in Frio County

Making a Difference 2011

*Improving Lives.
Improving Texas.*

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service has been dedicated to serving Texans

for nearly a century. The agency was established in 1915 under the Smith-Lever Act to deliver university knowledge and agricultural research findings directly to the people. Extension programs have continued ever since to address the emerging issues of the day, serving diverse rural and urban populations across the state.

Through a well-organized network of professional educators and more than 100,000 trained volunteers, Extension delivers practical research-based knowledge to Texans in all 254 counties. Our expertise and educational

outreach pertain to the food and fiber industry, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, nutrition and health, and community economic development. Among those served are the hundreds of thousands of young people who benefit annually from Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

Texans turn to Extension for solutions. Its agents and specialists respond not only with answers, but also with resources and services that result in a significant return on investment to boost the Texas economy. The agency custom-designs its programs to each region of the state, relying on residents for input and for help with program delivery. Here are just a few highlights of Extension's impacts on this county and its people:

Frio County – Summary of Educational Contact

- **Total Educational Programs Conducted – 172**
- **Total Participants – 2,952**
- **Contact hours via Educational Programs – 305**
- **4-H Members – 143**
- **4-H Leaders – 61**
- **4-H Clubs – 4**
- **Curriculum Enrichment Participants – 179**
- **4-H Special Interest Participants – 82**
- **Office Contacts – 951**
- **Site Visits – 2,386**
- **Phone Calls – 2,087**
- **Newsletter/Mail/E-mail Contacts – 1,396**
- **Web Contacts – 395**
- **Radio Programs – 6**
- **News Releases – 64**
- **Cash and In-Kind Donations by AgriLife Extension Supporters and Collaborators – 33,700.00 dollars**

2011 Frio/Atascosa Counties Peanut Profitability Plan

Plan Summary Report

Date of Summary: November 16, 2011

Relevance:

Peanut production in Frio County is the largest field crop produced in the county with over 14, 500 acres in production on an annual basis. In order to increase profitability, it is important to educate our peanut producers about current practices, varieties, and technologies associated with peanut production. The South Texas Peanut Growers Association, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, and Texas AgriLife Research scientists identified issues that needed to be addressed in educating peanut producers in Frio and Atascosa counties to help increase peanut profitability.

Response:

Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Frio and Atascosa County developed the following activities to address this relevant issue:

- *Peanut Progress Newsletter (April-October 2011)
- *South Texas Peanut Growers Annual Meeting (April 2011)
- *Peanut Breeding Plots (May 2011)
- *Peanut Result Demonstrations (June 2011)
- *Peanut Variety Trails (June 2011)
- *South Texas Peanut Tour (September 2011)

Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Frio and Atascosa Counties partnered with South Texas Peanut Growers Association, Texas AgriLife Extension Specialists, Texas AgriLife Research Scientists and Texas Peanut Producers Board to implement this plan and would like to recognize this ongoing partnership.

Results:

A Customer Satisfaction survey (retrospective post) was utilized to measure programmatic impact. A total of 24 of 36 returned the survey.

The first section focused on overall satisfaction of the program:

- *Overall satisfaction with activity – 88.0 %
- *Satisfaction with the information being easy to understand – 95.8 %
- *Satisfaction with timeliness of the information – 92.0 %

The last section focused on intentions to change based on what the participant learned:

- *Do you anticipate benefitting economically as a direct result of this activity – 91.3 %
- *Do you plan to take any action or make any changes based on the information from this activity – 70.8%

Summary of Results:

Results indicate that the Frio/Atascosa Counties Peanut Profitability Plan met its objectives to increase knowledge and behavioral changes with the peanut producers that participated. 88.0 % of the participants indicated that they were completely or mostly satisfied with the entire program.

Acknowledgements:

Special Thanks to the following experts for presenting at these activities, Dr. Mark Black, Dr. Todd Baughman, A.J. Jaks, James Grichar, Shelly Nutt and Michael Barring. Additional thanks are due to the following Frio County Cooperators, Tech Farms, Bennett Partnership and Wilmeth Farm.

