



Extension Education in Maverick County

Making a Difference

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EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Providing Solutions*

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and its partners have long been dedicated to educating Texans. 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.

In Texas, all 254 counties are served by a well-organized network of professional Extension educators and some 100,000 trained volunteers. Extension expertise and educational outreach pertain to the food and fiber industry, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, nutrition and health, and community economic development. Among

those served are hundreds of thousands of young people who benefit annually from Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

Texans turn to Extension education for solutions. Extension agents and specialists respond not only with answers, but also with resources and services that result in significant returns on the public's investment. Extension programs are custom-designed for each region of the state, with residents providing input and help with program delivery. Here are just a few highlights of Extension impacts on this county and its people.

Maverick County – Summary of 2018 Educational Contacts

4-H Clubs - 6

4-H Club Members - 282

LAB and Youth Board Meetings – 2

Adjunct Faculty Agreement with Eagle Pass ISD – 1

Pesticide Applicators Trainings and CEU's – 2

4-H Newsletters posted on maverick.agrilife.org – 12

4-H Newsletters posted on 4-H Connect – 12

Agricultural Demonstration – 2

AgNR Total Contacts – 12823

FCS Total Contacts – 1745

TV Interviews and Newspaper releases – 11

4-H Trainings, Clinics, and Workshops – 22

Maverick County – 2018 Agricultural Field Day In-Depth Plan

Oscar Galindo CEA AgNR

Relevance

Maverick County is a diverse area mainly composed of rangeland, and a couple of areas dedicated to agriculture. Most of the agriculture crop land has access to the local irrigation canal system that runs across the county from North in Quemado to South in El Indio. With the years the agricultural practices have changed, and most of the farmers decided to harvest Coastal Bermuda grass for hay. We have very few acres that harvest vegetables like watermelons and cantaloupes. However one strong agricultural commodity in Maverick County is the production of pecan, with many pecan orchards in Quemado and in El Indio.

Response

The 2018 Maverick County Field Day in Depth plan was organized in coordination with our local USDA – NRCS Agent, my agricultural committee, and the local SWCD # 253. Based on the advice of members of these organizations the agricultural field day was focused on brush management, livestock water, irrigation, and pecan production. The objective was to cover more topics that concern our local ranchers, rather than just one subject like last year only on irrigation practices.

Results

The 2018 Maverick County Crop and Pastureland Workshop was on May 8 and 9, it was a 2 day event. The first day was at El Indio Ranch, and included a Field Tour to observe the effect of Sendero herbicide on mesquite, and in this case was aerial application. The guest speakers were Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Brush Management Specialist Dr. Bob Lyons, and NRCS Engineer J. Chenault. On the second day the event was at the MCJLS meeting room. The guest speakers were Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Pecan Specialist Bill Ree, NRCS Agronomist Cliff Kinnibrugh, and NRCS Engineer J. Chenault. The 2018 Maverick County Crop and Pastureland Workshop were evaluated with a survey conducted by the USDA – NRCS and the County Extension Agent. We also obtained positive feedback from our clients that will help us improve our services.

Maverick County – 2018 Maverick General ANR Oscar Galindo CEA AgNR

Relevance

In Maverick County most of the area is rangeland mainly used for game like deer hunting or quail hunting and the rest for cattle. Most of the crop land in Maverick County went from harvesting vegetables to the production of hay bales out of Coastal Bermuda grass. What remains the same is the pecan production from our pecan orchards in Maverick County. But in either commodity of agriculture and natural resources the need of using herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers is part of the ranchers business. The Agricultural Committee and the ranchers or producers are the ones that dictate the most relevant issues to cover, and the first is the one related to the use of chemicals in their businesses. Another important aspect of Extension working with the ranchers or the community is offering educational presentations according to what they do in our area.

