



## Extension Education in Kleberg-Kenedy County

# Making a Difference 2010

*Improving Lives.  
Improving Texas.*

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service has been dedicated to serving Texans

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.

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.

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:

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

## **Kleberg-Kenedy County – Summary of Educational Contact**

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- **Total Educational Programs Conducted: 173**
- **Office Contacts: 1,410**
- **Site Visits: 956**
- **Phone Calls: 2,003**
- **Mail/Email/Newsletter: 1,168**
- **Contacts by Volunteers: 1,550**
- **Web Contacts: 2,416**
- **News Articles: 32**
- **4-H Members: 600**
- **4-H Clubs: 22**
- **4-H Managers/Leaders: 39**
- **Curriculum Enrichment Participants (Youth): 619**
- **Special Interest Participants (Youth): 5,912**
- **Master Livestock Mentors: 5**
- **Master Gardeners: 9**
- **Kleberg Extension Education Association: 34**
- **Cash and In-Kind Donations: \$ 75,900**

## Kleberg-Kenedy County Program Highlights

### Traditional 4-H Program:

- 600 members (enrolled 71 new members).
- 39 Volunteer Leaders.
- 22 4-H Clubs (established two new 4-H Clubs).
- Provide project trainings to families.
- Top 5 projects in the county: Food/Nutrition, Community Service, Swine, Poultry, Leadership, & Goat
- Community Service:
  - \* collected over 550 pounds of non-perishable food items
  - \* provided 16 needy families with Thanksgiving Baskets
  - \* provided 58 foster kids with Christmas gifts
  - \* participated in the One day 4-H by asking the community for items (toiletries, clothes, money, etc.) to support the Women's Shelter and CASA.
  - \* "Operation Cook" was another successful project targeting soldiers in Iraq.
- Master Livestock Volunteers continue to provide leadership to livestock clinics. Clinics are geared for first and second year families. Families increase their level of knowledge in the respective project area.
- 39 Record books were submitted by local 4-H Members.
- Annual Awards Banquet recognizes outstanding members and all dedicated volunteers.

### Outreach (Special Interest and School Enrichment Programs):

- Gardening and Horticulture - utilize several curriculums like the Junior Master Gardener to provide informal hands-on education to Elementary Students. Topics include: planning, soil preparation (fertilizing and tilling), pest and weed control, harvesting, and meal preparation. Teachers compliment program because of the direct link to the TEKS requirements. At the conclusion of the harvest period, students are invited to showcase their produce and compete for awards at the Annual Garden Show and Awards Presentation.
- Summer Camp - a two month summer program for young people focused on conservation, recreation, and other life skills. Each day program begins with an obesity and diabetes component followed by a structured program supervised by Extension Faculty. Partnerships with Kleberg Parks Department and Communities in Schools are very important to the success of the program.
- South Texas Career EXPO - now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the Annual Career Expo continues to provide awareness to high school students in the Coastal Bend area on career choices. Students have the opportunity to discuss career interests, college preparations, and future job market trends with professionals.
- Wetlands in the Classroom (Conservation) - conservation was addressed in the 2000 community futures forum. This program targets elementary students in four major areas: types of wetlands, functions of wetlands, animal/wildlife habitats, and monitoring/management. Students have a better understanding of sound conservation and its importance to the Coastal Bend area. Teachers have indicated how the lessons cover TEKS requirements which further prepares students for the TAKS test. Additional information on including relevance, response, and results are discussed below.
- Patriotism through Preparedness (Emergency Management) - an Extension Banner program that provides emergency management education and disaster preparedness to elementary students.

Lessons included: disaster terminology, how to be prepared, and how to develop a family emergency plan. Additional information including relevance, response, and results are further addressed below.

