



## Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Atascosa County 2019 A Year in Review

**Foreword:** This document is provided to you to highlight some of the educational programs, services, and opportunities afforded to the citizens of Atascosa County in 2019. These efforts would not be possible without the support of the Atascosa County Commissioners Court, Commissioners Mark Gillespie, Stuart Knowlton, Eliseo Perez, and Kennard Riley and Judge Robert Hurley. Thank you for all that you do in support of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Atascosa County. Many thanks to Extension committees and volunteers for making our programs a success.

### ***Agriculture & Natural Resources***

In the area of Ag and Natural Resources, January yields many calls and visits regarding plant I.D. and spring planting. The Atascosa Cattlemen's Assoc., the Atascosa Wildlife and Fisheries Committee, and the South Texas Home and Garden groups met this month to plan for upcoming activities. Atascosa's Club Calf Breeders produced a calf sale video in February featuring 37 head for an online auction held in April, generating \$73,900 in sales.

The South Texas Peanut Growers held their annual meeting in April. The South Texas Peanut Tour, offered in September, showcased results of summertime variety, insecticide trials, and herbicide trials, and discussed peanut breeding lines. The Peanut Producer's held meetings in March with 40 attendees and in September with 45 attendees.

In May, 52 beef producers attended the Atascosa Cattlemen's Assoc. annual meeting with an economic benefit of over \$40,744. Also, a Multi-County Reproductive Workshop was offered. Anticipated economic impact of program for 13 participants was \$30,528. Over 28 cattle producers were in attendance for the Animal Husbandry and BQA Program.

In July, 27 participants attended a Strawberry Workshop. The Atascosa Wildlife Coop's annual meeting held in September included hunting and CWD updates and information about anthrax and Texas Brigades. Earlier in the spring, the Coop, alongside the Wildlife & Fisheries Committee and neighboring counties partnered to offer the Wildlife Field Day, focused on quail and turkey, for 16 landowners.

In September, huisache and black brush result demonstrations were established. Subsequent evaluations were conducted in November. A fall small grains variety was also established. Both were conducted with the assistance of agency specialists. December's Preparing for the Spring CEU Workshop had 40 producers in attendance.

In October, 636 county fourth graders were introduced to agriculture science at the annual Ag Science Fair. A total of 9 different stations showcased the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives.

A spring and fall multicounty water well screenings were offered to residents and conducted to address contamination concerns. 68 total screens were tested for nitrate, salinity, fecal coliform contamination, and hydrocarbons.

A total of 6 private applicator training courses were hosted in our office throughout the year and a total of 22 continuing education credits were offered to applicators, including 6 at our end of the year CEU Shootout program held in December. A strawberry results demonstration was held focusing on herbicides, nutrients, and varieties.

### ***Family and Community Health***

**Health** – Promoting health in the community is a priority. Better Living for Texans programs, featuring General Nutrition, Eating Healthy on a Budget, MyPlate, and a Fresh Start to a Healthy You are offered throughout the year. A new partnership with Methodist Hospital South boosted participation in Wisdom, Power, Control, a four-week diabetic series, and produced seven course graduates. Participation in the hospital's health fair promoted

resources and healthy living and reached 150 community members. In an effort to target younger audiences, the FCH agent utilized the Path to Plate program and worked with BCFS on Farm Day to teach preschoolers and parents about vegetable production. Over 300 kids in the community were taught how to make healthy snacks by partnering with Jourdanton Schools, Coastal Bend College, and the City of Pleasanton. Additionally, there is a continued partnership with the Methodist Healthcare Ministries Wesley nurses that grows every year.

FABLOW AgriLife, part of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Family and Community Health, is a multi-county collaboration between the FCH agents of Frio, Atascosa, Bee, Live Oak, Wilson and now, Dimmit County. Together, we help Texans better their lives through science-based educational programs designed to improve the overall health and wellness of individuals by addressing health and wellness topics through online content. The *FABLOW AgriLife* digital newsletter and social media page have been recognized at State and National levels. FABLOW also started a podcast in order to educate those that are always on the go.

**Food Protection Management** – According to Texas Food Establishment Rules section 228.33(e), food establishments “shall maintain on premises a certificate of completion of the food handler training course for each food employee.” To help businesses and nonprofits comply with Texas Law, a total of 52 Food handler certifications and 3 Food Protection Management Certifications were awarded.

**Child Passenger Safety (CPS)** – Education is the key component of the CPS program. The Atascosa Car Seat Coalition teamed up with Wilson County to act as a fitting station for caregivers in the community. There is a significant economic benefit for children riding safely in a car. In Atascosa, 30 seats were inspected with an economic impact savings of \$49,560.

### ***4-H Youth and Development***

Over 165 Atascosa 4-H members help set a record-breaking sale at the Atascosa County Livestock Show in January. Our county show was the preface to Texas stock show season which produced several placing projects. In February 123 members participated in Fort Worth, San Angelo, and San Antonio Stock Shows. In March, 99 Atascosa 4-H members entered at the Austin and Houston Livestock Shows producing several placing projects.

In the spring, Atascosa 4-H had 8 competitors at District Roundup, 3 at District Fashion Sensation, 16 at District Horse Judging, and 10 competed in the District 12 Livestock Judging Contest. 31 4-H Members competed in various District Shooting Contests.

June kicked off the summer 4-H activities for our members and agents. 3 Members participated at the District Horse Show. State 4-H Round-Up was held in College Station in which 9 Atascosa 4-H members participated in Livestock Judging, AG Product ID, Consumer Decision Making, and Entomology. Leadership Lab was held at Texas A&M University-Kingsville in which one Atascosa 4-H members attended. Election Convention also held in Kingsville in which Atascosa was represented by an Atascosa Council Delegate. Twenty members attended County Camp and participated in Texas Brigade camps. Two Atascosa 4-H members also participated at the State 4-H Horse Show.

Several livestock project day camps were held on our campus for 4-H members, including a 4-H Livestock and Health Workshop, a feed lot tour, and a meat processing plant tour. At the Atascosa 4-H Awards Banquet, 177 members and family attend to see members receive awards and be recognized for their accomplishments. Members also attended 4-H Interpretation at Commissioner's Court.

With a focus on nutrition to prepare for 4-H Food Show activities, come October, members attended a Food from Around the World food and nutrition workshop at our offices in Leming. The Atascosa County Fair, held in October, provided several 4-H members the opportunity to show projects at the prospect show and Atascosa also hosted the county 4-H Food Show in which 10 individuals competed.

The annual Atascosa 4-H fundraiser, the South Texas Double Trouble Prospect Show was held in November, raising \$5,228.36 for the program. Also, this month, Atascosa 4-H was represented at the District 4-H Food Show and 19 participants competed at the Consumer Decision Making Contest. In December, twelve contestants participated at the D-12 Archery Match.