



## Extension Education in Cameron County

Making a Difference  
2011

*Improving Lives.  
Improving Texas.*

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service has been dedicated to serving Texans

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.

for nearly a century. The agency was established in 1915 under the Smith-Lever Act to deliver university knowledge and agricultural research findings directly to the people. Extension programs have continued ever since to address the emerging issues of the day, serving diverse rural and urban populations across the state.

Texans turn to Extension for solutions. Its agents and specialists respond not only with answers, but also with resources and services that result in a significant return 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:

Through a well-organized network of professional educators and more than 100,000 trained volunteers, Extension delivers practical research-based knowledge to Texans in all 254 counties. Our expertise and educational

## Cameron County – Summary of Educational Contact

Contacts	# of Sessions	Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3	Total
Faculty	1,149	40,538.06	1,800.47	6,341.47	48,680.00
Faculty & Volunteers	336	1,304.98	3,817.51	4,288.51	9,411.00
Total Group Methods	1,485	41,843.04	5,617.98	10,629.98	58,091.00
Individual Methods		10,239.00	21,568.50	13,311.50	45,119.00
Material Distributed		3,275.00	6,454.00		9,729.00
Total Contacts	1,485.00	55,357.04	33,640.48	23,941.48	112,939.00
Contact by Volunteers					
Group Methods	61	5,379.08	763.46	1,560.46	7,703.00
Individual Methods		1,416.92	7,653.54	4,897.54	13,968.00
Materials Distributed			400.00		400.00
Total Contacts	61	6,796.00	8,817.00	6,485.00	22,071.00
Marketing/Promotion		65.00	71.00	2,498.00	2,634.00
Total Contacts		65.00	71.00	2,498.00	2,634.00
Total All Contacts	1,546.00	62,218.04	42,528.48	32,897.48	137,644.00

# Making a Difference 2011

## **Agriculture and Natural Resource**

This past year the Agricultural and Natural Resource Extension Program Area Committees collaborated with other entities and individuals, and implemented a diverse educational program. Educational programs addressed local agricultural concerns and critical issues. This past year's total agriculture total cash receipts were more than \$228,000,000 in the county. In 2010 the annual cash receipts for the top agriculture commodities were as follows: Cotton \$26 million, Grain Sorghum \$21 million, Corn \$4 million, Vegetables \$14 million, Livestock \$7 million, Commercial Aquaculture \$46 million and Nurseries \$75 million.

## **2011 Cameron/Hidalgo/Willacy County Crop Production Program**

Developed by Dr. Enrique Perez, County Extension Agent- Agriculture, Cameron County; Brad Cowan, County Extension Agent- Agriculture, Hidalgo County and Omar Gonzales, County Extension Agent- Agriculture, Willacy County

**Relevance:** Nutrient management is an important economic and environmental issue that affects water quality, soil quality and crop productivity. Sugarcane, cotton, grain sorghum and corn are important agronomic crops for the Rio Grande Valley. An estimated 70 percent of sugarcane producers could improve their yields which could enhance the profitability of this crop for all producers. New/underutilized crops need to continue to be investigated such as soybeans and sesame.

**Response:** AgriLife Extension provides educational resources for crop producers to gain knowledge which gives them the information necessary to become more efficient, economically sustainable and Environmentally friendly. The Rio Grande Valley Nutrient Management Education Program is a multi-county soil testing program conducted by specialists and agents with Texas AgriLife Extension Service. The primary objective of the program is to educate producers about the economic and environmental benefits of soil testing and proper nutrient management. Over the past ten years, this project has collected 4,700 soil samples representing a total of more than 181,000 acres of cropland in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties. Through educational workshops and field days, growers have received training enabling them to implement effective nutrient management strategies.

**Results:** A total of 12 group methods resulted in 1373 contact hours of education. The economic impact of the RGV Nutrient Management Education Program was measured in terms of potential fertilizer savings that have resulted from increased adoption of soil testing. Using soil test recommendations and producer-planned fertilizer rates, the savings in nitrogen and phosphate were estimated at 4.6 million and 5.5 million pounds, respectively. Reduction in fertilizer application rates translated into an average cost savings of \$25.77 per acre, depending on crop and management history. Total economic benefits to producers since the program began in 2001 are estimated at \$4.67 million. This analysis does not include the value of environmental benefits.

Ag producers were educated on a wide variety of topics using a number of different methods. Topics included cotton, soybean, grain sorghum, corn, sesame and sunflower production; conservation tillage; risk management; fertility management; marketing and many others. Methods included field days, research demonstrations conducted on producer farms, educational meetings and publications. These included: Cotton Pre-Plant Conference, Grain Sorghum and Corn Field Day, Cotton Field Day, EQIP Meeting, Sugarcane Field Day and Soybean Field Day. New efforts to increase producer profits included conducting a sunflower hybrid result demonstration and conducting a Sunflower Production Meeting. Important collaborators included: Dr. Dan Fromme, Dr. Gaylon Morgan, Dr. Mark McFarland, Dr. Calvin Trostle, Dr. Tom Isakeit, Dr. Luis Ribera, Dr. James Grichar, Sesaco, Rio Farms, Inc., Lower Rio Grande Valley Cotton and Grain Producers, Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Grain Sorghum Association, local ag industry representatives and Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation

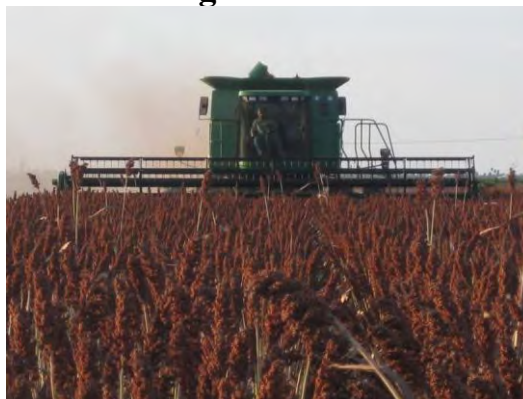
**Future Plans:** Continue soil testing campaign, contingent upon funding and continue important hybrid trials for the major crops. Conduct extensive work in establishing row crop result demonstrations.

Cameron County agriculture result demonstrations were established this past spring 2011. All Agriculture Result Demonstrations were harvested and evaluated; cotton, grain sorghum and corn varieties. Agriculture producers had the opportunity to visit and visually evaluate all field Agriculture Result Demonstrations as to their performance.

