



## Extension Education in Kleberg-Kenedy County

# Making a Difference

## Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

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

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

outreach pertain to the food and fiber industry, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, nutrition and health, and community economic development. Among those served are the hundreds of thousands of young people who benefit annually from Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

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

### **Kleberg-Kenedy County – Summary of 2012 Educational Contacts**

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Total Educational Programs Conducted: 457  
Office Contacts: 664  
Site Visits: 373  
Phone Calls: 1,556  
Mail/Email/Newsletter Contacts: 3,853  
EFNEP (Nutrition) Families: 58  
Contacts by Volunteers: 678  
Contacts by Website: 905  
News Articles/Releases/Calendar: 62  
4-H Members: 505  
4-H Clubs: 23  
4-H Managers/Leaders: 79  
Curriculum Enrichment Participants (Youth): 336  
Special Interest Participants (Youth): 3,567  
Master Livestock Mentors: 4  
Master Gardeners: 17  
Kleberg Extension Education Association: 28  
Extension Quilters: 14  
Cash and In-kind Donations: \$ 48,500  
Crops Tour/Pesticide Trainings/CEU: 16  
Lawn/Garden Visits: 51

## Kleberg-Kenedy County Program Highlights

### County 4-H Program (see Annual 4-H Program Summary for additional information):

- Membership: 505
- Clubs: 23
- Direct Volunteers (Club Managers and Project Leaders): 79
- Top 5 Projects: Livestock, Food and Nutrition, Photography, Clothing and Textiles, and Community Service
- Project knowledge and information: workshops/clinics/trainings provided to volunteers and families throughout the year
- Community Service:
  - \* 50 Thanksgiving baskets to less fortunate families in partnership with County Indigent
  - \* 46 Christmas gifts to foster children in partnership with Child Protective Services
  - \* 125 pounds of non-perishable food items collected for local food pantry
  - \* Cash donation (\$183) and diapers/baby wipes (3,620) collected for CPS Rainbow Room
  - \* 19 youth and adult volunteers for Feast of Sharing
  - \* 8,570 coloring books and crayons collected for Driscoll Children's and Christus Spohn Kleberg Hospitals
  - \* 80 pillow cases donated to Kidney Dialysis of Kingsville for patient care
  - \* "Operation Cook" continues to be successful with soldiers in Iraq in collaboration with local Women's Club
  - \* 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 30 Record books submitted by local 4-H Members with 25 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):

- Patriotism through Preparedness is an Extension banner curriculum program designed to provide awareness to students and families in the event of a disaster. 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. Youth conservation was identified in 2000 through Extension's Community Forum. The curriculum was tailored after another conservation program, Marshmallow Project. Students learn about the different types of wetlands, functions of wetlands, animal and wildlife habitats in each wetland, and management and monitoring of wetlands. Additional information regarding this program is discussed in further detail below.
- Adventure and Kiddie Camp is a two month summer program for young people 6-18 years of age. The event focuses on natural resources, life skills, and recreation. The daily program begins with a fitness and nutrition component that targets obesity and diabetes awareness. Program follows with educational component which includes interactive activities and trips to area attractions. Additional areas of awareness include bullying and drug education. Partnership with local Parks Department and Brookshire Foundation allows for financial assistance with staff, facilities, materials, equipment, transportation, etc.

- Gardening and Horticulture Program provides students with hands-on learning experience in planning, vegetable gardening, soil preparation, pest and weed control, harvesting and nutrition. Utilize Master Gardeners occasionally as resources to provide assistance to Extension programs. Garden Show and Awards Presentation added to allow students and members to showcase harvested produce and compete for awards.
- Spring Break Activities is a collaborate effort with local Parks Department and Boys and Girls Club to provide young people with activities during Spring Break. Families can participate in a number of informal activities from fishing and shooting sports to recreation and natural resources.
- 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### Agriculture and Natural Resources:

