

AgriLIFE EXTENSION  
Texas A&M System



## Extension Education in Duval County

Making a difference  
2009

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.  
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Improving Lives.  
Improving Texas.

AgriLife Extension 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. AgriLife 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 program specialists, professional educators, and some 98,000 trained volunteers, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service 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 AgriLife Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

Texans turn to AgriLife 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.

These are just a few highlights of AgriLife Extension's impacts on **Duval** County and its people:

## **Duval County – Summary of Educational Contacts**

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- Total Contacts – 11,206
- Contact Hours via Educational Programs – 12,720
- 4-H Members - 145
- 4-H Leaders - 35
- 4-H Clubs - 6
- Curriculum Enrichment Participants -56
- Office Contacts -143
- Site Visits - 825
- Phone Calls - 188
- Newsletter/Mail/E-Mail Contacts - 667
- Web Contacts - 204
- Radio Programs - 0
- News Releases - 10



## **2009 White-Tailed Deer Management Outcome Summary**

### **Relevance:**

Duval County is in the heart of the south Texas brush country where deer are plentiful and of good quality. Landowners are managing for quality white-tailed deer for the purpose of leasing their respective property to hunters for additional income.

### **Response:**

The participants at the 2009 White-Tailed Deer Educational Seminar included thirty-five landowners, County Extension Agents and USDA employees interested in white-tailed deer management from Duval, Jim Wells, Jim Hogg, Frio, and Hidalgo Counties. This event took place in Duval County at the Garza Ranch in Benavides, Texas. The participants were placed in teams and helped each other to learn topics such as Scoring antlers after harvest, Aging through tooth wear, Scoring on the hoof, and Identification of browse plants that deer prefer when range conditions are good. The participants listened to a speaker and watched a power point presentation on a particular subject, that was followed by a “hands-on” clinic where the participants were given deer mounts and deer jaws and did the procedure. The guest speakers were our local Parks and Wildlife Biologist, the Duval County Game Warden, and the Wildlife Specialist from the NRCS. The event took place from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on November 6, 2009.

### **Results:**

The participants were given a pre-test on the particular subject matter before the power point was presented. The participants then did the “hands-on” clinic on that topic. The post-test was then given to the participants. The attendee’s knowledge level was very low on the pre-test with the exception of two participants. Thirty three out of thirty-five individuals had an increase in knowledge of 100%. There was a 40% increase in knowledge on the tooth wear subject on the yearling and two old deer. The older deer showed very little increase in knowledge as more time is needed for that subject matter. Through a verbal method of reviewing the audience on the browse plants, the audience noticeably gained knowledge on the plants covered in the field.

### **Acknowledgements:**

Larry Perez, County Extension Agent, Rogelio Mercado, County Extension Agent, Daniel Kunz, Parks and Wildlife Biologist and NRCS Wildlife Specialist.



## **2009 Duval County Agriculture Plan**

**Developed By: Samuel D. Gavito, Duval County Extension Agent-Ag**

### **Response:**

The Duval County Agriculture Plan provided several educational programs for landowners in Duval and surrounding counties. The committees involved with these programs include the Leadership Advisory Board, Ag and Natural Resources Committee, and the Beautification Committee. The programs included the following:

- 2009 Fever Tick Seminar
  - Dr. Hillman from the Texas Animal Health Commission gave an update to 55 people from Duval and Jim Hogg counties on fever tick, trichomoniasis and swine flu.
- 2009 Water Well Screening
  - Total of 106 water samples:
    - 16 positives FC (15.09%)
    - 3.25 ppm ave nitrate
    - 937.018 ppm Salinity
    - .48 ppb Arsenic
- 2009 Hay Nutrient & Fiber Testing
  - Total of 15 Hay entries
    - Tested for protein and fiber from laboratory in College Station
- 2009 White-Tailed Deer Management
  - The target audience was landowners interested in white-tailed deer management from Duval, Hidalgo, Him Hogg and Jim Wells counties as this is a multi-county program.
- 2009 Chemical Control Demonstration on Huisache
  - Total of 14 plots were treated



## **2009 Youth Wildlife Educational Outcome Summary**

### **Relevance:**

As today's youth are further removed from agriculture and natural resources, they do not understand the importance of agriculture and how it impacts their daily lives. This program targets 10<sup>th</sup> grade students and provides the following educational components: educational support materials on wildlife, wildlife field trips, pre and post tests, instructor evaluation, recognition certificates and information on wildlife opportunities for the future.

