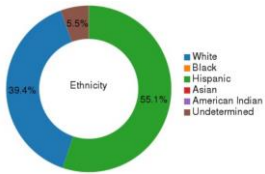


Educational Contacts

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 2021, a total of **10,920 educational contacts** were made by Extension faculty and their volunteers. A total of 489 volunteers contributed approximately 16,067 hours in delivering and implementing programs, for a total value of **\$378,538.52 in cost savings** to the residents of Jim Wells County.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Agriculture accounts for over \$70 million of gross income in Jim Wells County. According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, Jim Wells County (JWC) is home to 770 beef cattle operations with a total of over 36,000 head of beef cows and calves at the time of the survey. It is also home to over 85,000 acres of row crop production with most of the acreage being planted in corn, grain sorghum and cotton. Sunflowers, watermelons, peas, sesame and wheat account for less than 15% of the total planted acres. 2021 proved to be a challenging year for agricultural producers to say the least. Drought plagued our area for the first four months of the year and then were followed with four months of excessive rains which made row crop production and harvest a great challenge. For beef cattle producers, feeding costs and suppressed cattle markets hindered profitability.

A total of 22 Extension educational programs and activities were conducted this year. Approximately 450 people participated in these programs. Below is an outline of the most significant program efforts. Number of participants are in (n).

Beef Cattle & Range Management

- Beef Cattle Nutrition Workshops – 2 workshops in collaboration with local feed stores (33)
- Stockmanship Workshop – Multi-County County Program at East Foundation in Hebronville (10)
- Cattle Fever Tick Producer Video – Produced and presented at 2021 Beef Cattle Short Course (90)
- Chronic Wasting Disease in White Tailed Deer – Partnership Program with TPWD (42)
- *Criterion de selection para novillos de carne* – Virtual presentation in Spanish on Feeder Cattle Selection to a class of university students in Cañas, Guanacaste, Costa Rica (20)
- Result Demonstrations – Huisache Control Trial – 8 treatments

Row Crop Production

- Planter & Sprayer Clinic – Equipment calibration and maintenance (43)
- Auxin Training – Special training for pesticide applicators (29)
- Harvester Clinic – Equipment preparation and setting workshop (24)
- Rob-See-Co Field Tour – Industry tour of corn, cotton and grain sorghum varieties at Cadena Farms (35)
- JWC Row Crops Tour – Annual tour of variety trials in JWC (30)
- Result Demonstrations – 3 grain sorghum, 1 corn, 1 cotton variety trials



4-H and Youth Development

Texas youth continue to face health issues like those of adults. In fact, one-third (33.3%) of Texas youth ages 10-17 are considered overweight or obese, with Texas ranking 15th among other states in 2016 regarding youth obesity, healthy food intake and best practices related to safety, mental health, and general health. Money is also of great concern and has an influence on the meals they prepare to feed their families.



As part of the 4-H Foods and Nutrition Project, a series of educational programs were developed and implemented. The goals of the program were:

- to develop a comprehensive approach to address nutrition and cooking classes for youth and adults
- to cook healthy on a budget
- to learn to make healthy choices by learning to cook nutritious meals and dishes
- to learn to make alternative or substitutions when making meals at home
- to plan and prepare meals and dishes on a budget



Educational activities included virtual foods and nutrition activities, contests, food challenge practices, at-home food challenge contests, garnishing workshop, homemade bread making, home canning, homemade tortilla and home cured bacon workshops. A total of 28 youth participated and completed the program. A retrospective post was utilized to measure knowledge gained and adoptions of best practices. A total of 26 of 28 (93%) participants completed the survey. The survey showed that the majority of the participants (>50%) increased their knowledge in water consumption, food labels, nutritional value of fruits and vegetables and their own abilities to prepare a healthy meal and/or snack.

**4-H Scholarship Recipients
CONGRATULATIONS !!!!
Mikayla Hesseltine - \$10,000
Emily Kalinec - \$20,000**

**356 youth exhibitors exhibited a total of
974 livestock projects at the 2021 Jim
Wells County Fair.
The Market Livestock Auction total was
\$582,351.17 !!!**

Families & Health

Jim Wells County has eight Healthy South Texas Youth Ambassadors. The ambassadors have turned to technology to help them educate others during the pandemic and this year became involved with the Alice Farmers Market as well. Ambassadors identified various topics which they felt could help both youth and adults. The ambassadors worked together to conduct live presentations at the Alice Farmers Market and record these for future use. The Ambassadors conducted five presentations which reached a live audience of 330 people and received an additional 909 views on social media. The presentations focused on preparing various salad items and their nutritional value.

The Alice Farmers Market brings in fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and eggs to a central location for the citizens to purchase which is what the ambassadors promote, healthy eating. The market also has honey, jellies, jams, artisan breads, and crafts. The Alice Farmers Market was started in January of 2021. Vendors having booths at the market report an income of \$15,033.25 from January thru August. This is income for county residents and provides for a central location to sell their goods.

