



**Extension Education in Kleberg-Kenedy County**  
*Making a Difference*  
**2011**

*Improving Lives.  
Improving Texas.*

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service has been dedicated to serving Texans

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.

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.

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:

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

## **Kleberg-Kenedy County – Summary of Educational Contact**

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**Total Educational Programs Conducted: 167**  
**Office Contacts: 1,158**  
**Site Visits: 400**  
**Phone Calls: 1,954**  
**Mail/Email/Newsletter Contacts: 909**  
**Contacts by Volunteers: 2,175**  
**Contacts by Website: 2,990**  
**News Articles/Releases: 48**  
**4-H Members: 631**  
**4-H Clubs: 22**  
**4-H Managers/Leaders: 44**  
**Curriculum Enrichment Participants (Youth): 478**  
**Special Interest Participants (Youth): 1,803**  
**Master Livestock Mentors: 4**  
**Master Gardeners: 11**  
**Kleberg Extension Education Association: 32**  
**Cash and In-kind Donations: \$22,500**  
**Crops Tour/Pesticide Trainings/CEU: 10**  
**Lawn/Garden Visits: 39**

## Kleberg-Kenedy County Program Highlights

### Traditional 4-H Program:

- 631 members (31 additional members from 2010).
- 44 Volunteer Leaders (5 additional volunteers from 2010).
- 22 4-H Clubs
- Project trainings provided to leader and families.
- Top 5 projects in the county: Food/Nutrition, Youth Leadership, Poultry, Swine, Goat, and Community Service.
- Community Service:
  - \* 575 pounds of non-perishable food items collected for local food pantry
  - \* Provided 38 Thanksgiving Baskets to less fortunate families through County Indigent Office
  - \* Provided 40 foster kids with Christmas gifts
  - \* Participated in the One day 4-H by asking the community for items (monetary or supplies) to support the adult literacy council and local pet adoption/rescue shelter
  - \* "Operation Cook" continues to be successful with soldiers in Iraq
  - \* Beautification projects continue to be supported by all 4-H Clubs
- Master Livestock Volunteers conducted livestock clinics with Extension Faculty. Clinics are intended for new families. Families continue to applaud clinics for their success.
- 38 Record books were submitted by local 4-H Members.
- Annual Awards Banquet recognizes 4-H members and adult volunteers.
- Volunteers (judges, leaders, partners, etc.) continue to be recognized at each achievement event.

### Youth Outreach Programs (community and school based programs):

- Ag Fair provided young people with an opportunity to understand local agriculture. Presenters included: Texas Farm Bureau (cotton, grain, and beef presentations), NRCS (water simulator and erosion), Nueces River Authority (water basin), and Southwest Dairy Farmers (dairy production). Over 1,000 young people took part in this event.
- Summer Camp (adventure and kiddie) is a two month summer program for young people focused on natural resources, life skills, and recreation. Program begins with an obesity and diabetes component followed by the day's program. Partnerships continue strongly with Kleberg Parks Department (provides staffing, facilities, materials, etc.) and Brookshire Foundation (provides funding).
- School Gardening Project provides students with hands-on learning experiences that focus on planning, soil preparation (fertilizing and tilling), pest and weed control, harvesting, and nutrition component. Science teachers continue to compliment program which addresses some of the terminology in the TAKS test. Master Gardeners are utilized as resources for the schools. Schools compete at the annual Garden Show and Awards Presentation.
- Wetlands in the Classroom are a school based program that focuses on youth conservation. Issue was identified in the 2000 community futures forum. Program addresses several areas: types of wetlands, functions of wetlands, animal/wildlife habitats, and monitoring/management. Students gain a better understanding of sound conservation especially on how wetlands impact the Coastal Bend area. The terminology used addresses TEKS requirements which further prepare students for the TAKS test. Additional information on including relevance, response, and results are discussed below.
- Patriotism through Preparedness is an Extension banner program that provides emergency management education and disaster preparedness to young people. Lessons included: disaster terminology, how to be prepared, and how to develop a family emergency plan. Additional information including relevance, response, and results are further addressed below.

