



Marcel Valdez
County Extension Agent
Ag. and Natural Resources
County Coordinator

January-Over \$115,000 dollars in prize money was generated for 4-H youth who participated in the annual Zavala County Junior Livestock show with animal projects Also Over 40 youth in grades K through 2nd grade participate in 4-H clover kids rabbit show. The 4-H clover kids program helps increase 4-H youth enrollment. Total reached (parents, 4-H members and volunteers) through the 4-H animal projects program 364. CED participated in the Regional Economic Development Summit, submission of Value Added Producers Grant to USDA and assisted local business owners with business financial and technical assistance services. 10 clients were served with technical and financial advisory assistance and 75 were provided educational information.



Phyllis Varnon
County Extension Agent
Community and
Economic Development

February-Zavala county 4-H members participated in the San Antonio Livestock Show calf scramble and Rural Youth Day to promote 4-H to over 800 visitors who visited the 4-H promotional booths. \$2500.00 were awarded to Zavala county 4-H members who participated in the calf scramble. CED provided technical assistance for regional HUB businesses and facilitated business loan applications with CDFI, PeopleFund, Speaker and Emcee for Chamber of Commerce, Lifetime Achievement Awards, Non-profit fundraising and attended Texas Rural Leadership Program. 11 HUB/BID clients were served and overall more than 200 contacts were provided educational information and materials.



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. CED attended and presented to Veterans during the National AgrAbility Training Workshop in Portland, Maine, Met with CDGB State Director as well as working with regional businesses. A total of 274 contacts were made this month in all areas of CED programs.



April-Over 175 4-H youth, parents and volunteers attended the stock show check distribution and financial literacy event held in Zavala county. Zavala County Bank hosted a financial literacy educational program for 4-H families discussing the importance of saving money, college and technical school costs and how to manage money through saving and checking accounts. \$115,000 dollars were distributed to 4-H youth at this event. CED met with Director of the Texas Women's Commission, and attended the PVAMU Cooperative Extension State Conference. Provided financial and technical assistance to new and existing businesses. 24 clients were served directly with HUB and/or business and financial assistance.

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 170 students were taught about grains, CED participated in an interactive Youth Literacy Program with 12 members of a regional theater group. Assisted regional business with HUB contract award and attended a State Spot Bid Fair in Irving, Texas. During the Spot Bid fair, a HUB client submitted proposals in the amount of 32, 000.

June- Over 20 producers attended a produce safety alliance grower training. Attendees completed the course and thus are in compliance with the new Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) law affecting all growers across the country. attended and presented at the National Association of Community Development Extension professionals regarding Shale Oil & Gas activity in the area and identified economic and social impacts for the region. 2 new HUB applications were submitted and outreach to more than 50 persons.

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. CED regional business clients had a great month: \$300k Value Added Grant Award and Winner of Texas Rural Challenge “Texas Strong Competition”\$5,000. Attended CDGB Certification Workshop. 8 HUB/BID /Loan clients were assisted by CED programs and more than 150 contacts were made.

August- The month of August signifies the start of the 2018 4-H year begins. Over 200 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. CED worked with HUB, Business and Loan clients as well as Non-profit organizations for fundraising and Board development. Met with national enterprise with HUB contracting priorities to further understand challenges HUB businesses face when submitted and fulfilling contracts. CED agent served 16 business clients directly this month with financial planning, loan information for expansion and start-up.



September- 465 4th grade students were taught about grains and how they are grown, what products are made from grains and the importance of agriculture in the region. This was a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Texas Agri-Women venture. CED assisted start up processing business with USDA, TDA, TCEQ, and other regulatory agencies for planning and permitting. Submitted loan applications for local business. More than 30 clients were provided with educational information for business opportunities.

October- Over 65 4-H youth participated in national 4-H week. During this month the 4-H members, volunteers conducted a community service project during one day 4-H. CED closed loan for local business and submitted a loan application for local business, with PeopleFund, assisted regional non-profit application to IRS for 501 c 3 designation. Attended Emergency Management Training. 40 contacts were made and 9 HUB/BID clients were served.



November-The Zavala County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in cooperation with Del Monte Corporation established an outdoor Nursery to evaluate 310 spinach varieties and evaluated 18 different fungicides for the control of white rust (a detrimental disease in Spinach). The results of these Extension results demonstrations are shared with spinach growers in the county and the region. CED assisted regional business prepare and submit loan application to local bank for refinancing, new business loan closed and attended AgriLife Fall Faculty. Establishment of regional non-profit. 30 contacts for the CED programming were made. 3 direct loans were submitted for review.



December- The 14th annual Zavala County CEU conference was held on December 28, 2018. Over 50 agricultural producers who hold a valid Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide applicators license attended and receive 6 CEU credits in one day. CED attended the Bexar County HUB Conference with two local business owners, one is a certified HUB and the other application is processing. To close out the year, 6 HUB applications submitted with status pending, 6 loans submitted and 2 closed, numerous businesses and non-profits planning for 2019. 40 articles submitted for publication to Zavala County Sentinel and 4 articles published by PVAMU “Monday Minute”.

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.