



Extension Education in Kleberg-Kenedy County

Making a Difference

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has long been dedicated to educating Texans. Extension education evolved nationwide under the 1914 federal Smith-Lever Act, which sought to extend university knowledge and agricultural research findings directly to the people. Ever since, Extension programs have addressed the emerging issues of the day, reaching diverse rural and urban populations.

In Texas, all 254 counties are served by a well-organized network of professional Extension educators and some 100,000 trained volunteers. Extension expertise and educational outreach pertain to the food and fiber industry, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, nutrition and health, and community economic development.

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Providing Solutions*

Among those served are hundreds of thousands of young people who benefit annually from Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

Texans turn to Extension education for solutions. Extension agents and specialists respond not only with answers, but also with resources and services that result in significant returns on the public's investment. Extension programs are custom-designed for each region of the state, with residents providing input and help with program delivery. Here are just a few highlights of Extension impacts on this county and its people.

Kleberg-Kenedy County – Summary of 2014 Educational Contacts

Total Educational Programs Conducted: 354

Office Contacts: 317

Site Visits: 311

Phone Calls: 877

Mail/Email: 703

Newsletters: 15

EFNEP (Nutrition) Families: 91

Contacts by Volunteers: 93

Contacts by Website: 182

News Articles/Releases/Calendar: 59

4-H Members: 477

4-H Clubs: 25

4-H Managers/Leaders: 62

Curriculum Enrichment Participants (Youth): 815

Special Interest Participants (Youth): 3,043

Master Livestock Mentors: 2

Master Gardeners: 13

Kleberg Extension Education Association: 17

Extension Quilters: 11

Cash and In-kind Donations: \$ 49,657

Crops Tour/Pesticide Trainings/CEU: 15

Lawn/Garden Visits: 47

Kleberg-Kenedy County Program Highlights

Traditional 4-H Program:

- Membership: 477
- Clubs: 25
- Direct Volunteers (Club Managers and Project Leaders): 62
- Top 5 Projects: Livestock, Food and Nutrition, Photography, Clothing and Textiles, and Shooting Sports
- Project knowledge and information: workshops/clinics/trainings provided to volunteers and families throughout the year
- Community Service:
 - * 30 Thanksgiving baskets to less fortunate families in partnership with County Indigent
 - * 50 Christmas gifts to foster children in partnership with Child Protective Services
 - * 368 pounds of non-perishable food items collected for local food pantry
 - * \$4,400 donation through One Day 4-H to benefit Dick Kleberg Park Improvements
 - * 25 youth and adult volunteers participated in Feast of Sharing
 - * Beautification projects continue to be supported by all 4-H Clubs
- Master Livestock Volunteers conducted livestock clinics with Extension Faculty. Clinics are intended for new families. Families continue to applaud clinics for their success.
- Over 20 Record books submitted by local 4-H Members with 16 advancing to district and 4 to state
- Annual Awards Banquet recognizes 4-H members and adult volunteers.
- Volunteer Recognition (judges, leaders, managers, partners, etc.) continues to be the cornerstone of appreciating adults who provide their time and expertise to the program

Youth Outreach Programs (community and school based programs):

- Agriculture/Wildlife Fair better known as "Ag. Fair" to many local schools who look forward to this outdoor educational event. The purpose of this outdoor program is to educate students to different aspects of agriculture especially local production agriculture such as dairy science, cotton and grain production, soil and water conservation, beef production and its by-products, wildlife conservation and preservation. Hands-on demonstrations included farm implements, cotton ginning, soil erosion, and milking a dairy cow. Approximately 1,160 youth participated from Santa Gertrudis, Ricardo, and Riviera Independent School Districts. Presenters included Texas Farm Bureau, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries, Southwest Dairy Cattle Producers, and Texas A&M University Kingsville.
- Adventure and Kiddie Camp a two month summer program for young people 6-18 years of age. The programs are designed to focus on natural resources, life skills, and recreation. The daily program begins with a fitness and nutrition component that targets obesity and diabetes awareness and encourages healthy lifestyle practices. The program follows with educational components including interactive activities and trips to area attractions such as museums, and wildlife preserves. Collaboration with the Kingsville Police Department included additional daily lessons on anti-bullying and drug education. Partnership with local Parks Department, Brookshire Foundation, and Human Services allows for financial assistance with staff, facilities, materials, equipment, transportation, etc.
- Gardening and Horticulture Program provides students with hands-on learning experience in planning a garden, soil preparation, planting and seed selection, insect and weed control, harvesting, and nutritional information on fruits and vegetables. The program encourages and promotes healthy living and sustainable agricultural practices. Collaborate with Master Gardeners occasionally as resources to provide assistance to Extension horticulture programs.