### Agriculture and Natural Resources:

- Private Pesticide Applicator trainings and testing's were conducted quarterly. Local producers/residents attended Extension sponsored trainings and TDA administered testing.
- Coastal Bend Soil Campaign continues to provide valuable information to local producers. Nueces, San Patricio, Jim Wells, and Kleberg-Kenedy County continue collaborating.
- NRCS and FSA continue collaborations on numerous programs.
- Agent submits weekly news articles which address current events throughout the year. Articles include lawn and garden, row crop, pasture, and range.
- Annual crops tour provided valuable information to local cotton and grain sorghum producers. Topics included cotton and grain varieties, deep soil testing, pesticide updates, etc.
- Master Gardeners provide support to community and local residents. MG conduct clinics and workshops.
- Water Well Screening was introduced to local residents who are concerned about water they are consuming from their well. This was a collaboration between water specialists, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Live Oak, and Kleberg-Kenedy County. Screening provided a feedback to residents on levels of: nitrates, bacteria, salinity, and arsenic.
- New landowner series was a multi-county (Nueces, San Patricio, Jim Wells, and Kleberg-Kenedy County) program that provided information to small acreage landowners in the following areas: livestock production, wildlife management, brush and pasture management, and agriculture government agencies.

### Community and Economic Development:

- Measurement Mania is a community driven fifth grade math program. The event teaches math to students, which were identified by their respective school, who need a different approach to learning about math. The event is sponsored by Education Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and numerous entities.
- Economic Development Council continues to work with a Mexico based company that is interested in growing and processing peloncillo.

### Partnership/Collaborators:

CBC, TAMUK, local school districts (KWCISD, KISD, RISD, RISD, SGISD, etc.), private and religious schools, TDA, FSA, NRCS, Farm Bureau, CKWRI, HEB, local banks, golf course, skeet range, health department, parks department, Brookshire Foundation, Human Services, Coop, local producers, seed and fertilizer companies,

## **2011 Kleberg-Kenedy County WETLANDS in the Classroom (199991) – Outcome**

Developed by:  
Frank Escobedo

Kleberg-Kenedy County Extension Agent – Agriculture & Natural Resources

### **Relevance:**

Identified as a 2000 TCFF issue, sound conservation education is an important area of concern especially in a coastal community like Kleberg and Kenedy Counties. Coastal counties provide a beneficial impact to numerous ecological systems/habitats. This action plan proposes to design and implement educational activities that will allow young people to make sound environmental decisions.

### **Response:**

Target Audience

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

Additional descriptive information, if any, on Target Audience:

Approximately 95 students from Santa Gertrudis ISD, Kingsville ISD (Perez Elementary Campus), and St. Gertrude Catholic School participated in this curriculum enrichment program, Wetlands in the Classroom.

Educational Response

- \* Lesson 1 - Event date: 10/07/2011
- \* Lesson 2 - Event date: 10/14/2011
- \* Lesson 3 - Event date: 10/21/2011
- \* Lesson 4 - Event date: 10/28/2011
- \* Lesson 5 - Event date: 11/04/2011

Additional descriptive information, if any, on Educational Response:

Marshmallow Project Curriculum developed by Dr. Will Cohen was used as valuable resource.

Partnerships and Collaborators

- \* Local School Districts (Santa Gertrudis ISD, Kingsville ISD, and St. Gertrude)
- \* Natural Resource Conservation Service
- \* Texas A&M University - Kingsville (Wildlife Society)
- \* Local Media (Kingsville Record)

Evaluation Strategy

Ultimate client change: Knowledge

Additional descriptive information, if any, of Evaluation Strategy:

The instrument used to measure the knowledge of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in the Wetlands in the Classroom Curriculum Enrichment program was a Pre-, Post-, and Long Term Post Test. The Pre-Knowledge Test was administered to the students by their respective science teacher prior to Lesson 1. The Post-Knowledge Test was administered at the conclusion of the lessons. The Long Term Post-Test was administered approximately two weeks after the conclusion of the lessons. Questions for the instrument were taken from the Marshmallow Project Curriculum. 87 fourth and fifth graders completed the Pre-Knowledge Test, 94 completed the Post-Knowledge Test, and 91 completed the Long Term Post Knowledge Test. Once evaluations (pre-, post-, and long term post) were matched, only results from 84 students will be used in this outcome summary.

