



Extension Education in Live Oak 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:

Live Oak County – Summary of 2012 Educational Contacts

Live Oak County 2012 General Contacts

- 66 Total Educational Programs Conducted
- 1018 Total Participants at County Programs
- 401 Office Contacts
- 63 Site Visits were conducted
- 1020 Phone Calls
- 1062 E-mails
- 396 Web Contacts since May 2012
- 12 Radio Announcements
- 169 News Releases

2012 Live Oak County Ag/Nr Highlights

- 21 Continuing Educational Hours were offered for Private and Commercial and Non Commercial Applicators
- 2 Private Applicators trainings were held
- 6 Result Demonstrations were established and being evaluated.
- 10 Educational Programs were held
- 1 Soil Test Campaign was Offered
- 2 Private Water Well Screenings opportunities were offered
- Developed an Oil and Gas Task Force
- 764 Ag Quarterly Newsletters or mailed out

2012 Outcome Summary Highlights

2012 Live Oak County Wildlife Management Outcome Summary

Relevance

Live Oak County is made up of 1039 square miles of rich wildlife diversity in which the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and the Extension Leadership Advisory Board have a strong desire to educate our wildlife managers on managing our native mixed brush plant communities which support wildlife populations. It is very important that land managers today understand basic ecological principles of plant succession, plant growth, food chains, water, mineral and soil nutritive cycles as they affect range, wildlife, and grazing management. In addition we should know and recognize the basic needs and preferences of the livestock and wildlife species for which we are trying to manage. It is equally important to manage for a high level of plant succession and quality wildlife habitat using the basic tools of grazing, rest, fire, hunting, animal impact, disturbance, and technology. This not only produces high quality habitat and animals, but also can lead to more stable conditions during stress periods such as our extended drought.

Target Audience

The Educational Program targeted Wildlife Managers, Three Rivers Wildlife Coop Members.

Response

As a response of the need for Wildlife Management Education the County Extension Agent developed a group of educational articles and programs. Educational Articles were prepared for the Progress News Paper, Quarterly Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter, and educational opportunities included the Multi County Wildlife Field Day in Duval County, Multi County Wildlife Water Catchment Result Demonstration, and the Live Oak County Wildlife Management Workshop.

Results

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(Native Grass Planting Demonstration Site)

Agriculture and Natural Resources

A retrospective post questionnaire was used at the Live Oak County Wildlife Management Workshop to capture the knowledge that was gained as part of these educational efforts.

- 10 out of 10 or 100% Increased their knowledge in understanding Important Brush Species for South Texas and Live Oak County
- 9 out of 10 or 90% Increased their knowledge of how these brush species are beneficial to wildlife and other species.

- 10 out of 10 or 100% had a change in understanding of how habitat management can increase the quality of wildlife habitat that you have.
- 10 out of 10 or 100% had a better understanding of the different habitat management techniques.
- 6 out of 10 or 60% Had a change in understanding of what a wildlife coop is and how it can assist a landowner.
- 10 out of 10 or 100% had an increase in understanding how a rain water harvesting can supplement your wildlife water needs.
- 9 out of 10 or 90% had an change in understanding the formula for capturing rainwater.
- 10 out of 10 or 100% had a change in understanding what a first flush diverter is.
- 8 out of 10 or 80% were completely satisfied with this event.
- 8 out of 10 or 80% plan to take action or make changes based on the information from this activity.
- 9 out of 10 or 90% of respondents anticipate benefitting economically as a direct result of what they learned from this Extension activity.

Summary:

Results indicate that the Live Oak County Wildlife Program met its objectives for increasing knowledge to wildlife managers in Live Oak County. The Extension Ag/Nr Committee plans to work with the agent to develop more wildlife educational programs in the future.

Special Thanks:

Eric Graham, PHD student at Texas A&M University Kingsville Caesar Kleberg Research Institute for his presentation on Native Brush and Its Wildlife Usage at the Live Oak County Wildlife Management Program.

Matt Reidy, Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologist presentation on Habitat Management at Live Oak County Wildlife Management program.

Myca Reed Texas Brigade Cadet and Live Oak County 4-H member for a presentation on the Texas Brigades. Ray Point Community Center for use of their facilities for the Live Oak County Wildlife Management program. Live Oak County Ag/Nr Committee Members.

