



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Atascosa County

2018 A Year in Review

Foreword: This document is being provided to you to highlight some of the educational programs, services and opportunities afforded to the people of Atascosa County. These efforts would not be possible without the support of The Atascosa County Commissioners Court. Adding value to extension programming this year, all members of Atascosa Commissioner's Court, Judge Robert Hurley and Commissioners, Bill Carroll, Mark Gillespie, Eliseo Perez, and Bill Torrans were in attendance at the 2018 South Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association Conference. Thank you for all that you do in support of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Atascosa County. This is only a highlight of some of the programs and activities conducted during 2018.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

In the area of Ag and Natural Resources, January yields many calls and visits regarding plant I.D. and spring planting. The Atascosa Cattlemen's Assoc., the Wildlife and Fisheries Committee, and the South Texas Home and Garden plan group met this month to plan for upcoming activities. Atascosa's Club Calf Breeders produced a calf sale video in February featuring 37 head for an online auction held in April, generating \$53,300 in sales.

The South Texas Peanut Growers held their annual meeting in April. The South Texas Peanut Tour, offered in September showcased results of summertime variety, insecticide trials, and discuss peanut breeding lines.

In May 76 beef producers attended the Atascosa Cattlemen's Assoc. Annual Meeting. Also, a Multi County Reproductive Workshop was offered. Anticipated economic impact of program for 9 of 13 participants was \$12,177. Over 40 cattle producers were in attendance for the Brush Country Beef 706 series. The average economic impact is \$49,777 for Atascosa.

In July, 8 residents attended the Cotton Seed Provision Workshop and in August, 30 participants attended a Strawberry Workshop. The Atascosa Wildlife Coop's annual meeting held in September topics included 13-inch rule, MLD permits, public hunting, and CWD. Earlier in the spring, the Coop, alongside the Wildlife & Fisheries Committee and neighboring counties partnered to offer the Agriculture, Wildlife, Oil, and Gas Considerations workshop for 36 landowner and appraisers.

In September, huisache and prickly pear result demos were established. Subsequent evaluations were conducted in November. A fall small grains variety was also established. Both were conducted with the assistance of agency specialists. December's High Tunnel workshop addressing the growing need in innovative practices in fruit and vegetable production provided education to 8 local growers.

Over 572 county fourth graders were introduced to agriculture science at the annual Ag Science Fair in October. A total of 9 different stations showcased the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives.

A total of 4 multicounty water well screenings were offered in the spring and fall to residents and conducted to address contamination concerns. 37 total screens tested for nitrate, salinity, fecal coliform contamination, and hydrocarbons.

A total of 8 private applicators training courses were hosted in our office throughout the year and a total of 30 continuing education credits were offered to applicators, including 6 at our end of the year CEU Shootout program held in December.

Family and Community Health

Family and Community Health County Agents (FCH) work to keep their community safe, healthy, and of course, happy. We promote healthy lifestyles that transfer into lifelong practices. Programs offered reflect this effort.

Safety: The Atascosa and now, Wilson County Car Seat Coalitions work hard and year-round promoting Car Seat Safety. FCH and community partners educate individuals and groups on distracted driving, hot baby (not leaving children or pets in car), buzzed and drunk driving, and seatbelt usage for all ages.

- Charlotte Car Seat Event: 36 children evaluated, ages 0-9 years old. 26 new seats were installed. This event alone had a potential savings of \$71,760 for the county. Atascosa is also a fitting station for the county. With 17 seats distributed throughout the year for an additional \$36,233 of savings. The total potential savings for the county was \$107,993. 42 seats were distributed and a total of 53 children were evaluated and now riding safer.

- Food Protection Management Certifications and Food Handlers is another program area that is offered in order to help the community stay up to date on new food laws and safety protocols. Classes were offered throughout the year for both with a total of 9 Food Handlers added to the certifications and 2 Food Protection Management certifications for new business owners.

