

# JIM WELLS COUNTY

## 2017 ANNUAL SUMMARY

Making a Difference

### *Educational Contacts*

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has been dedicated to educating Texans for over 100 years. 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. Extension Agents in Jim Wells County work with community members who serve on various program area committees, volunteer boards and a Leadership Advisory Board which oversees the entire direction of the Extension Program in the county. In 2017, a total of 15,946 educational contacts were made by Extension faculty and their volunteers. A total of 425 volunteers contributed approximately 4,433 hours in delivering and implementing programs, for a total value of \$104,441.00 in cost savings to the residents of Jim Wells County.

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contributed  
**4,433 hours of**  
service, valued  
at **\$104,441<sup>00</sup>**

### *Agriculture and Natural Resources*

Agriculture accounts for over \$70 million of gross income in Jim Wells County. Row crops (cotton, corn and grain sorghum) are grown on approximately 85,000 acres in the county, while beef cattle and wildlife are produced on pastures and native rangelands which account for an additional 400,000 acres. Extension faculty worked with agriculture committees and industry groups to implement 11 educational program efforts involving over 550 agricultural producers (participants).

#### Row Crop Production

- Planter and Sprayer Clinic (60)
- Sugar Cane Aphid Turn Row Meeting (20)
- Crop Tour & Seminar (40)
- Orange Grove Farm Expo (50)
- Multi-County Row Crop Symposium (60)
- Result Demonstrations
  - Corn Variety (25 varieties)
  - Sorghum Variety (30 varieties)
  - Plant Population (9 populations)
  - Sugar Cane Aphid Resistance (30 varieties)
  - Pellytory Weed Control (9 treatments)



Farm cooperators and volunteers help establish result demonstrations each year to evaluate crop varieties best suited for our area.

## **Beef Production & Range Management**

- Rural Property and Livestock Theft Prevention (3 programs, 150 participants)
- TSCRA Membership Gathering and Beef Cattle Seminar (100)
- Bull Selection and Fertility Clinic (40)
- International Student (UK) Beef Production Visit (30)



The Jim Wells County Rural Property and Livestock Theft Prevention Program is a collaborative effort between the Jim Wells County Sheriff's Department, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Gulf Coast Livestock Auction and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Jim Wells County. In 2017, three land owner programs were conducted to educate land owners and managers on various strategies to reduce theft and recover stolen livestock and/or property. Over 240 properties were registered and identified with the new Jim Wells County Sheriff's Department Placard which identifies properties with their respective owner or manager thru a locally managed data base. This system allows law enforcement officials to more effectively notify land owners in cases of emergencies such as loose livestock, busted fences or suspicious activity. The program has been well received and is being reviewed by various neighboring counties for possible adoption as well.

