



**Extension Education in Frio 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:

## **Frio County – Summary of Educational Contact**

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- Total Educational Programs Conducted – 133
- Total Participants – 2,850
- Contact Hours via Educational Programs – 8,398
- 4-H Members – 162
- 4-H Leaders – 67
- 4-H Clubs – 4
- Curriculum Enrichment Participants – 158
- Office Contacts – 764
- Site Visits – 1817
- Phone Calls – 1,933
- Newsletter/Mail/E-Mail Contacts – 1455
- Web Contacts – 963
- Radio Programs – 5
- News Releases – 65
- Cash and In-Kind Donations by AgriLife Extension Supporters and Collaborators – 2,500 dollars

## *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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## *2010 Frio County Agriculture Plan*

**Developed by: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent –Ag**

**Date of Summary: November 18, 2010**

### **Response:**

The Frio County Agriculture Plan provided a number of educational opportunities for clientele to participate in. The Frio County Ag Committee, South Texas Peanut Producers Board and the Frio County Leadership Advisory Board hosted a number of educational programs including the following:

- \*Frio County Irrigation Program
- \*Private Applicator License Training
- \*South Texas Peanut Growers Annual Tour
- \*Pesticide Applicator Quarterly Newsletters
- \*Worker Protection Standard Training
- \*Frio Co. Range Tour
- \*Food Safety for Vegetable Handlers
- \*Peanut Breeding and Variety Demonstrations
- \*Ranch & Farm Visits
- \*Office Visits
- \*Ag/TSCRA monthly meeting program

Over 75 Frio County producers attended the numerous educational programs.

### **Result:**

Frio County Agriculture producers received the latest educational information in Irrigation, Peanuts, Range Management, Pesticides, and Livestock production. All Frio County Pesticide Private Applicator License holders were reached with a quarterly Pesticide Newsletter and 20 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEU's) were offered this year. This agent also completed the Ag Increment report for the Frio County Farm and Ranch survey for the Texas Comptroller's office. Due to our efforts Frio County producers were able to get the latest information to help them succeed in their own operations.

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## *2010 Frio County Youth and Safety Education Plan*

### **Plan Summary Report**

**Date of Summary: November 17, 2010**

#### **Relevance:**

Youth 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 Advisory Board identified the problem and decided to sponsor a 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 the Progressive Agriculture Foundation to help Sponsor a Safety Day in Frio County. The following program areas were covered at this year's Safety Day on July 6, 2010.

\*Electrical Safety \*Sun Safety  
\*Farm Safety \*Boat & Water  
\*Tractor Safety \*Drug Awareness  
\*ATV Safety \*Fire Safety

Partnerships and Collaborators:

\*Progressive Agriculture Foundation \*Medina Electric  
\*Texas Parks and Wildlife \*Texas Health Dept.  
\*City of Pearsall \*John Deere  
\*Frio County \*City of Pearsall Dept.  
\*H.E.B. \*Dilley Fire Dept.  
\*Wal-Mart

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

## Results:

A Participant Report form survey was used to sample 10 out of 78 youth participants to measure programmatic impact. The first section focused on overall satisfaction of the Safety Day programs, the results are as follows:

- \*Overall Satisfaction with this activity – 87.2 %
- \*Satisfaction with the activity being enjoyable – 98.6 %
- \*Satisfaction with information being easy to understand – 90.2 %

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

- \*Stay away from electricity
- \*Wear sunglasses to protect your eyes
- \*Do not stand behind a tractor
- \*Follow the rules
- \*Stay away from tractors that are running

## Summary of Results:

Results indicate that the Frio County Safety Day Program met its objectives of increasing knowledge and behavioral changes with the youth that participated. 87.2 % 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. Mike Morse and local cooperators and sponsors such as Medina Electric Cooperative, Frio County, City of Pearsall, John Deere, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Dilley Fire Department, Wal-Mart, H.E.B., and the Pearsall Recreational Department.

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:

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.

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## South Texas Buckskin Brigade

### Plan Summary Report

**Date of Summary: November 17, 2010**

#### 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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

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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 Frio County Expanding the Local Quality 4-H Experience Plan*

**Developed by: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent –Ag**

**Date of Summary: November 18, 2010**

### **Response:**

The Frio County 4-H Program continues to use every means possible to promote the 4-H program in Frio County. In the last five years a plan was developed to set goals on increasing the 4-H enrollment in the County by 10 percent. The following programs and activities are being used to achieve our goals:

- \*School curriculum enrichment program for school districts
- \*Promote 4-H in local mass media (Newspaper, Public Access T.V.)
- \*4-H Newsletters
- \*School Announcements
- \*Enrollment Days at Club Meetings
- \*Brochures distributed at local fast food restaurants
- \*Frio Co. Farm Bureau Annual Banquet presentation

A major effort to promote the Frio County 4-H programs occurred in the month of August thru October. A number of newspaper and Public Access ads ran in local mass media outlets and school announcements were also accomplished to reach the majority of youth eligible to participate in the 4-H program. Local Sonic and Dairy Queen Restaurants also helped distribute 4-H brochures to their customers.

