



## Extension Education in Jim Hogg County

# Making a Difference

## 2012

*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:

## **Jim Hogg County – Summary of 2012 Educational Contacts**

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Summary of Jim Hogg County Extension Agent for months of January through December 2012

4-H Clubs- 1

4-H Youth Members- 86

4-H Adult Leaders Association- 6

4-H Council- 5

4-H Adult Volunteers- 4

Total Youth Contacts- 200

Newsletter Releases- 4

Site Visits- 120

Phone Calls- 200

Adjunct Faculty-1

Web Contacts- 60

Curriculum Enrichment Participants-86

### Jim Hogg County 2012 Rangeland Management Plan

Developed by Humberto Martinez, Jim Hogg County Extension Agent- AG/NR

**Relevance:** There are over 83 million acres of pasture lands in Texas. The severe drought conditions that began in 2011 continue to significantly impact the health of native rangelands in Jim Hogg County. Native range serve as a vital resource in livestock production and as wildlife habitat in Jim Hogg County. Control of noxious weeds and invasive brush species on native rangelands continues to be a challenge for landowners. Brush sculpting allows landowners and wildlife managers to maintain or improve wildlife habitat. Health rangelands are very important to the local ecosystems and to agriculture in South Region.

**Response:** Landowners utilize recommended practices to improve rangeland health and enhance livestock production and wildlife habitat. The management practices and subject matter taught will include: range monitoring and stocking rates, weed and brush control, compatibility of livestock and wildlife on rangeland, and ag policy/EQUIP opportunities.

Dr. Megan D. Clayton, Erasmo Montemayor of NRCS and I were able to spray two locations with herbicide to test the effectiveness of some herbicide spray mixtures at specific ranches and treatment areas.

Hobo Ranch: This mixture and test spray was to combat an invasive species of perennial bunchgrass known as Tanglehead (Contortus). Specific areas of Tanglehead were chosen and sprayed with specific mixtures of herbicide by hand.

El Brazil Ranch: This mixture and test spray was to treat fencelines from mesquite, cactus and other mixes of heavy brush. This spray was done by hand to combat/ control the over growth of brush on ranch fencelines.

**Results:** Increase knowledge of recommended range management practices including weed and brush control, prescribed fire, and grazing management/stocking rates will be included.

Hobo Ranch: There was significant results of control/ combat results. But, also due to extreme drought conditions Jim Hogg County has sustained in 2012 a specific ratio was hard to determine. Ranch management and ownership was pleased and continues to be very supportive to Texas A&M Extension for interpretation and future outcomes. They also know and agree that effective range management is a cornerstone to future value of ranch and what it produces.

El Brazil Ranch: There was also significant results on this fenceline treatment area. Also, due to extreme drought conditions of 2012, effective ratios of kill were hard to determine. Ranch ownership was very pleased at the opportunity to work with Texas A&M Extension for the interpretation and wants to work heavily with future outcomes. This ranch runs purebred Beefmaster cattle and agrees with the philosophy of effective brush control and clean fencelines are very important to run livestock. Also, this ranch has started working to intensify its deer herd and understands to current value and future value this resource will have.

**Future Plans:** The plan is to definitely continue these two treatment areas in the future. Both locations are excellent opportunities to grow knowledge and base within these subject matters. With some rainfall and better weather conditions these two areas can produce significant results.

### Jim Hogg County- 2012 County Food Show

**Developed By:** Humberto Martinez, Jim Hogg County Extension Agent, AG/NR

**Relevance:** The Texas AgriLife Extension Service's 4-H & Youth Development Program places great value on the 4-H Family & Consumer Sciences projects. These projects expose 4-H members to the academic disciplines of family and consumer science and help them gain valuable skills and knowledge that can be applied to daily life. These projects also teach leadership skills.

Youth Healthy Lifestyles programs, and related youth health and nutrition programs, are one of the cornerstone programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Nationally, 19% of children ages 6-11 years are obese. In Texas, 23% of fourth grade children are obese. Childhood obesity is associated with increased risk for diabetes, high blood pressure and adult overweight/obesity. Helping children develop healthy habits and avoid destructive habits, such as using tobacco, is an important part of the battle to conquer cancer.

The Jim Hogg County Fair Food Show is an event that takes place at our local fair. The plan is to increase exposure to more District 12 events. Adults, parents and youth recognize the importance of a healthy nutrition and lifestyle. Education of proper diet and healthy habits will lead to better living.

**Response:** Goals of the 4-H FCS Program include:

- Becoming responsible citizens and leaders in family, community and work settings;
- Promoting optimal nutrition and wellness across the life span;
- Managing resources to meet the material needs of individuals and families;
- Balancing personal, family and work lives;
- Using critical and creative thinking skills to address problems in diverse families, communities and work environments;
- Exemplifying successful life management, employment and career development;
- Functioning effectively as providers and consumers of goods and services; and
- Appreciating human worth and accepting responsibility for one's actions and success in family and work life.