Garden Show and Awards Presentation were added to allow youth to showcase their harvested produce and compete for awards.

- 14th Annual South Texas Career EXPO exposes eighth grade and high school students to career awareness and college preparation. The event held annually allows students to browse through careers of interest and visit with professionals on what the career entails, high school and college course required, and future market trends. The purpose of the South Texas Career EXPO is to give student's a "picture" of technical and other demonstrable careers and a better understanding of what each career entails.
- Patriotism through Preparedness is an Extension banner curriculum program designed to provide awareness to students and families on emergency safety and evacuation plans in the event of a disaster. Activities, educational worksheets, and handouts for parents/families are supportive materials used to aid the program. Lessons include: terminology, examples of disasters, and developing a plan. Additional information on relevance, response, and results are addressed below.
- Wetlands in the Classroom is a school program that focuses on conservation and preservation of wetlands not only in the South Texas region, but all over the world. Youth conservation was identified in 2000 through Extension's Community Forum. Students learn about the different types of wetlands, plant life, wildlife habitats and ecology, and the management and monitoring of wetlands. Hands-on activities included the construction of a small scale model wetland which reinforces the food chain, a TEKS requirement. Students are asked to explain the food chain using terminology and concepts gained through program and prior school lessons. The curriculum was tailored after another conservation program, Marshmallow Project. Additional information regarding this program is discussed in further detail below.

Agriculture and Natural Resources:

- Water Education and Screening continues to be a topic of interest with local and area residents. Collaboration between multi-county Extension Offices (Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, and Live Oak) provided additional resources and better programming efforts. Additional information on relevance, response, and results are noted below.
- Private Pesticide Applicator education trainings were conducted in the spring, summer, Fall, and as needed for residents interested in obtaining a license. Pesticide CEUs continue to be offered through educational programs.
- Annual Coastal Bend (Nueces, San Patricio, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Refugio, and Kenedy) Soil Testing Campaign continues to be very beneficial for agriculture producers. The campaign is intended to allow farmers and ranchers to get a better assessment of their soil nutrients. Agent coordinated multi-county effort with adjacent counties and soil testing laboratory.
- Row Crop Tour continues to provide information to producers on cotton and grain sorghum varieties that have done well in the county. Collaborations with local producers and seed/fertilizer companies continue to be very successfully. Agent involves Extension specialists to assist with demonstration plots and educational series.
- In an effort to target new clientele, a Small Acreage Workshop was collaborated with numerous agencies/organization including Natural Resources Conservation Services, Farm

Service Agency, Farm Loans, Appraisal District, etc. The purpose was to provide information and resources to their respective operation.

- State, Federal, and private sector (USDA, FSA, NRCS, TAHC, TDA, STCGA, etc.) collaborations continue to be a major part of Extension's mission to improve the lives of people. Program partners provide additional resources and information to local residents in the area of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
- News Columns/Articles addressing local events, activities, and agriculture/natural resources/horticulture subject matter continue to be submitted weekly to local newspaper. Numerous programs are also placed in the newspaper community calendar for advertisement to the community.

Community and Economic Development:

- Measurement Mania continues to be a huge success story with the local community and school districts. The Chamber of Commerce and other community groups and organizations (TAMUK, NASK, Kleberg Bank, King Ranch, Extension, Celanese, etc.) have provided leadership to this fifth grade math preparedness program. The program provides additional math skills to fifth grade students in an effort to successfully increase STARR testing scores.
- Local collaborations with the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Council provide successful efforts to community functions.