## Cotton Result Demonstration



## Grain Sorghum Result Demonstration





## Cameron County Sport Athletic Field Education

*Developed by Dr. Enrique Perez, County Extension Agent-Agriculture, Cameron County*

### Relevance/Issue Description:

Water Quality and conservation were identified as a TCFF issue in Cameron County. Water management is one of the critical components of the best management practices of sports fields. The Sport Athletic Field Education (SAFE) program, developed by Texas AgriLIFE Extension, of the Texas A&M University System, offers turfgrass management assistance for athletic directors, coaches, sport field managers and fields personnel. Primary goals for the SAFE program include educating managers to maintain the highest quality field possible, conserve resources (water, fertilizer, pesticide, etc.) through proper application principles and provide for a safer playing condition for users. The SAFE maintenance approach involves the following activities: Develop the most effective and economical fertilizer program based on soil test results, turfgrass species, environmental conditions and field use. Determine the best mowing height and frequency for each field based on type of sport field, turfgrass species and available mowing equipment. Develop a customized irrigation program tailored to particular field based on water needs and irrigation system performance. Develop an aerification program for the field to promote proper turfgrass growth and development, using equipment that measures hardness of soil. Encourage proper water usage/conservation measures to assure continued high quality water and availability. Program emphasis is to improve turfgrass quality, enhances player safety, and aesthetic of sport fields.

### Response:

The Cameron County SAFE committee this year (2011) implemented series of educational activities. Target audience included local and area athletic directors, coaches, sport field managers and field personnel in Cameron County. The target audience also includes local school ISD administration personnel and other interested turf managers. In Cameron County all school districts with sport fields under natural turf were the target population. In Cameron County, only seven of the nine sports athletic fields managed by the school district were of natural turf. Two sport athletic fields were of artificial turf. Of the seven natural turf sport athletic fields, five participated; La Feria ISD, Los Fresnos ISD, Rio Hondo ISD, Harlingen ISD, and Santa Rosa ISD in 2011 educational programs in Cameron County. Other participants from adjacent county include Donna ISD, Pharr ISD, and San Juan ISD all from Hidalgo County.

The SAFE Program was implemented in all school districts. Four of the five county school district athletic sport field had an irrigation audit based on the SAFE Program guidelines. School administrators, athletic sport field managers and other maintenance field personnel participated in the SAFE Program, evaluating sites and participating in educational workshop.

In Cameron County, a series of educational events were planned and delivered during 2011 by Texas AgriLIFE Extension.

- Sport Athletic Field Education- 4 School District Site Visits
- Sports Athletic Field Education Meeting-Introduction
- Sports Athletic Field Education Conferences-5 School Districts
- Sports Athletic Field Education Soil Testing Program
- Sports Athletic Field Education Water Testing Program
- Sports Athletic Field Education Irrigation Auditing-4 School Districts
- Sports Athletic Field Education Conferences-4 School Districts

- Sports Athletic Field Education Workshop and Tour
- Sports Athletic Field Education Site Evaluations/Conferences- Four School Districts Partnerships and Collaborators: In Cameron County, all school districts that participated in the program were sponsors and contributors to the Sport Athletic Field Education program by donating labor, equipment, and resources.

## Evaluation Strategy:

A retrospective post survey was administered to all program participants (21) at the end of the Sports Athletic Field Education program and SAFE Workshop/Tour.

**Results:** All participants (21) school ISD administration, athletic field managers, athletic directors, sport turf field managers) that participated in the workshop/tour and educational activities agreed 100% that information provided was very informative and would adopt practices introduced to conserve water, improve turf conditions and reduce cost of operation of athletic field.

## Questions: Retrospective Post Survey

	Disagree	Possibly	Agree	Definitely
1. I learned about the different types of sprinkler heads (rotor, sprayers, impacts).			47%	53%
2. I learned why evapotranspiration is important to schedule irrigation		18%	29%	53%
3. I learned about how to evaluate the uniformity of the irrigation system.		6%	47%	47%
4. I learned what is and how to estimate the application rate (in./hour) of the irrigation system.		12%	47%	41%
5. I learned how to develop an irrigation schedule.		12%	47%	41%
6. I learned why irrigation uniformity is important.			35%	65%
7. The presentation on irrigation scheduling results was clear for the understanding irrigation scheduling..	6%	6%	47%	41%
8. The handouts distributed by the instructor were helpful.		6%	29%	65%
9. Are you going to be able to apply what you learned?		12%	35%	53%
10. Would you recommend this workshop and the auditing of irrigation systems to others?		6%	35%	59%
Overall Knowledge Average	0.6%	7.8%	39%	51%

**Future Plans:** In 2012, the Extension SAFE Task Force will plan, implement, and evaluate a variety of educational programs addressing sport athletic field needs and concerns from sport athletic field managers, school administrators, athletic directors, coaches, sport field managers and field personnel.

## Sport Athletic Field Education Program

Irrigation Auditing-SAFE Program



Mowing-SAFE Program



Dr. Jim McAfee-SAFE Program



Dr. Juan Enciso-SAFE Program



## 2011 Rio Grande Valley Beef Development Program

*Developed by Dr. Enrique Perez, County Extension Agent- Agriculture, Cameron County and County Agriculture Extension Agents in Hidalgo, Willacy, and Starr Counties*

**Relevance:** Beef producers can improve their herd or the herds of their customers through more rigid sire selection. Replacement heifers will perform to higher levels when in optimum body condition. Beef producers want to increase the value of bulls by collecting feedlot performance data and carcass characteristics.

**Response:** Extension conducted an official 112 day bull gain test and a 126 day heifer development program. Numerous data are collected on all animals including: initial and final weights, average daily gain, body condition score, scrotal circumference, sheath score, reproductive tract score, pelvic area measurement, hip height and ultra-sound measurement of backfat and ribeye area. All data is provided to consignors.

**Results:** A total of 6 group methods resulted in a total of 258 contact hours of education. A bull gain test and heifer development program has been conducted each year from 1998 through 2011. A total of 1037 bulls, 805 heifers and 114 steers have been entered in the 14 years the program has been conducted. Currently, 28 bulls, 74 heifers and 60 steers are entered in the program by cattlemen participating from throughout south and central Texas. A feeder pen of steers is in its second year and adds a new dimension to the program. Important collaborators are: Dr. Joe Paschal, Rio Beef Feed Yard, Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show and the Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association.

**Future Plans:** In cooperation with the Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Association, plans are to continue the program and perhaps consider marketing alternatives for participants. Another future possibility will be to include an artificial insemination program for heifers.

### Rio Grande Valley Beef Improvement Consignors





## 2011 Cameron/Hidalgo County Pesticide Safety Program

*Developed by Dr. Enrique Perez, County Extension Agent- Agriculture, Cameron County and Brad Cowan, County Extension Agent- Agriculture, Hidalgo County*

**Relevance:** Ag producers have a statutory requirement to obtain and maintain a pesticide license issued by Texas Department of Agriculture in order to use crop protection chemicals. Extension is relied upon to provide the education needed in this process. Training is provided for those needing to obtain a license and continuing education is provided to local producers in order to renew their license.