Jim Hogg County 4H recognize and support our local fair association in promoting healthy living styles and county food show. The goal through support of volunteers is to grow that program to our district level.

**Results:**

- Living an active lifestyle;
- Understanding of and healthy eating plan according to My Plate;
- Increased consumption of fruits and vegetables;
- Sixty minutes of physical activity most days of the week;
- Decreased screen time to no more than two hours per day; and
- Understand and apply food safety practices.

We currently have over 40 county food show participants at our local fair in March. We will grow our 4H food and consumer sciences program to compete at District 12 level Food Show and Food Challenge.

**Future Plans:** I plan to encourage more participation in our District 12 Food Show and Food Challenge with more in-depth judging of our local fair show, especially when it comes to ingredients and serving size.

### Jim Hogg County 2012 "Take A Stand"- Anti-Bullying Campaign

**Developed By:** Humberto Martinez, Jim Hogg County Extension Agent, AG/ NR

**Relevance:** Conflicts among youth and bullying have been increasing. School districts have been mandated by the Texas Legislature through two bills (House Bill 212 and 283) to adopt and implement a dating violence policy and a discipline management policy. Both bills require training for teachers/staff as well as training/curriculum for youth to address these issues. Currently, there is no standard curriculum being utilized by school districts. Texas 4-H has developed, in partnership with the Texas Rural Mediation Services, a curriculum called Take A Stand! This curriculum addresses both of these issues.

Bullying unfortunately has reached heights that many were not prepared for. Many school districts are asking for material and help in trying to get ahead of this tragic trend in society. Gone are the long ago days of bullying on the playground. Though this still happens, cyber-bullying has taken center stage of an on-going 24 hour around the clock happening everyday in your face style of harassment and bombardment.

#### **Response:**

1. Educate youth on positive ways to deal with conflict.
2. Decrease incidents of discipline referrals in schools.

To meet with school counselors and administrators to discuss ways of using the Texas A&M Extension "Take A Stand" Curriculum at all three campuses (Elementary, Junior High and High School).

**Results:** Students increase knowledge and skills to solve conflict peacefully. Teachers observe students using skills to work out conflict. Schools experience a decline in discipline referrals.

I have met with counselors and administrators at all three campuses (Elementary, Junior High and High School) to discuss installing or using the Texas A&M Extension "Take A Stand" curriculum at the campuses. All counselors and administrators are very interested, show and express a deep interest in the curriculum. Many are glad to see and did not even know the us at Texas A&M Extension had this information for them.

Elementary school counselor, Patricia Barraz used this curriculum and conducted multiple workshops at the elementary school campus. She was very pleased with the material and uses it regularly. Giving the children positive ways to express themselves, other than dangerous or violent tendencies is something that was definitely needed.

**Future Plans:** We will continue to use this curriculum in Jim Hogg County. It is showing positive ways to deal with a growing epidemic. It is showing our children other avenues other than violence and danger.

I will continue to present materials to all at Jim Hogg County Independent School District in regard to our "Take A Stand" Curriculum. It is important to show that we at Texas A&M Extension are here to stand shoulder to shoulder with all our school districts to fight bullying and show support for each other.

**Jim Hogg County- 2012 Community Development**

**Developed By: Humberto Martinez, Jim Hogg County Extension Agent, AG/NR**

**Response:** The effective management of a County Extension Office is critical to a high quality Extension program and the efficient management of human and material resources that support Extension programs. In addition to office operations, a strong Leadership Advisory Board (LAB) is a key program development element of programming that is the foundation for program support, direction, and visibility in the community.

In Jim Hogg County strong county government is a key to our success. County officials must believe and have total trust in agents and our duties to the public, likewise the school districts must trust that information that is used and given to them is not only accurate but, independent of influence.

**Results:** In Jim Hogg County I worked closely with adults and local politicians to develop strategies to acquire funds to support the 4-H program and activities.

This year, 2012 we held the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Skeet Shooting Tournament in January and it was a complete success. Many teams and sponsors came out to support our local youth. And this upcoming, 2013 there is no doubt that it will be even more successful just by what I've been told.

Also, this 2012 we held the most successful Jim Hogg County Fair there has been to date. This was great and had the town of Hebronville buzzing.

We continue to send shooters to the 4H State games in shooting/ archery competition. This discipline is growing every year within our 4H program.

We could not do any of this without the support of our local County Judge, Guadalupe Canales, Commissioners; Antonio Flores, Abelardo Alaniz, Sandalio Ruiz and Juan Lino Ramirez.

# Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

## Jim Hogg County

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