



Extension Education in Kleberg-Kenedy 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.

Kleberg-Kenedy County – Summary of 2013 Educational Contacts

Total Educational Programs Conducted: 457

Office Contacts: 243

Site Visits: 189

Phone Calls: 627

Mail/Email: 480

Newsletter Contacts: 417

EFNEP (Nutrition) Families: 48

Contacts by Volunteers: 33

Contacts by Website: 216

News Articles/Releases/Calendar: 65

4-H Members: 460

4-H Clubs: 24

4-H Managers/Leaders: 85

Curriculum Enrichment Participants (Youth): 543

Special Interest Participants (Youth): 3,186

Master Livestock Mentors: 2

Master Gardeners: 23

Kleberg Extension Education Association: 15

Extension Quilters: 13

Cash and In-kind Donations: \$ 31,250

Crops Tour/Pesticide Trainings/CEU: 19

Lawn/Garden Visits: 43

Kleberg-Kenedy County Program Highlights

County 4-H Program (see Annual 4-H Program Summary for additional information):

- Membership: 460
- Clubs: 24
- Direct Volunteers (Club Managers and Project Leaders): 85
- Top 5 Projects: Livestock, Food and Nutrition, Photography, Clothing and Textiles, and Community Service
- Project knowledge and information: workshops/clinics/trainings provided to volunteers and families throughout the year
- Community Service:
 - * 34 Thanksgiving baskets to less fortunate families in partnership with County Indigent
 - * 48 Christmas gifts to foster children in partnership with Child Protective Services
 - * 360 pounds of non-perishable food items collected for local food pantry
 - * \$5,000 donation through One Day 4-H to benefit CPS Rainbow Room, Animal Rescue Kleberg (ARK), Boys and Girls Club of Kingsville, and Kleberg County Adult Literacy
 - * 16 youth and adult volunteers for Feast of Sharing
 - * 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.
- Over 25 Record books submitted by local 4-H Members with 16 advancing to district and 5 to state
- Annual Awards Banquet recognizes 4-H members and adult volunteers.
- Volunteer Recognition (judges, leaders, managers, partners, etc.) continues to be the cornerstone of appreciating adults who provide their time and expertise to the program

Youth Outreach Programs (community and school based programs):

- Patriotism through Preparedness is an Extension banner curriculum program designed to provide awareness to students and families in the event of a disaster. Lessons include: terminology, examples of disasters, and developing a plan. Additional information on relevance, response, and results are addressed below.
- Wetlands in the Classroom is a school program that focuses on conservation. Youth conservation was identified in 2000 through Extension's Community Forum. The curriculum was tailored after another conservation program, Marshmallow Project. Students learn about the different types of wetlands, functions of wetlands, animal and wildlife habitats in each wetland, and management and monitoring of wetlands. Additional information regarding this program is discussed in further detail below.
- Adventure and Kiddie Camp is a two month summer program for young people 6-18 years of age. The event focuses on natural resources, life skills, and recreation. The daily program begins with a fitness and nutrition component that targets obesity and diabetes awareness. Program follows with educational component which includes interactive activities and trips to area attractions. Additional areas of awareness include bullying and drug education. Partnership with local Parks Department and Brookshire Foundation allows for financial assistance with staff, facilities, materials, equipment, transportation, etc.
- Gardening and Horticulture Program provides students with hands-on learning experience in planning, vegetable gardening, soil preparation, pest and weed control, harvesting and nutrition. Utilize Master Gardeners occasionally as resources to provide assistance to Extension programs. Garden Show and Awards Presentation added to allow students and members to showcase harvested produce and compete for awards.

- 13th Annual South Texas Career EXPO exposes eighth grade and high school students to career awareness and college preparation. The event held annually allows students to browse through careers of interest and visit with professionals on what the career entails, high school and college course required, and future market trends.

