



Extension Education in Kleberg/Kenedy

Making a difference
2009

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 Kleberg/Kenedy and its people:

Kleberg/Kenedy – Summary of Educational Contacts



Agriculture and Natural Resources

Kleberg County, in partnership with the City of Kingsville, operates an extensive park system at 19 locations, encompassing 785 acres and 25 sports/athletic fields. In recent years budget concerns have forced county officials to reduce the Park Department budget by 20%. Budget constraints have limited the amount that can be spent on inputs for public space landscape, turf and athletic field maintenance. In addition, the number of department employees available for public space upkeep has decreased. Maintaining an appealing park system with limited financial resources is the responsibility of a limited number of county employees. The Kleberg Public Space Landscape Management Plan was designed and initiated to educate Park Department maintenance personnel in areas that would provide the knowledge needed to develop efficient cost and time saving landscape management strategies.

9 members of the Kleberg County/City of Kingsville Parks and Recreation Department Grounds Staff, with landscape, grounds and athletic field management, were targeted for participation in a series of educational events designed to provide each participant with the knowledge needed to efficiently manage and maintain park property. The program provided both classroom learning and hands-on training. Each session was a 3 hour lesson of which 2 hours were in a classroom setting and 1 hour in the field. Field activities allowed participants to be introduced to the proper techniques of soil sample collection, insect pest scouting techniques, tree pruning strategies, and irrigation audit procedures. Serving as instructors and presenters for this continuing education effort were Extension Agent Horticulture Nueces County - Michael Potter, Texas Forest Service Urban Forester - Paul Johnson, Texas AgriLife Extension Entomologist - Roy Parker, Texas AgriLife Extension Agronomist - Dan Fromme, and Kleberg Master Gardener - Sandy Chisholm. The curriculum for the series included:

- Athletic Field Turf Management - Event date: 02/18/2009
- Low Maintenance Plant Selection and Management - Event date: 03/04/2009
- Nutrient Management Soil Sampling Workshop - Event date: 03/05/2009
- IPM Techniques Help Lower Inputs - Event date: 04/08/2009
- Efficient Water Use in Public Areas - Event date: 05/06/2009
- Late Summer and Fall Management Task - Event date: 08/20/2009

Pre and post testing indicated that program participants benefitted from the continuing education effort. 80% stated that they had increased knowledge regarding athletic field management and maintenance. 70% were more comfortable making pest management decisions. Tree care knowledge increased 100% and there was a 60% increase in irrigation strategies and implementation knowledge. Additionally, research indicates that job satisfaction is positively impacted for employees provided with continuing education.

The greatest impact however has been increased attention for the Parks Department. Information on the public landscape educational program was presented to 21 community leaders and resulted in a Chamber of Commerce developed resolution being presented to county and city elected officials calling for an evaluation of the parks system and development of a master plan to improve youth athletic fields. Working with Texas AgriLife Extension Turfgrass Specialist, Dr. David Chalmers, a plan to address fertility issues has been developed and will be implemented in the spring of 2010. The cost associated with athletic field upkeep has also been compiled and provided to numerous youth league officials in an effort to secure increased support, both financial and human, from local stakeholders.



Agriculture and Natural Resources

An extensive cotton stalk destruction applied research project was initiated during the 2004 crop season and continued through 2009. At the onset of the project, mechanical stalk destruction was the primary method for destroying cotton stalks in Kleberg County. However, mechanical destruction had drawbacks due to timing and weather. Also, this method was not always 100% effective, often leaving hostable plants and overwintering habitat for boll weevils. Over the 6 year period that the applied research project was conducted, numerous chemical destruction application rates, mechanical-chemical combinations, timing of chemical application and varietal differences as they related to chemical applications were studied. Each year the data from the applied plot was analyzed and shared with local cotton producers. Since the inception of the stalk destruction demonstration effort in 2004, 100% of Kleberg cotton producers have adopted chemical termination practices that are effective and efficient in eliminating cotton re-growth and fruiting.

Kleberg/Kenedy AgriLife Extension has long been recognized for its collaborative programming efforts. Collaboration with numerous agencies, organizations, and groups has strengthened educational programming allowing for quality learning experiences to be offered to the residents of Kleberg and Kenedy Counties. In 2009 Kleberg/Kenedy AgriLife Extension teamed with the King Ranch Institute of Ranch Management in conducting an in-depth equine science management program that reached numerous Kleberg and Kenedy residents. The 4 day event provided learning experiences in both a classroom and laboratory/field setting. Evaluations indicated that all participants left the program with an increased knowledge of equine production and management.