- Private Water Well Screening continued in 2012 but included additional water education for 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, and Fall for local residents interested in obtaining a license. Coordination with TDA inspectors to test participants at the conclusion of the trainings.
- Soil Testing Campaign for the Coastal Bend (Nueces, San Patricio, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Refugio, and Kenedy) is conducted annually. The campaign is intended to allow producers to get a better assessment of their soil nutrients.
- Row Crop Tour continues to provide information to producers on the different varieties that have done well in the area. Collaborations with local producers and seed/fertilizer companies continue very successfully.
- Master Gardeners continue to provide technical assistance to community projects. Course being offered in Spring 2013.
- 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 Articles/Columns addressing local events, activities, and agriculture/natural resources/horticulture subject matter continue to being submitted weekly to local newspaper.
- Excellence in Agriculture educational workshop evolved from the local Beef and Pasture Committee which exposed area producers to a number of topics from forages and brush to market outlook and conservation.

- White tail Deer Seminar was a multi-county (Duval, Brooks, Jim Wells, Jim Hogg, Kleberg, Kenedy, and Lives Oak) effort that provided educational subject matter to area residents on White tail Deer studies.
- Water Harvesting continues to be a major conservation effort throughout the state. A multi-county (Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Jim Hogg, Kleberg, Kenedy, and Live Oak) water harvesting system for wildlife was built in Duval County. The purpose of the system is to provide data as the study continues.

#### Community and Economic Development:

- Measurement Mania is a chamber of commerce and community driven fifth grade math preparedness program. The program provides additional math skills to fifth grade students in an effort to successfully increase STARR testing scores. Collaborations with various organizations like TAMUK, NAS, Celanese, Kleberg Bank, etc. continue to support this highly visible and successful program.
- Local collaborations with the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Council provide successful efforts to community functions.
- Judges and Commissioners CEU Conference provided an opportunity for local businesses to benefit from an Extension sponsored event. Educational subject matter related to county government were topics of discussion.

#### Expanded Nutrition Program:

- After a very successful first year, the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program provided 58 families with educational learning sessions in the areas of: basic nutrition, food preparation, food budget management, food safety and fitness.
- Participants increased their knowledge in:
  - Thawing foods safely
  - Reading food labels "Nutrition Facts" to make healthy choices
  - Planning meals in advance
  - Food groups

#### Partnership/Collaborators:

- Numerous partners and collaborators made 2012 a very successful year in providing quality programming to target audiences: Coastal Bend College, Texas A&M University Kingsville, Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Naval Air Station Kingsville, Chamber of Commerce, local Independent School Districts (KCWCISD, RISD, RISD, KISD, SGISD, etc.), private/religious schools (Pan American Episcopal, Epiphany, Kingsway Academy, St. Gertrude's), 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, Kleberg Trap and Skeet Range, L.E. Ramey Golf Course, Kleberg Bank, First Community Bank, Texas Ag Finance, Felder Crop Insurance, National Weather Service, Methodist Child Development Center, Marc Cisneros Center Young Children, Boys and Girls Club, Registered Home Child Cares (Iris Arredondo, Stephanie Maslin, Grace Olivarez, Rachel Garcia, and Lupita Lopez), Dos Culturas, Wishing Well, and numerous others that supported and made 2012 successful.

# Kleberg-Kenedy County

## 4-H and YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION



729 East Yoakum Avenue  
PO Box 1119  
Kingsville, TX 78363  
P 361.595.8566 ~ F 361.592.7741  
kleberg.agrilife.org

# Making a Difference 2012

## Annual 4-H Program Summary

### County 4-H Youth Involvement

**23** Chartered Clubs  
**501** Club Members Enrolled  
**3,567** Community-based Outreach  
**336** In-school Enrichment Curriculum

**Total Youth Participation**  
**4,404**

### County 4-H Leadership, Advisory, and Support Organizations

Youth Board	<b>8</b> Members	<b>7</b> Meetings Held
County 4-H Council	<b>28</b> Members	<b>5</b> Meetings Held
Adult Leaders & Parents Organization	Members	Meetings Held

#### Top County Events

County 4-H Food Challenge	<b>33</b>
County 4-H Record Books	<b>32</b>
County 4-H Food Show	<b>26</b>
County 4-H Photography Contest	<b>12</b>
County 4-H Fashion Show	<b>11</b>