2012 Live Oak County 4-H Family and Consumer Sciences Program

Relevance:

In Live Oak County, Food and Nutrition, and Clothing are the most popular projects related to the 4-H Youth program. Involving Youth in programs that instruct them about nutritious foods and the importance of engaging in regular physical activity are two of our major goals. As the numbers involving Youth with diabetes and obesity increase in South Texas, promoting a healthy diet and reducing the risk of obesity is a very real concern. Clothing projects for 4-H Youth provide them with information on budgeting for their clothing, a sense of accomplishment when they are able to make their own clothing and most important, a skill that will be useful throughout their lives.

Target Audience:

Youth 4-H participants, ages 9-19, in Live Oak County.

Response:

The County Extension Agent held educational and informational trainings for the adult leaders of the Food and Nutrition projects in Live Oak County and the Youth participants. A club managers meeting was held where information was given regarding the changes for the 2012 Food Show, so they could pass that information along to their clubs and 4-H participants. A Food Show training and information meeting was open to Youth and parents interested in participating in the Live Oak County Food Show. In preparation for their Food Show interview, information included MyPlate, Food Safety and other topics such as nutrient knowledge, food preparation and food presentation. These trainings contributed to a successful county food show. Food Challenge practice events were conducted to help prepare our 1 Intermediate and 1 Senior Food Challenge teams who are participating in the 2012 District 12 Food Challenge. In addition to the Food Show projects, the 4-H Youth collected canned foods and non-perishable items for the local Food Bank.

For the Clothing project, we went over the information with the Club Managers to make them aware of dates and deadlines as well as the logistics of the county fashion show. We met with some of the Local 4-H clubs and discussed information regarding the fashion show and the sewing project held in conjunction with the Live Oak County Fair. The Fashion Show proved to be a successful event, enjoyed by all the Youth involved.

Another project undertaken by the 4-H Youth was collecting gently used jeans for less fortunate in the area.

Participating in community service events such as food and jeans collection instills in our Youth a sense of pride that, in their way, they are able to be of service to and help those less fortunate.

Results:

- 6 club managers attended the Club Managers Meeting for information on the Live Oak County Food Show, to take information back to their clubs.
- 13 Youth and parents attended the Food Show Training and Informational meeting held at the Live Oak County Extension Office
- 10 Youth participated in the 2012 Live Oak County Food Show, all of which are eligible to advance to District Competition.

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Family and Consumer Sciences

- 7 Youth divided into 2 teams (1 Intermediate & 1 Senior) will participate in the 2012 District 12 Food Challenge.
- 6 adult leaders attended the Club Managers meeting for information on the Live Oak County Fashion Show.
- Attended several 4-H meetings to give information regarding the Fashion Show, all meetings were attended greatly by 4-H Youth.
- 10 Youth participated in the Live Oak County Fashion Show, held in conjunction with the Live Oak County Fair clothing division.
- Jean Drive held to collect gently used jeans for the needy in Live Oak County.
- Canned food drive to collect non-perishable items to distribute to the local food bank.

Summary:

Results indicate that these Food and Clothing projects are of extreme importance to the Youth of Live Oak County. Plans are to continue working with volunteers and Youth to address foods and nutrition related issues, as well as the clothing project. The Youth realize the impact of community service.

Food Show Participants



2012 Live Oak County Better Living for Texans Program

Relevance

862 households in the county receive benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (source: http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/research/TANF_FS.asp). 3,923 are eligible to receive the benefits. Research suggests that SNAP recipients and other limited resource individuals consume diets that are not in agreement with current dietary recommendations (i.e. Dietary Guidelines and MyPlate), potentially increasing their risk for developing chronic disease. Additionally, limited resource audiences are at a higher risk for food insecurity and hunger, which also impacts health.

Response

The goals for the BLT program include: 1. Clients will improve dietary quality and engage more often in physical activity 2. Clients will adopt one or more food resource management skills such as meal planning, comparison shopping, or shopping from a list. 3. Clients will indicate a reduction in out-of-pocket food expenses. 4. Clients will improve in one or more food safety practices such as proper hand washing, proper storage of food and proper thawing of food.

Results

Being new to the BLT program, this year I worked on building up the BLT program in my county. There was a BLT recipe in all of our newsletters, to raise awareness of the program, and promote healthy eating among our clientele. I also provided numerous programs to different organizations in our county, giving them information on stretching your food dollars, and food safety.

