



Extension Education in Live Oak County

Making a Difference

2014

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. Extensions 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.

Live Oak County – Summary of 2014 Educational Contacts

Live Oak County 2014 General Contacts

Total Educational Programs Conducted	30
Total Participants	407
Total Contact Hours	123
4-H Members	264
4-H Clubs	7
4-H Volunteers	65
Curriculum Enrichment	0
Office Contacts/ Site Visits	460
4-H Newsletter Contacts	2829
Web Contacts	1073
News Releases	261
CEU's Offered for Applicators	10

2014 Live Oak County Range and Livestock Educational Programs Summary

This was my first full year here in Live Oak County and it has been a busy year! The first committee meeting I held was incredibly successful with the planning of our first program together here in Live Oak County! We called it the **Range & Pasture Improvement Workshop**, it was held at the George West Methodist Church on January 28, 2014 and it began at 5:00pm and went to 8:00pm. We offered 3 CEU hours (1-IPM, 1-General & 1 - L&R). I catered the meal! Dr. Megan Clayton was one of the speakers that evening and she covered the following topics - the importance of Soil & Health Fertility for Spring '14 as well as the meat of the workshop pertaining to Range & Pasture Improvement. Dr. Clayton also brought the new 2014 Chemical Update catalog for each person that attended. Mr. Daniel Jackson with Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) covered the Laws and Regulations part of the program that evening but he also gave updates on the new changes that were coming for Private Applicators! There were 10 people in attendance and I could not have been happier as the weather was not of the best conditions! Dr. Clayton had also developed an evaluation sheet for those who attended this program and everyone was incredibly pleased with the information that both Dr. Megan Clayton and Mr. Daniel Jackson provided.

The Live Oak Ag/NR committee met again in February, March & April. These were pretty busy times for our office as this time of year is pretty focused on youth livestock projects competing at County Shows and at the Major Stock Shows, but we made it work! Thankfully because this time of year is pretty chaotic a few of the district specialists throughout the southern part of the state put together the **South Texas Agricultural Symposium**. The Ag Symposium was held virtually at the Live Oak County Extension Office Conference Room. The date was Wednesday, April 16, 2014 from 8:00am to 12:00pm. The registration fee was \$15.00 but those who attended and had a private applicator license earned 2 CEU credit hours for attending the course! There a handful of speakers from Dr. Megan Clayton, Dr. Levi Russell, Dr. Joe Paschal and a few others who provided incredibly beneficial information! We did encounter some issues with the virtual Ag Symposium but this to be expected in small counties as we were near the end of the presentations and we were unable to hear or see the presenters! Although, we were unable able to hear the rest of the presentations the 11 individuals that attended were pleased with the information that was provided and filled out the evaluations all saying the same great information but we wished we could have heard the rest!

During these months I had been receiving phone calls regarding individuals retaining their Private Applicators License. So with all the inquiries pertaining to Private Applicator License the committee and I sat down discussed dates that are typically good dates for programs, workshops, etc. So I began making the list of things that I needed to provide as proper training materials for the individuals who were interested in attaining their Private Applicators License. I developed booklets with the step by step training materials and contacted a TDA testing representative and set the date with him. The **Private Applicator Training and Testing** took place at the Live Oak County Extension Office on Thursday, April 17, 2014 from 8:00am - 1:00pm. We had 10 individuals attend the training and all ten took the face to face testing and each person that attended this Private Applicator Training and Testing had all passed and were able to move on to their final step of getting their Private Applicator License.

4-H and Youth Development

Following the Fuller Tractor Hay Harvesting/Production Field Day the Live Oak AG/NR committee and I met and we quickly developed another program this time pertaining to strictly beef cattle! What better person to have come talk cattle with than Dr. Joe Paschal! I contacted Mr. Riley Rhodes to see if we could have this **Spring Beef Cattle Workshop** on Wednesday, April 30, 2014 from 5:30pm to 8:00pm at the Live Oak Auction Barn. Dr. Paschal talked about general Animal Health and Animal Nutrition in relation to the drought. The meal was sponsored by Lyssy & Eckel catered by the AG/NR Committee we had more than enough food to feed an army! With the assistance of Dr. Paschal we were able to provide 2 CEU's (1-IPM & 1 - General) and 2 BQA (2- Beef Quality Credits) credit hours to those who maintained these hours. We asked for a \$10.00 fee to cover partial cost recovery.

Each year here in Live Oak County the Fuller's from the Beeville Fuller Tractor Location have held an extensive field day at the Brooks Ranch in Mathis, TX the program goes by **Fuller Tractor Hay Harvesting/Production Field Day**. It was held on Thursday, May 15, 2014 from 5:00pm to 7:30pm. Each year they contact the Live Oak County Extension Office to provide speakers for the field day and we also provide 2 CEU's to the private applicators that attend. We charge a \$10.00 partial cost recovery fee and then New Holland Fuller Tractor catered and sponsored the meal! Dr. Joe Paschal the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Livestock Specialist covered Hay Quality and Handling and Charlcey Vinyard with Dow Chemical and she covered Forage Improvements and Chemical Updates for Hay Fields. There was a great turn out of 63 people who were there from the beginning to the end! I had the pleasure of introducing both speakers to the group and everyone was very pleased with the type of information provided!