- Math Mania - one day math tutoring targeting 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who are borderline in their TAKS test. Students are selected on recommendations of their respective math teacher. A community wide collaboration sponsored by Education Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

#### Agriculture and Natural Resources:

- Non-Commercial Pesticide Training and Testing - in partnership with Drs. Matocha and Dominquez hosted two pesticide trainings for Kleberg and Kenedy County, City of Kingsville, and Texas A&M University Kingsville employees.
- Farm Service Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service - collaboration of activities with producers
- Coastal Bend Soil Campaign - collaborated with Coastal Bend Counties to host Annual Soil Campaign for row crop and hay/pasture/range producers.
- News articles - provide weekly news column addressing issues related to row crop and hay/pasture/range producers, and lawn and garden clientele.
- Master Gardeners - partnership with volunteers who have successfully completed Master Gardener course to collaborate with initiating programs.

#### Partnership/Collaborators:

Texas A&M University Kingsville, Coastal Bend College, Kingsville ISD, Santa Gertrudis ISD, Epiphany Episcopal School, St. Gertrude Catholic School, Christian Life, Ricardo ISD, Riviera, ISD, Kenedy County Wide SD, Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Department of Agriculture, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, NRCS, FSA, Brookshire Foundation, HEB, Kleberg Parks Department, Kleberg Human Services, City-County Health Department, King Ranch Institute of Ranch Management, Gulf Coast Co-op, Communities in School, Kleberg Trap and Skeet Range, L.E. Ramey Golf Course,

## **2010 Kleberg-Kenedy County WETLANDS in the Classroom (194315) – Outcome**

Developed by:

Frank Escobedo

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

### **Relevance:**

Identified as a 2000 TCFF issue, sound conservation education is an important area of concern especially in a coastal community like Kleberg and Kenedy Counties. Coastal counties provide a beneficial impact to numerous ecological systems/habitats. This action plan proposes to design and implement educational activities that will allow young people to make sound environmental decisions.

### **Response:**

Target Audience

4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

Additional descriptive information, if any, on Target Audience:

Approximately 55 students from Santa Gertrudis Elementary participated in this curriculum enrichment program, Wetlands in the Classroom.

### Educational Response

- \* Lesson 1 - Event date: 10/15/2010
- \* Lesson 2 - Event date: 10/22/2010
- \* Lesson 3 - Event date: 10/29/2010
- \* Lesson 4 - Event date: 11/05/2010
- \* Lesson 5 - Event date: 11/12/2010

Additional descriptive information, if any, on Educational Response:

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

### Partnerships and Collaborators

- \* Independent School District (Santa Gertrudis ISD)
- \* Natural Resource Conservation Service
- \* Texas A&M University - Kingsville (Wildlife Society)
- \* Local Media (Kingsville Record)

### Evaluation Strategy

Ultimate client change: Knowledge

Additional descriptive information, if any, of Evaluation Strategy:

The instrument utilized to measure the knowledge of 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in the Wetlands in the Classroom Curriculum Enrichment program was a Pre-, Post-, and Long Term Post Test. The Pre-Knowledge Test was administered to the students by their respective science teacher prior to Lesson 1. The Post-Knowledge Test was administered at the conclusion of the lessons. The Long Term Post-Test was administered approximately two weeks after the conclusion of the lessons. Questions for the instrument were taken from the Marshmallow Project Curriculum. 61 fourth through sixth graders completed the Pre-Knowledge Test, 57 completed the Post-Knowledge Test, and 63 completed the Long Term Post Knowledge Test. Once evaluations (pre-, post-, and long term post) were matched, only results from 55 students will be used in this outcome summary.

### Customer Satisfaction / Clientele Feedback Results

Teachers continue to compliment the curriculum/program as a re-enforcement resource to topics being covered year round in the classroom. They also indicate that much of the information relates back to their TEKS curriculum/plans which help students during TAKS Testing. Students liked the interaction the program offers like the Metaphor and Who Fits Here Activities. School principals support Extension efforts in these types of programs.