For more information contact Andrea
Becker at the Live Oak County
Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension
Office (361) 449-1703 **AgriLifeExtension**



Live Oak County 2012 4-H Information

- 299 4-H members enrolled in 2011-2012
- 7 4-H Clubs
- 78 4-H Adult Volunteers
- 7 4-H Master Volunteers
- 153 Special Interest and Short Term Participants
- 325 School Enrichment Contacts
- 1809 4-H Newsletters Sent Out Annually

4-H Outcome Summary Highlights

2012 Live Oak County One Day 4-H

Relevance

In Live Oak County, the county council decided it was important to participate in One Day 4-H. One day 4-H is one day for all the 4-H members, parents, leaders, and volunteers to step out into their communities and county and say “thank you” by giving back for them more than 103 years of support to 4-H in Texas. This day held on October 13, can be whatever you may want it to be. The Live Oak County youth, thought this day would be best spent, giving back to the elderly of our communities, by visiting the local nursing homes in George West and Three Rivers. National 4-H week, the week leading up to One-Day 4-H was also filled with numerous acts of community service led by the youth of Live Oak County.

Target Audience:

The youth in Live Oak County, ranging in age from 9-19.

Response

In the days leading up to One Day 4-H week, known as National 4-H week, held October 7-13, 2012; the Live Oak County Council decided on numerous community service events that they thought would be important in serving our community. Prior to all of these events on September 28, the county agents, and 3 local youth, made their way to Live Oak County Commissioners Court to have the County Judge, Jim Huff sign the National 4-H week proclamation, the youth also gave them a break-down of the community service events that they had planned for that week, it was greatly received by those in court that morning. Beginning National 4-H week on Sunday, canned goods were collected to be distributed to the local food bank, and the youth from Three Rivers gathered at the Three Rivers City Square to raise the 4-H flag for the week. On Monday the youth from George West gathered at the Live Oak County Courthouse, to also raise the 4-H flag for National 4-H week. Tuesday the youth gathered at the George West gymnasium, to clean up the bleachers after the Lady Horns volleyball

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National 4-H Week Flag Raising at Three Rivers

4-H and Youth Development

game. Wednesday was set aside to paint the town green, by distributing green clovers across the communities at local businesses. For Thursday, travel size toiletries were collected for the new mission that is being started in Three Rivers. On Friday, the youth wrote Thank-You cards to soldiers who are over-seas to thank them for their bravery and service. All of these activities were leading up to One Day 4-H, held on October 13, 2012, where our youth spent the morning at the local nursing homes.

Results

A retrospective post -test that measured understanding and behavior changes as a result of the project, was distributed to the youth that participated in the event.

- o A total of 9 surveys were distributed and 77.8% of those were returned
- o 100% had a more positive feeling about the community service project they conducted.
- o 85.7% have a better appreciation of the community they live in as a result of participating.
- o 100% felt more comfortable working in a team.
- o 71.4% will be more of an influence in their community/county because of their project.
- o 71.4% have learned something about themselves as a result of participating in this project.
- o 100% will be more comfortable with serving in leadership roles, because of participating in One-Day 4-H
- o 86 total toiletry items were donated to the new forming mission in Three Rivers
- o 65 can goods and non-perishable food items were collected for the local food pantry
- o 31 cards were received to donate to send to our soldiers over sees.
- 4-H individual club activities
 - o 3 bags of dog food was donated to the local animal shelter
 - o 350 youth age books were donated to the Driscoll Childrens Hospital
 - o 4-H members cleaned, pruned and put fresh mulch down at the Three Rivers Community Rose Garden
 - o Crayons for kids were collected

For More Information Contact Andrea Becker or Dale Rankin at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Live Oak County at (361) 449-1703

2012 Live Oak County 4-H Officers Boot Camp

Relevance

Live Oak County has 7 4-H Clubs in the County and a slate of 4-H County Council Officers that all have leadership roles that make the 4-H program a success in the county. The Leadership Advisory Board, 4-H Club Managers and Council members identified leadership training as an important need for the county. With these groups identifying this as an important need for 4-H members the County Extension Agents utilized the Leaders for Life curriculum to help teach leadership.



4-H County Camp Session on Etiquette

Target Audience

The educational program targeted 7 4-H Club Officers and 4-H County Council Officers.

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4-H and Youth Development

Response

As a response of the 4-H officer leadership training the County Extension Agent held educational trainings with curriculum used from the Leaders For Life Curriculum. We also held the third annual 4-H Officer Boot Camp for Club Members and County Council Officers. The County Extension Agents also developed a column in the 4-H newsletter which is strictly used for Leader For Life Educational information which focuses on leadership, parliamentary procedure and 4-H History and facts.