Expanded Nutrition Program:

- Ninety One families were reached through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) which included 174 children with educational learning sessions in the areas of: basic nutrition, food preparation, food budget management, food safety and physical activity.
- Participants increased their knowledge in:
 - Food Safety
 - Reading food labels "Nutrition Facts" to make healthy choices
 - Meal Planning
 - MyPlate Food groups
 - Smart Shopping

Partnership/Collaborators:

- Through partnerships and collaborations, Kleberg and Kenedy County A&M AgriLife Extension Service continue to provide quality programs to local residents. Without these relationships, youth education and life skills as well as agricultural and community events would seem almost impossible to conduct. Partners and collaborators included: Kleberg/Kingsville Parks Department, Independent School Districts (KCWCISD, RISD, RISD, KISD, SGISD, etc.), private/religious schools (Pan American Episcopal, Epiphany, Kingsway Academy, St. Gertrude's), Coastal Bend College, Texas A&M University Kingsville, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Naval Air Station Kingsville, WIC, LULAC, Chamber of Commerce, Texas

Department of Agriculture, Farm Bureau, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, local Parks and Recreation Department, City-County Health Department, H.E.B., Brookshire Foundation, Gulf Coast Coop, local agriculture producers, seed and fertilizer companies, city and county emergency management coordinators, Kleberg Extension Education Association, Extension Quilters, Kleberg Trap and Skeet Range, L.E. Ramey Golf Course, Kleberg Bank, First Community Bank, National Weather Service, Methodist Child Development Center, Marc Cisneros Center Young Children, Boys and Girls Club, Registered Home Child Cares, and numerous others that supported and made 2014 successful.



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Making a Difference in

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Annual 4-H Program Summary

County 4-H Youth Involvement

Chartered Community Clubs
Members Enrolled in 4-H Clubs
Youth Reached through Community-based Programs
Youth Reached through School-Based Enrichment Curriculum

County 4-H Leadership, Advisory, and Support Organizations

Youth Board Members attended Meetings
County 4-H Council Members attended Meetings
Adult Leaders & Parents Organization Members attended Mtgs

Total Youth Reached



of Youth Attending

Participation in County 4-H Events

County Participation in District Events

County Participation in State/National Events

Most Popular Club Projects in the County

Most Popular Curriculum in the County

County 4-H Volunteer Support

Registered & Screened Volunteers Supporting Clubs
Club Managers, Co-Managers, and Project Leaders
Hours Contributed by Volunteers in Support of Clubs

Livestock Show Premium Sale Proceeds*

Includes all projects (4-H and FFA)

Value of Volunteer Time Supporting 4-H



County 4-H Leadership & Personal Development Programs

Attended State-level Leadership & Personal Development educational or competitive events
Attended District-level Leadership & Personal Development educational or competitive events
Attended District Leadership Lab
Received 4-H Scholarships valued at a total of

Local Training Opportunities for Youth and Adults

Significant Leadership & Personal Development accomplishments from county Events & Activities

County 4-H Agriculture & Natural Resource Programs

Livestock Projects (all species)
Participated in County Livestock Shows
Attended State-level Livestock Shows
Attended District-level Agriculture & Natural Resources educational or competitive events
Youth Trained through "Quality Counts" Program

Local Training Opportunities for Youth and Adults

Significant Agriculture & Natural Resource accomplishments from county Events & Activities

County 4-H Family & Consumer Science Programs

Attended State-level educational or competitive events
Attended District-level educational or competitive events

Local Training Opportunities for Youth and Adults

Significant Family & Consumer Science accomplishments from county Events & Activities

2014 Kleberg-Kenedy County Water Education/Screening – 218365

Developed by:

Frank Escobedo

Kleberg-Kenedy County Extension Agent – Ag/NR

Relevance

In 2011, the Kleberg-Kenedy County Leadership Advisory Board, through the Issues Identification Process of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, prioritized water conservation as a major issue affecting the local community. With increased media coverage of this issue, Agents from surrounding counties (Nikolo Guerra-Brooks County Extension Agent, Samuel Gavito-Duval County Extension Agent, Humberto Martinez-Jim Hogg County Extension Agent, Rogelio Mercado-Jim Wells County Extension Agent, and Dale Rankin-Live Oak County Extension Agent) also discovered through their implementing of the Issue Identification Process or through local concerns in their respective counties that water quality and quantity were concerns in their communities as well. Private water well owners were concerned with contaminants (arsenic, nitrate, fecal coliform bacteria, and salinity) due to the ongoing drought. Concerned residents depend on well water for human and livestock consumption as well as for irrigation and recreational use. For this reason, implementing water education and screening is and continues to be a vital part of this multi-county effort which provides well owners with peace of mind.