Family and Consumer Sciences

Members of the Kleberg/Kenedy Extension Educators continue to support 4-H and Youth Activities in the 2 county region. This group of volunteers provide financial support to the numerous 4-H Family and Consumer Science projects as well as serve as volunteers insuring that project activities, achievement and interpretation events provide a quality experience for all Kleberg and Kenedy young people. Monthly KEEA meetings keep the 28 members updated on the latest research based information relating to family issues. Currently, KEEA member Kay Jacobs serves as Texas Extension Educator Director for District 12.



2009 Kleberg-Kenedy County WETLANDS in the Classroom (181806) - Outcome

Developed by:

Frank Escobedo

Kleberg-Kenedy County Extension Agent - 4-H and Youth Development

Relevance:

Identified as a 2000 TCFF issue. Sound conservation education is an important issue especially in a coastal community like Kleberg and Kenedy County. Coastal counties provide a beneficial impact to numerous ecological systems/habitats. This action plan proposes to design and implement educational activities that will allow young people to make sound environmental decisions.

Response:

Target Audience

School-Based Programs/Projects

Additional descriptive information, if any, on Target Audience:

Approximately 74 fourth grade students from Santa Gertrudis Elementary, Epiphany Episcopal, Kingsville ISD (Kleberg Elementary Campus), St. Gertrude's Catholic School and Christian Life Academy participated in this curriculum enrichment program, Wetlands in the Classroom. Data will reflect these 4th grade students.

Educational Response

- * Lesson 1 - Event date: 10/09/2009
- * Lesson 2 - Event date: 10/16/2009
- * Lesson 3 - Event date: 10/23/2009
- * Lesson 4 - Event date: 10/30/2009
- * Lesson 5 - Event date: 11/06/2009

Additional descriptive information, if any, on Educational Response:

Marshmallow Project Curriculum developed by Dr. Will Cohen was used as valuable resource.

Partnerships and Collaborators

- * Independent School Districts (Santa Gertrudis ISD, Epiphany Episcopal School, Kingsville ISD (Kleberg Elementary Campus), St. Gertrude's Catholic School, Christian Life Academy)
- * Natural Resource Conservation Service
- * Texas A&M University - Kingsville (Wildlife Society)
- * Local Media (Kingsville Record)

Evaluation Strategy



4-H and Youth Development

Ultimate client change: Knowledge

Additional descriptive information, if any, of Evaluation Strategy:

The instrument utilized to measure the knowledge of the 4th grade students participating in the Wetlands in the Classroom Curriculum Enrichment program was a Pre-, Post-, and Long Term Post Test. The Pre-Knowledge Test was administered to the students by their respective science teacher prior to Lesson 1. The Post-Knowledge Test was administered at the conclusion of the lessons. The Long Term Post-Test was administered approximately two weeks after the conclusion of the lessons. Questions for the instrument were taken from the Marshmallow Project Curriculum. 70 fourth graders completed the Pre-Knowledge Test, 67 completed the Post-Knowledge Test, and 66 completed the Long Term Post Knowledge Test. Once Pre-, Post-, and Long Term Post Tests were matched, only results from 63 fourth grade students will be used in this outcome summary.

Customer Satisfaction / Clientele Feedback Results

Teachers continue to compliment the curriculum/program as a re-enforcement resource to topics being covered year round in the classroom. They also indicate that much of the information relates back to their TEKS curriculum/plans which helps students during TAKS Testing. As far as students, many like the interaction the program offers like the Metaphor and Who Fits Here Activities. School principals support Extension efforts in these types of programs.

Results:

Instrument used to determine level of knowledge was the Pre-, Post-, and Long Term Post Test. Questions on instrument reflected four sections: Components and Types of a Wetlands (Lesson 1), Functions of a Wetland (Lesson 2), Animals/Wildlife Habitats (Lesson 3), and Testing, Monitoring, and Management of a Wetland (Lesson 4). The instrument had approximately 3 to 4 questions from each lesson. In regards to Lesson 1: Santa Gertrudis increased their knowledge by 71%, Epiphany Episcopal School by 86%, Kleberg School(KISD) by 74%, St. Gertrudes Catholic School by 81%, and Christian Life Academy by 95%. Lesson 2: Santa Gertrudis increased their knowledge by 74%, Epiphany School by 89%, Kleberg School by 86%, St. Gertrudes School by 90%, and Christian Life Academy by 94%. Lesson 3: Santa Gertrudis increased their knowledge by 77%, Epiphany School by 79%, Kleberg School by 81%, St. Gertrudes School by 77%, and Christian Life Academy by 93%. Lesson 4: Santa Gertrudis increased their knowledge by 83%, Epiphany by 79%, Kleberg School by 88%, St. Gertrudes School by 78%, and Christian Life Academy by 90%. Overall results/school (comparison of pre-, post-, and long term post- tests): Santa Gertrudis increased their knowledge by 77%, Epiphany by 83%, Kleberg by 82%, St. Gertrudes School by 82%, and Christian Life Academy by 93%.

