



Making a Difference... ...in Dimmit County

District Extension Newsletter for Commissioners' Courts in South Texas



Richard D. Griffin
Agriculture & Natural Resources

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 Dimmit 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 Saldaña
District Extension Administrator



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Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dimmit County Extension offered a Non Commercial Applicator training to members from the Texas Animal Health Commission. A total on 8 individuals were given 2 days of training on Laws, General, Animal Pests, and math, in order to assist them with the testing that they were to conduct. All of the individuals were successfully able to pass all three facets of the exam, and gain a Non Commercial/Governmental license.

Community & Economic Development

Dimmit, Zavala, Maverick and Frio Counties partnered together to provide valuable training to packing shed food handlers in the form of sanitation, and cleanliness in an attempt to get them GAPS Certified. This certification will allow packing sheds the opportunity to market their food products to retailers that would otherwise not purchase their food items due to food safety practices. Individuals were provided training in either English or Spanish (Depending on their fluencies) and given an exam to measure retention of the curriculum. All individuals past the exam and received their certification in Dimmit County for hygiene and sanitation.



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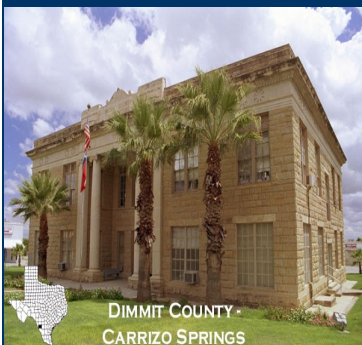
**2008
Educational Outreach**

Education in Group Settings	
Number of Sessions	139
Number Contacts	4,100
Hrs Instruction	5,663
Education for Individuals	
Office Visits	11,996
Site Visits	3,000
Phone Consultation	867
Mail/Email	454
By Volunteers	732

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

2008 4-H Enrollment

Club Members	137
Total Enrollment	137



4-H & Youth Development

Dimmit County 4-H continues to have involvement Most of the District 4-H Events. Currently we have 145 youth enrolled in the 3 4-H Clubs form 3rd grade to the ages of 19. With the addition on the Clover Kid Program, 25 younger members are waiting in the wings to become regular 4-H members. The Dimmit County Jr. Livestock Show allowed clover kids the opportunity to showcase a rabbit project at our local county fair, and all of the youth are honored for their hard work with a plaque. The number of youths continue to increase, and thus our enrolment is increasing with new members. Also, 20 youth took part in a program entitled quality counts that taught youth the importance of the red meat market and character education. Youth learned proper locations on to which shots were to be placed, along with how to read a medicine label, and the impotence of following the label. This six week course taught youth the importance of Respect, Responsibility, Citizenship, Caring, Fairness, and Trust, as it relates to both their livestock and themselves. Youth were given a pre and post test to determine knowledge gained where as a 40% increase in knowledge was seen in scores pre verses post.



La Bandera Ranch was host to the South Texas Buckskin Brigade, a youth leadership camp focused on wildlife and natural resources.