**Response:** Educational training events were conducted to meet statutory requirements for producers to be able to obtain a license. Continuing education is also being provided to all educational events conducted which contain applicable subject matter.

**Results:** A total of 9 group methods resulted in a total of 1329 contact hours of education. Five Pesticide Safety Trainings were conducted in 2011. Ninety-five percent of the 38 students received a passing grade on the exam administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture. The average grade for all students was 87. Numerous continuing education credits were provided to ag producers during the course of the year at almost every educational meeting conducted. We also provided Certified Crop Consultants (CCA) continuing education through the CCA certification program. New requirements for continuing education for aerial applicators continued to be a problem for local aerial applicators. Educational training was provided to meet their specific need. Important collaborators were: Dr. Don Renchie, Agricultural & Environmental Safety Specialist; local personnel with Texas Department of Agriculture and Mr. Donnie Dippel with the Texas Certified Crop Advisor Program.

**Future Plans:** This effort will continue in the future to meet the needs of local agricultural producers and others needing pesticide license.

## 2011 Horticulture Education in Cameron County

*Developed by Jennifer Herrera, County Extension Agent-Horticulture, Cameron County*

**Relevance:** Cameron County has a population of 335,227. According to the 2005- 2009 U.S. Census Bureau 1.4% of the employed population works in the agriculture, forestry industry. Nursery production in the county is a million dollar industry next to agriculture production. Cameron County homeowners, landscapers, and home gardeners lack the knowledge and skills to effectively maintain horticulture management decisions. The Master Gardener Association provides leadership to horticulture programming in Cameron County. Master Gardeners offer a variety of teaching methods; workshops, training's, seminars, and tours. The Master Gardener Arboretum serves as a demonstration learning garden. According to the 2009 report, the Master Gardener program trained 1,208 individuals increasing the number of volunteers to 6,393 Master Gardeners throughout the state. They have provided 520,144 hours of volunteer service which equates to 260 full time employees. This represents a \$10 million dollar impact on the state of Texas. In Cameron County, the Master Gardeners volunteered more than 4,487 service hours equating to \$95,714.16 savings to the county in volunteer service in horticulture programming.

The county horticulture program major programmatic goal is to increase knowledge and skills of homeowners, landscapers, home gardeners a series of educational activities supported through demonstrations and evaluation of research based programs that measure economic and knowledge gain of environmental stewardship. Our goal was to reach over 500 people with horticulture programming. In Cameron County, the Master Gardeners reached over 5900 adults and 3382 youth. The Master Gardeners is a volunteer service program that is supported by utilizing trained volunteers to provide sustainability, economic viability, and sound horticultural principles to residents of Cameron County.

**Response:** The Cameron County Master Gardener committee this year implemented a series of educational activities. Target audience included local homeowners, landscapers, home gardeners, owners and employees within the landscaping and nursery industry. The Cameron County Master Gardeners program provides leadership and guidance to offer programs to assist homeowners, landscapers, home gardeners, owners and employees within the landscaping and nursery industry in making sound, economical decisions. The Master Gardener program goal is address needs and concerns in horticulture and update on new management tools. The Extension Horticulture Committee meets quarterly to plan, implement and evaluate programs

- Master Gardener Course, 75 hours of training and education (January through April 2011, 20 Interns)
- Series of Horticulture Educational Programs
  - Lawn Care/Management & Landscaping for Water Efficiency Program (February 2011, 42 participants)
  - Tree Care Management & Tree Species (March 2011, 45 participants)
  - Insects and Diseases on Ornamental Shrubs and Trees (April 2011, 31 participants)
- Urban Forestry Conference (April 2011, 150 participants)
- Youth Pick Your Lunch Summer Program (July 2011, 27 participants)
- Earth-Kind Landscaping and Gardening Seminar (September 2011, over 45 participants)
- Horticulture Radio Broadcast (September 2011 & October 2011 10,000 reached for every broadcast)
- Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale/ Home Garden Extravaganza & Plant Clinic (October 2011, over 250 participants)
- Educational Exhibit at Because I am a Woman Health Fair (October 2011)
- Educational Exhibit at Rio Grande Valley RV Directors Expo (October 2011)
- Educational Exhibit at Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival (November 2011)

- Horticulture news on News Center 23 (November 2011 10,000 reached)
- Master Gardener National Arbor Day Tree Planting Dedication (April 2011, 22 participants)
- Junior Master Gardeners School Gardens (11 total)
- Horticulture News Articles, 11 Articles in local newspapers (10,000 county residents reached for every article)
- Master Gardener Webpage (2,721 unique visits)
- Master Gardener Social Media Efforts (67 Followers)
- Self Guided Garden Tours (monthly)
- Elementary School Arbor Day event (300 youth)
- Civic and Garden Club Programs (monthly)
- Arboretum Demonstration Garden (monthly)
- Compost Demonstration Garden (monthly)

## Evaluation Strategy:

A retrospective post survey was administered face to face to all program participants at the end of each horticulture series; Lawn Care/Management & Landscaping for Water Efficiency Program, Tree Care Management & Tree Species Selection, Insects and Diseases on Ornamental Shrubs and Trees, and Earth-Kind Landscaping and Gardening Seminar.

## Results:

- 68% participants of the Lawn Care/Management & Landscaping for Water Efficiency Program agreed to definitely adopt the practice of landscaping for water efficiency on their lawn or garden.
- 52% participants of the Insects and Diseases on Ornamental Shrubs and Trees stated agreed to definitely adopt the practice of minimizing the use of pesticides and fungicides.
- 31% participants of the Tree Care Management & Tree Species agreed to definitely adopt and 15% already have adopted practices associated with tree management.
- 24% participants of the Earth-Kind Landscaping and Gardening Seminar agreed to probably adopt and 49% definitely will adopt to design or re-design their landscape for maximum nutrient management.

