



**Extension Education in Frio County**  
*Making a Difference*

*Improving Lives.  
Improving Texas.*

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has been dedicated to educating Texans

for nearly a century. In 1915, the agency was established under the federal Smith-Lever Act to deliver university knowledge and agricultural research findings directly to the people. Ever since, AgriLife Extension programs have addressed the emerging issues of the day, serving diverse populations across the state.

Through a well-organized network of professional educators and some 100,000 trained volunteers, Extension 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 Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

Texans turn to Extension for solutions. Its agents and specialists respond not only with answers, but also with resources and services that result in significant returns 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. Here are just a few highlights of Extension's impacts on this county and its people:

## **Frio County – Summary of 2012 Educational Contacts**

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- **Total Educational Programs Conducted – 214**
- **Total Participants – 3,884**
- **Contact hours via Educational Programs – 432**
- **4-H Members – 101**
- **4-H Leaders – 41**
- **4-H Clubs – 4**
- **Curriculum Enrichment Participants – 207**
- **4-H Special Interest Participants – 168**
- **Office Contacts – 1,054**
- **Site Visits – 1,676**
- **Phone Calls – 1,581**
- **Newsletter/Mail/E-mail Contacts – 1,896**
- **Web Contacts – 1,311**
- **Radio Programs – 4**
- **News Releases – 79**
- **Cash and In-Kind Donations by AgriLife Extension Supporters and Collaborators – 3,000.00 dollars**

***2012 Frio County Agriculture Plan***  
**Developed By: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent-Ag**

**Date of Summary: November 20, 2012**

**Response:**

The Frio County Agriculture Plan provided a number of educational opportunities for clientele to participate in. The Frio County Ag Committee cooperated with South Texas Peanut Growers Association, Texas Peanut Producers Board, TSCRA, Frio County Soil/Water Conservation District, USDA-NRCS and the Frio County Leadership Advisory Board hosted a number of educational programs including the following:

- \*Multi-County Water Well testing
- \*Private Applicator License Trainings (5)
- \*South Texas Peanut Growers Annual Meeting
- \*South Texas Peanut Growers Tour
- \*Pesticide Applicator Quarterly Newsletters
- \*Frio County Range Tour
- \*Peanut Breeding and Variety Demonstrations
- \*Ranch & Farm visits
- \*Office visits
- \*Ag/TSCRA monthly meeting program

1. Preservation of Assets through Estate Planning – US Trust
2. Managing your Ranch Entry and Exit – Manless Gates L.L.C.
3. The process of permitting/drilling wells- Howland Engineering and Surveying Co.
4. Load management and Irrigation – Medina Electric Cooperative
5. USDA-NRCS program updates – USDA-NRCS, Frio County
6. “What to expect as Drought Recovery Begins” – AgriLife Extension Range Specialist
7. Update on Eagle Ford Shale – Chesapeake Energy
8. Fencing Applications – San Antonio Steel Company
9. Animal Disease Traceability – Texas Animal Health Commission
10. US Sale Basin – An Enduring Strategic Asset – Mastrapaqua Asset Management

Over 100 Frio County producers attended the numerous educational programs.

**Result:**

Frio County Agriculture producers received the latest educational information in Irrigation, Peanuts, Range Management, Pesticides. Livestock production, Oil and Gas industry, Water and Markets. All Frio County Pesticide Private Applicator License holders were reached with a quarterly Pesticide Newsletter and 20 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEU's) were offered this year. This agent also completed the Ag Increment report and the Frio County Farm and Ranch survey for the Texas Comptroller's office. Due to our efforts Frio County producers were able to get the latest information to help them succeed in their own operations.

***2012 Frio/Atascosa Counties Peanut  
Profitability Plan***

**Plan Summary Report**

**Date of Summary: November 20, 2012**

**Relevance:**

Peanut production in Frio County is the largest field crop produced in the county with over 14, 500 acres in production on an annual basis. In order to increase profitability, it is important to educate our peanut producers about current practices, varieties, and technologies associated with peanut production. The South Texas Peanut Growers Association, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and Texas A&M AgriLife Research scientists identified issues that needed to be addressed in educating peanut producers in Frio and Atascosa counties to help increase peanut profitability.

**Response:**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Frio and Atascosa County developed the following activities to address this relevant issue:

- \*Peanut Progress Newsletter (April – October 2012)
- \*South Texas Peanut Growers Annual Meeting (April 2012)
- \*Peanut Breeding Plots (June 2012)
- \*Peanut Result Demonstrations (June 2012)
- \*Peanut Variety Trials (June 2012)
- \*South Texas Peanut Tour (September 2012)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Frio and Atascosa Counties partnered with South Texas Peanut Growers Association, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialists, Texas A&M AgriLife research Scientists and Texas Peanut Producers Board to implement this plan and would like to recognize this ongoing partnership.