Future Plans:

Benefits / Impacts

Science Teachers continue to comment how the information is retained by students throughout the year. They also indicate that most students have a better understanding of conservation issues and ecological systems/habitats. This continues to enhance classroom performance by the students.

Acknowledgments



4-H and Youth Development

Extension Faculty would like to thank the school teachers and partners for their continued support: Santa Gertrudis (Mrs. Garcia), Epiphany (Mrs. Davila), Kleberg (Mrs. Solis), St. Gertrude (Mrs. De Leon), Christian Life Academy (Mrs. Herrera), NRCS (Mr. Schmidt), and TAMUK Wildlife Society (Ms. Green).

Future Program Actions

Curriculum continues to be well received by participants, schools, and partners. For 2010, we will continue with the program and evaluating results. We are also hoping to incorporate a field trip to a wetland area (Baffin Bay) and have students observe what was discussed in the classroom. This will be challenge because school policy and transportation might be limiting factors.

2009 Kleberg-Kenedy County Patriotism Through Preparedness: Make a Plan, Take a Stand (186126) - Outcome

Developed by:

Frank Escobedo

Kleberg-Kenedy County Extension Agent - 4-H and Youth Development

Relevance:

Since September 11, 2001 much has changed in our world, nation, state and community. We have become more aware of the devastation that can be caused by unexpected disasters whether they are caused by nature, by accident or by terrorist attacks. Every family and community needs to take steps to prepare for a possible disaster. Locally, the communities have faced disasters such as hurricanes that have raised the level of need in this community. The goal of this plan is to engage students, families, and teachers/volunteers with lessons and activities on disaster preparedness. Furthermore, the intent is to establish a basic level of knowledge of disaster preparedness and subsequently engage youth, families, and teachers/volunteers to initiate steps in becoming better prepared for a disaster.

Response:

Target Audience

Youth (Ages 9-10)

Additional descriptive information, if any, on Target Audience:

87 fourth grade students from St. Gertrude's Catholic School, Santa Gertrudis Elementary, Epiphany Episcopal School, and Christian Life Academy participated in this curriculum enrichment program, Patriotism Through Preparedness: Make a Plan, Take a Stand.

Educational Response

- * Teacher Training [773213] Occurred : Sep. 4, 2009
- * Patriotism Through Preparedness - Lesson 1 [773204] Occurred : Sep. 22, 2009
- * Patriotism Through Preparedness - Lesson 2 [773208] Occurred : Sep. 24, 2009
- * Patriotism Through Preparedness - Lesson 3 [773205] Occurred : Sep. 28, 2009
- * Patriotism Through Preparedness - Lesson 4 [773206] Occurred : Sep. 30, 2009

Additional descriptive information, if any, on Educational Response:



4-H and Youth Development

FEMA and EDEN publications were used as additional resources which provided valuable information during the program.

Partnerships and Collaborators

- * Independent School Districts (St. Gertrude's Catholic School, Santa Gertrudis ISD, Epiphany Episcopal School, and Christian Life Academy)
- * County/City Emergency Management Coordinator
- * Local Media (Kingsville Record)

Evaluation Strategy

Ultimate client change: Knowledge

Additional descriptive information, if any, of Evaluation Strategy:

Pre-, and Post- Knowledge Tests were utilized prior to the first lesson and at the conclusion of the program, respectively. Instrument was developed by Mr. Luis Saldana, Regional Program Director - 4-H and Youth Development South Region. Mr. Paul Pope, Extension Program Specialist-Evaluation, provided survey evaluation data on Patriotism Through Preparedness program.

Customer Satisfaction/Clientele Feedback Results

Schools commented on program satisfaction. They indicated program made them (teachers and students) more aware of being prepared. Some schools also indicated that some of the terminology met TEKS curriculum.

Results:

The Pre- and Post- Tests were used to determine the level of knowledge gained/loss in this program, Patriotism Through Preparedness: Make a Plan, Take a Stand. The following reflects an overall comparison from each of the participating schools on how participants did from the time they took the pre-test (prior to initiating lessons) to the time they took the post-test (conclusion of the program): St. Gertrude's increased their knowledge by 89%, Santa Gertrudis increased their knowledge by 84%, Epiphany increased their knowledge by 91%, and Christian Life increased their overall knowledge by 95%. Participants have a better understanding of the resources available to them and their families in case of an emergency/disaster. This includes: emergency management contact information, city and county officials, and websites like FEMA and EDEN. Participants also indicated that their parents have initiated family plans in preparation of an unexpected emergency.

Future Plans:

Benefits/Impacts

Program continues to make families aware and prepare for unexpected emergencies. School officials have become more proactive in preparing for emergency situations.

