

# Making a Difference

## Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service -Starr County 2017 Annual Report

Committee members and volunteers met throughout the year to review rules, by laws and finalize dates for events and recruit new members. We currently have 6 committees in Starr County strategizing, planning and evaluating programs.

### **Better Living for Texans**

The Better Living for Texans program has three separate programs:

- Adult Program Fresh Start to a Healthier You
- Learn, Grow, Eat, Go
- Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities

There were 231 graduates in the adult program and over 1,000 youth who participated in the Summer Nutrition camps and 381 Adults served as volunteers.

The Learn, Grow, Eat, Go had 7 schools that completed the 10 week curriculum. A total of 470 students participated in planting the fall and winter gardens.

The Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities program aims to increase the availability of healthy food through the use of community gardens. This program had 12 gardens and 1 orchard and graduated 87 gardeners in the program.



### **Working on Wellness**

There were also 4 Working on Wellness gardens, 3 high school gardens and one middle school garden. A total of 83 students planted and harvested these 4 gardens.

### **Healthy South Texas**

Healthy South Texas projects were mobilized by the Working on Wellness Coalition. There were 6 events that were held this year:

- Walking Across Texas – 5 schools, 14 teams, 135 walkers and Starr County walked 134,611 miles
- Dinner Tonight – had 287 attendees and 14 information booths provided by local supporters

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

- Health Talk Express Conference had 34 participants, there were 6 sessions presented
- Three Master Wellness volunteers were trained and five 4-H Ambassadors were recruited and served at the various events.



### **Child Care Providers Conference**

Our Annual Child Care Conference trained 150 child care providers that provide care for 2,189 Starr County children. A total of 1,200 clock hours of training were awarded to these child care professionals.

### **Beef 706**

Beef 706 is a program designed to teach beef cattle producers about the various segments of the industry involved in producing beef past their own ranch gate. These include local auction markets, stocker operations, feedlots and processing plants.

The following results are shared from the program evaluation to indicate the achievements of the Rio Grande Valley Beef 706 Program.

- Respondents reported owning 5,864 head of cattle
- Respondents reported a 3.36 fold increase in knowledge gain over 7 different best cattle management principles
- 91.3% of respondents said they would adopt or change production practices
- 100% of respondents said the principles they learned would make or save them money, with an average impact of \$22.50 per head annually
- Based on the previous figure and applied to the total number of cattle the respondents owned that would equate to a \$131, 940 economic impact