Poor 1	Fair 2	Good 3	Excellent 4	BEFORE Program				AFTER Program			
				1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Understanding of how to properly treat ornamentals for insects.				30%	44%	19%	7%		7%	59%	33%
Understanding of how to properly treat ornamentals for diseases.				41%	37%	19%	4%	4%	11%	48%	37%
Knowledge of tree species in Rio Grande Valley				32%	27%	12%	8%	8%	15%	42%	15%
Knowledge of proper mowing				29%	52%	10%	10%			32%	68%
Understanding of how to landscape for water efficiency				39%	29%	26%	6%		6%	39%	55%
Knowledge of turf varieties for the Rio Grande Valley				52%	39%	6%	3%		10%	26%	65%
Understanding how to properly apply fertilizer				45%	32%	13%	10%		3%	29%	68%
Appropriate plant selection to conserve water				20%	32%	39%	10%	2%	2%	46%	49%
How to manage your irrigation system				22%	49%	24%	5%		5%	29%	66%
Soil Preparation				29%	22%	37%	12%		7%	27%	66%
<b>Overall Knowledge Average:</b>				<b>33%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>52%</b>

**Future Plans:** In 2012, the Extension Horticulture Committee with support from the Cameron County Master Gardener Association will implement, plan and evaluate a variety of educational programs addressing horticulture environmental stewardship. Target audience; homeowners, landscapers, home gardeners, owners and employees within the landscaping and nursery industry.





# Making a Difference 2011

## 2011 Earth-Kind Education in Cameron County

*Developed by Jennifer Herrera, County Extension Agent-Horticulture, Cameron County*

Texas AgriLife Extension and the Cameron County Master Gardeners hosted the second Annual Earth-Kind and Landscaping seminar. The Cameron County Master Gardeners hosted the first ever Earth-Kind seminar in the Rio Grande Valley in 2010 with 60 participants and this year there were 48 participants. The Earth-Kind Environmental Landscape Management System was created by horticultural experts with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, which is part of the Texas A&M University System. Earth-Kind Landscaping uses research-proven techniques to provide maximum garden and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting the environment. The objective of Earth-Kind Landscaping is to combine the best of organic and traditional gardening and landscaping principles to create a horticultural system based on real world effectiveness and environmental responsibility. Earth-Kind landscaping encourages: Landscape Water conservation, Reduction of fertilizer and pesticide use, Landscaping for energy conservation, Reduction of landscape wastes entering landfills. Individuals using Earth-Kind landscaping principles and practices can create beautiful, easy-care landscapes, while conserving and protecting natural resources and the environment. The goal of this research-based program is for all residents to enjoy beautiful, productive landscapes which require only minimal maintenance while providing maximum protection for the environment.

Texas AgriLife Extension and the Cameron County Master Gardeners are actively participating in a National Earth-Kind Rose randomized, replicated rose research. The Cameron County Master Gardeners have installed a 120 feet of Earth-Kind Rose Research site located in San Benito at the Cameron County Master Gardener Arboretum. The Cameron County Master Gardeners in cooperation with Texas AgriLife Extension Service are also assisting St. Albans Episcopal day school in Harlingen install an Earth-Kind rose trial. The Cameron County Master Gardener are working with 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Cameron County Master Gardeners have also recruited a team of dedicated homeowners from across Cameron and Hidalgo County to conduct advanced field testing of experimental rose selections across the Rio Grande Valley. Over the next 3 years, data will be collected and reported to Jennifer Herrera who is coordinating the Earth-Kind Rose research for Texas Agrilife Extension Service in Cameron County.



*Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating*

## Economic Impact:

- 61% of respondents estimate that their annual water use will decrease 10%-24% as a result of their participation in this AgriLife Extension Program
- 22% of respondents estimate that their annual water use will decrease 25%- 49% as a result of their participation in this AgriLife Extension Program
- 44% of respondents anticipate \$50-\$249 potential economic benefit from their participation in this AgriLife Extension Service
- 29% of respondents anticipate \$250-\$499 potential economic benefit from their participation in this AgriLife Extension Service
- 83% of respondents believe that an economic benefit can be attributed to reduce water use/cost.
- 56% of respondents believe that an economic benefit can be attributed to reduced maintenance/labor.
- 73% of respondents believe that an economic benefit can be attributed to improved landscape and/or property value.
- 49% of respondents believe that an economic benefit can be attributed to reduced cost of fertilizer and pesticides.
- 100% of respondents are homeowners and are not an owner or employee within the landscape and nursery industry.

## Results:


In landscape and gardening programs targeted to homeowners, 68% of participants agreed to definitely adopt the practice of landscaping for water efficiency on their lawn and garden, 52% will definitely adopt the practice of minimizing the use of pesticides and fungicides, and 49% will definitely design or re-design their landscape to maximize nutrient management

**Future Plans:** In 2012, the Extension Horticulture Committee with support from the Cameron County Master Gardener Association will implement, plan and evaluate a variety of educational programs addressing Earth-Kind educational programs. The use of Earth-Kind practices provides the opportunity to enjoy wonderful flowering plants while limiting the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and water. These sustainable practices are excellent examples of how Earth-Kind landscaping is working to preserve and protect our natural resources and the environment



### VALUE

#### Earth-Kind® Landscaping



The Earth-Kind® program enables participants to care for their gardens and landscapes by using environmentally friendly, research-proven techniques. Instructional highlights include water conservation, environmentally responsible fertilizer application, and non-chemical options for controlling pests. Use of Earth-Kind® practices benefits Texas by saving water and protecting surface and groundwater resources from potential contaminants.

## 2011 Junior Master Gardener and Junior Master Naturalist Education in Cameron County

*Developed by Jennifer Herrera, County Extension Agent-Horticulture, Cameron County*

In Cameron County, the Master Gardeners reached over 3382 youth through the Junior Master Gardener and Junior Master Naturalist educational programs. The Junior Master Gardener program is an international youth gardening program of the University Cooperative Extension network. JMG engages children in novel, "hands-on" group and individual learning experiences that provide a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind. The purpose of the Junior Master Gardener program is to grow good kids through igniting a passion for learning, success, and service through a unique gardening education. Junior Master Naturalist is a program supported by Texas Agrilife Extension and Texas Parks and Wildlife. The Junior Master Naturalist focus on native plant material, wildlife and the importance of wildlife conservation and natural habitats in the Rio Grande Valley.

### Relevance

Youths who are elementary school age are increasingly unaware of environmental stewardship and other horticulture related topics. It is important that youth be aware of how important the preservation of the environment.

### Response

Educational lessons were conducted in school and summer programs throughout Cameron County. Educational Programs were conducted in a variety of horticulture topics. These educational programs included vegetable gardening, composting, butterfly gardening, healthy eating, garden maintenance, rainwater harvesting, water conservation, soil types, wildlife conservation, and native plant material.

### Results

Students learned the meaning of environmental stewardship. The students learned to protect the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices. They also learned about the importance of vegetable gardening and healthy eating.