Health: Promoting health in the community is also a priority. Programs offered throughout the year were: Do Well Be Well with Diabetes, Cooking Well with Diabetes, General Nutrition, MyPlate guidelines, Eating Healthy on a Budget, and Walk and Talk. The most successful programs have been Health Fair days around the county.

A partnership with MHM Wesley nurse in Poteet leads to a Feeding the Community day, reaching about 80 families that can now have fresh vegetables. Working with the schools and teaching MyPlate to students helps them understand portion size and the importance of all the food groups. In Jourdanton 600 elementary and junior high students were reached and in Charlotte, 40 fifth graders. In partnership with Coastal Bend College, 30, 8-12-year olds were reached at Kids Camp. Lytle Elementary school held a Health Fair where 50 teachers, staff and parents were reached. The 2nd Annual Brush Country Deer Run, 5k and 10k, boosted the Health and Safety Fair in conjunction with the run, reaching 80 individuals from around the county. Jourdanton Square Apartments hosted a monthly, healthy lunch program their residents, reaching about 5 residents per month.

FABLOW AgriLife is a multi-county collaboration between the FCH agents of Frio, Atascosa, Bee, Live Oak and Wilson County and part of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Family & Community Health. Together we help Texans better their lives through science-based educational programs designed to improve the overall health and wellness of individuals, families, and communities. Our goal is to implement and promote Better Living for Healthy Texans, another FCH program by addressing health and wellness topics through online content. Since receiving several awards for our digital newsletter, including a state and national award, FABLOW AgriLife decided to expand their online efforts to a blog and podcast. We are very proud to have 11 virtual newsletters with 25 subscribers and 3,000 views along with the 39 educational videos produced by FABLOW.

4-H Youth and Development

Over 154 Atascosa 4-H members help set a record-breaking sale totaling \$868,000 at the Atascosa County Livestock Show in January. Our county show was the preface to Texas stock show season which produced several placing projects, including San Antonio Class and Reserve Champions in February. In March, 59 Atascosa 4-H projects were entered at the Austin and Houston Livestock Shows producing several placing projects including 1 Class Champion.

In the spring, Atascosa 4-H had 14 competitors at District 12 Roundup, 8 at District Fashion Sensation, and 10 competed in the District 12 Livestock Judging Contest. The month of May was great for our K-9 4-H Club members who participated in three separate dog training sessions and assisted with the American Kennel Club Nose Work Trials held in Leming.

June kicked off the summer 4-H activities for our members and agents. State 4-H Round-Up was held in College Station in which 4 Atascosa 4-H members participated in Livestock Judging. Leadership Lab was held at Texas A&M University-Kingsville in which two Atascosa 4-H members attended. Election Convention also held in Kingsville in which Atascosa was represented by Atascosa Council Delegates. Fifteen members attended County Camp and 4 participated in Texas Brigade camps. Six Atascosa 4-H members also participated at the State 4-H Dog Show in July and our office hosted a 4-H officer and club manager training.

Several livestock project day camps were held on our campus for 4-H members, including a 4-H Livestock and Health Workshop and Feed Mill Tour, held in August. At the Atascosa 4-H Awards Banquet, 192 members received awards and were recognized for their accomplishments. Members also attended 4-H Interpretation at Commissioner's Court.

With a focus on nutrition to prepare for 4-H Food Show activities, come September, members attended a Healthier Pizza food and nutrition workshop at our offices in Leming as well as a workshop at Meme's Kitchen where a local restaurateur shared his experience in the food service industry, safe business practices, and the importance of giving back to the community. The Atascosa County Fair, held in October, provided several 4-H members the opportunity to show projects at the prospect show and Atascosa also hosted the county 4-H Food Show in which 8 individuals competed.

The annual Atascosa 4-H fundraiser, the South Texas Double Trouble Prospect Show was held in November, raising \$7,519.22 for the program. Also, this month, Atascosa 4-H was represented at the District 4-H Food Show and 15 participants competed at the Consumer Decision Making Contest. In December, twelve contestants participated at the D-12 Archery Match.