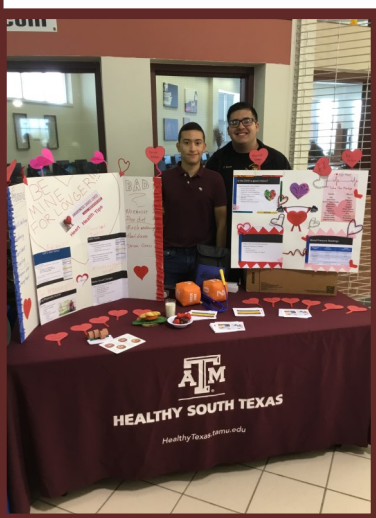


**FOREWORD:** This document is being provided to you to highlight some of the educational programs, services and opportunities afforded to the people of Zapata County. These efforts would not be possible without the support of The Zapata County Commissioners Court. Thank you for all that you do in support of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Zapata County. This is only a highlight of some of the programs and activities conducted during 2019. There are many other successful events not included.

**January:** Zapata North Elementary employees joined the Walk Across Texas program. 51 staff members participated and walked over a total of 3,098 miles as campus. They successfully motivated each other to be more physically active throughout the 8 week program.



**February:** Healthy South Texas Youth Ambassadors provided an informational booth at Zapata High School for Heart Health Awareness month. Over 200 high school students received information on the importance of having a healthy heart.



**March:** The Zapata County Fair had over 300 participants with live-stock, baking, photography and metal works projects. Nearly 250 projects were sold at the auction, with a total sale of approximately \$250,000. Zapata 4-H youth also participated in the Houston Stock Show and Austin Rodeo.



**April:** Hosted South Texas Ag Symposium. Program was held online. Zapata County had 4 participants, with one obtaining pesticide CEU's. Hosted, in conjunction with Starr and Hidalgo Counties, a pesticide applicators training. Two Zapata County residents attended. Zapata County 4-H clubs held an end of the year party. Certificates were presented to members and Texas Ranger Roland Villarreal was our guest speaker.



**May:** Provided a Healthy Families, Healthy Communities Expo for the community of Zapata. Over 60 adults and 30 youth attended and enjoyed presentations on postpartum depression, breastfeeding, gestational diabetes, physical activity, and healthy cooking demonstration. Event was sponsored by Superior Health Plan.

**June:** 10 Healthy South Texas Youth Ambassadors were trained over the summer for the new school year. HST Youth Ambassadors were able to assist with the Walk and Talk program at the local Siesta Shores park.



**July:** ZCISD Administrators were trained on Healthy South Texas programs and the HST School recognition criteria. 27 administrators participated and learned the importance of incorporating HST programs. Administrators will be sharing training with their teachers on how they can have their schools gain HST recognition.

**August:** Conducted water well testing for local producers. 14 samples were tested for bacteria, salinity and nitrate. Hosted ZCFA rules night. Rules for the Zapata County Fair were distributed and project information were presented. A total of 150 youth in attendance.



**September:** A Food Handler training was offered for Zapata County ISD Child Nutrition Food Service Department workers. A total of 37 employees received their certification. The Zapata Extension Office will be providing the Food Handler training every 2 years for the school district department.

**October:** ZCISD established a community garden with the help of Zapata AgriLife Extension and their Growing Nourishing Healthy Communities program. 8 participants joined the program and enjoyed 6 classes on horticulture. The garden was able to grow garlic, beets, radishes, lettuce, kale, carrots, and asparagus.



**November:** Ag, Ranch and Wildlife Workshop was held. Topics included cattle management during drought and wildlife plans for tax purposes. 30 producers in attendance, including students from the Laredo Martin Ag Science Program.

**December:** Collaborated with Zapata Middle School to provide a Mobile Cooking School program to their staff and parents. A total of 8 participants enjoyed three lessons where they prepared healthy recipes as part of their hands-on activities.