Response

2018 Maverick General ANR is a plan dedicated to the local ranchers. We offer Pesticide Applicators Trainings and Pesticide Applicators CEU's to the local ranchers or any other citizen that might need it. This year under this plan we offered the Texas Beef Quality Producer Program instructed by Texas A&M Specialist Dr. Pascal in coordination with the Texas Animal Health Commission and local producers. Also part of this plan is the presentations of the Maverick County Extension Agent offered to biology students of the South West Texas Junior College on animal health science.

Results

This year the Maverick County Extension Agent of Agriculture and Natural Resources offered Pesticide Applicators Training and Pesticide Applicators CEU's to our local ranchers. Also in coordination with the Texas Animal Health Commission a presentation was offered with Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Specialist Dr. Joe Pascal on Texas Beef Quality Producer Program in which 5 CEU's were provided to the attendees mainly from the USDA Tick Riders program, and some local ranchers. I also provided a couple of presentations on animal health issues like zoonosis to biology students of Dr. Kannan from the South West Texas Junior College here in Eagle Pass, Texas.

Maverick County

2018 Maverick County Rangeland Management Plan

Oscar Galindo CEA AgNR

Relevance

One important aspect of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent is the development of agricultural research demonstrations according to the needs of the local ranchers or producers, under the advice of local committees or our own Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension specialist. The Extension specialists are aware of the issues related to their area of coverage, and work in coordination with Extension Agents to provide and educational service to our clientele.

Response

2018 Maverick County Rangeland Management Plan includes the two agricultural demonstrations a requirement for the County Extension Agents in Agriculture and Natural Resources. This year I continued working with the agricultural demonstration titled Improving Feeder Cattle Marketing Practices in South Texas, under the direction of Dr. Samuel Zapata of the Texas A&M AgriLIFE Research Center in Weslaco, Texas. The cooperators are the Uvalde Livestock Exchange to collect data of cattle that pass through the sale auction, and then submitted to Dr. Zapata for proper documentation. The second agricultural demonstration is the Comparison of Herbicide Rates for Fenceline under the direction of Dr. Robert Lyons Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Specialist of the Uvalde Research Center. The cooperators are Pete Benegas Maverick County Commissioner in charge of the Maverick County Airport, and industrial park.

Results

The results are positive because important information has been gathered out of my two agricultural demonstrations useful to our local ranchers or producers. Sometimes the ranchers ask what herbicides do you recommend to apply on a fence line, and we can respond using the information obtained in our own agricultural demonstration.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

In this case the use of Invora, Tordon, and MSO mixed at different rates and the effect caused in the different species of local flora. In other case ranchers would like to know about the prices per pound of cattle sold in and auction or what are the most common breed of cattle running through the cattle auction, and with the information obtained in one of my agricultural demonstrations I can provide them accurate an answer.

2018 Maverick County- Childhood Obesity/ Heroes for Health - In-Depth Plan Monica Aguirre, FCH-CEP Agent

Relevance

The Maverick County Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS) committee has identified obesity and diet related diseases as a top priority for programming in Maverick County. Overweight and obesity rates among Texas adults, age 18 and over, are 65.9% of adults were overweight, with a Body Mass Index of 25 or greater, and 31.0% of adults were obese, with a Body Mass Index of 30 or greater. Adolescent overweight and obesity rates for Texans in grades 9 through 12 are: 15.6% were overweight, (\geq 85th and $<$ 95th percentiles for BMI by age and sex) and 13.6% were obese (\geq 95th percentile for BMI by age and sex). Finally, overweight and obesity rates among Texas children, age two to less than five are: 16.8% were overweight, (85th to $<$ 95th percentile BMI-for-Age) and 15.3% were obese (\geq 95th percentile BMI-for-Age). Diet related diseases include coronary heart disease, hypertension and stroke, type 2 diabetes, and certain types of cancer. Poor health and diet related illness have a devastating impact on households. The annual cost associated with excess weight in Texas is approximately \$15.6 billion in 2010 and could increase to \$39 billion by the year 2040. Families in Maverick County experience economic limitations. The Bureau of Labor Statistics Maverick County Data: 30.5% of households in Maverick County are living below the poverty line vs. 17.6% in the state of Texas

Response

Nutrition programs were delivered throughout the year in Maverick County. Curriculum used was, *Live it! Real Live Nutrition for Teens*. This is a nine lesson program that provides technical and educational information to limited resources families and individuals to help them understand the importance of nutrition and diet. In addition, it heightens awareness of the relationship between high calorie food consumption and lack of exercise to health status. This program was offered to youth of high school age.