Acknowledgments

Extension Faculty would like to thank the school teachers and partners for their support: St. Gertrude's School (Mrs. De Leon), Santa Gertrudis (Mrs. Kalinec and Mrs. Garcia), Epiphany Episcopal (Mrs. Davila), Christian Life Academy (Mrs. Herrera), Emergency Management Coordinator (Mr. Sanchez), Extension Organizational Support (Mr. Pope), and Kleberg-Kenedy County Youth Program Assistant (Mr. Farias).



4-H and Youth Development

Future Program Actions

Continue marketing program to other school campuses and increase participation. Provide more hands on interaction as this is the key to any program. Possibly involve more partners: fire department, law enforcement, etc.

Traditional 4-H Program:

- * Livestock Project Clinics continue to be an educational learning opportunity especially for first and second year families in gaining knowledge in their respective project(s). 45% of these first and second year families attend the clinics. Master Livestock Volunteers (Beef, Swine, and Sheep/Goats) provide leadership to these clinics.
- * 4-H County Council plays a key role in providing leadership to the traditional 4-H Club program. Council continues to motivate club members to serve their community. Past community involvement: collaboration with Child Protective Service to provide Christmas Gifts to Foster Children (approximately 50 Foster Gifts), collaboration with County Welfare to provide Thanksgiving Baskets to needy families (approximately 20 Baskets) and collect non-perishable food items (approximately 1,000 pounds), collaboration with Kleberg Park to assist with Summer Youth Program and Beautification Projects.
- * Fashion Show is one of the top 20 most popular 4-H competitions. 18 young people participated in the local county contest, 16 advanced to district competition, and 1 advanced to state competition.
- * Roundup provided numerous opportunities (judging contests, illustrated talks, method demonstrations, and public speaking) for members to compete. 39 local members competed at the county level.
- * Recordbook completion not only allowed members to compete but apply for local recognition. 37 members submitted their recordbook at the county level. 33 advanced to district competition and 5 advanced to state competition.
- * Annual 4-H and Volunteer Banquet recognized members for their 4-H work in the areas of: leadership, community service, and project involvement. Three 4-H Members were recognized as God Star Recipients. Volunteer leaders were recognized for their commitment. Two adults received the Outstanding Leader and Friend of 4-H Awards, respectively.
- * Local members attend district leadership opportunities like District 12 4-H Leadership Lab and Election Convention.
- * Food Show is one of the most popular 4-H competitions. 48 local members competed at the food show and 4 teams competition in the food challenge. Twelve food show members and 4 food challenge teams advanced to district competition. One food show participant and 1 food challenge team advanced to state competition.



4-H and Youth Development

* Volunteer leader workshops continue to play a vital role in the structure of the traditional 4-H program. Workshops provide valuable information in the areas of: recruitment, club management, retention, programming efforts, financial management, and youth protection standards. Two workshops are scheduled annually. 55 direct volunteer leaders have been approved by the youth protection standards.

Youth Outreach Efforts:

Horticulture/Gardening:

The horticulture/gardening program remains one of the strongest outreach programs in the county. Four learning lessons are given to elementary students during the Spring. The JMG curriculum and Master Gardeners are utilized in the lessons. At the conclusion the lessons, garden plots are established at every school campus. Students and schools are recognized at the Annual Garden Show and Awards Presentation. 600 students took part in this year's horticulture and gardening program.

South Texas Career EXPO:

2010 will mark the 10th Annual South Texas Career EXPO. This event allows high school students to browse over 150 career fields and discuss with professionals possible career interests, college preparations, and future job market trends. The EXPO targets approximately 2,800 students annually from the ESC 1 and 2 Regions. Over the years, the EXPO has grown to include over 100 partnerships and collaborators. Funding has been provided by the Brookshire Foundation (\$20,000), Educational Service Center (\$10,000), HEB (\$4,000), and through the local business sector and in-kind support (\$12,000).

Summer Programs:

A collaboration with Kleberg Parks and Recreation Department and Communities in School provides life skills through educational and recreational summer programs. Program provides a nutrition component targeting obesity and diabetes everyday. Participants follow a structured program that is supervised by Extension Faculty. Youth involvement exceeds 2,300 annually. Partnerships have been established with other organizations to utilize resources more effectively.

Ag. Fair:

A week long program held in the Fall that educated over 1,600 young people primarily in elementary and middle school to production agriculture. Partners included: Texas Farm Bureau, Gulf Coast Coop, Southwest Dairy Farmers, Texas Beef Council, Texas Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi Adopt-A-Wetland Program, and Texas A&M University Kingsville Wildlife Department. Students rotated through different stations and listened to every presenter.



4-H and Youth Development

Texas AgriLife Extension Service XXXX County

Staff

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