## Customer Satisfaction / Clientele Feedback Results

Teachers continue to compliment the curriculum/program as a re-enforcement resource to topics being covered year round in the classroom. They also indicate that much of the information relates back to their TEKS curriculum/plans which help students during TAKS Testing. Students liked the interaction the program offers like the Metaphor and Who Fits Here Activities.

### **Results:**

Instrument used to determine level of knowledge was the Pre-, Post-, and Long Term Post Test. Questions on instrument reflected four sections: Components and Types of a Wetlands (Lesson 1), Functions of a Wetland (Lesson 2), Animals/Wildlife Habitats (Lesson 3), and Testing, Monitoring, and Management of a Wetland (Lesson 4). The instrument had approximately 3 to 4 questions from each lesson. In regards to Lesson 1: Santa Gertrudis students increased their knowledge by 91%, Perez Elementary students increased their knowledge by 87%, and St. Gertrude students increased their knowledge by 94%. Lesson 2: Santa Gertrudis increased their knowledge by 94%, Perez Elementary increased their knowledge by 89%, and St. Gertrude increased their knowledge by 92%. Lesson 3: Santa Gertrudis increased their knowledge by 91%, Perez Elementary increased by 88%, and St. Gertrude increased by 95%. Lesson 4: Santa Gertrudis increased their knowledge by 93%, Perez Elementary increased by 89%, and St. Gertrude increased by 93%.

Overall results/school (comparison of pre-, post-, and long term post- tests): Santa Gertrudis increased their knowledge by 92%, Perez Elementary increased their knowledge by 88%, and St. Gertrude increased their knowledge by 94%.

### Future Plans:

#### Benefits / Impacts

Science Teachers continue to comment how the information is retained by students throughout the year. They also indicate that most students have a better understanding of conservation issues and ecological systems/habitats. This continues to enhance classroom performance by the students.

#### Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the following schools and partners for their continued support: Santa Gertrudis (Ms. Flores), Perez Elementary (Ms. Salazar and Ms. Wilms), St. Gertrude (Ms. Corona), NRCS (Mr. Schmidt), TAMUK Wildlife Society (Dr. Henke), and Kingsville Record (Mrs. Salinas).

#### Future Program Actions

Extension staff continues to encourage schools to schedule a field trip to a local wetland. This will help students understand the ecology and habitats of the animals/wildlife in that particular wetland.

## **2011 Kleberg-Kenedy County Patriotism through Preparedness: Make a Plan; Take a Stand (197077) - Outcome**

Developed by:  
Frank Escobedo

Kleberg-Kenedy County Extension Agent – Agriculture and Natural Resources

### **Relevance:**

Since September 11, 2001 much has changed in our world, nation, state and community. We have become more aware of the devastation that can be caused by unexpected disasters whether they are caused by nature, by accident or by terrorist attacks. Every family and community needs to take steps to prepare for a possible disaster. Locally, the communities have faced disasters such as hurricanes that have raised the level of need in this community. The goal of this plan is to engage students and teachers/volunteers with lessons and activities on disaster preparedness. Furthermore, the intent is to establish a basic level of knowledge and readiness of disaster preparedness and subsequently engage families through their youth and teachers/volunteers to initiate steps in becoming better prepared for a disaster.

### **Response:**

Target Audience  
Youth (Ages 9-10)

Additional descriptive information, if any, on Target Audience:

Forty seven 4<sup>th</sup> (fourth) grade students from Kingsville ISD (Kleberg Elementary Campus) and Santa Gertrudis ISD participated in this curriculum enrichment program, Patriotism through Preparedness: Make a Plan, Take a Stand.