Programming efforts throughout the year included:

- Nutrition program during school hours were conducted at the Health classes at Eagle Pass High School

Family and Consumer Sciences

- Marketing efforts included flyers, social media, e mails and outreach to community partners.
- Programs were planned and coordinated with community partners and the FCS Committee. The committee is made up of community members from diverse organizations. Collaborators assisted in advertising and in securing locations.
- Retrospective post evaluations were completed for the nutrition classes.

Results

Common Measure surveys were completed by the majority of program participants. Data from 448 participants from Eagle Pass High School was gathered. In-depth plan for 2018 yielded 579 contacts and 863 hours.

There were 448 participants from Maverick County who completed common measures survey: 41% were females, 57% were males, and 1% chose “I don’t want to say.”

Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino (92%), White or Caucasian (3%), and all the other groups were less than 1%.

Following are the percentages of participants who answered “yes/usually” vs. “no/not really” to the following questions. Do you pay attention to...?

- How much fruit you eat each day? *yes/usually* (49%) vs. *no/not really* (51%).
- How many vegetables you eat each day? *yes/usually* (37%) vs. *no/not really* (63%)
- How much water you drink each day? *yes/usually* (84%) vs. *no/not really* (16%)
- How many sugary drinks you drink each day? *yes/usually* (63%) vs. *no/not really* (37%)
- The food label for the food you eat? *yes/usually* (37%) vs. *no/not really* (63%)

When asked, “At 4-H, did you learn about healthy food choices? The responses were: yes (83%), no (4%), and sort of (13%).

Do you pay attention to how much Fruit you eat each day?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	61	13.6	13.6	13.6
	Not really	166	37.1	37.1	50.7
	Usually	115	25.7	25.7	76.3
	Yes	106	23.7	23.7	100.0
	Total	448	100.0	100.0	

Family and Consumer Sciences

a. In what County do you live? = Maverick

Do you pay attention to how much Vegetables you eat each day

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	98	21.9	21.9	21.9
	Not really	183	40.8	40.9	62.9
	Usually	96	21.4	21.5	84.3
	Yes	70	15.6	15.7	100.0
	Total	447	99.8	100.0	
Missing	System	1	.2		
Total		448	100.0		

a. In what County do you live? = Maverick

At 4-H, did you learn about healthy food choices

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	20	4.5	4.5	4.5
	Sort of	57	12.7	12.8	17.2
	Yes	370	82.6	82.8	100.0
	Total	447	99.8	100.0	
Missing	System	1	.2		
Total		448	100.0		

a. In what County do you live? = Maverick

2018 Maverick County- Robotics -Outreach Plan

Monica Aguirre, FCH-CEP Agent

Relevance

STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education is imperative to help youth become marketable in the workplace. Jobs in STEM fields are plentiful and lucrative, but the number of students interested in these careers is not keeping up with demand. Robotics projects give students the opportunity to develop STEM skills with hands-on, collaborative projects. Students design, collaborate, plan, redesign, construct, create, assemble, invent, reinvent, write, present, and complete a functional robot.

Response

Maverick County FCH Agent coordinated a training held by CEP 4-H Specialist Cynthia Pierfax and 4-H Agent from Cameron County, Guadalupe Castro. Both conducted a four hour training to Ray H Darr Science teacher, Cesar Picazo who volunteered to conduct the robotics project with 10 of his fifth grade students who volunteered to participate. The program was held in school, during school hours, during the months of April and May 2018. Ray H Darr Elementary is a Title 1 school located in a Colonia who services limited resources audience in the south side of Maverick County.