Results

A customer Satisfaction survey with retrospective post questionnaire was used to evaluate the program.

- Twenty four 4-H members attended the 4-H officer Boot camp and 100% returned the survey
- 50% of 4-H members participating had an increase in understanding steps to achieve their goals.
- 37% of 4-H members participating had increased understanding in the importance of setting personal goals to achieve success
- 31% of 4-H members participating had an increase in self confidence
- 50% of 4-H members participating had an increase in understanding the importance of practicing their communication skills
- 37% of 4-H members participating had an increase in understanding the importance of sharing ideas with others.

Summary:

Results indicate that 4-H members increased their knowledge of Parliamentary Procedure, Leadership, Team

Work and Club Officer Responsibility. Plans are to continue with the 4-H Officer Boot Camp and continue to put educational articles in the 4-H Newsletter.

Special Thanks:

George West Methodist Church for use of their facilities and hosting the 4-H Officer Boot Camp
For More Information Contact Dale Rankin or Andrea Becker at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service of Live Oak County at (361) 449-1703



4-H Shooting Sports Shotgun

4-H Dog Project Participants

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Live Oak County Community and Economic Development 2012

4-H Program Community Development and Support

- The Live Oak 4-H Council helps organizes and supports the Driscoll Children's Hospital Auction Fundraiser were this year they raised over \$58,000 thousand dollars to benefit the Driscoll Children's Hospital. Several Community Businesses and local citizens really help support the auction and make it a success.
- The Live Oak 4-H Council holds a Christmas Community Service Project in which it will donate can food and non-perishable item's to the local food pantry.
- 15 4-H members made the Livestock Auctions at the Major Livestock Shows in Texas bringing \$33,665.00 dollars back into the county and community.
- The Live Oak 4-H Adult Leaders and Parent's Association held it's Third Annual Livestock Judging Contest in which it had a total of 23 teams that came from outside of Live Oak County area and competed in the contest.
- A total of 15 4-H members in the Food and Nutrition Project got to sale their baked items at the Live Oak County Fair for Record Amounts this year.
- Live Oak County 4-H and FFA members were able to participate in the Live Oak County Fair in which \$592,065.95 was raised through the premium sale.

Live Oak Extension Youth Board

- The Live Oak Extension Youth Board held a Career Fair in which over 200 High School Juniors and Seniors participated and got to visit with 17 local, regional and state Business, Universities, Technical Schools, Military and Governmental agencies.
- The Live Oak Extension Youth Board also held a Jacket and Pants Drive for local school youth that need pants and jackets. 23 pairs of Jeans were donated and 19 Jackets these were split up as evenly as possible with George West and Three Rivers Schools.

Live Oak Extension Leadership Advisory Board

- The Live Oak Extension Leadership Advisory Board Held an Oil and Gas Leasing Program in which it educated producers on Negotiating Oil and Gas Leases Judon Fambrough from the Texas A&M Real Estate Center was the Guest Speaker and we had over 110 citizens present at this event.

Community Economic Development

- Working in Conjunction with the Extension Ag/Nr Committee and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Live Oak Soil and Water Conservation District, and the South Texas Natives Group a Native Grass Pipeline Right Of Way Result Demonstration project was established in which we have educated over 70, Pipeline companies, Landmen, Contractors, and Landowners on different reseeding methods and species varieties.

Live Oak Extension Ag/Nr Committee

- The Live Oak Extension Ag/Nr Committee held a Beef Cattle Marketing program to help educate producers on ways to maximize the returns that they can get with their cull cows, calves. 12 producers took part in this program.,
- The Live Oak County Extension Ag/Nr Committee held a Range and Row Crop Field Day in which it worked to educate producers on new varieties, insect control and cost saving management tips and new brush control herbicides. 33 Producers took part in this program The mean total anticipated benefit from this program was \$5,071.00 per person.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Live Oak County

Staff

Dale Rankin

County Extension Agent Ag/Nr

dw-rankin@tamu.edu

Andrea Becker

County Extension Agent FCS

andrea.becker@ag.tamu.edu

Joyce Monse

Administrative Secretary

jmonse@ag.tamu.edu

Contact Us

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 320

George West, TX 78022

Physical Address:

204 Bowie Street

George West, TX 78022

Phone:

361-449-1703

361-449-1859

Fax:

361-449-1892

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