Agriculture and Natural Resources:

- Water Education and Screening continues to be a topic of interest with local and area residents. Collaboration between multi-county Extension Offices (Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, and Live Oak) provided additional resources and better programming efforts. Additional information on relevance, response, and results are noted below.
- Private Pesticide Applicator education trainings were conducted in the spring, summer, Fall, and as needed by residents interested in obtaining a license. Agent coordinated with TDA inspectors to test participants at the conclusion of the trainings.
- Through technology, Pesticide Educational CEU series continues to evolve and become popular for both pesticide applicator and Extension Specialists.
- Soil Testing Campaign for the Coastal Bend (Nueces, San Patricio, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Refugio, and Kenedy) is conducted annually. The campaign is intended to allow producers to get a better assessment of their soil nutrients. Agent coordinated multi-county effort with adjacent counties and soil testing laboratory.
- Row Crop Tour continues to provide information to producers on cotton and grain sorghum varieties that have done well in the county. Collaborations with local producers and seed/fertilizer companies continue very successfully. Agent involves Extension specialists to assist with demonstration plots and educational series.
- Agent coordinated 2013 Master Gardener Course with local Texas A&M University Kingsville professors, Extension Specialists, and knowledgeable volunteers. Different projects will continue into 2014 as Interns accumulate community service hours to become Master Gardeners.
- State, Federal, and private sector (USDA, FSA, NRCS, TAHC, TDA, STCGA, etc.) collaborations continue to be a major part of Extension's mission to improve the lives of people. Program partners provide additional resources and information to local residents in the area of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- News Columns/Articles addressing local events, activities, and agriculture/natural resources/horticulture subject matter continue to be submitted weekly to local newspaper. Numerous programs are also placed in the newspaper community calendar for advertisement to the community.
- Provided two agricultural pesticide container recycling days to local producers.

Community and Economic Development:

- Measurement Mania continues to be a huge success story with the local community and school districts. The Chamber of Commerce and other community groups and organizations (TAMUK, NASK, Kleberg Bank, King Ranch, Extension, Celanese, etc.) have provided leadership to this fifth grade math preparedness program. The program provides additional math skills to fifth grade students in an effort to successfully increase STARR testing scores.
- Local collaborations with the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Council provide successful efforts to community functions.

Expanded Nutrition Program:

- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) provided 48 families, which included 56 children, educational learning sessions in the areas of: basic nutrition, food preparation, food budget management, food safety and fitness.
- Participants increased their knowledge in:
 - Thawing foods safely
 - Reading food labels "Nutrition Facts" to make healthy choices
 - Planning meals in advance
 - Food groups

Partnership/Collaborators:

- Partnerships and collaborations provided quality programs to the residents of Kleberg and Kenedy County. Without these partners and collaborators, youth education and life skills as well as agricultural and community events would seem almost impossible to conduct. Partners and collaborators included: WIC, LULAC, Coastal Bend College, Texas A&M University Kingsville, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Naval Air Station Kingsville, Chamber of Commerce, local Independent School Districts (KCWCISD, RISD, RISD, KISD, SGISD, etc.), private/religious schools (Pan American Episcopal, Epiphany, Kingsway Academy, St. Gertrude's), Texas Department of Agriculture, Farm Bureau, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, local Parks and Recreation Department, City-County Health Department, H.E.B., Brookshire Foundation, Gulf Coast Coop, local agriculture producers, seed and fertilizer companies, city and county emergency management coordinators, Kleberg Extension Education Association, Extension Quilters, Kleberg Trap and Skeet Range, L.E. Ramey Golf Course, Kleberg Bank, First Community Bank, National Weather Service, Methodist Child Development Center, Marc Cisneros Center Young Children, Boys and Girls Club, Registered Home Child Cares, and numerous others that supported and made 2013 successful.



4-H and YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

Making a Difference 2013

Annual 4-H Program Summary

County 4-H Youth Involvement

Chartered Community Clubs
Members Enrolled in 4-H Clubs
Youth Reached through Community-based Programs
Youth Reached through School-Based Enrichment Curriculum

Total Youth Reached

County 4-H Leadership, Advisory, and Support Organizations

Youth Board Members attended Meetings
County 4-H Council Members attended Meetings
Adult Leaders & Parents Organization Members attended Meetings



Participation in County 4-H Events

County Participation in District Events

County Participation in State/National Events

Most Popular Club Projects in the County

Most Popular Curriculum in the County

County 4-H Volunteer Support

Registered & Screened Volunteers Supporting Clubs
Club Managers, Co-Managers, and Project Leaders
Hours Contributed by Volunteers in Support of Clubs

Livestock Show Premium Sale Proceeds*

Includes all projects (4-H and FFA)

Value of Volunteer Time Supporting 4-H



County 4-H Leadership & Personal Development Programs

Attended State-level Leadership & Personal Development educational or competitive events
Attended District-level Leadership & Personal Development educational or competitive events
Attended District Leadership Lab
Received 4-H Scholarships valued at a total of