**Results:**

A Customer Satisfaction Survey (retrospective post) was utilized to measure programmatic impact. A total of 25 of 37 returned the survey.

The first section focused on overall satisfaction of the program:

- \*Overall satisfaction with activity – 88.0 %
- \*Satisfaction with the information being easy to understand – 95.8 %
- \*Satisfaction with the timelessness of the information – 92.0%

The last section focused on intentions to change based on what the participant learned:

- \*Do you anticipate benefitting economically as a direct result of this activity – 95.2 %
- \*Do you plan to take any action or make any changes based on the information from this activity – 77.8 %

**Summary of Results:**

Results indicate that the Frio/Atascosa Counties Peanut Profitability Plan met its objectives to increase knowledge and behavioral changes in the peanut producers that participated. 88.0% of the participants indicated that they were completely or mostly satisfied the entire program.

**Acknowledgements:**

Special Thanks to the following experts for presenting at these activities: Dr. Mark Black, Dr. Jason Woodward, James Gritchar, Shelly Nutt and Michael Barring. Additional thanks are due to the following Frio County Cooperators: Tech Farms, Bennett Partnership and Wilmeth Farm.

**Future Program Actions:**

Working with the South Texas Peanut Growers Association, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas A&M

Research will continue to offer educational programs that target peanut producers in Frio and Atascosa County to help them improve their bottom line.

## *2012 Frio County General FCS Contacts Plan*

### **Plan Summary Report**

**Date of Summary: November 20, 2012**

#### **Relevance:**

Frio County currently has no family and Consumer Science agent so the Agriculture Agent has stepped up to address the different Family and Consumer Science issues that Frio County residents would like us to address, Frio County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Frio County Translational Advisory Board have teamed up with other local partners to address some issues.

#### **Response:**

Frio County AgriLife Extension Service participated in the Frio County Translational Advisory Board (TAB) to help address the diabetes prevention and treatment initiative that was identified by Frio County residents as one of the top health concerns during an exist survey at the 2011 Frio County Health Fair.

In 2012, the Frio TAB hosted the Diabetes' Prevention & Treatment Strategic Planning Forum. The purpose of the forum was to (1) learn about the community's ideas about the causes of diabetes in Frio County, and (2) to brainstorm solutions for addressing diabetes in Frio County.

#### **Results:**

A total of 70 participants (Adults and high school students) attended. Two brainstorming activities produced 7 causes and 8 solutions for addressing diabetes in Frio County. Overall we were able to accomplish the following:

\*In Spring 2012, Community Strategic Planning forum focused on identifying caused and solutions for addressing diabetes.

\*In Summer 2012, two meetings were held where the community suggested solutions for diabetes were prioritized based on community impact and feasibility.

\*In September 2012 disseminated results of Community Strategic Planning Forum Report

## *2012 Field & Stream Project*

### **Plan Summary Report**

**Date of Summary: November 20, 2012**

#### **Relevance:**

Youth Outdoor Safety and Education is one of the top three main concerns if Frio County. Early Safety education is an important way to reduce accidents at home or on the farm. The Frio County Youth Advisory Board identified the problem and decided to sponsor an outdoor safety education program. The program targeted all youth in Frio County between the ages of 8 years old and 13 years old.

#### **Response:**

The Frio County Youth Leadership Advisory Board teamed up with the Texas Parks & Wildlife, H.E.B., and the Pearsall Summer Recreation Program to help sponsor a safety day in Frio County. The following areas were covered at this year's Outdoor Education Program.

- \*Fishing Safety
- \*Farm Safety
- \*ATV Safety
- \*Boat & Water Safety
- \*Fire Safety
- \*Air Life
- \*Pipeline Safety
- \*Hunting Dog Demo
- \*Drug Awareness

#### **Partners & Collaborators:**

- \*Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
- \*City of Pearsall
- \*Frio County
- \*H.E.B.
- \*Chesapeake Energy
- \*United State Border Patrol
- \*Methodist Hospital Air Life

The Frio County Youth Leadership Board would also like to recognize H.E.B. for sponsoring this year's door prizes.

**Results:**

A participant report survey form was used to sample 10 of 90 youth participants to measure programmatic impact. The first section focused on the Safety Day programs. The results are as follows:

- \*Overall satisfaction with this activity – 88.0 %
- \*Satisfaction with the activity being enjoyable – 92.0 %
- \*Satisfaction with the information being easy to understand – 90.0 %

The last section focused on knowledge and the results (open ended responses ) are as follows:

- \*Know before you dig
- \*Wear head protection when riding ATV's
- \*Say no to drugs
- \*Always wear safety vest when you ride in a boat

**Summary of Results:**

Results indicate that the Frio County Outdoor Education Program met its objectives of increasing knowledge and behavioral changes with the youth that participated. 88.0 % of the youth participated also indicated that they were mostly or completely satisfied with the entire program.

