



Extension Education in Atascosa County
Making a Difference
2010

*Improving Lives.
Improving Texas.*

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service has been dedicated to serving Texans

for nearly a century. The agency was established in 1915 under the Smith-Lever Act to deliver university knowledge and agricultural research findings directly to the people. Extension programs have continued ever since to address the emerging issues of the day, serving diverse rural and urban populations across the state.

Through a well-organized network of professional educators and more than 100,000 trained volunteers, Extension delivers practical research-based knowledge to Texans in all 254 counties. Our expertise and educational

outreach pertain to the food and fiber industry, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, nutrition and health, and community economic development. Among those served are the hundreds of thousands of young people who benefit annually from Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

Texans turn to Extension for solutions. Its agents and specialists respond not only with answers, but also with resources and services that result in a significant return on investment to boost the Texas economy. The agency custom-designs its programs to each region of the state, relying on residents for input and for help with program delivery. Here are just a few highlights of Extension's impacts on this county and its people:

Atascosa County – Summary of Educational Contacts

- **Total Educational Programs Conducted – 236**
- **Total Participants – 11559**
- **Contact Hours via Educational Programs – 36,532**
- **4H Members – 361**
- **4H Leaders – 68**
- **4H Clubs – 10**
- **Curriculum Enrichment Participants – 568**
- **Office Contacts – 597**
- **Site Visits – 701**
- **Newsletter/Mail/E-Mail Contacts -894 Agriculture, 2532 4H News**
- **Web Contacts – 1,483**
- **Radio – 4**
- **News Releases – 54**
- **Ag Fair -533 Youth**
- **CEUs – 38 Hours**

2010 Frio/Atascosa Counties Peanut Profitability Plan

Plan Summary Report

Date of Summary: November 16, 2010

Relevance:

Peanut production in Frio County is the largest field crop produced in the county with over 14, 000 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 Frio/Atascosa County Peanut Producers Board, Texas AgriLife Extension Service specialists, and Texas 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 AgriLife Extension Service in Frio and Atascosa County developed the following activities to address this relevant issue:

- *Peanut Progress Newsletter (April-October 2010)
- *South Texas Peanut Growers Annual Meeting (April 2010)
- *Peanut Breeding Plots (May 2010)
- *Peanut Result Demonstrations (June 2010)
- *Peanut Variety Trails (June 2010)
- *South Texas Peanut Tour (September 2010)

Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Frio and Atascosa Counties partnered with South Texas Peanut Producers Board, Texas AgriLife Extension Specialists, Texas AgriLife Research Scientists and Texas Peanut Producers Board to implement this plan and would like to recognize this ongoing partnership.

Results:

A Customer Satisfaction survey (retrospective post) was utilized to measure programmatic impact. A total of 24 of 30 returned the survey.

The first section focused on overall satisfaction of the program:

- *Overall satisfaction with activity – 95.7 %
- *Satisfaction with the information being easy to understand – 95.8 %
- *Satisfaction with quality of course materials – 91.7 %

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 – 81.8 %
- *Do you plan to take any action or make any changes based on the information from this activity – 66.7 %

Summary of Results:

Results indicate that the Frio/Atascosa Counties Peanut Profitability Plan met its objectives to increase knowledge and behavioral changes with the peanut producers that participated. 95.7 % 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. Todd Baughman, A.J. Jaks, James Grichar, Shelly Nutt and Michael Barring. Additional thanks are due to the following Frio County Cooperators, Tech Farms, Bennett Partnership and Wilmeth Farm.

Additional thanks goes to the Progressive Agriculture Foundation for helping us sponsor this event, and H.E.B. for sponsoring the door prizes.

Future Program Actions:

Working with the South Texas Peanut Producers Board , AgriLife Extension Service will continue to offer educational programs that target peanut producers in Frio and Atascosa County to help them improve their bottom line

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South Texas Buckskin Brigade

Relevance

More than ever, today's youth are the future of tomorrow and need to develop an understanding, an appreciation, and a true desire to conserve our renewable natural resources. The world only has so many acres of land for which we, as humans, can live. We must also be Stewards of our natural resources and protect them for use for future generations.