Elementary School Arbor Day event  
(300 participants)



Fun in the Garden Make and Take  
(10 participants)





Junior Master Gardener School Gardens  
(11 in Cameron County)



Las Yescas Butterfly Garden Community  
Project (25 participants)



Native Butterfly Tour  
(27Participants)



Junior Master Gardener Teacher Training (48  
participants)



Youth Pick Your Lunch Summer Program  
(27 participants)



## 2011 Gardening at Proyecto Juan Diego for Healthy Eating

*Developed by Jennifer Herrera, County Extension Agent-Horticulture, Cameron County*

**Relevance:** This year the Extension Horticulture program initiated a special interest project in community gardening at a local Colonia, in which residents were interested in healthy eating. It was important to provide education in the area on “How to Start a Garden” and “Vegetable Gardening for Healthy Eating”.

**Response:** Educational programs were directed and implemented in the areas on how to start a raised bed garden and small garden. Participants had the opportunity to get involved in hands on activities like the construction of both vegetable garden and vegetable growing. Also, participants were introduced to local varieties of vegetables that would grow well in the area and also provide them with a nutritious meal or snack.

**Results:** As a result a community garden has been established and continues to provide vegetables to Colonia residents in the Project Juan Diego Community. Also, due to the establishment of a community garden, residents of the Colonia have implemented a series of weekly horticulture education classes that expand in the areas of management and caring of a community garden (composting, water system-drip, vegetable planting methods etc.). More than 6 committed families contribute to this community garden and have provided testimony that their families have accepted a variety of vegetables in their meal menu.



Community Garden- Before



Community Garden- After



Proyecto Diego residents learn community gardening

## **Rio Grande Valley Chapter Texas Master Naturalist**

*Tony Reisinger, County Extension Agent – Coastal & Marine Resources*

- **RELEVANCE:** Growth and urbanization will be the preeminent issues facing the Texas coast for the next several decades. Past and present urbanization has led to habitat degradation and loss, which affects water quality and critical habitat.
- **RESPONSE:** To keep pace with coastal population growth on the Texas coast, the Rio Grande Valley Chapter Texas Master Naturalists (RGVCTMN) volunteer program has become an integral part of Texas Sea Grant's efforts. A TMN is a formally trained volunteer who must completed a minimum of 48 hours of instruction and 40 hours of volunteer service designed to provide them with the knowledge, "how to" skills and tools needed to provide service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.
- **RESULTS:** During 2011, 107 members of the Rio Grande Valley Chapter Texas Master Naturalists helped save over 1000 cold stunned green sea turtles during a severe freeze in February 2011, monitored and provided information on the location and impacts of the 2011 severe red tide bloom, trained 12 new interns, created 7 acres of wetlands and volunteered for 12,675 service hours for our community at a value of \$264,274.
- **RECAP:** Over 1000 sea turtles saved, red tide monitored to provide health updates to the coastal community, created 7 acres of wetlands and 11,754 volunteer service hours to community at value of \$251.1K.

**Saving Cold Stunned Sea Turtle**



**Counting Red Tide Cells**



## **Trade Adjustment Assistance for Shrimp Fishermen**

*Tony Reisinger, County Extension Agent – Coastal & Marine Resources*

- **RELEVANCE:** Gulf shrimp fishermen in Cameron County and the U.S. Southeast shrimp fishery have suffered devastating economic competition from foreign subsidized shrimp imports, resulting in a 75% decline in the number of vessels in our ports since the 1980's.
  
- **RESPONSE:** To help compensate for these losses, the Federal Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers Program was implemented after our shrimp industry qualified as having been hurt by imports. Qualified applicants had to undergo 12 hours of educational training to help them produce competitive product. Texas Sea Grant developed courses designed specifically for this and ten bilingual courses were taught in Cameron County at the Cameron County Courthouse and in Port Isabel.
  
- **RESULTS:** As a result of our efforts: Statewide 1002 applied for TAA under one of two petitions; 844 of those were approved. In the Valley, 235 applied for TAA under one of two petitions; 148 were approved. Nineteen of 25 total applicants (from both cycles) in the first cycle have completely finished and have collectively received \$228,000. Six of 25 total applicants (from both cycles) in the second cycle have completely finished and have collectively received \$24,000. Seventy-three from the first cycle have finished their initial business plans (ibp) and have received \$292,000. Thirty-seven from the second cycle have finished their ibp and have received \$48,100. One hundred thirty five of 148 approved applicants are either finished or in some stage of completion.
  
- **RECAP:** One hundred thirty five fishermen in the Valley have received \$592,000 in TAA funds and have learned to compete more effectively against imports through Sea Grant Extension Educational Programs.



Shrimp Fishermen Learn about Turtle Excluder Devices



## **Cameron County Shrimp Fleet Saves Millions In Fuel Costs**

*Tony Reisinger, County Extension Agent – Coastal & Marine Resources*

- **RELEVANCE** - For Gulf shrimp trawlers, fuel costs are a major operating expense. Gulf shrimp trawlers can use up to 80,000 gallons of diesel per year. Reducing operating expenses through reduced fuel consumption will improve vessel profitability, thus buoying an industry struggling to compete with imports and high fuel prices.
- **RESPONSE**- Since 2008, Texas Sea Grant Extension has been working with cooperating shrimp fishermen in Cameron County to transfer fuel-saving trawl gear technology. Personal visits at the dock and a series of educational seminars for the Shrimp Committee were given on issues pertaining to the industry.
- **RESULTS**- Reported fuel savings range from 20 to 39 percent. To date, more than 85% of the Cameron County fleet (132 vessels) have switched to the new fuel-efficient gear. In 2011 our Cameron county fleet saved 2.4 million gallons of fuel valued at \$7.9 million by adopting this new gear. During the past four years, county-wide fuel savings were estimated to be 9.7 million gallons valued at \$25.7 million. Additional savings are accrued through reductions in both the frequency of oil and filter changes and major engine overhauls. An estimated 200 jobs were saved because without these fuel savings, many of the boats would have remained idle during the 2008 through 2011 shrimp seasons.
- **RECAP**- 2011 fuel savings for 132 vessels = 2.4 mil gal, value: \$7.9 mil  
200 jobs saved





## Get the Facts

*Developed by Lilian Mezquida, County Extension Agent-Family Consumer Science- Cameron County*

### Relevance

The Dietary Guidelines, MyPlate and the Nutrition Facts label form the basic nutrition education constructs for the American population. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program- Education (SNAP-ED) recipients need sound nutrition education so that they can make healthful food choices. Basic food buying skills enable clients to consider more healthful food choices when shopping. This skill is important because health disparities among low income populations are well documented. Obesity, heart disease and hypertension are conditions which are more prevalent in low income populations. More than 60% of adults are overweight or obese and heart disease is the leading cause of death. Hypertension affects approximately 1 in 3 adults in the United States.