Future Program Actions:

Working with the South Texas Peanut Growers Association, Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas AgriLife Research will continue to offer educational programs that target peanut producers in Frio and Atascosa County to help them improve their bottom line

2011 Frio County Agriculture Plan

Developed by: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent -Ag

Date of Summary: November 17, 2011

Response:

The Frio County Agriculture Plan provided a number of educational opportunities for clientele to participate in. The Frio County Ag Committee cooperated with South Texas Peanut Growers Association, Texas Peanut Producers Board, TSCRA, Frio County Soil/Water Conservation District, USDA-NRCS and the Frio County Leadership Advisory Board hosted a number of educational programs including the following:

- *Multi-County Irrigation Program
- *Private Applicator License Training
- *South Texas Peanut Growers Annual Meeting
- *South Texas Peanut Growers Tour
- *Pesticide Applicator Quarterly Newsletters
- *Frio Co. Range Tour
- *Peanut Breeding and Variety Demonstrations
- *Ranch & Farm Visits
- *Office Visits
- *Ag/TSCRA monthly meeting program
 1. Cattle Nutrition – Cargill Animal Nutrition
 2. Eagle Ford Shale – Texas Railroad Commission
 3. Groundwater Issues – Evergreen and Wintergarden Groundwater Districts
 4. Chemical Brush Control – Helena Chemical
 5. Economic Impact of Eagle Ford Shale – Chesapeake Energy
 6. Hydraulic Fracturing and Waste Disposal – Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 7. Cloud Seeding – South Texas Weather Modification Association
 8. U.S. Economy, Equity and Bond Markets – Cluade Koontz, CPA
 9. Wildfire Preparedness – Texas Forest Service
 10. Border Security Issues – Texas Rangers, Dept. of Public Safety

Over 100 Frio County producers attended the numerous educational programs.

Result:

Frio County Agriculture producers received the latest educational information in Irrigation, Peanuts, Range Management, Pesticides, Livestock production, Oil and Gas industry, Water and Markets. All Frio County Pesticide Private Applicator License holders were reached with a quarterly Pesticide Newsletter and 20 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEU's) were offered this year. This agent also completed the Ag Increment report and the Frio County Farm and Ranch survey for the Texas Comptroller's office. Due to our efforts Frio County producers were able to get the latest information to help them succeed in their own operations.

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2011 Frio County General FCS Contacts Plan

Plan Summary Report

Date of Summary: November 16, 2011

Relevance:

Frio County currently has no Family and Consumer Science agent so the Agriculture Agent has stepped up to address the different Family and Consumer Science issues that Frio County residents would like for us to address, Frio County AgriLife Extension Service and the Frio County Translational Advisory Board have teamed up with other local partners to address some issues.

Response:

Frio County AgriLife Extension Service participated in the Frio County Transitional Advisory Board to help plan the first Heart Health Fair where over 100 participants were surveyed to rank the top health concerns in the county. Frio County AgriLife also hosted the Walk Across Texas Program to help participants participate in a local exercise and health program. 18 teams and 72 individuals participated and walked total of 14, 664 miles. Frio County AgriLife Extension also helped with the Frio County WIC Wellness program where over 75 participants received information on gardening and raising healthy vegetables.

Results:

Due to the survey conducted at the Frio County Heart Health Fair, diabetes was identified as the leading health issue in the county. The Frio County Transitional Advisory Board conducted a community forum for the public to get input on planning the educational programs and events to help address the issue. Frio County AgriLife Extension will continue to work with the Frio County Transitional Advisory Board to address health issue concerns in the county.

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Making a Difference 2011

2011 Frio County Youth and Safety Education Plan

Plan Summary Report

Date of Summary: November 16, 2011

Relevance:

Youth Safety and Education is one of the top three main concerns in Frio County. Early safety education is an important way to reduce accidents at home or on the farm. The Frio County Youth Advisory Board identified the problem and decided to sponsor a safety education program. The program targeted all youth in Frio County between the ages of 8 years old and 13 years old.

Response:

The Frio County Youth Leadership Advisory Board teamed up with the Progressive Agriculture Foundation to help Sponsor a Safety Day in Frio County. The following program areas were covered at this year's Safety Day on July 5, 2011.

- *Gun Safety
- *Farm Safety
- *Tractor Safety
- *ATV Safety
- *Sun Safety
- *Boat & Water
- *Drug Awareness
- *Fire Safety

Partnerships and Collaborators:

- *Progressive Agriculture Foundation
- *Texas Parks and Wildlife
- *City of Pearsall
- *Frio County
- *H.E.B.
- *Wal-Mart
- *Medina Electric
- *Texas Health Dept.
- *John Deere
- *City of Pearsall Dept.
- *Dilley Fire Dept.

The Frio Country Youth Leadership Board would also like to recognize H.E.B. for sponsoring this year's door prizes.

Results:

A Participant Report form survey was used to sample 10 out of 82 youth participants to measure programmatic impact. The first section focused on overall satisfaction of the Safety Day programs, the results are as follows:

- *Overall Satisfaction with this activity – 88.4 %
- *Satisfaction with the activity being enjoyable – 98.0 %
- *Satisfaction with information being easy to understand – 92.8 %

The Last section focused on knowledge and the results (open ended responses) are as follows:

- *Stay away from electricity

*Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes

*Do not stand behind a tractor

*Follow the rules

*Stay away from tractors that are running

Summary of Results: Results indicate that the Frio County Safety Day Program met its objectives of increasing knowledge and behavioral changes with the youth that participated. 88.4% of the youth participated also indicated that they were mostly or completely satisfied with the entire program.