Response

The Texas Brigade's mission is to empower high school youth with the necessary skills and knowledge in wildlife, fisheries, and habitat conservation, land stewardship, team-building, communication, and leadership to become ambassadors for conservation in order to ensure a sustained wildlife and fisheries legacy for future generations. The Brigades were formed as a dream by Dr. Dale Rollins. Several county extension agents, and wildlife enthusiasts provide a week long summer education experience to promote wildlife conservation in Texas. The South Texas Buckskin Brigade is a camp that has survived the test of time and endures as one of the five most prestigious, state-recognized, natural resource youth camps in Texas. The South Texas Brigades Committee has planned, implemented and evaluated the South Texas Buckskin Brigade Camp for eleven years. Two meetings were held in Pearsall Texas to review the camp schedule, plan for fundraising, coordinate responsibilities from speakers, housing, recruit selection, food and meal preparation, site preparation, room inspections, travel, emergency management, herd leader selection, scholarship selection and the camp dedication.

Results

This year marks the 11th year of the South Texas Buckskin Brigade Camp. During this year's camp agent responsibilities included program presentations, site preparations, spot light deer census, presenting special presentations/mock educational programs, silver bullets, cadences, room inspections, meal selection and preparation, antler scoring, aging deer by teeth ware on the jaw bone, plant identification, and range conservation. Agents from Atascosa, Frio, Dimmit, Live Oak, Maverick, and Duval Counties provided Leadership to the camps, each of these counties also recruited and had youth participants from there counties attend a brigades camp. Two of the counties had youth that were selected as assistant herd leaders at the Buckskin Brigades Camp. Several youth also participated in one of the other brigades camps

offered last year. A pre-test and post- test were given to each youth attending (30) ,camps each year.

A sample of the questions on the test include

1. Which of the following does not represent a “stomach or chamber” of the ruminant digestive system?
a.Omasum b. abomasum c. ileum d. rumen e. reticulum
2. What is the most critical nutrient necessary for deer to survive?
a. Protein b. energy c. minerals d. water
3. The highest population of white-tailed deer in North America occurred during which of the following years:
a. 1500 b.1800 c. 1900 d. 2000 e. 2010
4. A decreasing level in the blood of which hormone causes a deer to shed its antlers?
a. Melatonin b. growth hormone c. xanthophyll d. testosterone
5. How many teeth does an adult deer normally have?
a. 24 b. 32 c.36 d. 42

Results of this years camp pretest was 50% Correct, post Test 77%,- a 27% increase in Knowledge.

The Texas AgriLife Extension Agents and specialists providing leadership to the South Texas Buckskin and South Texas Bobwhite Brigades included Dale Rankin, Larry Perez, Jim Gallagher, Omar Gonzales, Richie Griffen, Jeff Hanselka, Jaime Lopez, Larry Peirce, and Joe Taylor.

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2010 Atascosa County 4H Club Manager Training Plan
Plan Summary Report
December 1, 2010

Relevance:

The Atascosa County 4-H program reached 357 youth in 2010. Youth education is one of the top priorities in Atascosa County. Club manager trainings are necessary to keep managers up to date on county, district and state events. It is also important that club managers understand the many facets of youth development and protection. Project Workshops are also an important way to keep 4-H families informed and up to date on the many projects that are available to 4-H members.

Response:

A series of club manager trainings were offered at each of the County 4H Council meetings during January, May, August, and November. These meetings included information on Scholarship Applications, Parliamentary Procedure, 4-H Program Book, and Recreation. In Addition to club manager trainings there were project trainings offered to 4H families in Beef, Sheep, Goats, Swine and Rabbits. The 4H program assistant offered trainings in food forum and fashion revue.

The county staff also offers project workshops for 4H members with animal projects including beef, sheep, goats, swine, and rabbits annually. This year our 4H program assistant also offered training in project areas including food forum, fashion revue and record book training.

Results

A retrospective post survey was utilized to collect information regarding knowledge gained and utilized to improve 4-H club meetings and correspondence with the Atascosa County Extension office.

9 of 20 club managers completed this survey in November 2010

Training	Before Program			After Program		
	Not used,	sometimes,	always	Not useful,	useful,	very useful
Scholarship	7	2	0	0	0	7
Parliamentary Procedure	0	9	0	0	3	9
4-H Program Book	0	0	9	0	0	9
Recreation	2	2	5	0	3	6

Responses: Like Rebecca’s involvement this year. The recreation training was just a hoot of a program, keep up the good work. We need more Scholarship Training, I feel our kids are missing opportunities. Would like to see you have the project leader college again in the future. Thanks for all you guys do for our kids.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service Atascosa County

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