

**South
District
12**



Making a Difference... ...in Frio County

District Extension Newsletter for Commissioners' Courts in South Texas



Jaime Lopez
Agriculture &
Natural Resources

In 2007, AgriLife Extension celebrated the 100th anniversary of the County Extension Agent and of the Texas 4-H Program. I want to thank you for your continued support of Extension, but more importantly, for the opportunity it provides us to serve the people of Frio County. I hope you find this newsletter helpful in updating you about the difference that Extension education is making in Frio 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.

Ruben J. Saldaña
District Extension Administrator

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Frio County AgriLife Extension Service participated in the 2008 District 12 Food Safety GAP's Initiative outcome program plan. Agents in the winter garden area have conducted Food Safety Training for vegetable handles in Pearsall, Uvalde, Crystal City, Carrizo Springs and Eagle Pass. Food Safety educational programs have been conducted in English and Spanish. Over 150 employees have been reached. We have also started a water sample testing result demonstration to test for e-coli 1603 on water being used for irrigation on fresh vegetables. Frio County has submitted over 12 water samples and no samples have tested above the 7 threshold of 257 units of e-coli 1603/100ml of water samples. Frio County AgriLife Extension continues to participate in the State Peanut Breeding Program with Texas AgriLife Research and Texas Peanut Producers Board, and as a result of this program, numerous peanut varieties have been released for commercial production. This year TAM OL07 peanut variety was released to local farmers. Area producers have also benefited from the South Texas Annual Peanut Tour where they receive most of the updated information in peanut production. They also get to see the peanut breeding program, variety trails, herbicide trails, and fungicide trails first hand during the annual peanut tour.



Agent Jaime Lopez during Field Day in Frio County



**THE TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH &
EXTENSION CENTER AT WESLACO**

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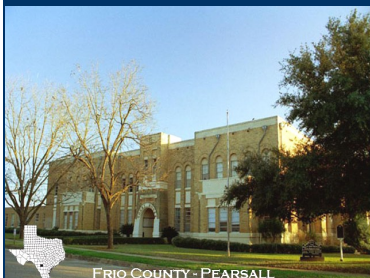
2008 Educational Outreach

Education in Group Settings	
Number of Sessions	119
Number Contacts	4,248
Hrs Instruction	5,207
Education for Individuals	
Office Visits	520
Site Visits	660
Phone Consultation	1,133
Mail/Email	260
By Volunteers	591

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

2008 4-H Enrollment

Club Members	145
School Enrichment	161
Special Interest Projects	58
Total Enrollment	364



Frio County - PEARSALL

4-H & Youth Development

The Frio County Youth Leadership Advisory Board sponsored the 2008 Frio County Safety Day on July 8, 2008. The program is also sponsored by an in-kind grant from the Progressive Agriculture Foundation. This year we had 59 youth and 30 volunteers attend the Safety Day. Local cooperators included: Medina Electric Cooperative, Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologists, and Game Wardens, Frio County Commissioners Court, City of Pearsall Police Department, Dilley Fire Department, Tractor City/ John Deere- Pearsall, Frio County EMS, Texas Department of Health- Pearsall, Frio County 4-H volunteers, and MHMR-Dilley. Topics that were covered by the volunteers included electrical safety, farm safety, first aid, gun safety, drug awareness, food safety, boat/water safety etc. Due to the success of the program, we have received funding for the 2009 and new and local agencies and organizations would like to get involved. We have also worked with Pearsall Intermediate to implement the Embryo Science school curriculum and have also implemented an educational series in the 4-H newsletter using the Patriotism through Preparedness Curriculum. Frio County 4-H program also consists of three community 4-H clubs with a total of 141 members and 80 volunteers. Clothing and Textiles, foods and nutrition and Food Safety educational programs continue to be offered to area youth through the 4-H program. Frio County was also involved in hosting the 2008 District 12 Food Show in George West.



Frio County Farm Safety Day