

January-Over 120 4-H youth from across Zavala County Participated in the annual Zavala County Junior Livestock show generating over \$120,700.00 to 4-H families in Zavala County. 4-H families then participate in the 4-H financial literacy program (please see April) Over 40 youth in Kindergarten through 2nd grade participate in this event through the 4-H clover kids program with companion rabbits. This program helps increase 4-H youth enrollment each year in Zavala County.



February-Batesville 4-H Participated in the San Antonio Livestock Show-Rural Youth Day. The 4-H members demonstrated a robot constructed by the Batesville 4-H members under the direction of Ms. Nicole Diaz-4-H Science Project leader. The students reached over 490 youth from across the state at this event. This program is an example that 4-H is much more than animals.

March- The annual Spring planting planning meeting was held in Zavala County to provide producers with upcoming planting strategies and management practices which can be implemented in row crop production. Over 45 producers attended this meeting at the cotton gin conference room in Batesville

April- April is the month that the FDIC encourages financial institutions across the country to observe and participate in the National Teach The Children to save day. The Zavala county 4-H program area committee (PAC) in collaboration with Zavala County Bank hosted a financial literacy educational program for 4-H members and their families during the stockshow check distribution to 4-H members who sold animal projects in the stockshow in January. Over 100 4-H members and parents attended the event including Zavala County Judge Joe Luna.



May-Zavala County Farm Bureau and The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service conducted the annual ag fair, a agricultural literacy program to teach 4th grade students about the importance of agriculture and how agriculture affects our daily lives. Over 270 students were taught about grains, beef, cotton, rural electricity and milk production.

June-The annual 4-H Leadership Lab was held at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Zavala County was represented by Zavala County 4-H County Council President Skyler Blalock who was a candidate for Vice-President on the district 12 4-H council. This is the first time Zavala County 4-H had a candidate at the district level. The annual Steer Validation was also conducted during this month.

July-The Zavala County 4-H Program continues to improve 14.75 acres of Land donated to the 4-H program from the Puente Family Estate . The land is currently being developed to accommodate 4-H outdoor events such as 4-H camps, archery, 4-H family picnics and other activities. The Zavala County 4-H Acknowledges the Puente Family for their donation and support of the 4-H program in Zavala County.

August– The month of August signifies the start of the 2016-17 4-H year begins. Over 400 youth in Zavala County participated in educational programs during this new 4-H year. This included 4-H clover kids that are an important part of the 4-H recruitment, retention and expansion of the 4-H Program in Zavala County, Agricultural literacy and financial literacy programs and school enrichment programs.

September-The Zavala County Spinach and vegetable crops committee met to finalize the plans for the 2017 International Spinach Conference. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service also provided the annual crop and livestock disaster insurance and production protection strategies program. Over 55 producers attended this annual event.

October-Commissioners Court Approves a resolution declaring the Week of October 2-8 as national 4-H week. During this month the 4-H members, volunteers conducted a community service project during one day 4-H. Each year is different. This year the youth and parents collected school supplies for 4-H children that were affected by flooding in many areas of the Texas coast by hurricane Harvey. Zavala county youth contributed over 600 school supplies items that were shipped to Rockport and Port Aransas Texas.



November-The Zavala County Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service in cooperation with Del Monte Corporation established an outdoor Nursery to evaluate 250 spinach varieties and evaluated 13 different fungicides for the control of white rust (a detrimental disease in Spinach). The results of these Extension results demonstrations, AgriLife Extension food safety training strategies and spinach and vegetable improvement production strategies will be showcased in an international stage will be presented by Marcel Valdez, Zavala County Extension Agent and Dr. Larry Stein, Extension Horticulturalist and associate department head during the international spinach conference which will be held in Murcia Spain in February 2018.



December– The 13th annual Zavala County Last Chance CEU conference was held on December 28, 2017. Over 50 agricultural producers who hold a valid Texas Department of Agriculture issued applicators license attended this annual event. This educational program continues to increase in numbers due to the fact that producers are able to receive 6 CEU credits in one day. December is the time when the annual meeting of the Zavala County Leadership Advisory board also convenes to discuss future Extension programing efforts for the coming year and to evaluate programs conducted during the 2017 program year.



Acknowledgement It is a pleasure to provided you with this report to highlight some of the educational programs, services and opportunities afforded to the people of Zavala county. These efforts would not be possible without the support of The Zavala County Commissioners Court. Thank you for supporting the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Zavala County.