The last few year's county agents from Jim Wells, Live Oak, Brooks, Jim Hogg and Kleberg-Kenedy counties have been providing a **Multi-County Water Well Screening** to the residents in their specific county. We collected the well water samples from the participating individuals in our respected counties and on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 and drove them to Jim Wells County to conduct the testing of the well water samples. Testing your well water is incredibly important especially with the high volume drilling and underground disposal it is good to test your well water from year to year to prevent any contamination. Once we got to Jim Wells County we lined up the samples in the Extension Office and began recording information that was on the homemade labels provided on each sample. Once we had all of the information recorded we set up the testing packets and began the step by step process to test these individual samples. There were a total of well water 53 samples used in different ways; some were for livestock, irrigation and in home use & consumption. The final day of testing took place on Thursday, September 25, 2014. Each person that sent in a sample received their results along with a written statement and TCEQ contact information.

2014 Live Oak County 4-H Program



Relevance

Here in Live Oak County, there are two projects that have remained at the top of the most popular list right behind the livestock projects! These projects are Food & Nutrition and Clothing & Textiles the reason these projects have stayed prevalent is due to the fact that they have been developed to teach life skills that will follow our youth into adulthood. Throughout the years the projects have experienced changes to keep up with the rapid interests of our youth! Involving youth in programs that instruct them about nutritious foods with the aspect of healthier meal choices and substitutes with the purpose of teaching them the importance of engaging in regular physical activities are a few of the goals! As the number of youth living with diabetes and obesity complications increase in South Texas, promoting a healthy and active way of life is crucial.

Response

The County Extension Agent held educational and informational trainings for volunteers of the Food & Nutrition projects in Live Oak County and the Youth participants. There was a Club Managers training where information was given regarding the changes for the 2014 County & District Food Show, so they could pass that information along to their clubs and their 4-H members. In preparation for their Food Show interview, information included MyPlate, Food Safety and other topics such as nutrient knowledge, food preparation and food presentation. These trainings contributed to a successful county food show. Food Challenge practices were conducted to help prepare the 3 teams this year for the District 12 Food Challenge Contest! Live Oak County had 2 Junior/Intermediate Teams and 1 Senior Team represented at the District contest this year!

For the Clothing & Textiles project, we went over the information with the Club Managers to make them aware of dates and deadlines as well as the logistics of the county fashion show! Prior to the County Fair our office were providing sewing lessons for the youth participating in the county fair with their respected clothing project! We hosted several Clothing & Textiles camps this summer where we introduced the youth to the new Duds to Dazzle contest, as well as constructing their own accessories!

Results

- 10 – Club Managers as well as Co-Club Managers attended the Club Managers Informational Training where they were given up to date information on the Food Show and Fashion Show for their club members to have at their next meeting.
- 12 – Youth divided into 3 teams (1- Intermediate/Junior, 1-Intermediate/Junior and 1 – Senior) participated in the 2014 County 4-H Food Challenge, all of which were eligible to advance to the District Competition!
- Attended several 4-H Meetings to discuss upcoming practices, events and contests regarding the County 4-H members.
- 8 – 4-H Council Officers and 4-H'ers who are involved in the Food & Nutrition Project held an outdoor kitchen where they did demonstrations on making berry cobblers, peach cobblers in Dutch Ovens as

4-H and Youth Development

well as homemade vanilla ice cream! They had many customers who were hooked with their old timey sweet concoctions and donated to the County One Day 4-H Project.

2014 Live Oak County Community and Economic Development

4-H Program Community Development and Support

The community support of the Live Oak County 4-H Program is one that is incredibly special. It is very apparent that this youth program is important to the families in the community and has been for many years but 4-H is has a special place within the key stakeholders in this community. They are always very interested to know what the youth are up to and how the program is progressing. The youth in this county makes everything easy, they are willing to step up and help wherever they are needed! There are so many younger kids that are growing up in the Live Oak County Young Feeders program here and are becoming 4-H Members once they are of age! With the upcoming growth of our 4-H program here in Live Oak we will be incredibly busy but we will definitely have great supporters routing us on the entire way!

Live Oak Extension Leadership Advisory Board

This year after two meeting attempts and no one showing up, I have decided it is time to review the individuals who make up the current LAB and bring in new recruits that are willing to come to a meeting and make a difference with the Live Oak County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Team. I am looking at bringing in individuals that want to see improvement and want to see positive beneficial changes to their community by working alongside us to bring those changes & improvements to life!

Live Oak Extension AG/NR Committee

The AG/NR Committee is made up of a good solid number of go getters! I enjoy working with them because they are innovative and always looking for fresh new program ideas! They are always prompt to our committee meetings! They are 100% supportive of our organization and are always willing to lend a helping hand whenever help is needed! The communication of information is always up to par when we are working on a specific program. I really cannot say enough great things about this group of individuals because they have stepped in and helped me out during programs or with everyday questions that I have been stumbled on!

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Live Oak County

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