



Extension Education in Zavala 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

Zavala County – Summary of Educational Contact

√ Office Contact From Office visits-----	712
√ Radio Programs -----	20
√ Printed News Media Releases-----	156
√ Printed News Media Outlets-----	4
√ Adjunct Faculty Agreements(School Districts)-----	3
√ 4-H and Youth Development-----	1,640
√ Telephone Calls Office and Cellular Communication-----	1,245
√ Agriculture and Natural Resources Related Contacts -----	991
√ Newsletters/mail/e-mail and cellular text-----	520
√ Site Visits in county-----	640
√ Site Visits out of county regional educational efforts-----	510
√ Contacts with other agencies and collaborators-----	242
√ Volunteers-----	240
√ Contacts made by trained volunteers-----	910
√ International Contacts Agriculture/Natural Resources-----	25

Major Educational Programs, Events and Projects Conducted in Zavala County-2010

- May 2010 Results Demonstration to determine shredding/mowing recommendations to minimize the movement and migration of the glassy-winged sharpshooter, *Homalodisca vitripennis* (Germer)-(the main vector of the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*, a plant pathogen that causes a variety of plant diseases, including phony peach disease of peach and Pierce's disease of grapes) Note: Project Completion July 2011.
- September 2010 Agricultural Producers Workshop Addressing Pasture/Rangeland Rainfall Insurance Programs
- October 2010-February 2011 Results Demonstration on spinach yields of Fresh Market Spinach at various plant population densities.
- October 2010-February 2011 Results Demonstration on spinach yields of Processing Spinach at various plant population densities.
- March-July 2010-Results Demonstration to determine potential yields of new triploid(seedless) watermelon varieties and their potential for commercial production in the area. View data at: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/varietytrials/index.html>
- March-July 2010-Results Demonstration to determine potential yields of new hybrid watermelon varieties and their potential for commercial production in the Winter Garden area. View data at: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/varietytrials/index.html>
- November-February 2010-2011 Results Demonstration to determine the effects of New fungicides on white rust disease in spinach.
- March 2010-Agricultural Producers Private Applicator Pesticide Training and Testing
- December 2010-Continuing Education training for Private Pesticide Applicators License Holders
- International Spinach Conference for Spinach growers, shippers, seed developers and marketing-Fayetteville Arkansas
- October/November 2010-Food Safety Training for Agricultural Workers(Field and packing shed employees)
- June 2010 Results Demonstration to determine the effects of Spike® 80 DF by helicopter application for fenceline brush control.
- June 2010-Results Demonstration to determine the effects of Spike® 80 DF by ground rig application to control brush species on fencelines.
- January 2010-Animal Issues Emergency Management Strategies Development For Submission and inclusion in the Zavala County Emergency Management Plan.

- December 2010-Validation of Stakeholder Issues related to Agriculture and Natural Resources in Zavala County
- Year round-Livestock Management During Drought-Producer Mass Media Educational Releases



Watermelon Variety Trials are essential to Study various watermelon varieties for their potential for Commercial production in Zavala County and The Winter Garden Area of Texas.



For the past 6 spinach growing seasons Spinach Fungicide Evaluations have been conducted in Zavala County. These evaluations are expected to continue as long as new fungicide products are developed by various companies and make them available for spinach producers to use who face an ongoing struggle to control white rust, downy mildew and blue mold, all detrimental diseases of spinach.



Major Educational Programs, Events and Projects Conducted in Zavala County- 2010

- Annual Junior Livestock Show and Animal Project Sale by 4-H Members In Zavala County
- Countywide 4-H Club Officer Elections and Officer Training
- 4-H Expansion Efforts Through 4-H Clover Kid Program participation
- 4-H Promotion Through National 4-H Week Proclamation Signed By Zavala County Commissioners Court during a regular meeting of the court.
- 4-H Lamb and Goat Animal Project Clinic and Validation
- 4-H Steer project clinic and validation
- 4-H Swine Project clinic and validation process
- 4-H Club Managers and Leaders Training on club management, financial accountability and youth development issues
- 4-H Volunteer Training on out of county events and contest
- Major Show Entry Sign up night
- 4-H Higher Education Savings and Financial Management
- Zavala County Youth Board and Zavala County Farm Bureau Jointly plan, implement and evaluate the 2010 Zavala County Ag. Literacy Fair .
- 4-H Connect Training for 4-H families for 4-H enrollment purposes
- Bi-Monthly 4-H Newsletters and information pieces
- Monthly 4-H Club meetings
- 4-H Community Service Project-One Day 4-H
- 4-H animal Project progress clinic
- Clover Kids Participation with companion rabbit projects to explore 4-H opportunities
- Agent professional improvement by attending 4-H Spring and Fall Faculty Conferences



August-2010-Potential 4-H members participate in the Annual Zavala County 4-H Recruitment and 4-H promotion night. Each potential member received a Texas AgriLife Extension bag with information on 4-H enrollment process, projects, activities and events for 2010.