### Response

Get the Facts, a three-lesson series on the Nutrition Facts label, was developed to align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The series focused on label reading: serving size, sodium and fat. The lessons and surveys were translated into Spanish. A survey instrument was developed to assess self-reported behavior and knowledge. Evaluation protocol included pre-survey, post-survey and a follow-up telephone interview. More than 1,100 get the Facts participants were evaluated statewide; 66 surveys were from Cameron County.

### Results

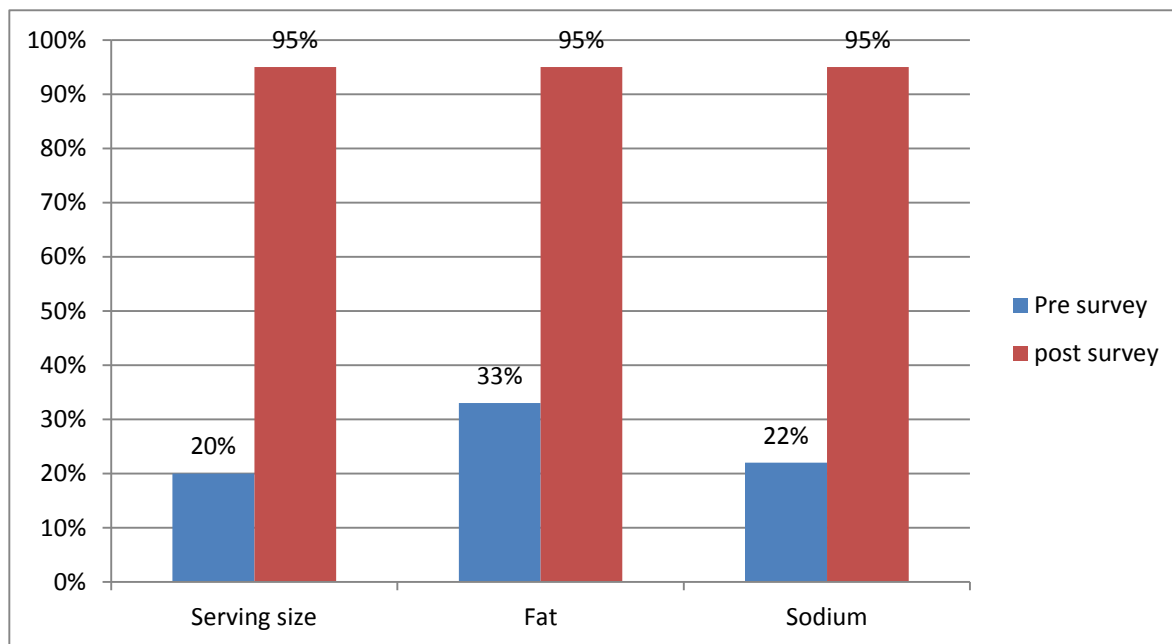
Get the Facts are one of several BLT approved curricula available to help meet local programming needs. Statewide data suggest that Get the Facts is effective ( $p < .001$ ) at increasing participant knowledge and improving behavior related to Nutrition Facts label reading. Results which follow are for Cameron County.

The typical client attending Get the Facts in Cameron County was Hispanic (100%), female (95%) and had less than a high school education (41%). WIC (46%), free/reduced school meals (35%) and SNAP (27%) were programs most utilized by these participants. Some clients (51%) indicated that this was the first Extension program that they had attended.

### Behavior

Self-reported behavior regarding serving size, fat and sodium improved during the time this lesson series was taught. The percentage of clients who indicated that they always or almost always check food labels increased (serving size from 20% to 95%; fat from 33% to 95% and sodium from 22% to 95%).

Figure 1: Percentage of Get the Facts participants who always or almost always check serving size, fat or sodium while shopping for food.



## Knowledge

Mean knowledge score (out of 5) increased from 2.10 to 3.76 during this lesson series. This knowledge increase was statistically significant ( $p < .001$ ). Data suggest that knowledge gain may have been sustained during the follow up period by those clients who responded to the telephone interview.

Table 1. Mean knowledge scores (out of 5) before and after the Get the Facts lesson series.

Pre-Survey N=66	Post-Survey N=66	Follow up Survey N=48
2.10 <sup>a</sup>	3.76 <sup>b</sup>	3.65

a and b are statistically different  $p < .001$

Client answer to  
“What is the most important thing you learned from the  
Get the Facts program?”

*Eating in moderation.*



## Parenting Connections Outcome

*Developed by Lilian Mezquida, County Extension Agent-Family Consumer Science- Cameron County*

### Relevance

Although children are influenced by many different elements in their environment, parents are the primary influence in the lives of their children. Parents' contributions to their children's development are unparalleled, especially during their early childhood years. Research indicates that children who grow up with actively involved and nurturing parents (as opposed to uninvolved parents) reap numerous benefits, including better school performance, increased self-esteem, healthier relationships with peers, healthier sex-role development, and greater access to financial resources. In addition, children who are raised in environments in which parents are fully involved are less likely to engage in behaviors that put them at risk for a variety of physical and mental health problems.

### Response

From February to September 2011, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service conducted multiple parent education workshop series' in Cameron County utilizing the *Parenting Connections* curriculum. Topics covered included guidance/discipline, parent-child communication, promoting a healthy self-esteem in children, and child development. Approximately **431** single session parenting classes were attended by participants. Ninety (**90**) parents and/or other relatives completed the 4-week program (see Table 1 for outcomes).

### Results

#### *Participant Characteristics*

The average age of participants was 26.1 years. Parents who attended the classes had an average of 3.1 children. Fifty-eight percent of attendees were female and 29% were male. Approximately 43% possessed a high school diploma, 10% some college, and 3% a college degree. Nearly 32% did not possess a high school diploma. Seventy-nine percent of the participants identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino, 7% Caucasian, 4% African American and 1% "Other." Seventy-four percent reported household incomes under \$20K, 8% between \$20-29K, and 9% over \$30K. Thirty-one percent of participants were married (1<sup>st</sup> time), 18% divorced/separated, 6% remarried, and 36% single. Seventy-one percent identified themselves as the child's custodial parent, 9% as the non-custodial parent, 1% a grandparent, and 13% as a relative or "other" caregiver.