#### Top District Events

D12 4-H Record Book	<b>25</b>
D12 4-H Food Challenge	<b>18</b>
D12 4-H Leadership Lab	<b>14</b>
D12 4-H Food Show	<b>8</b>
D12 4-H Photography Contest	<b>5</b>

#### Top State/National Events

Texas 4-H Congress	<b>8</b>
Texas 4-H Record Book Judging	<b>4</b>
Texas 4-H Photography Contest	<b>2</b>
Texas 4-H Roundup	<b>1</b>
Texas 4-H Horse Show	<b>1</b>

#### Top Club Projects

Livestock Related Projects	<b>449</b>
Foods & Nutrition	<b>99</b>
Photography	<b>66</b>
Clothing & Textiles	<b>21</b>
Horse	<b>20</b>

#### Top Overall Projects/Curriculum Areas

Science of Agriculture	<b>1,124</b>
Workforce Preparation & Careers	<b>1,005</b>
Youth Summer Camps	<b>984</b>
Environmental Education	<b>757</b>
Food & Nutrition	<b>473</b>



### County 4-H Volunteer Support

**53** Registered & Screened Volunteers Supporting Clubs  
**39** Club Managers, Co-Managers, and Project Leaders  
**28,551** Volunteer Hours Contributed in Support of Clubs

**Value of Volunteer Time Contributed to 4-H**  
**\$609,856**

Educational programs of the Texas A&M 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

### County 4-H Leadership & Personal Development Programs

- 14 Attended State-level educational or competitive events
- 39 Attended District-level educational or competitive events
- 14 Attended District Leadership Lab
- 6 Received 4-H Scholarships valued at a total of **\$30,600**

### Local Training Opportunities

- 6 Photography Workshop
- 7 District Election Convention
- 8 County Council Officer Training
- 19 Club Officer Training
- 20 Recordbook Workshop

### Events & Activities

- 7 District 12 4-H Council & Adult Leaders Meeting
- 8 Texas 4-H Congress
- 32 County Record Book Contest
- 39 One Day 4-H
- 94 Annual Awards Banquet

### Significant accomplishments

Kleberg-Kenedy County 4-H'ers continue to make an impression in the community through service projects. This year 4-H'ers collected around 65 lbs of pet food for a local animal shelter and 115 books for were collected for adult literacy during One Day 4-H. During the Holiday's 4-H'ers provided 38 Thanksgiving meals to needy families, 40 gifts to Foster Children and 150 lbs of canned food given to the local indigent office.

### County 4-H Agriculture & Natural Resource Programs

- 421 Livestock Projects
- 343 Participated in County Livestock Shows
- 41 Attended State-level Livestock Shows
- 2 Attended District-level Agriculture & Natural Resources educational or competitive events
- 25 Youth Trained through "Quality Counts" Program

### **Livestock Show Premium Sale Proceeds\***

# **\$835,007**

\*Includes all projects (4-H and FFA)

### Local Training Opportunities

- 61 Livestock Project Clinics
- 22 Pee Wee Goat Clinic
- 15 Livestock Judging Clinic
- 63 Livestock Clipping & Shearing Clinic
- 16 Livestock Judging Practice

### Events & Activities

- 1,185 Kleberg-Kenedy County Ag Fair
- 343 Kleberg-Kenedy County Junior Livestock Show
- 14 Nueces County Livestock Judging Contest
- 1 State 4-H Horse Show

### Significant accomplishments

The Kleberg-Kenedy County Ag Fair continues to provide an opportunity for 1,100 youth to understand local agriculture. The event consisted of presentations on cotton, grain and beef production, importance of water



and erosion, and dairy production. One Kleberg-Kenedy County 4-H'er competed at the State 4-H Horse Show and won Grand Champion Grade Mare.