### **Educational Response**

- \* Teacher Training [1214374] Occurred: April 22, 2011
- \* Patriotism through Preparedness - Lesson 1 [1214367] Occurred: May 06, 2011
- \* Patriotism through Preparedness - Lesson 2 [1214370] Occurred: May 13, 2011
- \* Patriotism through Preparedness - Lesson 3 [1214368] Occurred: May 20, 2011
- \* Patriotism through Preparedness - Lesson 4 [1426091] Occurred: May 27, 2011

Additional descriptive information, if any, on Educational Response:

FEMA and EDEN publications were used as additional resources which provided valuable information during the program.

### **Partnerships and Collaborators**

- \* Independent School Districts (Kingsville ISD and Santa Gertrudis ISD)
- \* County Emergency Management Coordinator
- \* Local Media (Kingsville Record)

### **Evaluation Strategy**

Ultimate client change: Knowledge

Additional descriptive information, if any, of Evaluation Strategy:

Pre-Test (Knowledge based) was administered to students prior to the first lesson. Post-Test (Knowledge based) was administered at the conclusion of the program. Instrument was developed by

Mr. Luis Saldana, District 12 4-H Extension Specialist. Ms. Jean Suh, Extension Assistant-Evaluation, provided survey evaluation data from Pre and Post Tests. Due to some of the forms (pre and post test) being mixed up, results will only reflect Kingsville ISD -Kleberg School (twenty nine participants).

#### Customer Satisfaction/Clientele Feedback Results

Teachers complimented program in preparation for Hurricane Season. They also indicated how terminology met TEKS requirements.

#### **Results:**

The Pre- and Post- Tests were used to determine the level of knowledge (increase/decrease) in this program, Patriotism through Preparedness: Make a Plan, Take a Stand. The following reflects an overall comparison from the participating school(s) on how participants did from the time they took the pre-test (prior to starting lessons) to the time they took the post-test (conclusion of the program): Kleberg Elementary School increased their knowledge by 94%. Students and Teachers have a better understanding of the resources available to them and their families in case of an emergency/disaster especially during Hurricane Season. This includes: emergency management contact information, city and county officials, and websites like FEMA and EDEN. Some students indicated that their parents have initiated a family plan in preparation of an unexpected emergency.

#### Future Plans:

##### Benefits/Impacts

Program continues to make families aware and prepare for unexpected emergencies. School officials have become more proactive in preparing for emergency situations.

#### Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the following school teachers and partners for their support: Kingsville ISD–Kleberg Elementary (Mrs. Soliz), Santa Gertrudis ISD (Mrs. Flores), Emergency Management Coordinator (Mr. Sanchez), Extension Organizational Support (Ms. Suh), and Kleberg-Kenedy County Youth Program Assistant (Mr. Farias).

#### Future Program Actions

- Marketing of the program to other schools in the county.
- Increase hands-on interaction.
- Involve more partners/resources: Fire Department and local Law Enforcement.



# Texas AgriLife Extension Service Kleberg-Kenedy County

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## Staff

### **Frank Escobedo**

County Extension Agent–Ag/NR

P.O. Box 1119

Kingsville, TX. 78364

Phone: (361) 595-8566

Fax: (361) 592-7741

E-mail: [f-escobedo@tamu.edu](mailto:f-escobedo@tamu.edu)

Website: [Kleberg-tx.tamu.edu](http://Kleberg-tx.tamu.edu)

### **Stephanie Vidal**

Office Manager/Secretary

P.O. Box 1119

Kingsville, TX. 78364

E-mail: [svidal@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:svidal@ag.tamu.edu)

### **Odell Farias**

Youth Program Assistant

P.O. Box 1119

Kingsville, TX. 78364

### **Laura Prado**

Nutrition Education Assist.-EFNEP

P.O. Box 1119

Kingsville, TX. 78364

E-mail: [laprado@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:laprado@ag.tamu.edu)