Response

Twelve water well owners from Kleberg-Kenedy County were involved in the water well education and screening project. Five of the 12 water well owners submitted multiple samples for screening. Water samples were collected by each well owner following Texas A&M AgriLife Water Specialist, Dr. John Smith, procedures for collecting and submitting water samples. Water samples were labeled and prepared for screening of contaminants. Well owners received their water well results and were provided with an educational session explaining the contaminants screened and options available to them. In communication with other local Agriculture Agents, I realized the importance of creating a multi-county educational program in which I would organize and assist Agents from the seven county areas in field-screening for arsenic, nitrate, fecal coliform bacteria, and salinity, individual to their county. I organized a plan and coordinated additional educational information from Dr. John Smith-Extension Water Specialist in College Station, Texas to assist water well owners in receiving several educational resources.

With such positive response, I realized communicating this information to the public would be the best way to enhance the learning and education throughout the county for landowners that we could not personally contact. As a result, a news release and several water publications (E-176 *What's In My Water*, SP-464 *Private Drinking Water Well Basics*, B-6186 *Drinking Water Standards*, B-6184 *Drinking Water Problems: Nitrates*, ER-004 *Disinfecting Water Wells by Shock Chlorination*, and L-5467 *Drinking Water Problems: Arsenic*) were released to the general public through the following newspapers: The Kingsville Record and Bishop News. Participants whose sample(s) were not within Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and/or Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) water standards were provided with additional resources to assist them with further testing and treatment options.

Results:

The following data are from samples received from well owners. The overall water well screening results showed a high level of salt concentrations. The recommended EPA/TCEQ salinity water standard is no greater than 500 parts per million (ppm). The high level could be contributed to our current drought situation. The average salinity level of the 17 samples screened was 2,028 parts per million, as shown in Figure 2.1 below.

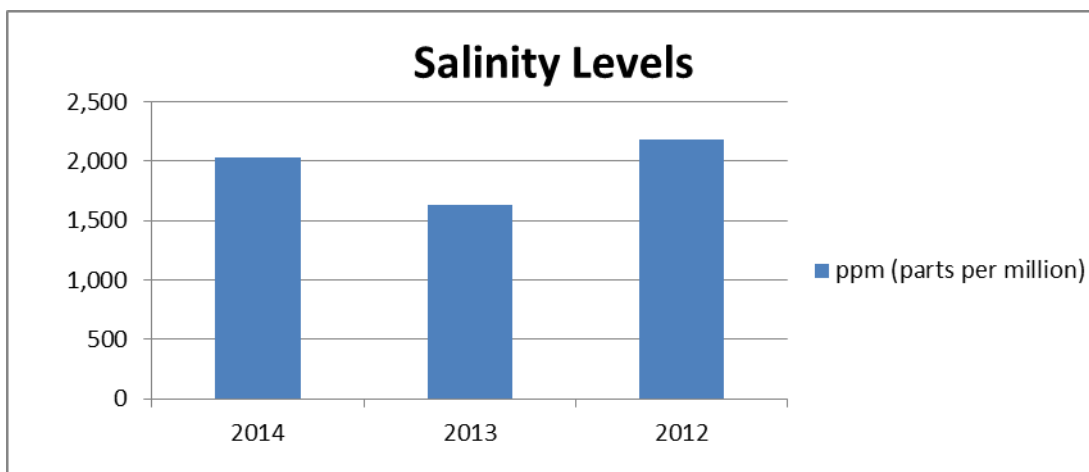


Figure 2.1 represents the Salinity Levels of Kleberg-Kenedy County water well samples.

The nitrate level was higher this year than last year. EPA/TCEQ nitrate water standard is no greater than 10 parts per million. The average was 2.4 parts per million, as shown in Figure 2.2 below.

