



Extension Education in Atascosa County

Making a Difference

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has long been dedicated to educating Texans. Extension education evolved nationwide under the 1914 federal Smith-Lever Act, which sought to extend university knowledge and agricultural research findings directly to the people. Ever since, Extension programs have addressed the emerging issues of the day, reaching diverse rural and urban populations.

In Texas, all 254 counties are served by a well-organized network of professional Extension educators and some 100,000 trained volunteers. Extension expertise and educational outreach pertain to the food and fiber industry, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, nutrition and health, and community economic development.

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Providing Solutions*

Among those served are hundreds of thousands of young people who benefit annually from Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

Texans turn to Extension education for solutions. Extension agents and specialists respond not only with answers, but also with resources and services that result in significant returns on the public's investment. Extension programs are custom-designed for each region of the state, with residents providing input and help with program delivery. Here are just a few highlights of Extension impacts on this county and its people.

Atascosa County – Summary of 2013 Educational Contacts

Total Educational Programs/ Meetings Conducted		83
Total Participants		3846
Total Contact Hours		7692
4-H Membership		345
4-H Clubs		9
4-H Volunteers		31
Curriculum Enrichment		577
Office Contacts/ Site Visits		1361
Newsletters	4-H 4104	Ag 978
Web Contacts		1544
Radio Announcements		11
News Releases		108
Atascosa County Ag Fair		577
Continuing Education Hours offered for Applicators		23

Atascosa 4-H Club Manager Training 2013

Relevance

Atascosa County has 9 4-H Clubs in the County and it is very important to keep them up to date on 4-H club activities and changes and Best Management Practices for them.

Target Audience

The educational program targeted 9 4-H Club managers and assistant club managers from across the County.

Response

As a need to keep them informed educational meetings have been held to educate them on 4-H Best Management Practices, 4-H Chartering guidelines and more.

Results

A customer Satisfaction survey with retrospective post questionnaire was used to evaluate the program.

- 7 4-H Club Managers attended the 4-H managers training.
- 6 out of 7 (85%) had an increase in the understanding of Texas 4-H Inc.
- 7 out of 7 (100%) have a better understanding of the 2012-2013 4-H Tax filing guides.
- 6 out of 7 (85%) have a change in understanding of 4-H Chartering Requirements.
- 7 out of 7 (100%) have a change in understanding of 4-H Best Management Practices. .

Summary:

Results indicate that 4-H managers increased their knowledge of 4-H Best Management Practices, 4-H Chartering, 2012-2013 IRS Tax filing guidelines, and Understanding Texas 4-H Inc. Plans are to continue with the 4-H Club Manager Trainings.

Special Thanks:

The Jourdanton Community Center for the use of their facility

Atascosa 4-H Officers Training 2013

Relevance

Atascosa County has 9 4-H Clubs in the County and a slate of 4-H County Council Officers that all have leadership roles that make the 4-H program a success in the county. 4-H Club Managers and Council members identified parliamentary procedure and officer leadership training as an important need for the county. With these groups identifying this as an important need for 4-H members the County Extension Agent utilized this opportunity to focus on leadership and team building

Target Audience

The educational program targeted 9 4-H Club Officers and 4-H County Council Officers.

Response

As a response of the need for parliamentary procedure training and 4-H officer leadership training the County Extension Agent held educational trainings with assistance of the club managers and council Officers.

Results

A customer Satisfaction survey with retrospective post questionnaire was used to evaluate the program.

- 34 4-H members attended the 4-H Officer and Leadership training and returned 100% of the surveys.
- 19 out of 34 (55%) had an increase in their officer responsibilities.
- 21 out of 34 (61%) have a better understanding of what the taps of the gavel mean.
- 21 out of 34 (61%) have a better understanding on how to make a motion.
- 11 out of 34 (32%) have intentions to adopt Team Building activities learned.

Summary:

Results indicate that 4-H members increased their knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure, Leadership, Team Work and Club Officer Responsibility. Plans are to continue with the 4-H Officer Leadership training and continue to develop educational articles in the 4-H Newsletter

Atascosa County One Day 4-H

Relevance

One day 4-H is a grass roots community service effort for 4-H youth to identify, plan, and implement a community service project that serves the needs of their particular community and/or county. One day 4-H teaches 4-H members the importance of giving back to their communities based on issues they see are affecting the lifestyles of the citizens. One Day 4-H was selected by the 4-H members of the Atascosa 4-H Club.

Response

One day 4-H helps develop the core life skills of communication, responsible citizenship, contribution to group effort, teamwork, self-motivation, problem solving, service learning, planning/organizing, and social skills. The specific objectives of one day 4-H are:

- Provide opportunities for youth to perform community service projects in their individual communities and counties based on their identified needs.
- Provide opportunities for participants to learn about social and community issues and develop ways of resolving those issues.
- Provide opportunities for participants to learn from other team members.
- Promote teamwork.
- Give participants opportunities to work in a strong youth-adult partnership.
- Provide leadership opportunities.
- Give 4-H members the opportunity to participate in a new, exciting event that promotes 4-H

Atascosa County held 6 One Day 4-H activities to include.

