



Making a Difference... ...in Atascosa County

District Extension Newsletter for Commissioners' Courts in South Texas



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Sciences



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In 2007, Texas Cooperative Extension celebrated the 100th anniversary of the County Extension Agent and of the Texas 4-H Program. In 2008, we launched a new initiative that included a name change to AgriLife Extension. I want to thank you for your continued support of Extension and it's many programs. I hope you find this newsletter helpful in updating you about the difference that Extension education is making in Atascosa County and the public benefits these differences mean economically, socially, and environmentally to the community. We feel strongly that these preventive, educational approaches to community issues provide present and long term value to the County and its residents. Again, thank you for your support and please call whenever we may be of service.

Dr. Ruben J. Saldaña
District Extension Administrator

Supporting Agriculture and Natural Resources

Atascosa County participated and hosted several events this year, one of them being the Landowners Educational Series, which are a series of 4 educational meetings were conducted in November and December, topics included Enhancing Wildlife, Growing Fruit & Nut Trees, Managing Weeds and Brush, and Oak Wilt. Total of 71 attended the series. Plans for next educational series includes programs on Pasture Overseeding, Wildlife Feral Hogs, Tree Care, Water Resource Management. The South Texas Peanut Growers held a South Texas Peanut Growers Annual Tour of Peanut variety, Herbicide & Insecticide Test Plots was September 18, 2008 in Frio County. 51 attended and participated. Lastly, The South Texas Buckskin & Bobwhite Brigades have been motivating youth about wildlife conservation for more than a decade, more than 600 youth have marched through the program in South Texas since 1997. In Pre-test Post-test - scores Pre: 46.02, Post: 75.10 increase of 29.08%.

Strengthening Families & Improving Health

Wise Up Financial Classes -State Pilot Program - 8 CEA-FCS agents across the state participated. A total of 21 Head Start parents (from Atascosa, Karnes & Wilson Counties) completed 8 classes with 12 parents never missing a single class! The classes covered everything you wanted to know -about "keeping money" in your pocket. Pre-post tests conducted - as well as a 3 hour follow-up "DUMP THE DEBT" workshop.

Adult Leadership-The Leming-Countywide EE Club promotes the welfare of the family, home & community; works together to develop leadership skills and provides education in the county. Members average 3,000 community service volunteer hours (yearly) and support many county, state and international projects. The EE spring salad luncheon is always a big hit that supports 2 EE scholarships!

The Fred Project -(Father's Reading Every Day) has been successful for many years. We partner with Head Start and this year 69 dads and uncles completed the 4 week project -- with both pre and post tests turned in. Results show the value of the time spent with the "male relative" and how it encourages the child to read and be a better student in the future.



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2008 Educational Outreach

Education in Group Settings	
Number of Sessions	112
Number Contacts	15,192
Hrs Instruction	18,676
Education for Individuals	
Office Visits	97
Site Visits	2,778
Phone Consultation	147
Mail/Email	14,018
By Volunteers	1,402

Visit us at:
<http://atascosa-tx.tamu.edu>

2008 4-H Enrollment

Club Members	287
School Enrichment	1,360
Special Interests	1,588
Total Enrollment	3,235



ATASCOSA COUNTY - JOURDANTON

Community Development & Economic Development

There were 500 "Planning for the Unexpected" brochures were shared at the Texas Size Health Fair. Retama Manor Nursing Center (Jourdanton) coordinated and surprised the Extension office with almost 100 hand made teddy bears. The residents wanted to be apart of the teddy bears that went to Nicaragua. Both agents work with many countywide agencies. Atascosa County also held a Community Service project, where 197 Shoebox Christmas gifts, 400 beaded bracelets and necklaces, and 571 hand made teddy bears were sent to children of need in Nicaragua. A total of 3,800 "4-H Hug 4 U" Teddy Bears have been made as of January 2009. 4-Hers held a salad supper for Relay for Life, donated canned goods/personal hygiene items for Atascosa Family Crisis Center, and supported the annual Atascosa County Thanksgiving Dinner and ACCEPT.

4-H & Youth Development

Atascosa County worked with committees, agencies and Task Forces. These core groups give leadership opportunities, idea sharing, and planning for educational events and tours. The programs are strong because of the interest in coming together to share ideas. The annual Culinary Arts Educational Tour for 4-Hers at St. Phillips College has become a highlight of "hands on" learning. The 2008 Ag Science Fair hosted 4th Grade students from Jourdanton, Pleasanton, Charlotte, Poteet and Tri-City schools, 531- 4th grade students, 33 teachers and 37 volunteers. Educational topics included the mobile dairy classroom,



A member of the Atascosa Shooting Sports program competes at the District 12 match.

Agent Recognition/Future Plans

- STATE Communicator Award - Periodical Publication - TEAM
- Texas Association of Extension 4-H Agents - 2007
- NATIONAL / STATE— Distinguished Service Awards
- National Association of Extension 4-H Agents 2007
- Texas Association of Extension 4-H Agents 2007
- District 12 - Marketing and Interpretation - TEAM AWARD - 2007
- District 12 - Excellence in FCS Programming:
- Fred Project & Financial Education - 2007
- District 12 - Excellence in 4-H and Youth Development
- South Texas Brigades - 2007



Agent Joe Taylor teaching youth during South Texas Buckskin Brigades