Acknowledgements: Special Thanks go to the Frio County Youth Leadership Advisory Board members and Chairperson Mr. Mike Morse and local cooperators and sponsors such as Medina Electric Cooperative, Frio County, City of Pearsall, John Deere, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Dilley Fire Department, Wal-Mart, H.E.B., and the Pearsall Recreational Department.

Additional thanks goes to the Progressive Agriculture Foundation for helping us sponsor this event, and H.E.B. for sponsoring the door prizes.

Future Program Actions: As we continue to address this local issue in Frio County and identify other areas of concern, we will continue to identify local resources that can help in future programmatic effort.

2011 Frio County Expanding the Local Quality 4-H Experience Plan

Developed by: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent -Ag

Date of Summary: November 17, 2011

Response:

The Frio County 4-H Program continues to use every means possible to promote the 4-H program in Frio County. In the last five years a plan was developed to set goals on increasing the 4-H enrollment in the county by 10 percent. The following programs and activities are being used to achieve our goals:

- *School curriculum enrichment program for school districts
- *Promote 4-H in local mass media (Newspaper, Public Access T.V.)
- *4-H Newsletters
- *School Announcements
- *Enrollment Days at Club Meetings
- *Brochures distributed at local fast food restaurants
- *Social Media – Facebook group, Texting groups
- *Enrollment Flyers

4-H and Youth Development



A major effort to promote the Frio County 4-H programs occurred in the months of August thru October. A number of newspaper and public access ads ran in local mass media outlets and school announcements were also accomplished to reach the majority of youth eligible to participate in the 4-H program. Local Sonic and Dairy Queen Restaurants also helped distribute 4-H brochures to their customers.

Result:

Due to our efforts the Frio County 4-H program enrolled 143 members in community clubs, 82 youth in special interest programs and 179 youth in school curriculum enrichment programs. As we continue to promote the 4-H program and offer a quality program, we hope we can meet future 4-H enrollment goals.

2011 Frio County 4-H Leadership & Volunteer Development Plan

Developed by: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent -Ag

Date of Summary: November 17, 2011

Response:

The Frio County 4-H hosted a number of leadership educational programs and activities for 4-H members and volunteers. Some of the programs that were hosted include:

- *Club Manager Training
- *Parliamentarian Procedure Training for Club Officers
- *Club Manager Office Meetings
- *Frio County 4-H Council
- *District 12 4-H Council
- *District 12 4-H Council Retreat
- *District 12 Leadership Lab
- *District 12 Election Convention

Approximately 40 members and volunteers participated in the different leadership development opportunities.

Result:

The result of the leadership and volunteer development program, 4-H members and volunteers that hold leadership positions were able to acquire leadership skills to make them a better leader.

4-H club officers now have a better understanding in parliamentary procedure and conduct their meetings in a more orderly manner. Volunteer leaders also have a better understanding on their roles and responsibilities as Club Managers or Project Leaders.

As result, 4-H club officers and volunteers are able to accomplish their roles and responsibilities as leaders in the Frio County 4-H program.

2011 Frio County 4-H Management Plan

Developed by: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent -Ag

Date of Summary: November 17, 2011

Response:

The Frio County 4-H Management Plan was developed to address the day to day needs of the Frio County 4-H program. This agent along with Junior and Adult volunteers were able to accomplish this by hosting:

- *Monthly Club Meetings
- *Project Clinics and Validations
- *Monthly Newsletters and Calendars
- *Office Web Page
- *4-H Enrollment
- *4-H Club Management requirements (Financial Review, Charter Renewal, Monthly Manager Reports, Volunteer Screening, Etc.)

A total of 143 4-H members participated in 4 different Clubs and 112 had livestock projects.

Result:

Due to efforts in managing the Frio County 4-H program, the 4-H program continues to be the largest youth organization in the county. 4-H members and volunteers continued to work on providing a quality 4-H experience for all participants.

2011 Frio County 4-H Projects & Curriculum Plan

Developed by: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent -Ag

Date of Summary: November 17, 2011

Response:

The Frio County 4-H Program worked with 4-H members, volunteers, and project leaders to increase 4-H participation thru traditional and non-traditional 4-H programs that include:

- *Livestock Project Training
 1. Steer
 2. Breeding Heifer
 3. Commercial Heifer
 4. Lamb
 5. Goat

6. Swine
7. Poultry
8. Rabbits
9. Showmanship

- *Frio Co. Jr. Livestock Show
- *Frio Co. Commercial Heifer Show
- *San Antonio Livestock Show
- *Houston Livestock Show
- *Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo
- *Star of Texas Livestock Show and Rodeo
- *Embryo Life Science Curriculum
- *4-H and District and State Events
- *Shooting Sports

Over 450 contacts were made with the different projects and events that were offered.