Results

Ten students volunteered to participate in the robotics project at Ray H Darr Elementary School. Students attended eight sessions where they worked on three EV3 robots provided by CEP FCH Maverick County Agent. Participants used math and science to build and rebuild their robots to make them functional. As a result of the success and popularity of the project, Mr Picazo has offered to conduct the robotics program next year with his new fifth grade class. He expressed wanting to make this program an ongoing event in his class room for those students who are interested.

Maverick County

2018 Maverick Youth ANR and Livestock in Depth Plan

Oscar Galindo CEA AgNR – 4-H

Relevance

Maverick County is a growing community that demands a variety of activities for our youth to develop different skills besides the regular curriculum in school. Raising livestock show animals has been an activity since a long time ago, that promotes the interest of the kids in farming as well as raising cattle. Feeding the world is becoming an issue because we rely on big enterprises to mass produce food, but what about small farmers to produce local products. We need to attract our youth to farm for local economies, and one great example is organic food. In a not so big town with many people living in rural areas we can take advantage to educate our youth on farming or ranching.

Response

The 2018 Maverick County Youth ANR and Livestock in Depth plan covers the all the activities of our 4-H kids related with livestock show projects. With the advice and support of the volunteers, 4-H Club Managers, and my 4-H Livestock Projects Committee we decided and organized the different activities to effectively reach our goals that will assist our kids with their livestock projects.

Results

The 2018 Maverick County Youth ANR and Livestock in Depth plan was implemented according to the needs of our exhibitors and the recommendations of the 4-Animal Projects Committee. We provided the Lamb and Goat Clinic in September a week before validation. At the clinic volunteers also offered a Lamb and Goat Showmanship Clinic, a couple of our most experienced families conducted the event with highly effective results. The 2018 Muy Grande Prospect Show was another successful accomplishment of our volunteers especially the agriculture teachers. This year we added steers, heifers, and hogs to the prospect show besides the usual lambs and goats that we do every year.

4-H and Youth Development

The 2018 Maverick County Junior Livestock Show was another successful event organized by our volunteers. This year the auction sale was greater than any other year that benefited all the kids that participated at the event. This plan requires much work of the volunteers, committee, Agricultural Teachers, and the Extension Agent to accomplish all the targeted goals. The 2018 Maverick County Youth ANR and Livestock in Depth plan was evaluated after the 2018 Lamb and Goat Clinic with a satisfaction survey. We also take advice from the parents and kids on how to improve the different activities related to their livestock projects. Because this plan covers validations, the local livestock show, the prospect show, and the participation of our youth at the major livestock shows.

Maverick County – 2018 Maverick County 4-H Grows Oscar Galindo CEA AgNR – 4-H

Relevance

Maverick County is a community that is constantly growing and families are always looking for alternative activities for their kids. The local 4-H program offers some activities that can easily be attractive to those families. The most common activity of our program is the livestock show animal projects, and other 4-H competitions either local or even at District or state level. There are strong and active groups of volunteers that are involved in the 4-H program activities starting with the Program Area Committee, the 4-H Club Managers, our Youth Board, and 4-H Animal Projects Committee. They are the ones that direct our 4-H program according to the needs of our youth and the parents.

Response

According to our volunteers advice the plan covers all the 4-H Club meetings and the 4-H Club Managers meetings as well as the Maverick 4-H Council meetings. The 4-H Clubs that we have are the Eagle Pass 4-H Club, the Quemado 4-H Club, the Southside 4-H Club, and the Riverside 4-H Club. The clubs conduct meetings during the regular school district year from September to May. In this plan are also some promotional activities of the 4-H like the participation at the 4th of July Parade, and the participation at the Back to School Fair. The Maverick County 4-H offers scholarships every year to the graduating seniors, and the two Eagle Pass ISD Scholarship Nights are part of this program. The Maverick County 4-H Banquet is offered every year at the Eagle Pass High School Cafeteria to recognize the hard work of all of our volunteers, parents and 4-H kids.