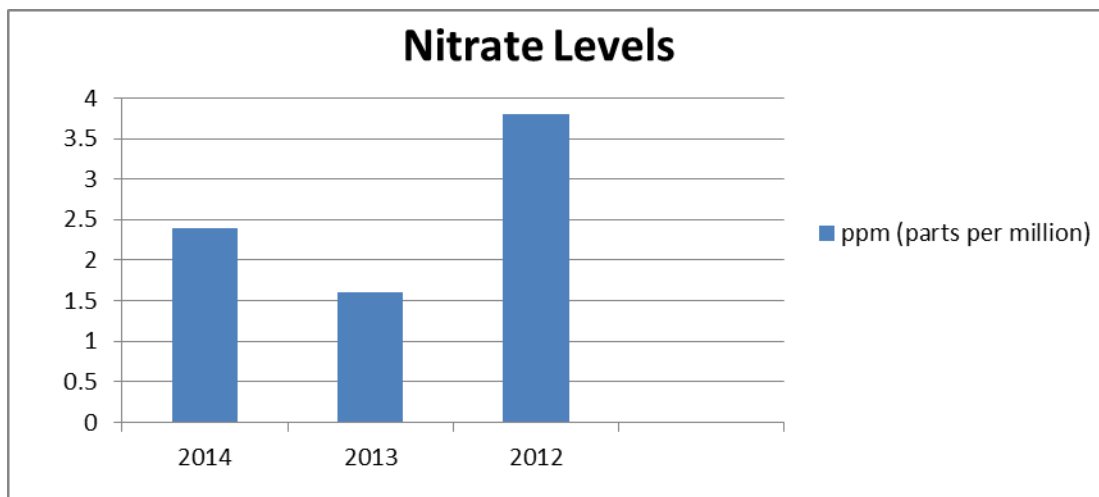


Figure 2.2 represents the Nitrate levels of Kleberg-Kenedy County water well samples.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Arsenic was not present in any of the Kleberg County water samples submitted. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) maximum allowed arsenic standards are at 0.01 parts per million.

Bacteria were present in 57% of the samples submitted last year. This year 35% of the samples submitted were positive for the presence of bacteria.

Landowners understand that the water screening numbers change from year to year. There is also an increased knowledge in applying the educational publications they have received to help make the water safer to drink and use on a daily basis.

Participants in the program were given a retro-post knowledge evaluation. Sixty percent of the evaluations were returned by landowners participating in the Private Water Well Screening program. Below is the summary of the evaluation:

- **80%** of the participants knew that it is recommended for water well to get screened annually
- **40%** of the participants had knowledge of the contaminants (arsenic, nitrates, fecal coliform bacteria, and salinity) being screened
- **40%** of the participants had their water wells screened by another entity other than Extension. The average time lapse was 10½ years ago
- **80%** of the participants indicated that if the results were not within Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) drinking water standards they would correct the problem

The economic benefit to the implementation of this water well screening has vastly helped residents understand and take proper measures towards their water quality and quantity concerns. Participants were asked to indicate the value in participating in this water education/screening program.

- **20%** indicated Same Value (\$100 - \$250)
- **40%** indicated Considerable Value (\$251 - \$1,000)
- **20%** indicated Tremendous Value (\$1,001 – more)

Sixty percent of the participants indicated that their well water was used for human consumption. Forty percent said their well water was used for livestock consumption. Twenty percent indicated they use their well water for irrigation only. Not only is water a precious resource for human needs but it is necessary for livestock and plant production as well. Having safe water for the land is imperative to a productive land. Working together and reaching out to near-by counties was also a great way to increase the awareness of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to more than one landowner and spread the word of the importance of screening to make sure that they are being educated on water quality and quantity.

Future Plans:

The multi-county water well screening will continue into the future as long as private water well owners and our local committees continue to support these programming efforts. Our mission is to provide more resources and awareness to private well water owners. I will also continue the additional public awareness through news columns and articles and other media sources like the Nixle program as well as continued interpretation events conducted with the Kleberg-Kenedy Judges and Commissioners Courts.

2014 Kleberg-Kenedy County WETLANDS in the Classroom (219786) – Outcome

Developed by:

Niki Kaiser

Kleberg-Kenedy County Extension Agent- 4-H and Youth Development

Relevance:

Conservation education was identified as a 2000 TCFF issue. Conservation is especially a concern in a coastal community like Kleberg and Kenedy Counties. Coastal counties provide a beneficial impact to numerous ecological systems/habitats. This action plan was designed to educate and provide awareness to young people in conservation education.

Response:

Target Audience: Elementary Students (Ages 10-12)

Two hundred forty-one 4th grade students from Epiphany Episcopal School, Santa Gertrudis Elementary, Sarita Elementary, Gillette Intermediate School and St. Gertrude schools in Kleberg and Kenedy Counties participated in this curriculum enrichment program, WETLANDS in the Classroom.

Educational Response

- Lesson 1 [2069615] Occurred: November 3, 2014
- Lesson 2 [2069636] Occurred: November 10, 2014
- Lesson 3 [2069637] Occurred: December 1, 2014
- Lesson 4 [2069638] Occurred: December 8, 2014
- Lesson 5 [2069639] Occurred: December 11, 2014

Additional resources (Educational Response):

Marshmallow Project Curriculum developed by Dr. Will Cohen was used as a valuable resource.

