



Extension Education in Live Oak County

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 Live Oak County and its people:

Live Oak County – Summary of Educational Contacts

- Both agent Rankin and Meier were new to Live Oak County in 2009 and have worked on establishing working relationships with different entities and program area committees.
- Both agents met with superintendants, principals, and administrative staff at all schools in George West and Three Rivers to establish a working relationship.
- Agent Meier met with the Director and administrative staff for Bee Community Action Agency -Head Start to implement parenting and nutrition education programs for students and parents.
- Agent Meier also established a working relationship with the directors and staff of the Live Oak County Boys and Girls Clubs to implement nutrition education programs. 20 Educational Programs were conducted.



- Agents Meier worked to develop a Junior Master Gardener After School Program at the George West Elementary School. A total of 9 Educational Programs were conducted by agent Meier and Rankin on the Junior Master Gardener Curriculum that reached 36 youth.
- Agent Rankin worked to Establish Public Service Announcements with Kicker 106 Radio Station in Beeville Texas. 25 Public Service Announcements have been done to date.
- Agent Rankin and Meier worked to establish a weekly news column with the Progress Newspaper. 140 articles have been featured in the paper since May 2009.
- Agent Meier and Rankin developed a working relationship with the Live Oak County Fair Association.
- Agent Rankin worked to develop a working relationship with the Live Oak County Farm Bureau and presented information on the 4-H program at the Farm Bureau Ag Day which reached 126 4th grade students in Live Oak County.

Career Exploration Presentation

A Career Exploration presentation was conducted for the Environmental Sciences class at George West High School on September 2nd. Agent Rankin and Agent Meier were asked to explain how their jobs in Extension tie in with the community. The agents gave the class an overview of their job positions and some of the projects they have been working on for the last several months. The agents also discussed their interaction with community leaders, agencies and committees. Participants of the Career Exploration presentation were able to participate in a question and answer session and informational handouts were distributed regarding careers in Extension and how to become involved with the 4-H program in our community.



2009 Atascosa/ Live Oak Wildlife Educational Field Day.

Stanley Schilling Farm

Over the past 8 months the Extension Ag/Nr Committee developed a sequence of educational programs to meet the needs of the Citizens of Live Oak County. These educational programs focused on Beef Cattle Production, Forage production and Wildlife production. A total of 156 agriculture producers attended the Workshops and Field Days

Educational Program Conducted by Dale Rankin and the Live Oak Ag/Nr Committee

- 2009 Bee/ Live Oak Hay Production Field Day (35 producers participated in this event)
- 2009 Beef Cattle Field Day Education (24 producers participated in this event)
- 2009 Atascosa/ Live Oak Wildlife Management Educational Field Day (41 producers participated in this event)
- 2009 5 Hour CEU Program (31 producers participated in this event)
- 2009 White Tail Deer Educational Program (25 producers participated in this event)
- 2 Quarterly Ag Newsletters were sent out that reached 360 producers

2009 Wildlife Management Education.

Hunting and Wildlife Management is a big part of the ranching income in Live Oak County and is very important part of the overall economy in the county. Hunting brings in more than \$7,800,000 dollars into the county. It is very important to help educate citizens of the county to help manage the wildlife operations to keep the hunters coming back into the county year after year for a successful hunt that will keep bringing economic dollars into the county. What better way to do this than to educate hunters on habitat management. The Extension Ag/Nr Committee hosted a wildlife program on habitat management and some of the educational results on this program or listed below.

There was a total of 41 participants at the 2009 Wildlife Management Field Day in which 17 of them returned a evaluation indicating a % change of Knowledge.

26% of respondents increased their level of understanding of population surveys.

21% of respondents increased their level of understanding habitat diversity.

19% of respondents increased their level of understanding supplemental feeding/ food plots.



2009 5 Hour CEU Program evaluation on Brush Busters

A total of 31 participants attended the training and 28 returned the survey indicating a % knowledge change.

There was a 54% change in the Most effective treatment techniques for cut stump.

There was a 52% change of where to go for Brush Buster information.

There was a 50% change in the Economic Benefits of using Brush Buster Treatments when applicable.

There was a 49% change in Conditions under which Brush Busters methods are most effective and cost effective.

There was a 49% change in the most effective individual plant treatment methods to control prickly pear.

There was a 46% change in basic equipment needs for Brush Busters treatments.



