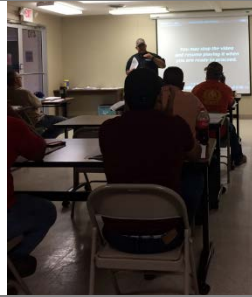


2019 Hidalgo County Agriculture and Natural Resources

Commercial Agriculture



23rd Annual RGV Bull Gain Test and Heifer Development Program

This program provides objective information on weight gain, ribeye size, marbling score, scrotal circumference (bulls), reproductive tract scores (heifers), pelvic area and frame size to breeders of yearling purebred and commercial bulls and heifers for use in selection and marketing to beef cattle producers in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond. In **2019 24 consignors brought in 77 bulls and 20 heifers to participate in the testing.**

LRGV Irrigation Management Program

Producers learned about opportunities, tools, technologies and challenges to modernizing irrigation in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Relevant work from around the world was discussed, local action taken on ongoing efforts that demonstrated practices were highlighted. Salinity management was discussed as salt concentrations in the river continue to rise and are a growing concern among producers. Legislative updates and funding opportunities were shared.

Pesticide Training & Waste Disposal

Producers are required to attend pesticide application trainings in order to obtain a license. A joint training between Cameron and Hidalgo Counties was hosted and **17 participants were educated in preparation for the test.**

Additionally, agents across the RGV held a regional pesticide waste collection event to properly dispose of leftover farm chemicals. **Over 3,000 gallons of chemicals were collected for proper disposal.**

Small Acreage Agriculture



This multicounty program continues to address the critical county issues of agricultural profitability, economic development, and *financial* and technical support for farming operations identified through the Texas Community Futures Forum.

Workshops and seminars focused on cost effective and sustainable methods to improve farming and ranching in the following areas: fruit and vegetable production, livestock production, economics, marketing and business planning.

- 2/7- Grapevine Workshop- 32 *participants*
- 3/1- Chicken Egg Production- 56 *participants*
 - Youth Presentation- 40 *participants*
- 4/11-Aquaponics - 48 *participants*
- 5/22- Goat Production-38 *participants*
- 7/26- Beef Cattle- 89 *participants*
- 9/19 - Canning Workshop – 15 *participants*

Horticulture and Community Gardens



EarthKind Workshop Series

- Over 440 participants attended 26 workshops
- An average of 150 people reached weekly at Farmers Market Information Table
- Fall and Spring Garden Festivals and Home Garden Tours were attended by over 500 people



Master Gardener Training

Training program for new volunteers - 50 hours class and 50 hours hands on instruction

- 16 new volunteers graduated in 2019
- 22 people participated in the 2019 training
- 46 MGs volunteered 6,150 hours
 - *Volunteer hours valued at \$151,843*



Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities

- 369 individuals participated in 114 sessions
- 2,186 lbs. of produce harvested from 6 community gardens

Learn, Grow, Eat, & Go! Curriculum – JMG

- 30 teachers and mentors were trained
- 400 youth participated
- 153 of those youth completed the 10 lesson series

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

About Family & Community Health

The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Hidalgo County Family & Community Health team consists of Andrea Valdez-CEA FCH, Joanne Ureste-Armijo-CEA FCH, Melissa De Leon EA-EFNEP, Stephanie Bowman EA-PVAM CEP and assisted by county staff, Linda Ramirez and Elzie Martinez. The Better Living for Texans (BLT) Nutrition educators are Frances Flores and Yolanda Rios.

Program topics include nutrition and MyPlate for youth and adults, hands-on food demonstrations, food handler certifications, physical activity, anger management and parenting skills, car seat installations and financial literacy.

64,062 Total Health Contacts

(FCH, EFNEP, BLT)

397,768 Total Contact Hours

Health & Wellness

Dinner Tonight Healthy Cooking School hosted 275 participants in 2 events partnering with DHR Health and Hidalgo County Precinct 4. 69% of participants increased knowledge of how the foods we eat impact our health. Mobile Cooking School partnered with the new Hidalgo County Employee Wellness program to offer the program to county employees in July and August 2019 with 22 graduates. Participants learned how to prepare food safely and cook new and healthy recipes.

203 Food Handler certifications were issued in 2019 with a 17 point increase in pre/post test score. This program was extended into the Hidalgo County Jail to certify food trustee inmates.

The Health Talk Express program educates participants on heart health, stress and stroke prevention. In 2019, 113 participants graduated from this program. 93% of participants stated after attending the program, they increased their physical activity.

The Maintain No Gain program helps participants manage their weight during the holiday season. Of the 125 graduates, 75% were able to maintain their weight and 9% were able to decrease their weight.

The Better Living for Texans program (BLT) offers a variety of research-based, nutrition education programs and information to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants and program eligible persons. In Hidalgo County, 425 participants graduated from this program in 2019.



2019



BETTER LIVING
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AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Cooperative Extension Program



Strengthening Families

The 2019 Childcare Conference had 90 participants and 100% of participants reported learning new information. The Car Passenger Safety program found that 90% of those car seats inspected did not meet safety standards. 71 car seats were donated by Safe Rider, TXDOT and Extension to the participants that did not meet car seat inspection standards.

The Strengthening Families program also includes Parenting Connections with 205 participants and 90 participants in the Anger Control program.

95% of Parenting Connections participants mentioned they were able to redirect appropriate behavior

98% of Anger Control participants were able to utilize an anger log to identify stressors

96% of Anger Control participants mentioned improved problem solving and communication technique.

Family & Community Health outreach programs such as Sun Safety, Take A Stand Against Bullying, Goal Setting and Child Health & Safety had 646 combined participants from September to December 2019.

EFNEP and Prairie View A&M

In 2019, 1,607 families enrolled in EFNEP. As a result of participation in EFNEP, participants learned to prepare more meals and snacks at home, be more active, control portion size and have more energy. The EFNEP youth program reached 18,446 youth contacts, of which, is directed toward low-income school-age youth. These students participate in a series of fun and educational lessons on good nutrition and food safety as part of summer programs, classroom, and after-school activities. In addition, 152 volunteers donated 1,230 hours of work in EFNEP in Hidalgo County, of which, at a Texas rate of \$25.20/hr., this volunteerism has a minimum dollar value of \$30,996.

The Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension Program provides educational programs in the areas of Financial Literacy, Balanced Living, Childhood Obesity, Bullying, and Food Safety reaching 5,416 youth and 194 adults with 1,004 of those participants graduating from the programs. The Choose Health: Food, Fun and Fitness Program had 4,904 participants and after the program 63% of students said they now pay attention to how much fruit they eat each day.



2019



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