#### *Parent/Child Behaviors*

Participants were evaluated after completing the parent education series using a retrospective evaluation tool. Results indicate that the program had a very positive effect on specific parenting practices. Significant behavioral changes from pre to post occurred in the following areas: parent-child communication, parental self-confidence, and use of positive disciplinary practices. In addition, parents reported a significant improvement in their children's behavior after participating in the program. The following tables demonstrate the positive changes that occurred:



**Table 1. Percent reporting “frequently” or “almost always” from pre to post (N = 90)**

Parenting Behavior	Pre	Post
Compliment child	52.2%	68.9%
Encourage child	57.8%	76.7%
Listen carefully to child	55.6%	81.1%
Communicate clearly & directly	50.0%	67.8%
Confident in parenting skills	51.1%	74.4%
Set limits (rules) for child	40.0%	61.1%
Consistently enforce limits	41.1%	58.9%
Reason with child	38.8%	47.8%
Redirect child	40.0%	46.6%
Yell or scream at child	20.0%	7.7%
Use time-outs	26.8%	43.3%

**Table 2. Child’s behavior pre vs. post (N = 90)**

Child’s Behavior	Pre	Post
Excellent or Very Good	27.8%	51.2%
Adequate, Fair, or Poor	56.7%	25.5%



## Promoting Physical Activity Output Program 2011

*Developed by Lilian Mezquida, County Extension Agent-Family Consumer Science- Cameron County*

**Response:** From January to December 2011, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service conducted multiple programs in Cameron County utilizing the program Promoting Physical Activity. The purpose of this program is to promote the physical activity and instead of using the traditional exercises I was able to use Salsa dancing. Participants were able to exercise and learn how to dance Latin rhythms.

**Results:** Participants really liked it and the benefits were excellent. This year I was able to work with the Brownsville Housing Authority and I did combine the exercise with a nutrition class. I was able to use this program for the cost recovery.. The participant's comments were 1. This way of exercising is fun and relaxing. I really enjoyed it because I learned how to dance and exercise at the same time, 2. I did like the class because I did met new people and had a good time, 3- I would like to have this class every day, and 4. I feel better and learned about nutrition and also helped me to forget my problems. This program has help many people and because of this I was able to schedule a program for next year. **Total Contacts 402**



## Income Generation Projects Output Program

*Developed by Lilian Mezquida, County Extension Agent-Family Consumer Science- Cameron County*

**Response:** From January to December 2011, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service conducted multiple programs in Cameron County utilizing the Income Generation Projects Program. The participants were able to learn: 1. how to make crafts, 2. They learned that can be made with very little expense and 3. To use what they already have at home that they are not longer using.

**Results:** Participants found the projects practical and very beneficial. They said that making their own crafts or decorations will help them to save money. But also they will be able to sale them and get extra money. As a result of this class now there are three ladies that started to sale their products.

There is one group “Brownsville Housing Authority” that is working on a Festival where they will be able to sale their items. So far we were able to make different crafts and they are still trying to get more crafts for their 2012 Festival.

**Total Contacts 410**



*¡Si, Yo Puedo Controlar Mi Diabetes! (Yo Puedo)* is an evidence-informed, culturally competent educational program targeting low-literate Hispanic/Latinos with diabetes. The curriculum is predicated on the American Diabetes Association’s national standards of care and employs the Social Cognitive and Self-regulation theories as its foundational support. Empowerment is an overarching theme of the program, and, to this end, *Yo puedo* aims to equip participants with knowledge and lifestyle skills to better control their diabetes.

### Relevance

Diabetes cost Texas more than 12 billion dollars.

Texas Hispanic/Latinos over the age of 18 are disproportionately affected by diabetes prevalence (12.3 percent) than their White, non-Hispanic counterparts (8.5 percent).

In 2005, mortality rates were more than double among Texas Hispanic/Latinos (52 per 100,000) than Whites, non-Hispanics (21 per 100,000).

Among persons with diabetes, a higher proportion of Hispanic/Latinos (32.5 percent) could not see a doctor in the last 12 month due to cost compared to Whites (16.5 percent).

### Reponses

Proper management is critical to minimize the potential negative effects of diabetes.

Self-management education is the cornerstone for diabetic care and vital for blood glucose control.

Recognizing the need for a culturally-relevant type 2 diabetes self-management education targeting Texas Hispanic/Latinos *Yo Puedo* was developed to address this gap in health programming.

In Cameron County, we delivered four classes reaching 9 participants with type 2 diabetes.

## Impact of Yo Puedo

The findings below summarize the impact of the Yo Puedo program delivered in Cameron County. Outcome indicators include acculturation, diabetes knowledge, self-efficacy, and diabetes self-care behaviors.

Demographic characteristics: 78% were female, average age was 57 years, 90% were Hispanic, 67% yearly income was \$20,000 or less, 44% had less than a high school education and another 44% had some college or vocational training, and 44% had private insurance.

Program participants were somewhat acculturated: more than half the sample had a score of 16 out of 20, where a total score of 20 indicated highly acculturated.

Diabetes self-care scores reveal that participants improved in performing routine health behaviors to better manage their diabetes: Pre-test mean score: 18 out of total score of 40; Post-test: 26 out of 40.

Self-efficacy scores improved with participants reporting increases in their confidence to engage in diabetes self-care behaviors): Pre-test 2.32 M; Post-test 3.63 M. (Scale: 1 = I don't feel sure; 5 = I feel very sure.)

Diabetes knowledge scores improved from pre-test (5 out of 10) to post-test (7 out of 10).

## Reflections

This study demonstrates that the ¡Sí, Yo puedo controlar mi diabetes! Improved participants' ability to better control their diabetes as demonstrated by increases in self-care behaviors, improvements in self-confidence, and a reduction in HbA1c. Given the high rates of diabetes among Hispanic/Latinos, Yo Puedo is a program to address this concern in Cameron County, Texas. Over the past year Cameron County Extension partnered with community stakeholder to extend our reach to disadvantaged populations. We envision this effort to continue that will help ensure the sustainability of Yo Puedo





## **Expanded food & nutrition education program**

*Developed by: EFNEP Extension Agent – Beatriz Rodriguez-Loya*

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) help families and youth with limited resources – those most at risk to suffer from hunger and food insecurity. EFNEP offers practical lessons in basic nutrition, food preparation, food budget management, and food safety in settings convenient for the participants. Program graduates reflect significant, lasting improvement in eating behaviors and healthy food habits. Texas has a need for EFNEP – 2010 data show that 20.6% of Texas families with children under the age of 18 were living below poverty level, compared to 17.9% of U.S. families.

### **EFNEP REACHES DIVERSE AUDIENCES IN CAMERON COUNTY**

- 2,003 families with 4,391 children enrolled in EFNEP.
- 7,025 youth contacts were made through the EFNEP youth program
- 101 EFNEP participants were pregnant and/or nursing.
- 85% of families at or below 100% of federal poverty level.
- 79% of families enrolled in one or more food assistance programs.

The EFNEP-Adult program improvement after attending EFNEP classes:

- 99% of participants with a positive change in any food group at exit.
- 86% improved in one or more food resource management practices such planning meals in advance.
- 91% improved in one or more nutrition practices such as using the “Nutrition Facts” on food labels to make food choices.