Dr. Buddy Faries gives calving demonstration at the Beef Cattle Field Day at the Live Oak County Auction Barn



Better Living for Texans Program

Twenty two nutrition education programs were conducted from June through November 2009 in Live Oak County. Approximately 714 children participated in the various programs held at the Boys and Girls Clubs (George West and Three Rivers), George West Primary School, and the summer 4-H Camp. Participants learned how to eat healthier by limiting their sugar and sodium intake, consuming proper portion sizes, implementing proper food handling procedures, and incorporating a colorful array of fruits and vegetables into their diets. Participants increased their knowledge about proper nutrition and learned new recipes for healthy snacks that they could complete at home with little to no adult supervision.

Parenting Education Workshop

A Parenting Education workshop was conducted for 46 teachers and assistants with Bee Community Action Head Start to learn more about effective parenting. Parenting Young Children is a systematic training program for parents to learn how to successfully parent their children. Participants were given techniques that can be used in the classroom, in their home environment, or shared with parents of their students. Topics covered include: preschool behaviors (temperament, stages, and parental expectations), listening, talking, and learning to cooperate (using effective "I" messages with children), effective discipline techniques, building self esteem in young children, and social emotional development.



Live Oak County 4-H

During the past year, both agents have devoted a significant amount of time to enhancing the 4-H program in Live Oak County. 4-H enrollment increased by 30 members for the 2008-2009 4-H year.

Live Oak County has six active clubs that meet once a month. All clubs are recognized and have completed the chartering process. The 4-H County Council and Club Managers now meet consistently to accomplish goals and objectives of the 4-H program. County Council members also create executive committees when necessary to complete tasks or plan events that require more time and planning. In addition, an Adult Leaders and Parents Association (ALPA) has been formed. The adult leaders were very excited about starting the Adult Leaders and Parents Association and have made a significant amount of process over the last several months. The ALPA has implemented a new livestock scholarship for those individuals that are not able to afford the purchase and upkeep of a livestock project.

Fashion Show

Eleven 4-H members attended the District Fashion Show in Kingsville on April 25th. Five participants entered the buying category while the other six entered the construction category. All participants did exceptionally well and one senior received the runner up award. This award would allow the participant to be an alternate if the winner was unable to attend the State competition.

Dairy Judging Team

The Live Oak County Senior Dairy judging team won first place at the district level and advanced to state level. The state contest was held at Tarleton and they placed first which allowed the team to advance to the National contest in Wisconsin. The team worked very hard to prepare and did exceptionally well!

State Round Up

Nine 4-H members represented Live Oak County at State Round Up in College Station. One 4-H member conducted an educational presentation in Promote 4-H, one entered the food show, and seven others participated in livestock judging. All participants did well and learned a lot about the judging process on the state level, ways to improve skills for next year, and new 4-H activities to begin in the next 4-H year.

Leadership Lab

Twelve Live Oak County 4-H members attended the District 12 Leadership Lab at Methodist Camp Thicket in Weslaco, TX June 22-25. 4-H members learned about teamwork, leadership, and other skills through collaborative group work. This great group of 4-H members learned a lot of valuable information and had a lot of fun too!



4-H County Camp



Live Oak County 4-H County Camp

4-H County Camp was also a success in July of 2009; 56 participants attended and 12 adult volunteers assisted with the camp. During 4-H County Camp, two participants decided to join the 4-H organization as new members. The County Council members worked tirelessly to conduct a very informative and educational county camp.

Live Oak County 4-H Awards Banquet

The 4-H year was concluded with an awards banquet to celebrate all of the 4-H members' accomplishments over the past year. The 4-H Awards Banquet was a huge success. We had several of our county officials and Josie Pappas (Judith Zaffirini's sister) attend this event. Mrs. Zaffirini's office presented all of our State attending 4-H members with an additional award to celebrate their accomplishment.

Live Oak County Food and Nutrition

The Food and Nutrition Project here in Live Oak County has been well underway. Two 4-H leaders have held 6 Food and Nutrition Workshops that reached 8 youth. The local County food Show took place and 14 individuals participated in the County Food Show. A total of 9 Youth participated in the District Food Show and 5 participated in the New Food Challenge contest at District. The Food Challenge contest was a new and exciting part of the Food and Nutrition project this year and our 4-H members really enjoyed it.

4-H Livestock Projects

4-H Livestock Projects or a big part of the project area for 4-H members in Live Oak County. A total of 459 Swine, Lambs, Goats, Steers and Heifers were tagged in for the Live Oak County Fair. A total of 148 projects were tagged for major livestock shows. During the 4-H Year a total of 3 livestock Clinics have been held two Beef project Hoof Trimmings and one livestock weigh day. Scales and Clippers or available for all 4-H members to check out as necessary. Agent Rankin does project visits by appointment .