### **County 4-H Family & Consumer Science Programs**

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

### **Local Training Opportunities**

- 35 Food & Nutrition Workshop
- 7 Food & Nutrition Project Leader Training
- 11 Clothing & Textiles Workshop
- 11 Clothing & Textiles Project Leader Training

### **Events & Activities**

- 72 County 4-H Food Show and Food Challenge
- 20 County 4-H Fashion Show and Story Board Contest
- 139 Kleberg-Kenedy Junior Livestock Show- Youth Homemaking Contest

### **Significant accomplishments**

The foods and nutrition project continues to be a popular project in Kleberg-Kenedy County, aiming to increase participant knowledge of healthy eating and food safety. Youth and leaders involved in the clothing and textiles project and food and nutrition project are presented with many opportunities to increase subject knowledge and practice skills learned through project leader trainings and youth workshops.

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Kleberg-Kenedy Summer Camp is a two month summer program that continues to provide youth daily activities focused on natural resources, food and nutrition, life skills, and recreation. An obesity and healthy living presentation begins the program each day. Program activities varied from trips to local museums and the aquarium to kayaking and fishing, tennis and golf, shooting and archery, and bowling. Nearly 1,000 youth participated in the summer youth program this year.



**2012 Duval and Kleberg-Kenedy County Water Well Screening Outcome Summary - 207787**

**Developed by**  
**Sammy D. Gavito, Duval County Extension Agent – Ag/NR**  
**and**  
**Frank Escobedo, Kleberg-Kenedy County Extension Agent – Ag/NR**

**Relevance:**

Water well screening for arsenic, fecal coli form, nitrates, and total soluble salts is an ongoing natural resource issue to be addressed in Duval and surrounding counties. Landowners depend on well water for their livestock and for home use and consumption but do not know if there are any contaminants in their respective water table. For this reason, the Duval Agriculture Committee asks that the Extension Service continue to provide the landowners with the service of screening water samples annually. This is an issue across county lines, so it is a cooperative effort with landowners and the Extension Service in the seven county areas of Duval, Kleberg-Kenedy, Jim Hogg, Live Oak, Brooks and Jim Wells Counties.

**Response:**

Eleven landowners are involved with this water well screening project from Duval County and twelve samples from Kleberg-Kenedy County. The Extension Service from the six county area provided a water well screening for arsenic, fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates, and soluble salts. We set up the water well screening laboratory at the Jim Wells Fair grounds. Landowners receive their respective results and they also are provided valuable educational material on these subject areas. The landowners visit with us to interpret their results and learn how to remedy their water situation as needed. Landowners also received several educational resources that were made available through Extension office. 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).

Landowners were provided with the data for the water sample submitted and surveyed using a retro- post. Results are reflected below.

**Results:**

The results of this year's water well screening showed a high level of salt concentrations. We are not sure if this is due in part to the lack of rainfall the past couple of years or not. The average water well measured 2206 ppm salts in Duval County and 2182 ppm in Kleberg-Kenedy County. The nitrate level was also higher this year in Duval County with the average being 11.36 ppm and averaged lower in Kleberg-Kenedy County at 3.8 ppm. EPA maximum allowed standards are at 10 ppm. Arsenic levels varied with the average number at 7.7 ppm in Duval County and averaged lower in Kleberg-Kenedy County at 0.42 ppm. EPA maximum allowed standards are at 0.01 ppm. Fecal Coliform Bacteria was negative in all of the water samples. 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.

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Five surveys were returned by landowners participating in the Private Water Well Screening program. In summary, 40% of the participants knew that it is recommended for water well to get screened annually. 80% of the participants had knowledge of the contaminants (arsenic, nitrates, fecal coliform bacteria, and salinity) being screened. 50% of the participants had their water wells screened by another entity other than Extension. The average time frame was 8 years ago. 100% of the participants indicated that if the results were not within drinking water standards they plan on correcting the problem. Participants indicated that they valued the water screening program within a considerable range (\$251-\$1,000). 80% of the participants indicated that their well water was used for drinking, livestock, and irrigation.

### **Future Plans:**

The multi-county water well screening will continue into the future as long as landowners and our local committees continue to ask for it. The issue will remain well into the future. Provide more resources and awareness to private well water owners. Provide additional public awareness through local media and nixle program.