Local Training Opportunities for Youth and Adults

Significant Leadership & Personal Development accomplishments from county Events & Activities

County 4-H Agriculture & Natural Resource Programs

Livestock Projects (all species)
Participated in County Livestock Shows
Attended State-level Livestock Shows
Attended District-level Agriculture & Natural Resources educational or competitive events
Youth Trained through "Quality Counts" Program

Local Training Opportunities for Youth and Adults

Significant Agriculture & Natural Resource accomplishments from county Events & Activities

County 4-H Family & Consumer Science Programs

Attended State-level educational or competitive events
Attended District-level educational or competitive events

Local Training Opportunities for Youth and Adults

Significant Family & Consumer Science accomplishments from county Events & Activities

2013 Kleberg-Kenedy County Water Education/Screening – 220344

Developed by:

Frank Escobedo, Kleberg-Kenedy County Extension Agent – Ag/NR

Relevance

In 2011, the Kleberg-Kenedy County Leadership Advisory Board, through the Issues Identification Process of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, prioritized water conservation as a major issue affecting the local community. With increased media coverage of this issue, Agents from surrounding counties (Nikolo Guerra-Brooks County Extension Agent, Samuel Gavito-Duval County Extension Agent, Humberto Martinez-Jim Hogg County Extension Agent, Rogelio Mercado-Jim Wells County Extension Agent, and Dale Rankin-Live Oak County Extension Agent) also discovered through their implementing of the Issue Identification Process or through local concerns in their respective counties that water quality and quantity were concerns in their communities as well. Private water well owners were concerned with contaminants (arsenic, nitrate, fecal coliform bacteria, and salinity) due to the ongoing drought. Concerned residents depend on well water for human and livestock consumption as well as for irrigation and recreational use. For this reason, implementing water education and screening is and continues to be a vital part of this multi-county effort which provides well owners with peace of mind.

Response

Ten water well owners from Kleberg-Kenedy County were involved in the water well education and screening project. Three of the 10 water well owners submitted multiple samples for screening. Water samples were collected by each well owner following Texas A&M AgriLife Water Specialist, Dr. John Smith, procedures for collecting and submitting water samples. Water samples were labeled and prepared for screening of contaminants. Well owners received their water well results and were provided with an educational presentation explaining the contaminants screened and options available to them. In communication with other local Agriculture Agents, I realized the importance of creating a multi-county educational program in which I would organize and assist Agents from the seven county areas in field-screening for arsenic, nitrate, fecal coliform bacteria, and salinity, individual to their county. I organized a plan and coordinated additional educational information from Dr. John Smith-Extension Water Specialist in College Station, Texas to assist water well owners in receiving several educational resources.

With such positive response, I realized communicating this information to the public would be the best way to enhance the learning and education throughout the county for landowners that we could not personally contact. As a result, a news release and several water publications (E-176 *What's In My Water*, SP-464 *Private Drinking Water Well Basics*, B-6186 *Drinking Water Standards*, B-6184 *Drinking Water Problems: Nitrates*, ER-004 *Disinfecting Water Wells by Shock Chlorination*, and L-5467 *Drinking Water Problems: Arsenic*) were released to the general public through the following newspapers: The Kingsville Record and Bishop News. Participants whose sample(s) were not within Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and/or Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) water standards were provided with additional resources to assist them with further testing and treatment options.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Results:

The following data are from samples received from well owners. The overall water well screening results showed a high level of salt concentrations. The recommended EPA/TCEQ salinity water standard is no greater than 500 parts per million (ppm). The high level could be contributed to our current drought situation. The average salinity level of the 14 samples screened was 1,628 parts per million, as shown in Figure 2.1 below.