- Swine Clinic (27 total for both Sheep/ Goat and Swine)
- Sheep and Goat Clinic (27 total for both Sheep/ Goat and Swine)
- Beef Cattle Selection/Showmanship 13 participants



One Day Community Service Activity

4-H members from all over Live Oak County attended events throughout the week of October 4-10, 2009 to celebrate National 4-H week. On Sunday, George West 4-H Club kicked off National 4-H week by hosting a pizza party. Several 4-H members from the George West and Longhorn 4-H Clubs met early Monday morning at the Live Oak County Courthouse on October 5th for the 4-H flag raising ceremony. On Tuesday, the 6th, the Three Rivers 4-H Clubs met at City Hall to raise the 4-H flag in Three Rivers. 4-H members wrote letters to soldiers on Wednesday the 7th and made placemats for the nursing homes on Thursday the 8th. Then on Friday, the 9th, 4-Her's prepared baked goods to take to the nursing home or to elderly community members. The week ended on Saturday, October 10th with a large "One Day" community service project. All over the state 4-H clubs went out into their communities to lend a helping hand in their communities because "one day can make a difference". Live Oak County 4-H members started off the morning by meeting at the Live Oak County Courthouse to complete a rock garden project at the corner of Houston and Guadalupe Streets. The garden features a large green clover with the 4 H's inside the clover and surrounded by white rocks. Following the garden project, 4-Her's met at the City Park to celebrate their accomplishments. 4-H members then gathered the placemats and baked goods that they had prepared earlier in the week and distributed their items to the nursing home residents in Three Rivers and George West. In addition, 4-H members started the year long community service project, "Pennies for Change". This project helps support the cancer patients at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Community members can help with this project by dropping their spare change into the green cans located at various business establishments throughout the county. 4-H members ended the day with a cook out celebration hosted by Three Rivers 4-H Club at Tipps Park in Three Rivers.



Live Oak County 4-H members working on their 4-H Garden project on the Corner of the Court House Square.



Driscoll Children's Auction

The Live Oak County 4-H Program help support the Driscoll Children Auction by gathering 116 Auction Item's and raising over \$27,000 dollars to support needy children at the Driscoll Children's Hospital.



4-H Council Community Service Projects

The Live Oak County Council members voted to distribute food gift baskets to needy families at Thanksgiving the community service project for this holiday season. The Live Oak County Council members and Angel Food Ministries worked together to identify the names and addresses of 4 local families and 6 elderly citizens/shut ins that could benefit from receiving a food gift box. On Saturday, November 21st, County Council members gathered at St. George Catholic Church in George West to deliver the Angel Food Ministries food gift boxes to families. Boxes that were unable to be delivered that morning were returned to St. George Parish and representatives from Angel Food Ministries distributed the boxes during the week.

The Live Oak County 4-H Council also did a Toys for Tots drive in which they collected and wrapped 27 toys that they gave to the local Sunshine room which had a list of families that would come in and pick up gifts for the less fortunate families in Live Oak County that could not afford to have a Christmas this year.

Live Oak County 4-H Newsletter

Agent Rankin, Meier and Office Assistant Monse work diligently to put out a monthly 4-H newsletter that covers club, county, district and state activities. Each month over 234 families receive the 4-H newsletter in 2009.



Leadership Advisory Board

The Live Oak County Leadership Advisory Board worked with the County Extension Agents, Rankin and Meier to develop educational computer technology programs for aging adults in the community. The stated objectives for the educational programs were to increase participant knowledge of the Best Practices for Computer Technology and increase their basic understanding of Social Networking opportunities. The Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Live Oak County developed two educational programs to address this issue; Computer 101 Training and Computer Social Networking. Results from evaluation surveys distributed to participants indicated that the Computer Education Programs conducted in Live Oak County met the stated objectives of increasing basic computer knowledge and social networking skills for aging adults in Live Oak County. Live Oak County Extension Agents will meet with the Live Oak County Leadership Advisory Board to determine if additional computer training is needed.

Youth Advisory Board

The Live Oak County Youth Advisory Board worked with County Extension Agents Rankin and Meier to host a winter coat drive. Members from the Youth Advisory Board made boxes to sit at local businesses to collect coats for citizens that could not afford to purchase jackets. The Youth Advisory Board Collected over 20 jackets and distributed them to School Counselors that expressed a need for students that did not have jackets to wear to school.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service Live Oak County

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