Result:

Due to an increase in 4-H participation we had more 4-H members participate in different events at the county level as well as the District and State level. The Frio County 4-H program continues to work with local school districts to help offer 4-H and promote the Frio County 4-H program.

2011 Frio County One Day 4-H Plan

Plan Summary Report

Date of Summary: November 16, 2011

Relevance:

One Day 4-H is one day for all 4-H members, parents, leaders and volunteers to step out into the community and county and say “thank you” by giving back for the more than 103 years of support to 4-H in Texas. The Frio County 4-H Club members identified potential community service projects in the county and nominated their project to the Frio County 4-H Council.

Response:

The Frio County 4-H Council voted, planned, implemented, and evaluated this year’s project. They decided to raise money for the Wildfire victims in Bastrop. The Frio County 4-H Council and Pearsall Tractor Supply teamed up to host a bake sale fundraiser at Tractor Supply with all proceeds being donated to the Red Cross in care of Bastrop , Texas wildfire victims.

Results:

29 4-H members and 9 volunteers worked 730 hours and raised \$455.17 dollars that was donated to the Red Cross- Bastrop, Texas wildfire victims. 4-H members were also able to thank over 110 donors for their continued support for the Frio County 4-H program.

Summary of Results:

Due to the amount of money raised and the people 4-H members contacted were able to help out the wildfire victims in Bastrop, Texas and thank local supporters for their continued support of the Frio County 4-H program.

Acknowledgements: Special Thanks go to the Frio County 4-H Clubs, Frio County 4-H Council, Pearsall Tractor Supply and the American Red Cross.

Future Program Actions: Frio County 4-H will continue to identify community service projects in Frio County to give back to the people that support the Frio County 4-H program.

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4-H and Youth Development



2011 Frio County Community Resources and Economic Development Plan

Developed by: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent -Ag

Date of Summary: December 19, 2011

Response:

Frio County AgriLife Extension Service provides educational programs in community resources and economic development to enhance the quality of life for Frio County residents. Community Development programming targets the development of individual abilities and community support for creating and growing businesses, jobs, wealth and income.

The Frio County Community Resources and Economic Development Plan provides outreach education to inform clientele and stakeholders or community needs. The following programs were administered:

- Interpretation program to commissioners Court on the need for a community room.
- U.S.D.A. Rural Development Grant Application completed and submitted.
- Hire Harry Jewett and Associates Architects to design the Frio County Community Room Expansion Project.
- Worked with the Frio County Jr. Livestock Show Board to expand the Stock Show Facility.
- Worked with PECO Construction to design a new Multi-Purpose Building with new stock show facilities.

Results:

The Community Room Expansion project and design and application is nearly complete and we are hoping to start construction in early 2012.

The Frio County Jr. Livestock Show Barn facility Expansion Project was completed in the fall of 2011.

We also received a finished copy of Blue Prints for a new Multi-Purpose building and Stack Show facility from PECO Construction. These plans will be used for future building needs. Total amount of money targeted for these projects was upward of \$346, 000.00 dollars.

2011 Frio County Emergency Management Plan

Developed by: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent -Ag

Date of Summary: November 17, 2011

Response:

The Frio County Emergency Management Plan provides guidance for the deployment of emergency resources under a local incident command. Our local emergency management plan includes specific provisions for requesting and deploying state resources to aid in managing and resolving situations for which local resources are inadequate. Frio County Emergency Management Plan provided outreach education to clientele that helped them reduce their risk during a disaster. The following programs and activities were conducted this year.

- *Reviewed and updated the Animal Issues Committee Plan
- *Staff disaster Preparedness Training
- *Office Disaster Preparedness Plan Review
- *National Preparedness Week – Media Campaign
- *Patriotism thru Preparedness Program for 4-H families
- *District 12 Emergency Management Strike Team

Result:

This agent updated the County Emergency Management Coordinator on the Animal Issues Committee Plan, Office Emergency Management Preparedness Plan and the Emergency Management Training this agent has attended.

Over 90 families received Disaster Preparedness information through the 4-H monthly newsletters. Over 3500 people were reached through the local newspaper circulation during Nation Preparedness Week Media Campaign. This agent also volunteered to join the District 12 Emergency Management Strike Team to help co-workers around the state during a disaster.

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Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Frio County

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