### **Response:**

The 10<sup>th</sup> grade students were part of a "hands-on" educational clinic on white-tailed deer management. The topics included scoring deer antlers after harvest, aging through tooth wear after harvest, scoring antlers on the hoof, and browse plant id. The education was provided by experts in their respective field such as game wardens, biologists and specialists from the USDA. The game warden also presented a thirty minute program on the consequences of misbehavior such as poaching. The game warden also brought a trailer with mounts of animals that had been confiscated from poachers for the students to view. Animals included hawks, exotics, deer, and felines. The presenters also gave a 5 minute talk on the education they received after high school in order for them to pursue their respective careers.

### **Partnerships and Collaborators:**

- Independent School District
- Law Enforcement Agencies (Local)
- Media (Local newspapers)
- NRCS
- Texas A&M University – Kingsville
- Texas Parks and Wildlife

### **Outcome Results:**

The pre and post tests along with the "hands-on" clinic showed there was an increase in knowledge by all the students of nearly 70%. They all missed all of the questions in the pre-test on scoring, and they all received a 100 on the post test on scoring antlers. The aging by tooth wear showed about a 40% increase in knowledge by all of the students on 1 ½ year old deer and 2 ½ year olds.

### **Benefits/Impacts:**

The students learned about deer and their habitat, but also learned from each presenter the importance of staying in school and get a degree that will help them pursue a career in wildlife.

### **Acknowledgements:**

The Duval Parks and Wildlife Biologist and Game Warden were instrumental in assisting me and our committee with this event.



Students from the Benavides High School tenth grade class attending Youth Wildlife Education Camp



Participants at the Youth Wildlife Educational Camp score deer antlers.



## **2009 Duval Youth NEFE Outcome Summary**

### **Relevance:**

The 2009 Duval Youth NEFE Program will assist 12<sup>th</sup> graders attending the Benavides High School on future financial planning. Seniors graduating from high school will benefit from this financial planning course as they are preparing for the future in which they will be handling their own finances.

### **Educational Response:**

Mrs. Emma Lou Leal and the Duval Extension Agent would provide educational subject matter from the NEFE High School Financial Planning curriculum to the seniors attending the Benavides High School twice a week during the second six weeks in the fall. The subject matter covered included topics on setting smart goals, costs of living on your own, credit card interest and various types of interest charged on loans, credit reports, budgets, investing and saving, and careers with benefits.

### **Outcome Results:**

The seniors were surveyed with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service Satisfaction Survey for Youth and the Participant Survey after the course was covered at the end of the six weeks. The Participant Survey questions covered their level of understanding before and after the program on cost of living on your own, the importance of making a budget, the importance of paying yourself first, level of understanding of interest charges, understanding the importance of saving for retirement and for a rainy day, the importance of choosing a career with benefits, and understanding how the credit bureau and credit score may be important to you. Eighty five percent of the students surveyed answered "probably will" or "definitely will" to the survey. On the Satisfaction Survey for Youth, a third of the students felt the course was completely satisfactory, a third felt it was slightly to somewhat satisfactory and a third felt that it was not satisfactory at all.

### **Benefits/Impacts:**

The 12<sup>th</sup> grade students have a better understanding of money management and are better prepared for their financial future.

