



Extension Education in Frio 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.

Frio County – Summary of 2013 Educational Contacts

- **Total Educational Programs Conducted – 208**
- **Total Participants – 2,934**
- **Contact hours via Educational Programs – 7,963**
- **4-H Members - 106**
- **4-H Leaders - 39**
- **4-H Clubs - 4**
- **Curriculum Enrichment Participants - 177**
- **4-H Special Interest Participants - 15**
- **Office Contacts - 909**
- **Site Visits – 2,460**
- **Phone Calls – 1, 565**
- **Newsletters/Mail/E-Mail Contacts – 1,905**
- **Web Contacts – 1,544**
- **Radio Programs - 2**
- **News Releases - 81**
- **Cash and In-Kind Donations by AgriLife Extension Supporters and Collaborators - \$845.00**

***2013 Frio/Atascosa Counties Peanut
Profitability Plan***

Plan Summary Report

Date of Summary: November 12, 2013

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

- *Peanut Progress Newsletter (June – October 2013)
- *South Texas Peanut Growers Annual Meeting (April 2013)
- *Peanut Breeding Plots (June 2013)
- *Peanut Result Demonstrations (June 2013)
- *Peanut Variety Trials (June 2013)
- *South Texas Peanut Tour (September 2013)

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

Results:

A Participation Survey (retrospective post) was utilized to measure programmatic impact. A total of 26 of 42 returned the survey.

The first section focused on overall satisfaction of the program:

- *Overall satisfaction with activity – 87.0 %
- *Satisfaction with the information being easy to understand – 94 %
- *Satisfaction with the timelessness 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 – 95.2 %
- *Do you plan to take any action or make any changes based on the information from this activity – 77.8 %

Summary of Results:

Results indicate that the Frio/Atascosa Counties Peanut Profitability Plan met its objectives to increase knowledge and behavioral changes in 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. Jason Woodward, James Gritchar, 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 A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas A&M AgriLife Research will continue to offer educational programs that target peanut producers in Frio and Atascosa County to help them improve their bottom line.

2013 Frio County Agriculture Plan

Developed By: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent – Ag

Date of Summary: November 12, 2013

Relevance:

In order to increase knowledge and profitability, it is important to educate our livestock and crop producers about current practices and technologies associated with these topics: The Frio County Ag Committee cooperated with a number of Agriculture Community groups and organizations to develop a plan that would educate Frio County agriculture producers that would help increase knowledge and profitability in livestock and crop production.

This program was directed toward the 724 farms and ranches that account for over 645,000 acres in agriculture production in Frio County.

Response:

The Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service in Frio County developed the following activities to address this relevant topic.

- Pesticide Applicator License Training (4)
- Frio County Soil/Water Conservation District Monthly Meeting
- South Texas Peanut Growers Planning Meeting – Devine
- USDA Emergency Board Meeting – Hail Damage Assessment
- South Texas Peanut Growers Annual Meeting - Pearsall

Agriculture and Natural Resources

- South Texas Peanut Growers Annual Tour - Pearsall
- Frio County Extension / Soil and Water Conservation Dist. Range Tour
- Frio County Adult Leadership Advisory Board Meetings (2)
- Frio/Atascosa Counties Farm Pond Management Program
- Last Chance Video Series (CEU program)
- Farm and Ranch visits
- Weekly Crop Report
- Annual Ag Increment Report
- Quarterly Pesticide Applicator Newsletters

- Ag/TSCRA monthly meeting program
 - A. Things to Know About Global & Local Economic Environment - Jim Kee
President- South Texas Money Management
 - B. Ranch Security - Hal Reed, U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Miguel Rodriguez, LaSalle County Sheriff
 - C. Recent Changes in Income and Estate Taxes - Wayne Hake, Mass Mutual, South Texas
 - D. How Cloud Seeding Can Be Used as a Long Term Water Management Tool – Stephanie Beall, Southwest Rain Enhancement Association
 - E. Range and Pasture Stewardship - Benny Martinez, Dow Agro Sciences
 - F. Serious New Estate Planning Threats to New Landowners with Mineral Income - Lauren McLaughlin
Partner at Strasburger, Price, Oppenheimer Blend
 - G. Economic Impact of Eagle Ford Shale - Dr. Tom Tunstall – University of Texas at San Antonio Institute for Economic Development
 - H. The Cattle Business - Subtle Changes, Significant Impact – Dr. Rick Machen, Extension Livestock Specialist.
 - I. Illegal Immigration Issues - Jim Gibson, Texas Border Volunteers
 - J. The Carrizo Aquifer, A frank discussion on its historical and present day use, Dr. Darrell Brownlow – Consulting Geologist

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Frio County would also like to recognize the cooperation 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.