Partnerships and Collaborators

- Epiphany Episcopal School
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

Evaluation Strategy:

Knowledge Based

- Pre-test (Knowledge based) was administered to students prior to first lesson. Post-test (knowledge based) was administered at the conclusion of the program. Questions for the instrument were taken from the Marshmallow Project Curriculum. Data was analyzed using the mean score for both the pre and post-test, along with percent change for each student.

Clientele Feedback: Teachers expressed that the program was beneficial to the students in that not only was it educational and informative, but also lots of fun. The students were introduced to new vocabulary and scientific concepts that were relevant and reinforcing to other subject matter being taught. The teachers enjoyed the interactive activities such as “metaphors” and “assembling a

4-H and Youth Development

wetland”; they appreciated how the program connected wetland concepts with everyday life to aid in a better understanding of the importance of wetlands.

Results:

The Pre- and Post- Tests were used to determine the level of knowledge gained/loss in this program, WETLANDS in the Classroom.

Two hundred forty-one students completed the pre- and post- tests for the WETLANDS in the Classroom program. The average score on the pre-test was 36.4% correct, and the average post-test was 86.1% correct, for a percent change of 78.2 % as a result of the program. The following table represents a percent change for individual pre- and post-test questions.

| Wetlands Pre- and Post- Test Questions | Pre-Test % Correct | Post-Test % Correct | % Change |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Which of these is NOT one of the 5 major types of wetlands? | 39.8 | 92.5 | 36.3 |
| The basic components of a habitat are food and shelter. | 66.0 | 99.2 | 40.5 |
| One function of wetlands is flood control. | 12.9 | 95.4 | 39.3 |
| In a healthy wetland environment the ph level should be between... | 40.2 | 86.3 | 32.0 |
| The main components of a wetland are... | 18.3 | 82.6 | 32.6 |
| The test used to determine the clearness of the water is called a _____ test. | 8.7 | 73.0 | 29.2 |
| The term terrestrial refers to... | 21.6 | 68.5 | 24.8 |
| Anaerobic conditions are a characteristic of... | 58.5 | 96.7 | 38.2 |
| Wetland plants respire in an oxygen limited environment. | 24.1 | 93.4 | 37.9 |
| Many wetlands are the center of recreational and tourist attractions. | 48.1 | 81.7 | 26.9 |
| The primary cause of wetland loss has been urban development. | 51.0 | 97.9 | 39.7 |
| Aerobic conditions provide the perfect environment for hydrophytes. | 27.0 | 76.3 | 28.1 |
| Which of these is NOT an example of an adaptation by a wetland bird? | 45.6 | 94.2 | 37.1 |
| The test used to determine the amount of salt in the water is called... | 57.7 | 96.7 | 38.2 |
| The definition of a wetland is... | 26.6 | 57.3 | 17.3 |

Students increased their knowledge of the program by having a better understanding of what constitutes a wetland, functions of a wetland, and the ecology of a wetland.

Future Plans: Benefits/Impacts

Teachers indicated that students have a better understanding of conservation/preservation issues and how wetland ecological systems/habitats are important not only in the South Texas and the U.S. but also all over the world. Possibly in the future, in collaboration with other environmental entities and with the support of the schools, there could be a “Wetland Awareness Week”.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the following school teachers for their support: Epiphany School (Mrs. Barbour), Gillett Intermediate (Mr.Arispe and Mr.Duncan), Santa Gertrudis Elementary (Mr.DeLos Santos), Saint Gertrude (Mrs.Cantu), and Sarita Elementary (Mrs.Brown) and Kleberg-Kenedy County Youth Program Assistant (Miss Andrea Galindo).

Future Program Actions

- Marketing of the program to other schools in the county.
- Involve more partners/resources: NRCS, TAMUK

4-H and Youth Development

2014 Kleberg-Kenedy County One Day 4-H

Developed by:

Niki Kaiser

Kleberg-Kenedy County Extension Agent- 4-H and Youth Development

Relevance:

One day 4-H is a grass roots community service effort for 4-H youth to identify, plan, and implement a community service project that serves the needs of their particular community and/or county. One day 4-H teaches 4-H members the importance of giving back to their communities based on issues they see are affecting the lifestyles of the citizens. Throughout this process, youth have the opportunity to develop a partnership with adult volunteers as they plan and implement their service project. The Kleberg-Kenedy County 4-H youth chose to host a Kleberg-Kenedy One Day 4-H Philanthropic 4-K Run/Walk to raise funds for local non-profit organizations.