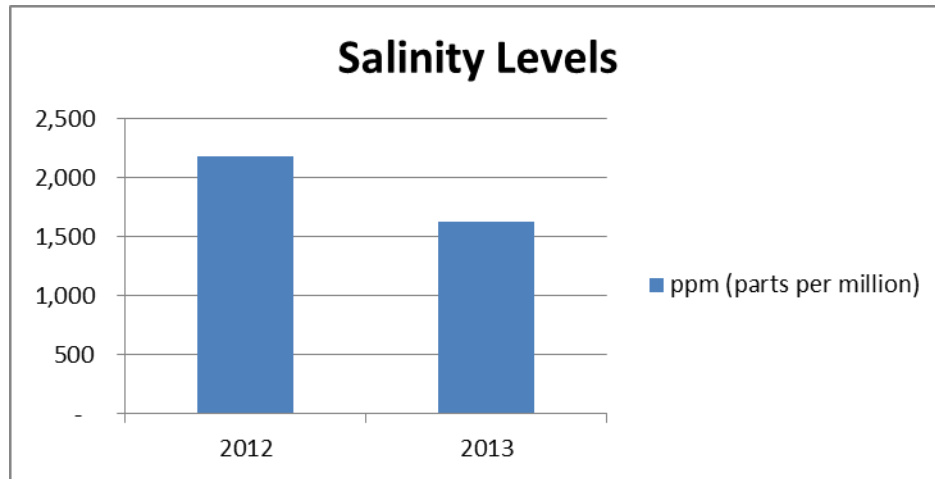


Figure 2.1 represents the Salinity levels of Kleberg-Kenedy County water well samples.

The nitrate level was much less this year than last year. EPA/TCEQ nitrate water standard is no greater than 10 parts per million. The average was 1.6 parts per million, as shown in Figure 2.2 below.

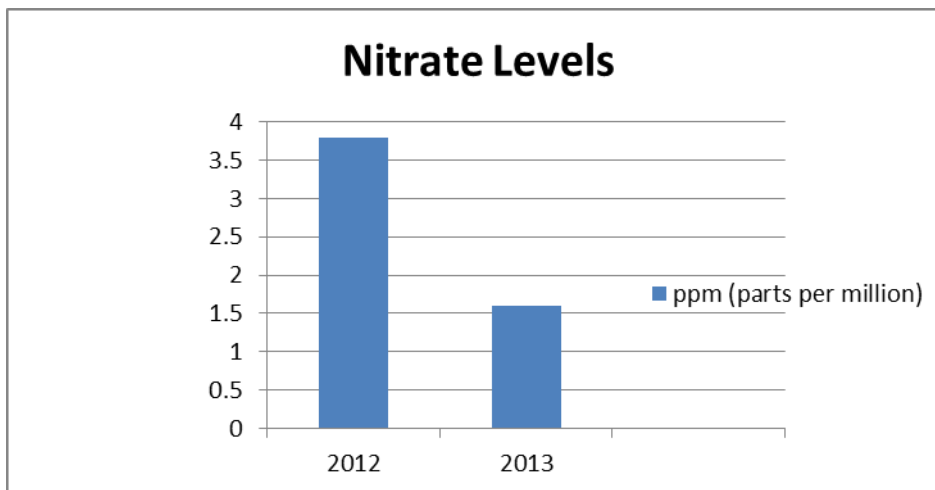


Figure 2.2 represents the Nitrate levels of Kleberg-Kenedy County water well samples.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Arsenic was not present in any of the water samples submitted. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) maximum allowed arsenic standards are at 0.01 parts per million.

Bacteria were not present in last year's water samples. This year 57% of the samples submitted were positive for the presence of bacteria.

Landowners understand that the water screening numbers change from year to year. There is also an increased knowledge in applying the educational publications they have received to help make the water safer to drink and use on a daily basis.

Participants in the program were given a retro-post knowledge evaluation. Seventy percent of the evaluations were returned by landowners participating in the Private Water Well Screening program. Below is the summary of the evaluation:

- **28%** of the participants knew that it is recommended for water well to get screened annually
- **28%** of the participants had knowledge of the contaminants (arsenic, nitrates, fecal coliform bacteria, and salinity) being screened
- **57%** of the participants had their water wells screened by another entity other than Extension. The average time lapse was 9½ years ago
- **80%** of the participants indicated that if the results were not within Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) drinking water standards they would correct the problem

The economic benefit to the implementation of this water well screening has vastly helped residents understand and take proper measures towards their water quality and quantity concerns. Participants were asked to indicate the value in participating in this water education/screening program.

- **28%** indicated Same Value (\$100 - \$250)
- **14%** indicated Considerable Value (\$251 - \$1,000)
- **57%** indicated Tremendous Value (\$1,001 – more)

Eighty six percent of the participants indicated that their well water was used for human and livestock consumption and 14% for irrigation only. Not only is water a precious resource for human needs but it is necessary for livestock and plant production as well. Having safe water for the land is imperative to a productive land. Working together and reaching out to near-by counties was also a great way to increase the awareness of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to more than one landowner and spread the word of the importance of screening to make sure that they are being educated on water quality and quantity.

