



South District 12



Making a Difference... ...in Maverick County

District Extension Newsletter for Commissioners' Courts in South Texas



Omar Gonzales
Agriculture &
Natural Resources

Dear Court Members,
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 strategic initiative that included a name change to AgriLife Extension. I want to thank you for your continual support of Extension and it's many programs. I hope you find this newsletter helpful in updating you about the difference that Extension education is making in Maverick 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

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Consumption of fresh produce has contributed to a \$36.2 billion increase in food sales from 1987 to 1997. Despite these benefits, the CDC reported that the proportion of food borne disease outbreaks in produce has doubled from 1973-1987 and again from 1988-1991. Many factors can contribute to microbial contamination throughout the fresh produce process but worker hygiene was identified as an important step where implementation of educational practices would impact or decrease the risk of contamination of produce.

Computer training modules in worker hygiene and food safety have been developed for vegetable sheds and workers. These modules instruct the participants on the correct personal hygiene procedures. As the module is going the participants is having their knowledge gained measures by simple electronic devices to evaluate the knowledge gained by the individuals going through the training.

At the training in Eagle Pass, TX held in spring of 2007 a total of 63 shed workers from local packing housed were in attendance. The training was broken up into 2 sessions, one in English and one in Spanish. This was done so that all could fully understand what was being discussed in the training module. All 63 individuals who began the training received satisfactory scores and received completion certificates.



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**2008
Educational Outreach**

Education in Group Settings	
Number of Sessions	83
Number Contacts	4,247
Hrs Instruction	4,815
Education for Individuals	
Site Visits	3
Phone Consultation	15
Mail/Email	25

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

2008 4-H Enrollment

Club Members	249
School Enrichment	60
Special Interests	27
Total Enrollment	336



4-H & Youth Development

Issues have risen on quality assurance problems in livestock project and Character in the youth participating at the Maverick County Junior Livestock Show. It was recommended that the County Extension Agent try to do something about it. The only program that addresses both of these issues in the Quality Counts Program.

The program is designed to educate youth on making the right decision and not putting them selves in a bad situation. The program is also aimed at educating youth on how to better care for their livestock projects.

This program was taken into the Eagle Pass High School in the Spring of 2008. While there the CEA proceeded with the program in one class. A total of 17 youth participated in at least four of the six days the CEA was instructing the class. The classes educated in character development, fair play, role of the youth exhibitor, impact of stock show projects on the red meat market, withdraw periods and how to give proper injections. The class average on the pre test was a 54% with a low score of a 26% and a high score of a 74%. These scores pale in comparison to the class average for the post test of a 77% that had a low score of a 43% and a high score of a 100%. 100% of all who took both the pretest and post test showed an increase in knowledge gained.



The District 12 Food Show was hosted for the 1st time ever in Maverick County at Eagle Pass High School.