Response:

Fifty-nine 4-H member, parents, volunteers and community members participated in the Kleberg-Kenedy One Day 4-H Philanthropic 4-K Run/Walk by serving as event volunteers, by running/walking in the fundraiser, or by donating to the cause. The committee solicited business for sponsorships of the event.

Results:

The 4-K Run/Walk raised over \$4300 to benefit Dick Kleberg Park serving Kleberg County. 4-H members, adult volunteers, parents and the community came together to learn about community organizations, healthy living through exercise, and supporting one another. The money raised will help benefit a variety of people within the community who utilize the Recreation Building for functions.


Comments from Participants:

"This is a wonderful event to bring the 4-H'ers and the community together. It brings awareness to the 4-H program and helps make improvements in the community."

"I liked that we got to stay fit for one Day 4-H."

Future Program Actions

- Marketing of the event through utilizing other community resources
- Involve more partners/resources

| V A L U E | |
|--|---|
| Character and Leadership Development | |
|  | <p>Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program teaches participants leadership skills and character traits. Participating youth become mentors, role models, and leaders in their schools and communities.</p> |

4-H and Youth Development

2014 Kleberg-Kenedy County Patriotism through Preparedness: Make a Plan; Take a Stand (219787) – Outcome

Developed by:

Niki Kaiser

Kleberg-Kenedy County Extension Agent- 4-H and Youth Development

Relevance:

Since September 11, 2001 much has changed in our world, nation, state and community. We have become more aware of the devastation that can be caused by unexpected disasters whether they are caused by nature, by accident or by terrorist attacks. Every family and community needs to take steps to prepare for a possible disaster. Locally, the communities have faced disasters such as hurricanes that have raised the level of need in this community. The goal of this plan is to engage students and teachers/volunteers with lessons and activities on disaster preparedness and subsequently engage families through their youth and teachers/volunteers to initiate steps in becoming better prepared for a disaster.

Response:

Target Audience

-Elementary Students (Ages 10-12)

The curriculum enrichment program, Patriotism through Preparedness: Make a Plan, Take a Stand, was presented to 123 students in 3rd and 4th grade from Kingsville ISD (Harrel Elementary) and St. Gertrude's School.

Educational Response

- Patriotism through Preparedness – Lesson 1 [1978517] Occurred: May 1, 2014
- Patriotism through Preparedness – Lesson 2 [1978519] Occurred: May 8, 2014
- Patriotism through Preparedness – Lesson 3 [1978518] Occurred: May 15, 2014
- Patriotism through Preparedness – Lesson 4 [1978525] Occurred: May 22, 2014

Additional resources (Educational Response):

FEMA and EDEN publications/websites were used as additional resources which provided valuable information during the program.

Partnerships and Collaborators

- School Districts (Kingsville ISD and St. Gertrude's School)
- Emergency Management Coordinator

Evaluation Strategy:

Knowledge Based

- Pre-test (Knowledge based) was administered to students prior to first lesson. Post-test (knowledge based) was administered at the conclusion of the program. Instrument was developed by Mr. Luis Saldana, District 12 4-H Extension Specialist.

4-H and Youth Development

Results:

The Pre- and Post- Tests were used to determine the level of knowledge gained/loss in this program, Patriotism through Preparedness: Make a Plan, Take a Stand.

Ninety-nine students completed the pre- and post- tests for the Patriotism through Preparedness program. The average score on the pre-test was 81.90% correct, and the average post-test was 94.20% correct, for a percent change of 68.10 % as a result of the program. The table below shows the percent change for each of the questions given during the pre- and post- tests.