Future Plans:

The multi-county water well screening will continue into the future as long as private water well owners and our local committees continue to support these programming efforts. Our mission is to provide more resources and awareness to private well water owners. I will also continue the additional public awareness through news columns and articles and other media sources like the Nixle program as well as continued interpretation events conducted with the Kleberg-Kenedy Judges and Commissioners Courts.

2013 Kleberg-Kenedy County WETLANDS in the Classroom (210366) – Outcome

Developed by:

Niki Kaiser

Kleberg-Kenedy County Extension Agent- 4-H and Youth Development

Relevance:

Conservation education was identified as a 2000 TCFF issue. Conservation is especially a concern in a coastal community like Kleberg and Kenedy Counties. Coastal counties provide a beneficial impact to numerous ecological systems/habitats. This action plan was designed to educate and provide awareness to young people in conservation education.

Response:

Target Audience

Elementary Students (Ages 10-12)

Nine 4th grade students from Epiphany Episcopal School in Kingsville participated in this curriculum enrichment program, WETLANDS in the Classroom.

Educational Response

- Lesson 1 [1663421] Occurred: December 3, 2013
- Lesson 2 [1663422] Occurred: December 5, 2013
- Lesson 3 [1663423] Occurred: December 10, 2013
- Lesson 4 [1663424] Occurred: December 12, 2013
- Lesson 5 [1663425] Occurred: December 17, 2013

Additional resources (Educational Response):

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

Partnerships and Collaborators

- Epiphany Episcopal School
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

Evaluation Strategy:

Knowledge Based

- Pre-test (Knowledge based) was administered to students prior to first lesson. Post-test (knowledge based) was administered at the conclusion of the program. Questions for the instrument were taken from the Marshmallow Project Curriculum. Data was analyzed using the mean score for both the pre and post-test, along with percent change for each student.

Clientele Feedback: Teachers expressed that the program was very educational and informative for the children. They indicated that the vocabulary and scientific aspects of the program reinforced information and lessons currently being taught to the children. The program connected wetland concepts with everyday life and the students gained a greater understanding of the importance of wetlands.

4-H and Youth Development

Results:

The Pre- and Post- Tests were used to determine the level of knowledge gained/loss in this program, WETLANDS in the Classroom.

Nine students completed the pre- and post- tests for the WETLANDS in the Classroom program. The average score on the pre-test was 34.25% correct, and the average post-test was 85.8% correct, for a percent change of 51.55 % as a result of the program. The following table represents a percent change for individual pre- and post-test questions.

Wetlands Pre- and Post- Test Questions	% Correct on Pre-Test	% Correct on Post-Test	% Change
Which of these is NOT one of the 5 major types of wetlands?	0	100	100
The basic components of a habitat are food and shelter.	0	100	100
One function of wetlands is flood control.	12.5	100	87.5
In a healthy wetland environment the ph level should be between...	12.5	100	87.5
The main components of a wetland are...	25	100	75.0
The test used to determine the clearness of the water is called a _____ test.	0	62.5	62.5
The term terrestrial refers to...	37.5	100	62.5
Anaerobic conditions are a characteristic of...	25	87.5	62.5
Wetland plants respire in an oxygen limited environment.	50	87.5	37.5
Many wetlands are the center of recreational and tourist attractions.	37.5	75	37.5
The primary cause of wetland loss has been urban development.	50	87.5	37.5
Aerobic conditions provide the perfect environment for hydrophytes.	25	62.5	37.5
Which of these is NOT an example of an adaptation by a wetland bird?	75	100	25.0
The test used to determine the amount of salt in the water is called...	75	87.5	12.5
The definition of a wetland is...	75	87.5	12.5

Students increased their knowledge of the program by having a better understanding of what constitutes a wetland, functions of a wetland, and the ecology of a wetland.

Future Plans: Benefits/Impacts

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.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the following school teachers and partners for their support: Epiphany School (Mrs. Trevino and Mrs. Barbour), NRCS (Mr. Schmidt), and Kleberg-Kenedy County Youth Program Assistant (Ms. Andrea Galindo).

