

McMullen County 2018 Year in Review



EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Providing Solutions*

Forward: This document is being provided to you to highlight some of the educational programs, services, and opportunities afforded to the people of McMullen County. These efforts would not be possible without the support of the McMullen County Commissioners Court. Thank you for all that you do in support of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in McMullen County. This is highlight of some the programs and activities conducted during 2018. There are many other events not included.

Multi-County Private Water Well Testing - Frio/Atascosa/Dimmit/Zavala/LaSalle and McMullen Water Quality plan is an education program that gives well owners the opportunity to have their well water samples to be screened for common contaminants including fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates, and high salinity. Of the 66 samples screened, 9 tested positive for fecal coliform (14.6%) and 34 tested positive for bacteria, (51.4%). The nitrate level average was .8 with a range of 1-3 ppm in nitrate samples. Salinity in the form of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) was also determined on each sample. Samples submitted averaged 583ppm TDS with a range from 29 to 5500 TDS salinity. Results indicate that the Multi- County Water Plan met its objectives to increase knowledge and behavioral changes with the homeowners that participated. 96% of the participants indicated that they were completely satisfied with the entire program.

Character Education - in McMullen County, the Texas Building Character curriculum adopted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service was utilized to target grade students of McMullen County ISD. A weekly lecture and activity series conducted from September through December addresses one of the six virtues of good moral character which includes respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, caring and citizenship. A pre-test and post-test questionnaire was utilized to measure knowledge gained by students. Statements from the teachers and evaluation questionnaire were utilized to document any behavior changes. A pre-test and post-test questionnaire was utilized as an evaluation tool to determine the degree of knowledge gained by the students. The questionnaire utilized a variety of types of questions that included listing, defining or describing the different virtues related to good character. Pre-test and post-test scores reflected 47 % change reflected the in average test score. Behavioral changes were observed by teachers in students being more respectful and tolerant to each other.

Jr. Master Gardener - A spring garden was established at McMullen County ISD targeting 5th grade students. The school garden serves as an outdoor classroom to teach students about soils, seeds, plant classification, plant identification, weeds, insect identification, plant diseases, nutrition, soil fertility and water conservation. Teaching activities are conducted twice per month from February through May.

A pre-test and post-test questionnaire was utilized as an evaluation instrument to determine the level of knowledge gained from the teaching activities involving soils, soil fertility, and plant science. Average scores comparing the pre-test to post-test scores reflected a 34 % average score on pre-test compared to 78 % on the post-test reflecting 126 % change in average test scores.



Shooting Sports – The shooting sports project which includes shotgun, rifle and archery reached 28 4-H members promoting safety and responsibility, and teaching life skills. 18 % of the youth involved in Shooting Sports project areas are not involved with the traditional livestock projects, which serves as expansion strategy for the 4-H membership. Teaching activities begin in September through December and Feb. through June in the on a weekly basis.



Livestock Project Clinics – with the assistance the Tilden Livestock Show Association workshops are implemented in September through December. Youth and parents are informed on project management and showmanship skills with sheep, goats, swine, poultry and rabbit projects.

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