| Question | PreTest % Correct | PostTest % Correct | % Change |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|----------|
| A disaster is something that happens to us every day. | 84.8 | 92.9 | 53.9 |
| A disaster causes harm to property but not people. | 84.8 | 93.9 | 60.6 |
| Disasters can be caused by nature. | 93.9 | 99.0 | 84.2 |
| People can cause disasters on purpose or by accident. | 86.9 | 98.0 | 85.5 |
| There is nothing we can do to prepare for a disaster. | 87.9 | 96.0 | 67.3 |
| A plan is a method for doing smething or achieving _____ (a goal). | 82.8 | 89.9 | 41.6 |
| A plan will help keep people safe in case of a disaster. | 80.8 | 97.0 | 85.1 |
| Put the following in order to make a plan: (know what the problem is, think of ideas on how the problem could be solved, think of the good and bad results of each idea, mke a decisioon and do it. | 61.6 | 80.8 | 50.5 |
| Stress is one way our body or mind reacts to change. | 76.8 | 98.0 | 92.2 |
| Some people experience emotional strss after a disaster occurs. | 78.8 | 97.0 | 86.6 |

Students and Teachers have a better understanding of the resources available to them and their families in case of an emergency/disaster especially during Hurricane Season. This includes: emergency management contact information, city and county officials, and websites like FEMA and EDEN. Some students indicated that their parents have initiated a family plan in preparation of an unexpected emergency.

Future Plans:

Benefits/Impacts

Program continues to make families aware and prepare for unexpected emergencies. School officials have become more proactive in preparing for emergency situations.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the following school teachers and partners for their support: Harrel Elementary (Coach Herrera, Coach Martinez, and Coach Alaniz), St. Gertrude's School (Mrs. Aleman), Emergency Management Coordinator (Mr. Sanchez) and Kleberg-Kenedy County Youth Program Assistant (Miss Galindo).

Future Program Actions

- Marketing of the program to other schools in the county.
- Increase hands-on interaction.
- Involve more partners/resources: Fire Department and local Law Enforcement.

Making a Difference

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Kleberg County Outcome Summary Report

SUPPORTING TEXAS FAMILIES WITH GREATEST NEED SINCE 1969

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) helps young families and youth with limited resources – those most at risk to suffer from hunger, food insecurity and the inability to connect with available support systems. EFNEP offers practical lessons in basic nutrition, food preparation, food budget management and food safety in settings convenient for the participants. EFNEP also includes a walking program for adult participants. Program graduates reflect significant, lasting improvement in eating behaviors and healthy food habits. Texas has a need for EFNEP – 2011 data show that 20% of Texas families with children under the age of 18 were living below poverty level, compared to 16% of U.S. families.

EFNEP REACHES DIVERSE AUDIENCES IN KLEBERG COUNTY

In Kleberg County, ethnically diverse EFNEP nutrition assistants reach youth and adult groups whose principal language may be English or Spanish.

In 2014,

- 91 families enrolled in EFNEP.
- 174 youth contacts were made through the EFNEP youth program.
- 75% of families were at or below 100% of federal poverty level.
- 21% of families were enrolled in one or more food assistance programs.
- 87% of EFNEP adult participants were Hispanic/Latino.
- 5% of EFNEP adult participants were Not Hispanic/Latino, White.

EFNEP MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE

Adult Program:

Using “hands-on” experiences, EFNEP adult participants complete at least a six-lesson series on stretching food dollars, improving eating habits, and practicing food safety principles. As a result of participation in EFNEP the following food and nutrition behaviors were achieved:

- 79% with positive change in any food group at exit. Specifically, EFNEP participants consumed 0.3 more cups of fruits and vegetables and 0.5 additional cups of dairy at completion, compared to entry.
- 63% improved in one or more food resource management practices such as planning meals in advance.
- 70% improved in one or more nutrition practices such as using the “Nutrition Facts” on food labels to make food choices.
- 56% improved in one or more food safety practices such as thawing foods safely.

Youth Program:

The EFNEP – Youth program is directed toward low-income school-age youth. These students participate in a series of fun and educational lessons on good nutrition and food safety as part of summer programs, classroom and after-school activities. The following results show how youth participants’ food behaviors improved after attending EFNEP classes.

- 59% improved ability to choose foods according to the Dietary Guidelines.
- 24% improved their safe food handling practices more often.
- 14% improved physical activity practices.

COST – BENEFITS OF EFNEP

Studies have shown that for every \$1 spent of EFNEP, \$10 were estimated to be saved in health care costs and \$2 saved in food costs by participants. For Kleberg County, this is \$154,460 in estimated health care cost savings and almost \$30,892 in food costs.

VALUE

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program



These nutrition programs teach low-income audiences to prepare nutritious meals, stretch their food resources, improve their food-safety practices, and participate in regular physical activity. This not only improves the quality of life and reduces the risk of chronic disease for participants, but lowers public health-care costs.

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