***4-H Leadership Development and 4-H Officer Training**

Training conducted for club officers to prepare them for the new 4-H year. Topics include: officer responsibilities, parliamentary procedures, club program ideas, recreation, team building, etc. Officers teams will met with Club Managers to plan for 4-H year including club program, budget and community service projects. Here are the results of the event.

***4-H Members and volunteer Recognition:** Each club in the county recognized volunteers who have assisted in managing, and supervised 4-H club officers with projects and club management. 4-H members were also recognized for their accomplishments in each club.

***Higher Education Savings and 4-H members financial planning.** For years 4-H youth involved with animal projects gain financial resources from the participation and sale of animal projects in Zavala County. The Zavala County Livestock Show board, 4-H Adult Leaders and 4-H and Youth Development Committee members are concerned that many participants in this program may not be utilizing these funds for planning for future use for educational purposes. On average each 4-H member receives \$1,200.00 for animals sold. The intent is to identify new 4-H members that are participating in the county show, determine from interviews with parents if they do not have a savings or checking account for their youngsters for this purpose. Those that do not will receive training and educational programs to teach the parents and members alike how to establish a Higher Education Fund Account and fund these accounts from the proceeds of the sale of these 4-H animal projects. To date 95% of new 4-H members who select, show and sale a 4-H animal project in the Zavala County Junior Fair have established a Higher Education Fund Account utilizing the funds received from this event in January, representing over \$78,000.00 dollars for 4-H families in Zavala County.

***Agricultural Literacy Education.**

Even in Rural Zavala County today's youth are further removed from farming, they do not understand the importance of agriculture and how it impacts their daily lives. The Zavala County Science of Agriculture (Ag Literacy/Awareness) program targets 4th and 5th grade students and teachers and provides the following educational components: Educational support materials on Science of Agriculture, Ag. fair field trip, pre- and post-tests, teacher evaluation, recognition certificates and information about 4-H opportunities for the participants and parents. The Zavala County youth board was instrumental in helping organize and conduct this event with assistance from the Zavala County Farm Bureau. In March 4, 2010 460 4th, 5th and 6 grade students attended the event from all three communities in Zavala county which represented 3 school districts and 78 teachers and staff.



Pictured above is the Batesville 4-H Club. Under the leadership of the club manager and numerous volunteers the club participated in the One Day 4-H Community Service Project. They cleaned up the Batesville community by picking up trash, erasing graffiti from street signs in the community.

All participants were provided with a One Day 4-H t-shirt, certificates of participation and news media releases were prepared by the Extension Agent and club managers which were released to area media for publication.



Major Educational Programs, Events and Projects Conducted in Zavala County-2010

- During January-May the Zavala County office of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service established a partnership and a mutual collaboration agreement with the United States Census Bureau with to promote and encourage Zavala County families to complete census documents to insure financial resource availability to the county which is based on census numbers.

- National Preparedness week

During September-National Preparedness Month the Zavala County Extension agent provided outreach education to families, communities, businesses, and producers that will help them reduce their risk as they prepare for, mitigate for, and recover from disasters. A booth was set up at the Zavala County Courthouse during national preparedness week and over 160 “Prepare for the unexpected” brochures were distributed to those who visited the display.

- Office Disaster Preparedness and Zavala County Emergency Management

Texas is subject to numerous disasters, whether they be natural, accidental or intentional. These hazards are somewhat unpredictable. Texas in recent years has experienced the effects of two hurricanes, drought, and numerous wildfires. Emergency Management is an organized analysis, planning, decision making, and assignment of available resources to prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from the effects of all hazards.

- The Zavala County Animal Issues Committee was involved in Emergency Management planning that will support the State of Texas Emergency Management Plan and the local Zavala County Emergency Management Plan. Local emergency management plans provide guidance for the employment of emergency resources under a local incident commander. Local emergency management plans include specific provisions for requesting and employing state resources to aid in managing and resolving situations for which local resources are inadequate. The Zavala County Extension Agent has completed NIMS(National Incident Management System) training including IS-100, IS-200, IS-300, NIMS 700 and IS-800

- The Zavala County Extension agent continues to serve as President of the USDA Resource Conservation and Development Service Area. The purpose of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program is to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in designated RC&D area which includes Zavala County. As a result over \$10, 000.00 grants have been awarded to Zavala County non-profit organizations for various projects including economic development feasibility studies in agriculture value added, new and emerging industries and other economic development needs.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service Zavala County

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