

January 18, 2019

La Salle County 2018 Annual Report

January – March



We kicked off the year in January with our annual 4H and FFA Showmanship Clinic and Prospect show. Michele Whalan put on the clinic as well as judged the prospect show in which over 50 kids participated in. Lunch was provided by the directors of the Booster Club and cooked by the Constable from Precinct #2 Rene Maldonado. We also held our annual 4H and FFA Junior Livestock Show and Rodeo in March. The weight in and sift started on Thursday as usual followed by the show on Friday and the sale on Saturday. Michele Whalen was the Showmanship Judge and Sam Wamble was this year's Project Judge. This year was another huge success with over \$410,000 on just over 80 slots, thanks to the help of the booster club and its volunteers. To finish out the first quarter I was able to take part in a prescribed burn on the Rocking C Ranch with La Salle County NRCS agent Kathryn Menke, in which everything went as planned.

April – June



We had our first competitor in the small bore silhouette shoot in Benavides, TX. Mikayla represented our county well as she competed against several other counties in the first ever District 12 4H event. With her help as well as the help from our shooting sports coach Johnny Gomez, we have increased our numbers from one or two to over 8 consistent shooters. She also takes part in a monthly online competition through Orion Monthly Virtual Matches. I have also talked to Constable Rene Maldonado from Precinct #2 who has announced his desire to be a shooting sports coach, so with a little luck and some training we will have a shotgun club as well.

July – September



Thanks to Richie, the Agrilife Extension Agent in Dimmit County, we were able to hold a multi-county club manager and club officer training at the conference center there in Carrizo Springs, TX. All La Salle County Club managers were able to make it and all but one officer were able to participate. It was a great turnout, we had a lot of fun and we learned a lot as well. We held the first of many ag. Programs, South Texas Brush Management. Ed Walker gave us an update from the Wintergarden Groundwater Conservation District. Dr. Megan Clayton the Extension Range Specialists talked proper methods of spraying and the proper equipment to use. Benny Martinez talked chemical and specie specifics on what to spray, what to spray it with and when to spray it. We only had 12 participate, but it was a huge success. I was also able to participate in a Mosquito Surveillance Program with Dr. Swiger. Mosquitos are to be taken very serious due to the diseases the carry and transmit, such as West Nile Virus and Zika Virus. Out of the two different species *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*, only *Aedes aegypti* has been found in La Salle County to this date.

October – December



To finish off the year our kids from the Encinal 4H Club marked the annual “One Day” event with a special project at the U.S. Post Office in Encinal. The club members beautified the landscaping by adding potting soil and installing new flowering plants and shrubs. The Cotulla 4H Club members gathered to play bingo with the residents of Las Palmas during the holidays as a community service project. Lots of prizes were given, lots of fun was had, and the Las Palmas residents could not have been happier. Last but not least, as there year comes to an end and the Stock Show Season begins, lots of validations are to be had. Validations included county steer, heifer, commercial heifer, goats and pigs. These validations could not take place without our directors, advisors, other volunteers as well as our kids. I would just like to say thank you for a wonderful year, and I look forward to many more. If there is anything you need from me, please do not hesitate to ask.