4-H and Youth Development

Results

The results are very positive with a strong well planned program with the involvement of active volunteer leaders. All the 4-H Clubs conducted their meetings from September to May after a summer break, and most of the 4-H kids attended all the 4-H Club meetings. We successfully accomplished all of our goals within the Maverick County 4-H Grows plan starting with the appreciation and recognition of all the 4-H Members at the 2018 4-H Awards Recognition Banquet, the 2018 4-H Scholarships offered at the EPISD Scholarship Nights, and promoting the 4-H at the 4th of July Parade.

4-H and Youth Development

2018 Maverick County 4-H Projects Education Plan

Oscar Galindo CEA AgNR

Relevance

We have an active group of 4-H parents that want their kids to not only participate in livestock show activities, but in some other 4-H competitions the 4-H program offer to the members. These families are willing to travel with their 4-H kids to participate in different 4-H completions in order to improve their kid's record for later use on their college ambitions. We understand the challenges our kids face when they go out and seek being admitted in the university they prefer, for this reason we offer all of this 4-H activities that are part of the Texas A&M system for their advantage.

Response

This plan is an outreach that consists of all the 4-H activities, either local competitions or district and even state. We have a very active group of 4-H kids that participate in most or all the 4-H activities that we offer here in Maverick County. The most active 4-H activity is the Maverick County 4-H Shooting Sports Archery and Rifle program. We began offering every year the Maverick County 4-H Shooting Sports Safety Training for Archery and Rifle. We provide practices before every competition, and we participate at the District 12 Postal 4-H League. The 4-H Food Show, 4-H Fashion Show, 4-H Photo Show, 4-H Record Book, 4-H Entomology, 4-H Plant and Grass ID, are activities offered to our 4-H youth here in our community. For any of these activities we plan the events in a meeting, we offer educational workshops, and organize the local competitions. The first places advance to District competitions and even State competitions

Results

The results are very positive and concerning the shooting sports competitions the Maverick County 4-H Shooting Sports Archery and Rifle Club was able to obtain one first place at the District 12 Archery Match in Benavides, Texas. At the District 12 4-H Food Show in La Grulla, Texas the Maverick County 4-H obtained one Top Chef first place.

4-H and Youth Development

At the District 12 4-H Fashion Show in Kingsville, Texas the Maverick County 4-H kids obtained also 2 first places. At the State 4-H Archery Competition in Carrizo Springs, Texas our 4-H kids also obtained one first place, and this is a very competitive event. At the District 12 4-H Rifle Match in Benavides, Texas we didn't obtain any first place, but our 4-H kids proudly competed at the event. The Maverick County 4-H also participated for the first time at the Archery 4-H State Games in San Antonio, Texas.

Maverick County – 2018 CRED Emergency Management Plan Oscar Galindo CEA AgNR

Relevance

In Maverick County the terrain is mainly small hills with many creeks that flow through the different areas of the county. We have a couple of areas of flat terrain where some crop fields prevail one is the Quemado to the North, and the other is at El Indio to the South. The main emergency concern is flooding, because we have some floodplains within the city of Eagle Pass, Quemado and El Indio plus the entire infrastructure close to the Rio Grande. The common wildfires in the county are of record by the Rio Grande shoreline, other than that we don't have many wildfires in the open rangeland.

Response

2018 CRED Emergency Management Plan is focused on emergency issues only. This year the Animal Issues Committee meeting was conducted here at the MCJLS meeting room, basically to verify the list of members and the available shelters in Maverick County. After the flooding's in the Hill Country we meet with the Maverick County Emergency Management to report no incident in our area.

Results

Fortunately this year we didn't have to report any disaster due to any emergency contingency of any kind. But local citizens involved in emergency committees or government agencies meet throughout the year to discuss the actual preparedness of local responders. This year was not the exception and we conducted a metering with the Maverick County Emergency Management, and also with the TAHC regarding cattle issues.

Extension Education in Maverick County

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