- Lytle 4-H Main Street Cleanup
- Jourdanton 4-H City Wide Cleanup
- Black Hill 4-H completed the Black Hill Community Center Cleanup
- Little Atascosa Home School Clover 4-H Club Baptist Church Fundraiser
- Poteet 4-H Club Nursing Home visitation
- Poteet 4-H Club St Phillips Benizi Catholic Church Fall Festival Cleanup

Results

There were a total of 58 participants in the One Day 4-H event of ages ranged from 8-90 plus years old.

Future Plans

This Outcome plan will continue to be conducted in Atascosa County, it offers youth the opportunity to work as a team on a community service project that helps people in our community.

4-H and Youth Development



2013 Atascosa County Wildlife Management Outcome Summary

Relevance:

Atascosa County is made up of 1236 square miles of rich wildlife diversity in which the Wildlife and Fisheries committee and the Atascosa Wildlife Coop have a strong desire to educate our wildlife managers on managing our native mixed brush plant communities which support wildlife populations. It is very important that land managers today understand basic ecological principles of plant succession, plant growth, food chains, water, mineral and soil nutritive cycles as they affect range, wildlife, and grazing management. In addition we should know and recognize the basic needs and preferences of the livestock and wildlife species for which we are trying to manage. It is equally important to manage for a high level of plant succession and quality wildlife habitat using the basic tools of grazing, rest, fire, hunting, animal impact, disturbance, and technology. This not only produces high quality habitat and animals, but also can lead to more stable conditions during stress periods such as our extended drought.

Target Audience:

The Educational Program targeted Wildlife Managers, Ranchers, County Tax Appraisal Offices

Response

As a response of the need for Wildlife Management Education the County Extension Agent developed a group of educational articles and programs. Educational Articles were prepared for the Pleasanton Express and the Leader News, Paper's Quarterly Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter, and educational opportunities included the Multi County Wildlife Tax Evaluation and Farm Pond Reclamation Workshop and the Atascosa Wildlife Coop Annual Educational program and meeting and the Multi County Feral Hog Workshop.

Results:

A retrospective post questionnaire was used at the Atascosa, Frio and Medina Wildlife Tax Evaluation and Pond Reclamation Workshop to capture the knowledge that was gained as part of these educational efforts.

Wildlife Tax Evaluation and Farm Pond Reclamation Program Results

- 39 out of 52 (75%) had an increased Change in Understanding Wildlife and Tax Evaluation Laws and Principles
- 37 out of 52 (71%) had an increased Change in Understanding on How to write a wildlife management plan.
- 36 out of 52 (69%) had an increased Change in Understanding on the management practices to develop a wildlife management plan.
- 34 out of 52 (65%) had an increased change in understanding stock pond site and soil considerations for private ponds.
- 35 out of 52 (67%) had an increased change in understanding Rain Water Harvesting for Wildlife
- 35 out of 52 (67%) had an increased change in understanding how many gallons of water you can catch from one square surface foot.
- 38 out of 52 (73%) had an increase in understanding how to manage weeds on their stock ponds
- 39 out of 52 (75%) had an increase in understanding how to clear a muddy pond.
- 38 out of 52 (73%) had an increase in understanding the seven practices to choose in writing a wildlife management plan.

Multi County Feral Hog Program Results

- 112 out of 127 (88%) increased their knowledge of feral hogs and their control by attending the feral hog program.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- 105 out of 127 (82%) increased their knowledge of feral hog biology
- 101 out of 127 (79%) increased their level of knowledge of efficient trap/bait techniques
- 79 out of 127 (62%) plan to adopt the use of larger traps
- 49 out of 127 (38%) plan to use baits with scent appeal

Summary:

Results indicate that the Atascosa County Wildlife Program met its objectives for increasing knowledge to wildlife managers in Atascosa County. The Extension Wildlife Committee and Wildlife Coop plans to work with the agent to develop more wildlife educational programs in the future.

Special Thanks:

Dan Schulse, Land Owner
Brad James, Land Owner
Matt Reidy, Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologist
Sharon Hersh, State Comptroller's Office
William Platz, Resource and Land Management Inc
Natalie Bartek, Natural Resource Conservation Services
Peter Woods Extension Fisheries Specialist
Jamie Lopez County Agent Frio County
Jason Ott County Agent Medina County
Atascosa Wildlife and Fisheries Committee Members
Atascosa County Wildlife Coop Members

2013 Multi-County Water Quality Education Plan

Developed By: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent-Ag/NR
Dale Rankin, Atascosa County Extension Agent-Ag/NR
Richard Griffin, Dimmit County Extension Agent-Ag/NR
Larry Perez, La Salle County Extension Agent-Ag/NR
Isaac Cavazos, McMullen County Extension Agent-Ag/NR
Date of Summary: November 12, 2013

Relevance:

Water quality and quantity have emerged as the preeminent issue across the state including the Eagle Ford Shale area in South Texas. Agriculture and Oil & Gas industries are the largest water uses in South Texas, and both are under close scrutiny because of the potential for negative environmental (water quality) impacts. The goal is for homeowners and landowners to adopt best management practices to protect water quality and enhance water conservation so water supplies will meet future water needs in the Eagle Ford Shale area.