### **Result:**

Due to our efforts the Frio County 4-H program met its goal of increasing the 4-H enrollment by 10 percent to 162 in community clubs. As we continue to promote the 4-H program and offer a quality program, we hope we can meet future 4-H enrollment goals.

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## *2010 Frio County 4-H Leadership & Volunteer Development Plan*

**Developed by: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent –Ag**

**Date of Summary: November 18, 2010**

### **Response:**

The Frio County 4-H hosted a number of leadership educational programs and activities for 4-H members and volunteers. Some of the programs that were hosted include:

- \*Club Manager Training
- \*Parliamentarian Procedure Training for Club Officers
- \*Club Manager Office Meetings
- \*Frio County 4-H Council
- \*District 12 4-H Council
- \*District 12 4-H Council Retreat
- \*District 12 Leadership Lab
- \*District 12 Election Convention

Approximately 45 members and volunteers participated in the different leadership development opportunities.

### **Result:**

The result of the leadership and volunteer development program, 4-H members and volunteers that hold leadership positions were able to acquire leadership skills to make them a better leader.

4-H club officers now have a better understanding in parliamentary procedure and conduct their meetings in a more orderly manner. Volunteer leaders also have a better understanding on their roles and responsibilities as Club Managers or Project Leaders.

As a result, 4-H club officers and volunteers are able to accomplish their roles and responsibilities as leaders in the Frio County 4-H program.

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## *2010 Frio County 4-H Management Plan*

**Developed by: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent –Ag**

**Date of Summary: November 18, 2010**

### **Response:**

The Frio County 4-H Management Plan was developed to address the day to day needs of the Frio County 4-H program. This agent along with Junior and Adult volunteers was able to accomplish this by hosting:

- \*Monthly Club Meetings
- \*Project Meetings (County & State Validations)
- \*Monthly Newsletters and Calendars
- \*Office Web Page
- \*4-H Enrollment
- \*4-H Club Management requirements (Financial Review, Charter Renewal, Monthly Manager Reports, Volunteer Screening, Etc.)

A total of 162 4-H members participated in 4 different Clubs and 29 had livestock projects.

### **Result:**

Due to efforts in managing the Frio County 4-H program, the 4-H program continues to be the largest youth organization in the county. This year the 4-H enrollment grew by 10 percent. 4-H members and volunteers continued to work on providing a quality 4-H experience for all participants.

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## *2010 Frio County 4-H Projects & Curriculum Plan*

**Developed by: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent –Ag**

**Date of Summary: November 18, 2010**

### **Response:**

The Frio County 4-H Program worked with 4-H members, volunteers, and project leaders to increase 4-H participation thru traditional and non-traditional 4-H programs that include:

- \*Livestock Project Training
- \*Frio Co. Jr. Livestock Show
- \*Frio Co. Commercial Heifer Show
- \*San Antonio Livestock Show
- \*Houston Livestock Show
- \*Embryo Life Science Curriculum
- \*4-H and District and State Events

Over 471 contacts were made with the different projects and events that were offered.

### **Result:**

Due to an increase in 4-H participation we had more 4-H members participate in different events at the county level as well as the District and State level. The Frio County 4-H program continues to work with local school districts to help offer 4-H and promote the Frio County 4-H program.

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## *2010 Frio County Emergency Management Plan*

**Developed by: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent –Ag**

**Date of Summary: November 17, 2010**

### **Response:**

The Frio County Emergency Management Plan provides guidance for the employment of emergency resources under a local incident commands. Our local emergency management plan includes specific provisions for requesting and employing state resources to aid in managing and resolving situations for which local resources are inadequate. 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
- \*Patriotism thru Preparedness Program for 4-H families
- \*District 12 Emergency Management Strike Team

### **Result:**

This agent updated the County Emergency Management Coordinator on the Animal Issues Committee Plan, Office Emergency Management Preparedness Plan and the Emergency Management Training this agent has attended.

Over 90 million families received Disaster Preparedness information through the 4-H monthly newsletters. Over 3500 people were reached through the local newspaper circulation during Nation 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.

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# Texas AgriLife Extension Service Frio County

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