Results:

Results indicate that Frio County agriculture producers that attended the numerous educational events and activities of increasing knowledge. The greatest knowledge change was for the topics associated with chemical brush control, livestock, water, peanuts, pesticides, water and economic markets.

The Frio County Agriculture Committee would like to thank all commodity groups, organizations and government agencies that cooperated in addressing our educated efforts in Frio County. Working with the Frio County Ag Committee, Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service – Frio County will continue to offer programs targeted and agriculture producers in the county. The results of these programs will lead more engaged and educated producers.

***2013 Multi-County Water Quality Education Plan
(Related to Oil & Gas)***

**Developed By: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent-Ag
Dale Rankin, Atascosa County Extension Agent-Ag
Richard Griffin, Dimmit County Extension Agent-Ag
Larry Perez, La Salle County Extension Agent-Ag
Isaac Cavazos, McMullen County Extension Agent-Ag**

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/Wilson and Medina Counties Water Well Screening Program – Charlotte
- Frio/Atascosa/Medina Counties Wildlife Tax Evaluation and Farm Pond Reclamation Program
- Multi- County Agent Training on Water Screening Kits
- 2 Quarterly Ag Newsletters mailed in Atascosa County – 1,400 producers reached
- Atascosa County Extension Agent News Release – 30, 000 readers reached
- Atascosa Ag Day for 4th Grade Students – 530 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

Agriculture and Natural Resources

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 resources.

2013 Frio County General FCS Contacts Plan

Plan Summary Report

Date of Summary: November 12, 2013

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 us to address, The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Frio County and the Frio County Translational Advisory Board have teamed up with other local partners to address the issues.

Response:

Frio County AgriLife Extension Service participated in the Frio County Translational Advisory Board (TAB) to help address the diabetes prevention and treatment initiative that was identified by Frio County residents as one of the top health concerns during an exist survey at the 2012 Frio County Health Fair.

In 2013, the Frio County TAB participated at Pioneer Day's where members distributed publications on diabetes. The Frio County TAB also hosted the Frio County Family Health Fair to also reach out the community with diabetes education. A diabetes survey was also conducted to help us identify the level of knowledge on diabetes from the participants.

Results:

Over 75 diabetes publications were distributed at both events. Also 19 participants at the Frio County Family Health Fair completed a diabetes survey and some of the results indicated that:

- 79% have had a glucose blood test
- 58% have been told by a doctor that they have high blood sugar
- 67% have diabetes
- 8.3% have pre-diabetes

Participant's knowledge was also measured by the survey and the following results are as follows:

- 89% believe you can reduce your risk of developing diabetes by:
 - A. Losing weight – 53%
 - B. Increasing physical activity – 74%
 - C. Healthier diet – 90%
 - D. Eating fewer calories – 16%
 - E. Eating less fat – 21%
 - F. Eating less sugar – 58%

Summary of Results

Results indicate that the Family and Consumer Science Plan met its objective to increase knowledge of diabetes for the people that attended the Frio County Family Health Fair. 92% of the participants indicated they were completely or mostly satisfied with the entire program.

Acknowledgements:

Special thanks go out to the Frio County Translational Advisory Board, University of Texas – School of Public Health, San Pablo Methodist Church and Wesley Nurses for their time and commitment to these issues.

Future Program Activities:

Working with the Frio County Translational Advisory Board we will continue to identify ways to educate Frio County residents on diabetes prevention and management.

*2013 Field & Stream Project
Outdoor Education Program*

Plan Summary Report

Date of Summary: November 12, 2013

Relevance:

Youth Outdoor 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 Leadership Advisory Board identified the problem and decided to sponsor an outdoor 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 Texas Parks & Wildlife, H.E.B., and the Pearsall Summer Recreation Program to help sponsor a safety day in Frio County. The following areas were covered at this year's Outdoor Education Program.

