

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Brooks County

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Highlights of ANR programs within Brooks County as well as Multi- County

- Continuing Education for Private Pesticide Applicator Training (37) completed Training and CEU's
- Farm Visits 42 total farm visits for fruit trees, pecan trees, bees, grasses, wildlife, etc...
- Quarterly Newsletters 185 copies distributed throughout 2017
- Feral Hog Workshop had 25 producers in attendance
- AGEX Marketing your Cattle Program had 30 participants that attended the program
- Beef 706(Multi-County)
- Well Water Screening (Multi-County)
- Bull Gain Testing (Multi-County)
- Hunters Education Course- 13 youth took advantage of this certification which is required to legally hunt if you were born after 1971
- Predator Control Program
- Soil Testing Program
- Growing and Nourishing Healthy Community Gardens



Family Community and Health & Healthy South Texas

In Brooks County, we have several programs set in place for the year, as well as emerging programs to assist the people of our community. Multi county programs implemented in Brooks, Jim Wells, Duval, Jim Hogg, Cameron, Hidalgo, and Kleberg counties.

- Food Handlers Course is a 2-hour program that has **certified 94** individuals in Brooks, Jim Wells, and Jim Hogg
- Do Well Be Well with Diabetes **17 completed** the 5-week course
- Multi-County Tamale Workshop Atascosa, Brooks, Cameron, Live Oak and Frio 20 participants made a healthier version of tamales made of Spinach, Chicken and Queso Fresco, 10 dozen completed.
- Better Living for Texas graduated 276 participants as they completed the fresh start to a healthier you curriculum. (Grant position)
- Multi- County Brooks, Cameron & Hidalgo Child Care Conference held in Weslaco with 74 child care providers present.
- TEEA District 12 Spring Conference held in Brooks County with **32 EEA** members.
- Farmers Market was an emerging need, that came along with some determined individuals (10) to start an association. **2 planning meetings** with HST Specialist, TDA, and USDA, and Local farmers along with **2 Farmers Market events (13 Vendors)** that had a presence of over **200 visitors**.
- Healthy South Texas Big Event included Walk Across Texas, 2nd Annual Wings of Wellness 5K Run/Walk along with a Mini Fair. **141 runners/walkers, 8 Exhibitors, 36 Volunteers**
- HST/Maintain No Gain **23 community participants** completed the MNG challenge with 23 completions of everyone maintaining their weight during the 6 weeks.
- HST Diabetes/Asthma/Zika along with Health Science Center collaborated efforts to assist residents in gaining knowledge on these topics. **166** participated in the Diabetes 1-day course throughout the year. **87** individuals received ZIKA materials for one day 4-H
- Food Demonstration: Community Action of South Texas 100 plus CACOST employees enjoyed the White Chicken Chili



2017 a year in Review

- HST Walk Across Texas Youth Event at Falfurrias Elementary School **456** youth kicked off the WAT in October with 2nd grade class walking the most miles.
- Learn Grow Eat Go Curriculum was implemented in the Elementary School as well as a gardening component with the Middle school. **110** includes duplicates
- HST Essential Cookbook committee of agents assisting state specialist. 8 recipes submitted 2 accepted for the cookbook.
- HST Ambassadors participation in ZIKA, Relay for Life, Dinner Tonight, Food Handlers certified.
- HST Multi-County Dinner Tonight -Diabetes 50 in attendance



4-H and Youth Development in Brooks County

According to our Es237 our youth membership in and organized community club included 86 youths in which we reached 1,792 throughout the year through our special interest and school enrichment programs. A few highlights include: Shooting sports, 3 out of 4 disciplines 1 4-H Member advancing to Nationals for the second year, 8 coaches certified in all disciplines. Livestock projects: Beef, Swine, Goat, Lamb, Poultry, Rabbits, Horse (30 youth participating in County Fair) Fashion Show, Photography, Robotics – new club, 3 new managers. Food Show/Challenge, Record book training workshops, completed the annual achievement banquet Acknowledging our striving 4-H members as well as Tractor Supply of Alice and Ed Rachal Foundation, 4-H enrollment, one day 4-H. Community service projects included a clothes and food drive for the victims displaced by Hurricane Harvey. Hot meals for 22 families totaling 100 individuals. **Movie Night** was hosted by the 4H office to promote the 4-H program during national 4-H week approximately **300 family** members enjoyed the movie. Summer Camps: Kids in the kitchen, robotics, fishing, cake decorating, food challenge, gardening 203 youth engaged during the summer programming.



Both agents meet with the club managers monthly to set dates, charters, budgets, events and fundraisers.

Career Fair was hosted by the Falfurrias Middle school all grade levels, agents provided a presentation for 351 students plus their teachers.



Community Resource Economic Development

- Americorp VISTA from January thru September Grant position
- Coordinated and implemented the Downtown Falfurrias Fall Festival 1500-2000 in attendance with Vendors, Games, Rides
- Hurricane Harvey Emergency Management team (48 members) 2 Shelters were opened for over 31 hours 17 individuals in shelter, 10 payed staff present, 9 volunteers assisted coordinator, and Animal issues were minimal.
- Brooks County Fair Association advisors to the fair board
- Dreaming is Believing Youth Benefit Car Show—had over 500 people in attendance, around 30 volunteers, over \$5,000 in donations and was able to provide 275+ backpacks for children in need.



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