

Educational Contacts

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has been dedicated to educating Texans for over 100 years. 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. Extension Agents in Jim Wells County work with community members who serve on various program area committees, volunteer boards and a Leadership Advisory Board which oversees the entire direction of the Extension Program in the county. In 2018, a total of **13,231 educational contacts** were made by Extension faculty and their volunteers. A total of 425 volunteers contributed approximately 4,433 hours in delivering and implementing programs, for a total value of \$104,441.00 in cost savings to the residents of Jim Wells County.

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

Agriculture accounts for over \$70 million of gross income in Jim Wells County. Row crops (cotton, corn and grain sorghum) are grown on approximately 85,000 acres in the county, while beef cattle and wildlife are produced on pastures and native rangelands which account for an additional 400,000 acres. Extension faculty worked with agriculture committees and industry groups to implement 16 educational program efforts involving approximately 500 agricultural producers (participants).

Row Crop Production

- Planter and Sprayer Clinic (1/23 - 40)
- Auxin Training (1/23 - 21)
- Combine Clinic (5/15 - 40)
- Crop Tour & Seminar (6/7 - 30)
- Seed Cotton Program (9/6 - 15)
- Result Demonstrations
 - Corn Variety (27 varieties)
 - Sorghum Variety (31 varieties)
 - Plant Population (8 varieties, 5 populations)
 - Cotton (18 varieties)

Beef Production & Range Management

- Rural Property and Livestock Theft Prevention (5 programs, 205 participants)
- International Beef Tour – Costa Rica Delegation (3/11-16)
- Multi-County Brush Management Workshop (3/29 - 50)
- FFA Livestock Marketing Seminar (5/22 - 9)
- Beef Cattle Marketing Seminar (10/4 - 44)
- Multi-County Wildlife Management Clinic (11/2 - 70)



4-H and Youth Development



Jim Wells County boasts an annual enrollment of over 200 4-H club members each year. These youth participate in a number of activities throughout the year ranging from traditional livestock and home economics projects to now shooting sports and robotics. In addition to community clubs, approximately 1,500 youth are reached thru in-school curriculum programs such as Learn, Grow, Eat, Go (School Gardens) and off-campus programs such as Ag Fair. Archery is a part of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program and in Jim Wells County well over 40 youth are actively participating in this project. County practices, District and State Matches, Postal Leagues and other events keep these project members and their coaches busy throughout the year. State 4-H Round-Up is the climax of a 4-H member's year and this year approximately 20 4-H members from Jim Wells County competed at state. Top results yielded a state winner in educational presentations, which recently competed at Nationals and placed 4th and a 2nd place in the Food Challenge competition. The Food Challenge Team also advanced to National Competition where they placed 3rd. As state qualifiers, the team was also invited to participate in the National Seafood Challenge in New Orleans, Louisiana. They also placed 3rd at that event. Last but not least: three 4-H members from Jim Wells County received a total of **\$32,000.00 in scholarships** at State 4-H Round Up as well. Congratulations!!!



Healthy South Texas



HEALTHY SOUTH TEXAS

As the focus of health education continues to direct itself towards prevention, so has Extension education. The goal of Healthy South Texas is to provide our community with resources which enable them to have access to health related information and the knowledge to make healthy choices for themselves. In Jim Wells County, 4-H Health Ambassadors have been active in promoting healthy lifestyles during health fairs, school curriculum programs and other events. Our Master Wellness Volunteers who were recently trained, are now engaged in planning and implementing Dinner Tonight programs which promote and demonstrate proper and healthy food preparation. Other programs which were implemented in 2018 include Worksite Wellness and Cooking Well with Diabetes.