Future Program Actions

- Marketing of the program to other schools in the county.
- Increase hands-on interaction.
- Involve more partners/resources: NRCS, TAMUK

2013 Kleberg-Kenedy County One Day 4-H (213829) – Outcome

Developed by:

Niki Kaiser

Kleberg-Kenedy County Extension Agent- 4-H and Youth Development

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. Throughout this process, youth have the opportunity to develop a partnership with adult volunteers as they plan and implement their service project. 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 Kleberg-Kenedy County 4-H youth chose to host a Kleberg-Kenedy One Day 4-H Philanthropic 4-K Run/Walk to raise funds for local non-profit organizations.

Response:

Target Audience

Adults and youth in Kleberg and Kenedy counties

Additional descriptive information, if any, on Target Audience:

One hundred twenty-four 4-H member, parents, volunteers and community members participated in the Kleberg-Kenedy One Day 4-H Philanthropic 4-K Run/Walk by serving as event volunteers, by running/walking in the fundraiser, or by donating to the cause.

The Kleberg-Kenedy One Day 4-H Philanthropic 4-K Run/Walk raised over \$5000 to benefit the Kingsville Boys & Girls Club, Animal Rescue Kleberg, Kleberg County Adult Literacy and the Rainbow Room serving Kleberg County. 4-H members, adult volunteers, parents and the community came together to learn about community organizations, healthy living through exercise, and supporting one another. The money raised will help benefit a variety of people within the community through after school care, youth activities, adult literacy, and by helping youth in child protective services. Animal Rescue Kleberg will be able to help more animals requiring new homes and in need of medical care.

Partnerships and Collaborators

- Kleberg County Parks Department
- Media (Kingsville Record)

Results:

Evaluation Strategy:

A retrospective post-test that measured understanding and behavior changes as a result of the event was distributed to event participants at the conclusion of the run/walk. Mr. Paul Pope, Extension Program Specialist III-Evaluation, provided survey evaluation data from retrospective post-test.

4-H and Youth Development

- 48.4% (60 of 124) of participants returned a completed survey.
- 96.6% (56 of 58) have a more positive feeling about the community service project they conducted.
- 98.3% (58 of 59) have a better appreciation of the community they live in as a result of participating.
- 93.0% (53 of 57) felt more comfortable working in a team.
- 89.7% (52 of 58) will be more of an influence in their community/county because of the event.
- 91.4% (53 of 58) have learned something about themselves as a result of participating in this event.
- 87.7% (50 of 57) will be more comfortable with serving in leadership roles because of participating in One Day 4-H.

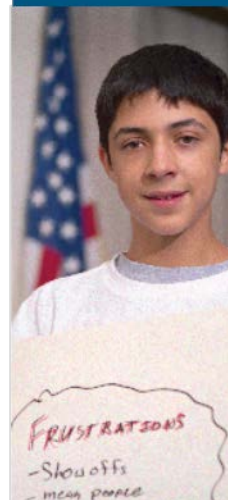
Future Program Actions

- Marketing of the event through utilizing other community resources
- Involve more partners/resources



VALUE

Character and Leadership Development



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program teaches participants leadership skills and character traits. Participating youth become mentors, role models, and leaders in their schools and communities.

4-H and Youth Development

2013 Kleberg-Kenedy County Patriotism through Preparedness: Make a Plan; Take a Stand (213828) – Outcome

Developed by:

Niki Kaiser

Kleberg-Kenedy County Extension Agent- 4-H and Youth Development

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 and subsequently engage families through their youth and teachers/volunteers to initiate steps in becoming better prepared for a disaster.

Response:

Target Audience

Elementary Students (Ages 10-12)

Forty four students' in 4th grade from Kingsville ISD (Harvey Elementary) and St. Gertrude's School participated in this curriculum enrichment program, Patriotism through Preparedness: Make a Plan, Take a Stand.

Educational Response

- Patriotism through Preparedness – Lesson 1 [1771456] Occurred: May 17, 2013
- Patriotism through Preparedness – Lesson 2 [1771458] Occurred: May 20, 2013
- Patriotism through Preparedness – Lesson 1 [1771457] Occurred: May 21, 2013
- Patriotism through Preparedness – Lesson 1 [1771465] Occurred: May 22, 2013

Additional resources (Educational Response):

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

Partnerships and Collaborators

- School Districts (Kingsville ISD and St. Gertrude's School)
- Emergency Management Coordinator

Evaluation Strategy:

Knowledge Based

- Pre-test (Knowledge based) was administered to students prior to 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. Mr. Paul Pope, Extension Program Specialist III-Evaluation, provided survey evaluation data from Pre and Post Tests.