Gabina Saldaña teaching a new group about food groups at BISD Adult Education.



Hortensia Salinas teaching about portion sizes at an Herbal Life class in Brownsville.



Participants learning about food labels at a Cunningham Apartments in Brownsville.

The EFNEP-Youth program is directed toward low-income youth ages 6-12. These students participate in a series of fun and educational lessons on good nutrition and food safety as part of after school activities and/or summer programs. As a result of attending EFNEP classes:

- 90% increased knowledge of the essentials of human nutrition.
- 94% improved practices in food preparation and safety.
- 92% improved physical activity behavior or attitude.



Los Fresnos High School students preparing the Mexican Piñata Salad recipe



Three siblings at Berta Cavazos Elementary Health Fair learning about how fat can affect their body



Participant at La Feria HeadStart tasting Bean & Cheese Chalupa made with whole wheat tortillas.

## VOLUNTEERS STRENGTHEN EFNEP

In 2011, 239 adult volunteers donated 3,328 hours of work to EFNEP in Cameron County. At the Texas rate of \$21.36/hour, this volunteerism has a minimum dollar value of \$71,086.

## COST – BENEFITS OF EFNEP

Studies have shown that for every \$1 spent on EFNEP, \$10 were estimated to be saved in health care costs and \$2 saved in food costs by participants. For Cameron County, this equals \$4.2 million in estimated health care cost savings and almost \$840,690 in food costs.

## **CYFAR Science Program in Cameron County - 2011**

*Developed by Marco Ponce, County Extension Agent – 4-H & Youth Development*

### **RELEVANCE**

The CYFAR Science Curriculum Program in Cameron County will focus on high school aged youth who are considered at-risk. Many of these at-risk youth are in need of additional science based instruction on a smaller group setting in order to improve their knowledge in this area. These at – risk youth are often overlooked by instructors and counselors and are in need of additional support.

### **RESPONSE**

Educational lessons were conducted at the Rio Hondo Alternative Education Center and at Rio Hondo High School. Lessons focused on physical science, plant science, chemistry, physics, and engineering. However, the area of programming that was evaluated were the physical science lessons that focused on the water cycle. Programming on the water cycle included instruction on evaporation, condensation, and transpiration. A solar still was created in order to demonstrate the effects of the sun on the water cycle.

### **RESULTS**

Students who took part in these lessons learned about science and its relevance in everyday life. They learned about the sun's relationship in the many processes involved in the water cycle.

Students were administered a pre-program questionnaire in which they had an average of -6.2 or 77.5% of the questions wrong. Students were then given an identical post-program questionnaire at the conclusion of the programming. In the post-program questionnaire, students all answered 100% of the questions correctly. These results showed a dramatic increase in the level of knowledge gained from the beginning of programming as compared to the end result after programming had concluded.

### **FUTURE PLANS**

The results of this program will be interpreted to our Leadership Advisory Board and to our Youth Advisory Board. We will also discuss the success of this program to our Commissioner's Court and to our State Representatives. The plan is to continue conducting these Science based lessons in the Rio Hondo School district and to continue trying to improve students test scores in this area.



## **Youth Higher Education Awareness Outcome Summary, Cameron County - 2011**

*Developed by Marco Ponce, County Extension Agent – 4-H & Youth Development*

### **RELEVANCE**

There are many at-risk and underprivileged youth in Cameron County who are unaware of the many higher education opportunities available to them here in South Texas. They are also unaware of the finances needed and the funding that is available to them in order to acquire a higher education degree. These groups of students are often overlooked by school counselors and are not given the individual attention they need by instructors. Thus many fail to graduate high school and in most cases fail to attend an institution of higher education. They are then often relegated to mostly low paying jobs that have little or no opportunity for career advancement.

### **RESPONSE**

Educational lessons were conducted at the Rio Hondo Alternative Education Center utilizing the College for Texans curriculum. Lessons were delivered using power point technology as well as handouts that were given to the audience in order to take notes and follow along. Some individual instruction was also conducted with students who needed special attention in order to fully understand the topic. Educational lessons included local higher education institutions, financial aid 101, financial impact of college degrees, and possible degree programs and related careers. Students were informed about the expected salaries that they should expect to earn related to their level of education obtained. They also informed about the many expenses that can be expected to be incurred once they are living on their own and having to pay for all of their own expenses. This made them realize that trying to live comfortably on a salary of a high school drop-out would be extremely challenging if not impossible.

### **RESULTS**

Students gained a greater understanding of the many opportunities available to them that would support them in their path to obtaining a higher education degree. Students specifically gained a greater knowledge in financial aid, careers, and salary differences as related to their responses in a pre and post program questionnaire. Students missed an average of -5.1 or 42.5% of the questions on the pre - program questionnaire. On the post – program questionnaire, all but one student answered every one of the questions correctly. Students missed an average of -.1 or .8% of the questions wrong on the post test. One of the students had said they had not planned on attending college in the pre-test while all of the students said they planned on attending college in the post-test.

### **FUTURE PLANS**

The future plans for this program in to interpret the results to our key stakeholders and county leaders. We also have plans to continue this program at both the alternative education center and with possible after school programs in the Rio Hondo School District.



## Cameron County Leadership Advisory Board

Cameron County Leadership Advisory Board members provide direction and support in addressing issues and concerns in the county. Issues: Health and Nutrition, Higher Education, Youth Development, Family Resource, Parenting, Water Conservation/Environmental Stewardship, Coastal Marine and Agriculture Profitability.

### Leadership Advisory Board Members 2011



**Cameron County Judge Carlos Cascos and County Commissioner David A. Garza  
Extension Volunteer Recognition Event held December 7, 2011**



**2011 Volunteer Recognition Awards**



**2011 Cameron County Judge Carlos Cascos  
Awards Volunteers**



**2011 County Commissioner David A.  
Garza Addresses Volunteers**

## Community Extension Day

The purpose of the Cameron County Community Extension Day was to provide an opportunity for individuals, families, businesses, and communities learn about the different Extension Programs offered in Cameron County. It also gave an opportunity for all county Extension staff to deliver a complete insight of all program areas.

Also, at this event educational exhibits were displayed in which in which educational materials were made available. Other information that was made available was in reference to Emergency Management in the County. County residents were provide information on a wide array of topics; Preparing for the Unexpected, Emergency Food and Water Supplies, Protecting your Home from Hurricane Wind Damage: Boarding Windows, Evacuation Guidelines for People with Special Needs, Power Outage Checklist, Mosquito Control, and Sea Grant publication-The Eye of the Storm in English and Spanish. This Community Extension Day was a complete success reaching more than 200 County residents.



# Texas AgriLife Extension Service Cameron County

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