



AgriLIFE EXTENSION

Texas A&M System

South District 12



Making a Difference... ...in Willacy County

District Extension Newsletter for Commissioners' Courts in South Texas



Lucas Garcia
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. I hope you find this newsletter helpful in updating you about the difference Extension education is making in Willacy 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

Cotton and grain sorghum production are the largest crops produced in Willacy County. Given this is a dry land production system, producers rely on grain sorghum and cotton major components of their production system. Beef cattle is another commodity that plays a significant part in the local economy. Programs in this arena are geared towards increasing efficiency with their input costs as well as incorporating the latest technology that is made available by applied research and studies conducted by research specialists.



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

Dr. Ruben J. Saldaña
District Administrator
2401 E. Highway 83
Weslaco, Texas 78596
956.968.5581
rjsaldana@ag.tamu.edu
<http://southtexas.tamu.edu>

4-H & Youth Development

Leadership and Life Skills is a program that incorporates the youth to experience leadership roles through holding officer positions within their local club chapter as well as the newly established County Council. Youth engaged in this are able to make valuable decisions as a board and ultimately develop skills that will aid in preparation for future endeavors. Quality Counts is also a program that started in March 2008 and will continue through 2009 that teaches our youth the 6 pillars of character and ultimately sharpen their knowledge on morals and ethics involved in the show arena. Youth are also administered a pre and post test to measure their knowledge retention.

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

2008 4-H Enrollment

Number of Clubs	28
Club Members	30
Total Enrollment	58