### **2012 Kleberg-Kenedy County Patriotism through Preparedness: Make a Plan; Take a Stand (206858) - Outcome**

Developed by:

Frank Escobedo

Kleberg-Kenedy County Extension Agent – Agriculture and Natural Resources

#### **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. Furthermore, the intent is to establish a basic level of knowledge and readiness of 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 8-11)

Additional descriptive information, if any, on Target Audience:

Seventy eight students' grades 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> from Kingsville ISD (Perez Elementary), Santa Gertrudis ISD and Kingsville Boys and Girls Club participated in this curriculum enrichment program, Patriotism through Preparedness: Make a Plan, Take a Stand.

#### **Educational Response**

- \* Teacher Training [1544712] Occurred: September 17, 2012
- \* Patriotism through Preparedness - Lesson 1 [1544707] Occurred: September 24, 2012
- \* Patriotism through Preparedness - Lesson 2 [1544709] Occurred: September 26, 2012
- \* Patriotism through Preparedness - Lesson 3 [1544708] Occurred: October 03, 2012
- \* Patriotism through Preparedness - Lesson 4 [1544716] Occurred: October 05, 2012

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 Santa Gertrudis ISD)
- \* Kingsville Boys and Girls Club (KBGC)
- \* Emergency Management Coordinator
- \* Media (Kingsville Record)

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### Evaluation Strategy Knowledge based

Additional descriptive information on Evaluation Strategy:

Pre-Test (Knowledge based) was administered to students prior to the 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. Mr. Paul Pope, Extension Program Specialist III-Evaluation, provided survey evaluation data from Pre and Post Tests. Due to an error, results will reflect the first ten questions of the instrument (pre and post).

### Clientele Feedback:

Educators complimented the program due to its relevance during Hurricane Season. They also indicated how the hands-on interaction increases student involvement and awareness.

### Results:

The Pre- and Post- Tests were used to determine the level of knowledge (increase/decrease) in the program, Patriotism through Preparedness: Make a Plan, Take a Stand. The following represents a mean score for the pre-test and the post-test as well as a percent change by each group/school and an overall comparison: KBGC (76, 82), Kingsville (82.78, 75.56), SGISD 4<sup>th</sup> grade (81.50, 86.84), SGISD 5<sup>th</sup> grade group A (91.43, 95.38), and SGISD 5<sup>th</sup> grade group B (79.09, 87.27). The percent change is reflected as follows: KBGC (8), Kingsville (-8), SGISD 4<sup>th</sup> grade (7), SGISD 5<sup>th</sup> grade group A (4.5), SGISD 5<sup>th</sup> grade group B (10). Overall mean score and percent change are as follows: (82.16, 85.41, and 4.3). Students increased their knowledge and awareness of preparing for a disaster whether caused by nature, accident, or terrorist attack. Teachers are more aware 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.

### Future Plans:

#### Benefits/Impacts

Program provides awareness to families as well as available resources during and after a disaster. School officials have become more proactive in preparing for emergency situations.

### Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the following schools and partners for their support: KBGC (Mr. Glover), Kingsville ISD–Perez Elementary (Ms. Fernandez), Santa Gertrudis ISD (Ms. Flores), Emergency Management Coordinator (Mr. Sanchez), Extension Organizational Development (Mr. Pope), and Kleberg-Kenedy County Youth Program Assistant (Mr. Ibanez).

### Future Program Actions

- Continue marketing/promoting program to other local schools/groups
- More collaborators/resources: Fire Department and local Law Enforcement

### **2012 Kleberg-Kenedy County WETLANDS in the Classroom (206839) – Outcome**

Developed by:  
Frank Escobedo

Kleberg-Kenedy County Extension Agent – Agriculture & Natural Resources

#### **Relevance:**

Identified as a 2000 TCFF issue, sound conservation education is an important area of concern especially 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

4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

Additional descriptive information, if any, on Target Audience:

Seventy eight Santa Gertrudis ISD students participated in this curriculum enrichment program, Wetlands in the Classroom.