### **Acknowledgements:**

- Benavides Independent School District



## **2009 Duval County 4-H Projects and Curriculum**

**Developed By: Samuel D. Gavito, Duval County Extension Agent-Ag**

### **Response:**

The Duval County 4-H in cooperation with 4-H members, volunteers, and project leaders increased 4-H participation with 4-H programs which included:

- 2009 Proper Drug Usage in 4-H Animal Projects
  - 25 adults leaders, Ag teachers, and county extension agents participated in this clinic
- 2009 Horsemanship Clinic
  - 13 participants over a two-day period
- 2009 Duval Classic Prospect Show
  - Over a two-day period 200 4-H and FFA members exhibited their respective animal projects
- 2009 Shooting Sports “Friends of NRA Banquet and Fundraiser”
  - 200 people attended from 8 surrounding counties
  - Fundraiser raised \$47,000 for “Friends of NRA”
- 2009 Shooting Sports Grants
  - Duval Shooting Complex Grant – Requested \$23, 550 for range improvements from “Friends of NRA”
  - Duval 4-H Shooting Club Grant – Requested \$15,000 for shooting equipment from “Friends of NRA”
- Shooting Sports Adult Certification
  - 7 adults were certified to become shooting sports instructors
- Sheep and Goat Clinic
- Duval County Fair in San Diego, Tx
- Freer County Fair in Freer, Tx
- San Antonio Livestock Show
- Houston Livestock Show
- 4-H District Events

### **Result:**

The Duval County 4-H program continues to increase in members due to an increase in programs. This year a new project club was chartered due to the emerging youth desire in shooting sports. Members participated in different events at both the county and district levels. The Duval County Extension Service also continues to work with the local school districts to help them offer youth enrichment curriculum.





## **2009 4-H Leadership Development Plan**

**Developed By: Samuel D. Gavito**

### **Relevance:**

Texas needs youth who have experience in leadership personally. 4-Hers from Duval County will attend various leadership type events. This will include club manager and officer trainings so they can be clear as to their duties and responsibilities.

### **Response:**

Club officers went through a mock meeting to practice their respective duties and were given handouts to review. The Duval Extension Agent attended a professional.....

- 2009 Horticulture Training (April 15, 2009)
- 2009 Club Officer Training (September 28, 2009)

### **Result:**

The result of the Leadership Development Plan is that Duval 4-hers are preparing and conducting the 4-H meetings along with the assistance of the club managers and county extension agent. Meetings are conducted much better because of their knowledge in parliamentary procedure.

### **Acknowledgements:**

- Duval County Club Managers



## **2009 Duval County 4-H Management Plan**

**Developed By: Samuel D. Gavito, Duval County Extension Agent-Ag**

### **Relevance:**

4-H Clubs in Duval County can be improved on in areas of communication with the local Extension office on club meetings, sign-in sheets, fundraising, etc.

### **Response:**

The target audience in the Duval County Management Plan are the 4-H club managers, project leaders and youth. The club manager training this year was a one-on-one individual training. Each club manager had different issues to address for their training.

- 2009 Club Manager Meeting and Training (August 29, 2009)
- Monthly Club Meetings
- Project Meetings (County and State Validations)
- Monthly Newsletters, Calendar and Flyers
- Duval County Extension website
- 4-H Enrollment
- 4-H Club Management requirements (Annual Financial Review, Charter Renewal)

### **Results:**

As a result of a sound 4-H management plan, the Duval County 4-H program has been growing over the last two years in club membership with youth and adult leaders. Duval County 4-H has added a new project club this year in shooting sports.



**2009 Duval County Expanding the Local Quality Experience Plan  
Developed By: Samuel D. Gavito, Duval County Extension Agent-Ag**

**Response:**

The Duval County 4-H has expanded partly because of newsletters on 4-H events and fliers promoting 4-H which were distributed to families in Duval County. Announcements were also made at the schools through the cooperation of the principals.

- Strengthen and/or Develop New Clubs (September 1, 2009)
- New 4-H Family Orientation (September 5, 2009)
- 4-H Kick-off event (September 5, 2009)
- 4-H Newsletters
- 4-H Flyers

**Result:**

As a result, we have a new shooting sports project club in Duval County with seven new project leaders and about 35-40 new kids enrolled in 4-H.

**Acknowledgements:**

- Club managers
- Adult leaders
- School districts

**Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
Duval County**

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