**Acknowledgements:**

Special thanks go to the Frio County Youth Leadership Advisory Board members and Chairperson Mr. Ashton Hutchins and local cooperators and sponsors such as Frio County, City of Pearsall, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, H.E.B. and the Pearsall Recreational Department, Chesapeake Energy, Methodist Hospital Air Life and U.S. Border Patrol.

**Future Program Actions:**

As we continue to address this local issue in Frio County and identify other areas of concern, we will continue to identify local resources that can help in future programmatic effort.



*2012 Frio County One Day 4-H Plan*

**Plan Summary Report**

**Date of Summary: November 20, 2012**

**Relevance:**

One Day 4-H is one day for all 4-H members, parents, leaders and volunteers to step out into the community and county and say “thank you” by giving back for the more than 104 years of support to 4-H in Texas. The Frio County 4-H Club members identified potential community service projects in the county and nominated their project to the Frio County 4-H Council.

**Response:**

The Frio County 4-H Clubs identified community service projects that were needed in the county. Each club then narrowed their list by voting on one community service project they would like to nominate to the Frio County 4-H Council. The council then voted on all 4 community service projects, nominated and selected the 2012 “One Day 4-H” Community Service Project. This year the Frio County 4-H Council voted to put together Military Care Packages for the Frio County Service members serving overseas.

**Results:**

22 4-H members and volunteers collected items from 7 local businesses and 15 individuals worth over \$900.00 and were able to put 27 care packages together.

**Summary of Results:**

27 care packages were put together and shipped to Frio County Military service members serving overseas.

**Acknowledgements:**

Special Thanks go to the Frio County 4-H Clubs , Frio 4-H Council and Frio County businesses and individuals that donated items for the care packages.

***2012 Frio County Community Resources and Economic Development Plan***  
**Developed By: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent-Ag**

**Date of Summary: November 20, 2012**

**Response:**

Frio County AgriLife Extension Service provides educational programs in community resources and economic development to enhance the quality of life for Frio County residents. Community development programming targets the development of individual abilities and community support for creating and growing businesses, jobs, wealth and income.

The Frio County Community Resources and Economic Development Plan, provides outreach education to inform clientele and stakeholders or community needs. The following programs were administered:

- Worked with Frio County Commissioner's Court on building a Community Room at the Frio County AgriLife Extension Office.
- Hired Harry Jewett and Associates Architects to design the Frio County Community Room Expansion Project.
- Worked with Frio County Jr. Livestock Show Board to expand the Stock Show facility.
- Claybuster's 4-H Club continues to host competitive shoots as fundraisers to raise money for club expenses.

**Result:**

The Community Room Expansion project and design and funding is nearly complete and we are hoping to start construction in early 2013.

The Frio County Jr. Livestock Barn facility expansion project was completed in January 2012.

The Frio County Jr. Livestock Show, Frio County Country Store, and the Frio County Commercial Heifer Show all took place the last weekend in January and the three shows raised \$332, 995.00 for 4-H and FFA members in Frio County.

Claybuster's 4-H club hosted 3 fund raiser shoots that included the South Texas Shoot Out fun shoot, The Big Blast County shoot, and the Big Blast Sponsor shoot. A total of \$24, 500.00 was raised for club expenses.

## *2012 Frio County Emergency Management Plan*

### **Plan Summary Report**

**Date of Summary: November 20, 2012**

#### **Response:**

The Frio County Emergency Management Plan provides guidance for the deployment of emergency resources under a local incident command. Our local emergency plan includes specific provisions for requesting and deploying state resources to aid in managing and resolving situations for which local resources are inadequate. Frio County Emergency Management Plan provided outreach education to clientele that helped them reduce their risk during a disaster. The following programs and activities were conducted this year.

- \*Reviewed and updated the Animal Issues Committee Plan
- \*Staff disaster Preparedness Training
- \*Office Disaster Preparedness Plan Review
- \*National Preparedness Week – Media Campaign
- \*District 12 Emergency Management Strike Team

#### **Result:**

This agent updated the County Emergency Management Coordinator on the Animal Issues Committee Plan, Office Emergency Management Preparedness Plan and the Emergency Training this agent has attended.

Over 90 families received Disaster Preparedness information through the 4-H monthly newsletters. Over 3500 people were reached through the local newspaper circulation during National Preparedness Week Media Campaign. This agent also volunteered to join the District 12 Emergency Management Strike Team to help co-workers around the state during a disaster.

# Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

## Frio County

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