4-H and Youth Development

Clientele Feedback:

Teachers complimented program in preparation for Hurricane Season. They also indicated how the hands-on interaction increases student involvement and awareness.

Results:

The Pre- and Post- Tests were used to determine the level of knowledge gained/loss in this program, Patriotism through Preparedness: Make a Plan, Take a Stand.

Ten students completed the pre- and post- tests for the Patriotism through Preparedness program. The average score on the pre-test was 73.60% correct, and the average post-test was 82% correct, for a percent change of 31.8 % as a result of the program. Post-test results indicated that 90% (9 of 10) participants' families talked about what to do in case of a disaster, have now made a disaster plan, and have prepared a disaster supply kit.

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: Harvey Elementary (Ms. Garcia), St. Gertrude's School (Mrs. Aleman), Emergency Management Coordinator (Mr. Sanchez) Extension Organizational Support (Mr. Paul Pope), and Kleberg-Kenedy County Youth Program Assistant (Mr. Ibanez).

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.

Making a Difference

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Kleberg County Outcome Summary Report

SUPPORTING TEXAS FAMILIES WITH GREATEST NEED SINCE 1969

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) helps young families and youth with limited resources – those most at risk to suffer from hunger, food insecurity and the inability to connect with available support systems. EFNEP offers practical lessons in basic nutrition, food preparation, food budget management and food safety in settings convenient for the participants. EFNEP also includes a walking program for adult participants. Program graduates reflect significant, lasting improvement in eating behaviors and healthy food habits. Texas has a need for EFNEP – 2011 data show that 20% of Texas families with children under the age of 18 were living below poverty level, compared to 16% of U.S. families.

EFNEP REACHES DIVERSE AUDIENCES IN KLEBERG COUNTY

In Kleberg County, ethnically diverse EFNEP nutrition assistants reach youth and adult groups whose principal language may be English or Spanish.

In 2013,

- 48 families with 56 children enrolled in EFNEP.
- 51 youth contacts were made through the EFNEP youth program.
- 63% of families were at or below 100% of federal poverty level.
- 69% of EFNEP adult participants were Hispanic/Latino.
- 17% of EFNEP adult participants were Not Hispanic/Latino, White.

VOLUNTEER STRENGTHEN EFNEP

In 2013, 9 adult volunteers donated 62 hours of work to EFNEP in Kleberg County. At the Texas rate of \$22.57/hour, this volunteerism has a minimum dollar value of \$1,399. Volunteers make a difference in their own communities, and contribute to EFNEP's continued success.

EFNEP MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE

Adult Program:

Using “hands-on” experiences, EFNEP adult participants complete at least a six-lesson series on stretching food dollars, improving eating habits, and practicing food safety principles. As a result of participation in EFNEP the following food and nutrition behaviors were achieved:


- 80% with positive change in any food group at exit. Specifically, EFNEP participants consumed 0.7 more cups of fruits and vegetables and 0.3 additional cups of dairy at completion, compared to entry.
- 88% improved in one or more food resource management practices such as planning meals in advance.
- 96% improved in one or more nutrition practices such as using the “Nutrition Facts” on food labels to make food choices.
- 76% improved in one or more food safety practices such as thawing foods safely.

COST – BENEFITS OF EFNEP

Studies have shown that for every \$1 spent of EFNEP, \$10 were estimated to be saved in health care costs and \$2 saved in food costs by participants. For Kleberg County, this is \$154,460 in estimated health care cost savings and almost \$30,892 in food costs.

VALUE

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program



These nutrition programs teach low-income audiences to prepare nutritious meals, stretch their food resources, improve their food-safety practices, and participate in regular physical activity. This not only improves the quality of life and reduces the risk of chronic disease for participants, but lowers public health-care costs.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Kleberg-Kenedy County (Faculty and 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
Website: kleberg.agrilife.org

Niki Kaiser

County Extension Agent–4-H/Youth
P.O. Box 1119
Kingsville, TX. 78364
Phone: (361) 595-8566
Fax: (361) 592-7741
E-mail: niki.kaiser@ag.tamu.edu
Website: kleberg.agrilife.org

Janis Simons

Office Manager/Secretary
P.O. Box 1119
Kingsville, TX. 78364
E-mail: janis.simons@ag.tamu.edu

Andrea Galindo

Youth Program Assistant
P.O. Box 1119
Kingsville, TX. 78364
E-mail: andrea.galindo@ag.tamu.edu