

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 2019, a total of **19,846 educational contacts** were made by Extension faculty and their volunteers. A total of 489 volunteers contributed approximately 9,820 hours in delivering and implementing programs, for a total value of \$249,722.61 in cost savings to the residents of Jim Wells County.

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Texas Community Futures Forum

The Texas Community Futures Forum is a statewide Extension effort to collectively receive input from county stakeholders on the issues they perceive as affecting their communities at the time. This process is repeated approximately every five years and provides Extension agents and their program area committees a guide for building program plans in the upcoming year. This year, approximately 40 people participated in the Jim Wells County TCFE on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at Coastal Bend College in Alice. Below are the issues which were identified in each of the four program areas.



Agriculture & Natural Resources	Community Development	Families & Health	Youth
Producer Finances	Adult Education	Education	Parenting
Wildlife Damage	Physical & Mental Health	Bullying & Suicide	Teen Pregnancy
County Road Infrastructure	Public Safety	Employment Opportunities	Lack of Family Support
Inexperienced Producers	Youth Education	Health	Bullying
Water		Drug & Alcohol Abuse	Social Media

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 program participants. Program topics involved commodity marketing strategies, farm bill policy, crop and rangeland insurance and various agronomic issues. Marketing of our Rural Property and Livestock Theft Prevention Program has been a major effort as well.

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 various 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.



School Gardens have also become a popular commodity for youth in Jim Wells County. With the use of gardening as a way to involve kids in production agriculture, their attention is then turned to preparing what they grow, while learning nutrition, food preparation, food safety and other topics. In 2019, over 430 students participated in various school curriculum lessons and experienced new food products and methods of preparation.

- 75 @ Ben Bolt High School FCCLA
- 29 @ Alice High School HOSA
- 77 @ Premont Early Childhood Academy
- 30 @ Ben Bolt Elementary
- 80 @ Premont Early Childhood Academy Summer Program
- 60 @ Alice High School Culinary Arts
- 80 @ St Joseph Catholic Sch

Families & Health



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 2019, four major programs were coordinated and conducted to help provide health education to youth and adults.

Diner Tonight was held in September at the VFW Hall in Alice. 44 people participated in the event along with 6 Master Wellness Volunteers, 7 exhibitors and Guest Chef Sheriff Danny Bueno. The food demonstrations were conducted in tribute to Veterans and First Responders with 4-H members assisting with additional demonstrations on culinary safety. **HEB Resolution Solutions** Food Demonstrations were conducted at our local HEB. Five Master Wellness Volunteers conducted the demonstrations to 50 participants with food items donated by the store. **Walk Across Texas** was implemented in Ben Bolt and Premont High Schools. A combined total of 593 youth and 45 adults participated in the program, reporting having logged in approximately 68,904 miles! **Path to the Plate** was a showcase of agriculture and health conducted at Premont High School. 178 students participated in the program learning about food production, safety, preparation and nutrition.