### **Results:**

Instrument used to determine level of knowledge was the Pre-, Post-, and Long Term Post Test. Questions on instrument reflected four sections: Components and Types of a Wetlands (Lesson 1), Functions of a Wetland (Lesson 2), Animals/Wildlife Habitats (Lesson 3), and Testing, Monitoring, and Management of a Wetland (Lesson 4). The instrument had approximately 3 to 4 questions from each lesson. In regards to Lesson 1: Santa Gertrudis Fourth graders increased their knowledge by 93%, Santa Gertrudis Fifth graders increased their knowledge by 89%, and Santa Gertrudis Sixth graders increased their knowledge by 88%. Lesson 2: Fourth grade increased their knowledge by 95%, Fifth grade by 91%, and Sixth grade by 89%, Lesson 3: The fourth grade students increased their knowledge by 94%, fifth grade students by 95%, and the sixth grade students by 91%, Lesson 4: Forth graders increased their knowledge by 94%, fifth graders by 91%, and sixth graders by 90%. Overall results/school (comparison of pre-, post-, and long term post- tests): The fourth graders increased their knowledge by 94%. The fifth graders increased knowledge by 92%. The sixth graders increased knowledge by 90%.

### Future Plans:

#### Benefits / Impacts

Science 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. This continues to enhance classroom performance by the students.

## Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the following schools and partners for their continued support: Santa Gertrudis (Mrs. Garcia and Mrs. Flores), NRCS (Mr. Schmidt), TAMUK Wildlife Society (Dr. Henke), and Kingsville Record (Mrs. Salinas).

## Future Program Actions

Program is well received by students, teachers, school officials, and partners. In 2011, a consistent effort will continue to incorporate a field trip to a wetland area (Baffin Bay) and have students observe what was discussed in the classroom. This will be challenge because school policy and transportation will be limiting factors.

## **2010 Kleberg-Kenedy County Patriotism through Preparedness: Make a Plan; Take a Stand (193692) - Outcome**

Developed by:  
Frank Escobedo

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. Furthermore, the intent is to establish a basic level of knowledge and readiness of 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  
Youth (Ages 9-10)

Additional descriptive information, if any, on Target Audience:

Sixty-nine 4<sup>th</sup> (fourth) grade students from Kenedy County Wide, Ricardo, and Riviera ISDs participated in this curriculum enrichment program, Patriotism through Preparedness: Make a Plan, Take a Stand.

### **Educational Response**

- \* Teacher Training [773213] Occurred: April 30, 2010
- \* Patriotism through Preparedness - Lesson 1 [773204] Occurred: May 10, 2010
- \* Patriotism through Preparedness - Lesson 2 [773208] Occurred: May 13, 2010
- \* Patriotism through Preparedness - Lesson 3 [773205] Occurred: May 17, 2010
- \* Patriotism through Preparedness - Lesson 4 [773206] Occurred: May 21, 2010

Additional descriptive information, if any, on Educational Response:

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

### **Partnerships and Collaborators**

- \* Independent School Districts (Kenedy County Wide, Ricardo, and Riviera)
- \* County Emergency Management Coordinator
- \* Local Media (Kingsville Record)

## Evaluation Strategy

Ultimate client change: Knowledge

Additional descriptive information, if any, of Evaluation Strategy:

Pre-Test (Knowledge based) was administered to students prior to the 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. Ms. Jean Suh, Extension Assistant-Evaluation, provided survey evaluation data from Pre and Post Tests.

## Customer Satisfaction/Clientele Feedback Results

Teachers complimented program in preparation for Hurricane Season. They also indicated how terminology met TEKS requirements.

## **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. The following reflects an overall comparison from each of the participating schools on how participants did from the time they took the pre-test (prior to initiating lessons) to the time they took the post-test (conclusion of the program): Kenedy County Wide (Sarita) School increased their knowledge by 91%, Ricardo increased their knowledge by 86%, and Riviera increased their overall knowledge by 92%. 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: Kenedy County Wide (Mrs. Brown), Ricardo (Ms. Favors, Mrs. Perez, Mrs. Ley), Riviera (Mrs. Fehrenbacher), Emergency Management Coordinator (Mr. Sanchez), Extension Organizational Support (Ms. Suh), and Kleberg-Kenedy County Youth Program Assistant (Mr. Farias).

## 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.

# Texas AgriLife Extension Service Kleberg-Kenedy County

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