- *Fishing Safety
- *Farm Safety
- *ATV Safety
- *Boat & Water Safety
- *Fire Safety
- *Air Life
- *Texas Brigades
- *Hunting Dog Demo
- *Drug Awareness

Partners & Collaborators:

Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service – Frio County would like to thank the following:

- *Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
- *City of Pearsall
- *Frio County
- *H.E.B.
- *United State Border Patrol
- *Methodist Hospital Air Life

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

Results:

A participant survey was used to sample 10 of 15 youth participants to measure programmatic impact. The first section focused on the Safety Day programs. The results are as follows:

- *Overall satisfaction with this activity – 84.0 %
- *Satisfaction with the activity being enjoyable – 90.0 %

4-H and Youth Development

*Satisfaction with the information being easy to understand – 90.0 %

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

- *Call 911 for an emergency
- *Wear head protection when riding ATV's
- *Say no to drugs
- *Always wear safety vest when you ride in a boat

Summary of Results:

Results indicate that the Frio County Outdoor Education Program met its objectives of increasing knowledge and behavioral changes with the youth that participated. 84.0 % 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. Ashton Hutchins and local cooperators and sponsors such as Frio County, City of Pearsall, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, H.E.B. and the Pearsall Recreational Department, Methodist Hospital Air Life and U.S. Border Patrol.

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.

2013 Frio County One Day 4-H Plan

Plan Summary Report

Date of Summary: November 12, 2013

Relevance:

“One Day 4-H” is a 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 100 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 Clubs identified community service projects that were needed in the county. Each club then narrowed their list by voting on one community service project they would like to nominate to the Frio County 4-H Council. The council then voted on all 4 community service projects that were nominated, and selected the 2013 “One Day 4-H” Community Service Project. This year’s Frio County 4-H Council voted to raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness and a local breast cancer survivor.

Results:

With the help from Tractor Supply Company in Pearsall and Lowe's Supermarket in Dilley, the 4-H members conducted a "Fill the Boot" fundraiser campaign and raised \$1276.00.

A participation survey (retrospective post) was utilized to measure programmatic impact. A total of 19 of 41 returned the survey.

The first section focused on overall satisfaction of the event:

- Overall satisfaction with activity – 87.7%
- Satisfaction with the activity being enjoyable – 83%
- Satisfaction with the accuracy of the information – 79%
- Satisfaction with the information being easy to understand – 88%

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

- Plan to take any action or make any changes – 65%
- Will this activity help you make more money or reduce expenses – 77%
- Would you recommend the particular activity to others – 100%

Summary of Results:

Results indicate the Frio County "One Day 4-H" Plan met its objectives to increase knowledge and change behavior of all 4-H members that participated. 87% of the participants indicated that they were completely or mostly satisfied with the event.

Acknowledgements:

Special thanks go out to Tractor Supply Company – Pearsall, Lowe's Supermarket – Dilley, Frio County 4-H Council members, volunteers, and Mrs. Gulick- Frio County 4-H Council Leader.

Future Program Activities:

Frio County 4-H Clubs, Frio County 4-H Council, 4-H Volunteers, and 4-H Leaders will continue to work in our communities to identify future community service projects.

2013 Frio County Community Resources and Economic Development Plan

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

Date of Summary: November 12, 2013

Relevance:

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.

Response:

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:

- Worked with Frio County Commissioner's Court on building a Community Room at the Frio County AgriLife Extension Office.
- Hired Harry Jewett and Associates Architects to design the Frio County Community Room Expansion Project.
- Worked with Frio County Jr. Livestock Show Board to expand the Stock Show facility.
- Claybuster's 4-H Club continues to host competitive shoots as fundraisers to raise money for club expenses.
- Help form the Pearsall Economic Development Committee.

Result:

The Community Room Expansion project was started and completed in 2013.

The Frio County Jr. Livestock Barn facility expansion project was completed in January 2013.

The Frio County Jr. Livestock Show, Frio County Country Store, and the Frio County Commercial Heifer Show all took place the last weekend in January and the three shows raised \$375, 411.00 for 4-H and FFA members in Frio County.

Claybuster's 4-H club hosted 3 fund raiser shoots that included the South Texas Shoot Out fun shoot, The Big Blast County shoot, and the Big Blast Sponsor shoot. A total of \$24, 500.00 was raised for club expenses.

2013 Frio County Emergency Management Plan

Plan Summary Report

Date of Summary: November 12, 2013

Relevance:

The Frio County Emergency Management Plan provides guidance for the deployment of emergency resources under a local incident command. Our local emergency plan includes specific provisions for requesting and deploying state resources to aid in managing and resolving situations for which local resources are inadequate.

Response:

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
- *District 12 Emergency Management Strike Team
- *Emergency Management Ag Strike Team Safety Officer Training – San Antonio
- *EM – 301, Livestock Supply Point Lync Training
- *EM – 201, Ag Annual Response & Recovery Lync Training
- *EM – 200, CEA's in Hurricane Evaluation & Shelter

Result:

This agent updated the County Emergency Management Coordinator on the Animal Issues Committee Plan, Office Emergency Management Preparedness Plan and the Emergency 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 National 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.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Frio County

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