Response:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Frio, Atascosa, Dimmit, McMullen, and LaSalle counties developed the following activities to address this relevant issue:

- "How Cloud Seeding Can Be Used As A Long Term Water Management Tool"-

Southwest Rain Enhancement Association

- “Range and Pasture Stewardship” – Dow Agro Sciences
- “The Carrizo Aquifer, A frank discussion on its historical and present day use” – Dr. Brownlow, Consulting Geologist
- Frio/Atascosa Counties Water Well Screening Program – Charlotte
- Frio/Atascosa Counties Farm Pond Management Program
- Multi- County Agent Training on Water Screening Kits
- 2 Quarterly Ag Newsletters mailed in Atascosa County – 978 producers reached
- Atascosa County Extension Agent News Release – 30, 000 readers reached
- Atascosa Ag Day for 4th Grade Students – 577 reached
- La Salle County Rainwater collection – Wildlife & Water program
- La Salle County Water Screening

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Frio, Atascosa, Dimmit, McMullen, and LaSalle, would like to recognize and thank the partnership and cooperation of the above mentioned individuals, company reps, association and governmental agencies.

Results:

A participation survey (retrospective past) was utilized to measure programmatic impact. A total of 13 of 38 (34.2%) returned the survey.

The first section focused on overall satisfaction of the program:

- Overall satisfaction with the activity – 93.3%
- Satisfaction with quality of course material – 92.3%
- Satisfaction with location of the activity – 84.6%
- Satisfaction with the information being accurate – 91.7%

The second section focused on intentions to adopt any practices:

- Do you plan to ... Test my water once a year – 76.9%
- Do you plan to ... Pump my septic system regularly – 63.2%
- Do you plan to ... Remove possible hazards from well house – 45%
- Do you plan to ... Plug or cap abandoned well on property – 25%

The last section focused on the value of participation in the program:

Estimate how valuable your participation in the Water Education Program has been to you:

	Frequency	Percent
\$100-\$249	1	7.7
\$250-\$499	2	15.4
\$500-\$999	4	30.8
\$1,000-\$2,499	1	7.7
\$2,500 or more	2	15.4
Total	10	76.9

Summary of Results:

Results indicate that the Multi- County Water Plan met its objectives to increase knowledge and behavioral changes with the homeowners that participated. 92.3% of the participants indicated that they were completely satisfied with the entire program. The average estimate how valuable their participation in the Water Educational Program has been to them is \$1,067.10 per participant.

Acknowledgements:

Special thanks to Mr. Drew M. Gholson, John Smith, Diane Boellstroff, Ryan Gerlich and the Texas Water Well Owner Network Program for providing the expertise on screening the water samples and helping with the program. We would also like to thank the San Antonio River Authority and the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District for being part of the program. Additional thanks are also due to Dr. Monty Dozier for his guidance with the Multi-County Water Plan and to the agents from Dimmit, La Salle, Frio, Atascosa, and McMullen Counties.

Future Program Actions:

Working with agents from Dimmit, La Salle, Frio, Atascosa, and McMullen counties we will continue to offer water educational programs targeting homeowners and landowners so they can continue to monitor their water

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Jams and Jellies Session was held for Atascosa County Residents had 7 Individual participate that learned some skills to help preserve the harvest each participant went home with either a jar of Jalapeno Jelly or Carrot Cake Jam.
- Held the Atascosa 4-H Food Show and had 17 4-H members participate in the event. 6 members went on to participate at the District Contest in Three Rivers.
- The Atascosa County 4-H Fashion Show was held had 8 4-H members from the County Participate.
- Held the Atascosa County 4-H Food Forum had 23 individuals participate in this activity.

Community Economic Development

- The Atascosa County 4-H Council held the South Texas Double Trouble Prospect Steer and Heifer Show that had 331 entries that brought individuals from eight other Texas Counties to participate in the show.
- Collaborated with the Atascosa County Fair Board to host the County Fair had 412 entries in the show which came from six counties.
- Collaborated with the Atascosa County Junior Livestock Show Board to host the Junior Livestock Show in 2013 which generated \$584,386 dollars for the youth of Atascosa County.
- The Atascosa Club Calf Producers held their annual Club Calf Sale and it generated around \$56,000 dollars for the producers of the County and had approximately 89 registered buyers from Texas.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Atascosa County

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