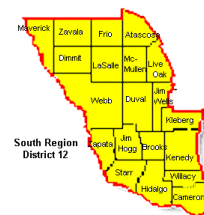


AgriLife Extension South Region

AgriLIFE EXTENSION

Texas A&M System

South District 12



Making a Difference... ...in Kleberg & Kenedy

District Extension Newsletter for Commissioners' Courts in South Texas



John E. Ford
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 its many programs. I hope you find this newsletter helpful in updating you about the difference that Extension education is making in Kleberg & Kenedy 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



Frank Escobedo, Jr.
4-H & Youth Development

Supporting Agriculture and Natural Resources

Tighter profit margins, increasing demands for energy producing crops and new technologies are leading to changes in traditional cropping patterns and crops for Kleberg County agricultural producers. Historically, Kleberg County row crop production has centered around a cotton and grain sorghum base, with both commodities being planted in the early spring and harvested in late summer. However, in recent years Kleberg producers have begun to examine the profitability of planting fall crops following spring harvested crops.

Due to past production practices, data on the economic feasibility of insecticide applications in a double cropped wheat-grain sorghum situation is limited. Outbreaks of fall armyworms are a common occurrence in South Texas and a major concern in fall cropping systems. If grain sorghum is to be a viable fall crop, the development and implementation of cost-effective control strategies for this perennial pest is essential.

An August outbreak of fall armyworms provided the opportunity for a replicated test to be designed that examined the economic feasibility of chemical control for fall armyworms in the whorl stage of grain sorghum. Following harvest, production and economic data were analyzed and compiled. Test results revealed producers could capture an additional \$10.47 per acre by controlling worms in the whorl stage. Results provide the information and data needed to make profitable fall grain sorghum management decisions and more importantly provide evidence that fall grain sorghum can be an economically viable crop following spring wheat in Kleberg



Kleberg County Crops Tour



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	359
Number Contacts	24,819
Hrs Instruction	68,841

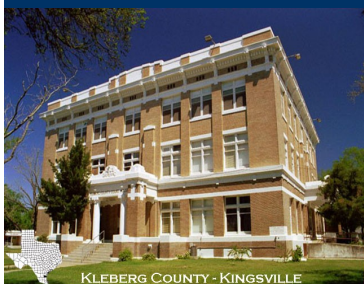
Visit us at:
<http://kleberg-tx.tamu.edu>

2008 4-H Enrollment

Club Members	553
School Enrichment	1,418
Special Interests	7,413
Total Enrollment	9,384



KENEDY COUNTY - SARITA



KLEBERG COUNTY - KINGSVILLE

Community & Economic Development

Developing the next generation of community leaders remains an area of programming emphasis for Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Leadership Kingsville has provided leadership training and development to Kleberg residents for 10 years. The success of the Kleberg effort led to the formation of a Kenedy County program in 2007. In each county, emerging community leaders are identified and recruited for participation. Classes cover a wide range of community issues and provide an opportunity for participants to gain knowledge regarding the community, enhance leadership skills and network with current and future area leaders. More than 100 Kleberg and Kenedy residents have completed the Extension leadership development course since its inception. Graduates have indicated, through evaluations, that volunteerism and community involvement has increased due to participation in Extension leadership development programs.

4-H & Youth Development

Finding safe and affordable activities for children during the summer months is a challenge for Texas families. Finding a summer program that is not only safe and affordable but also provides natural resource education and teaches life skills is even more difficult. However, thanks to tremendous community support an affordable and safe recreation based-educational camp is available to Kleberg and Kenedy Families. The Kleberg-Kenedy AgriLife Extension Service developed and led the Outdoor Adventure Camp utilizing recreational activities as life skills teaching tools each year in a summer camp setting. More than 2,000 youth contacts are made through the summer outreach effort annually. The eight week long camp-based program introduces young people to numerous outdoor activities such as fishing, trap shooting, kayaking, tennis, golf, outdoor cookery and camping. A life skill lesson is included in each day's activities. Campers receive information on healthy eating habits, diabetes awareness, drug prevention, healthy life styles, decision making and other life skill related topics.

Community support for Extension youth summer programming continues to increase, insuring that natural resource-recreation based learning activities are available each year to Kleberg and Kenedy families. Partners include the Kleberg/Kingsville Park and Recreation Department, Community-in-Schools, Kleberg County Commissioners Court, Kleberg Boy Scouts and the Brookshire Foundation. Support comes in the form of funding and staff. In 2008, additional support was received from the Kleberg/Kenedy District Attorney's Office, allowing a drug prevention component to be added. This additional support also allowed monies to be leveraged providing increased opportunities for campers to travel to the Texas State Aquarium, Texas Museum of Asian Cultures and other South Texas points of interest. The Texas AgriLife Extension Service lead Outdoor Adventure Summer Camp is an outstanding example of a community working together to provide Kleberg/Kenedy families with quality summer youth programming.



District Leadership Lab was hosted at Texas A&M-Kingsville and featured a tour of the King Ranch.