#### Educational Response

- \* Lesson 1 [1544268] - Event date: October 24, 2012
- \* Lesson 2 [1544269] - Event date: October 26, 2012
- \* Lesson 3 [1544270] - Event date: October 29, 2012
- \* Lesson 4 [1544271] - Event date: November 05, 2012
- \* Lesson 5 [1544272] - Event date: November 13, 2012

Additional resources (Educational Response):

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

#### Partnerships and Collaborators

- \* Local School Districts (Santa Gertrudis ISD)
- \* Natural Resource Conservation Service
- \* Local Media (Kingsville Record)

#### Evaluation Strategy

Knowledge based

Descriptive information on Evaluation Strategy:

The instrument used to measure knowledge change on 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in the Wetlands in the Classroom Curriculum Enrichment program was a Pre- and Post-Test. The Pre-Test was administered to students prior to Lesson 1. The Post-Knowledge Test was administered at the conclusion of the program. Questions for the instrument were taken from the Marshmallow Project

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Curriculum. Data was analyzed using the mean score for both the pre and post-test along with percent change for each grade/group.

### Customer Satisfaction / Clientele Feedback Results

Teachers indicated program complimented school lessons being currently taught in the classroom. They also indicate that much of the information relates back to their curriculum/plans which help students during standardized testing. It also provided great interaction and engaged students with each lesson.

### **Results:**

Instrument used to determine level of knowledge was the Pre- and Post-Test. The following represents a mean score for each grade level prior (pre-test) to the lessons and at the conclusion (post-test) of the lessons as well as a percent change: 4<sup>th</sup> grade students (36.5, 61), 5<sup>th</sup> grade group A students (47.1, 72.4), 5<sup>th</sup> grade group B students (32.8, 58.3), 6<sup>th</sup> grade group A students (59.6, 75.4), and 6<sup>th</sup> grade group B students (56.2, 68.1). Percent change is as follows: 4<sup>th</sup> grade students (67.10), 5<sup>th</sup> grade group A students (53.70), 5<sup>th</sup> grade group B students (77.70), 6<sup>th</sup> grade group A students (26.50), and 6<sup>th</sup> grade group B students (21.20). Overall mean score and percent change: (46.44, 67.04, and 44.35). Students increased their knowledge of the program by having a better understanding on what constitutes a wetland, functions of a wetland, and the ecology of a wetland. Fifth grade group B students had the greatest increase in knowledge followed by fourth grade students. Six grade students from both groups (A and B) had the lowest knowledge change.

### Future Plans:

#### Benefits / Impacts

Teachers continue to comment how the information is retained by students throughout the year. They also indicate that most students have a better understanding of conservation issues and ecological systems/habitats. This continues to enhance classroom performance by the students.

### Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the following schools and partners for their continued support: Santa Gertrudis ISD (Ms. Flores, Ms. Cheeseman, Mrs. Womack), NRCS (Mr. Schmidt), and Kingsville Record (Mrs. Salinas).

### Future Program Actions

- Field trip
- Promoting program to other local school districts
- More interaction and outside resources

# Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Kleberg-Kenedy County (Faculty and Staff)

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## **Frank Escobedo**

County Extension Agent–Ag/NR  
P.O. Box 1119  
Kingsville, TX. 78364  
Phone: (361) 595-8566  
Fax: (361) 592-7741  
E-mail: [f-escobedo@tamu.edu](mailto:f-escobedo@tamu.edu)  
Website: [kleberg.agrilife.org](http://kleberg.agrilife.org)

## **Niki Kaiser**

County Extension Agent–4-H/Youth  
P.O. Box 1119  
Kingsville, TX. 78364  
Phone: (361) 595-8566  
Fax: (361) 592-7741  
E-mail: [niki.kaiser@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:niki.kaiser@ag.tamu.edu)  
Website: [kleberg.agrilife.org](http://kleberg.agrilife.org)

## **Janis Simons**

Office Manager/Secretary  
P.O. Box 1119  
Kingsville, TX. 78364  
E-mail: [janis.simons@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:janis.simons@ag.tamu.edu)

## **Blas Ibanez**

Youth Program Assistant  
P.O. Box 1119  
Kingsville, TX. 78364  
E-mail: [blas.ibanez@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:blas.ibanez@ag.tamu.edu)

## **Laura Prado**

Nutrition Education Assistant-EFNEP  
P.O. Box 1119  
Kingsville, TX. 78364  
E-mail: [laprado@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:laprado@ag.tamu.edu)