

### **2021 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

**Kleberg-Kenedy County** 

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### Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Cumberland Farms: Establishing row crop varieties.



Multi-County water screening.

**Row Crop Production:** Row crop producers are continuously faced with concerns such as drought, low commodity prices, equipment costs, maintenance, labor, weed and pest management, advances in technology, and other factors that affect their operations. With more than 95,000 acres in farmland, producers seek opportunities to decrease these expenses. Extension programs such as field tours, soil campaign, and other educational opportunities provide growers with decision making tools for their respective operation. As a result:



- 65% indicated they will adopt best management practices for herbicide applications
  - 86% anticipate benefitting economically as a direct result of the program
  - 30 soil samples representing 6 farming operations were submitted to determine nutrient availability

**Water Education:** Water quality and conservation continue being important topics of concern not only locally but throughout the state and nation. Through collaborations with other counties across the area, educational efforts continue delivering conservation recommendations to homeowners. Annual private water well screening provided awareness and remediation to well owners.

- 30% increased their knowledge on the importance of testing their well once a year
- 25% increased their knowledge of EPA/TCEQ drinking water standards
- 50% indicated they will adoption best management practices if their results were not within standards
- 50% indicated there is considerable (< \$1,000) or tremendous (> \$1,001) economic benefit because of the program

# **4-H and Youth Development**

4-H Clubs:	4-H Membership:	School Curriculum Enrichment/ Special Interest:	Adult Volunteers:
14	367	2,815	38

- Extension faculty provided project training opportunities to volunteers who supported and encouraged 4-H member participation at the local, district, and state level.
- Through project involvement such as leadership and livestock, members gained life skills and character development.
- 4-H members experienced the compassion of giving back to their community through various service-learning opportunities.



Local 4-H members attending Election Convention



2021 Food & Nutrition Workday



South Texas Cattleman's Roundup supporting Driscoll Children's Hospital



Collaboration with Child Protective Services to provide Christmas gifts to foster children.



Thanksgiving baskets to support 73 families in need.



One Day 4-H Event (Care baskets in support of Law Enforcement & health care workers.

# Youth Development

#### Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! (LGEG):

- LGEG grows good kids through an interdisciplinary program combining academic achievement, gardening, nutrient-dense food experiences, physical activity, and school & family engagement.
- 284 students participated in LGEG: 12 < 3 years of age, 24 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, 162 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and 75 6<sup>th</sup> graders from local public schools, and a mix of 11 students from NAS-Kingsville Youth Center.
- 80% of LGEG participants indicated that participation in the program has made them want to come to school.

#### Drugs, Alcohol, and Bullying Prevention at Summer Camp:

- 745 youth were educated on drugs, alcohol, and bullying prevention at Spring Break and Summer Camps.
- This year we invited Kleberg County District Attorney John Hubert to join us at Summer Camp this year to teach a lesson about online dangers and internet safety.

#### **Owl Pellet Curriculum:**

- In this 5-week science program, students learn owl's habitats, anatomy of the skeletal and digestive systems, habits, and prey through dissection of owl pellets.
- 38 youth educated.

#### Earth Day 2021:

- On April 22, 2021, we held our Earth Day Event in Kingsville's Xeriscape Garden. We gathered 19 partners to join AgriLife Extension along with plenty of youth and adult volunteers.
- 48 youth educated.



Presentation of Sarita Elementary LGEG program to Kenedy County Commissioners Court.



John Hubert teaching Summer Camp participants about internet safety.



Educating youth participants at Earth Day Event.

### Health

In Kleberg County, 33% or 10,124 adults are obese, and 7% of the population or 2,148 people have been diagnosed with diabetes. In Kenedy County, 22% or 89 adults are obese, and 11% of the population or 44 people have been diagnosed with diabetes. In response, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has developed healthy lifestyle programs that can address these issues with an evidence-based approach through education. Results include:

- Total economic impact for Kleberg-Kenedy based on 303 adult Walk Across Texas participants is \$958,557.
- Path to the Plate Youth Expo participation increased by 362 youth from 20-21.
- 4,938.88 youth miles entered (Increase of +835.38 miles from 20-21).
- 89.2% of Path to the Plate Youth Expo participants indicated a better understanding of the way farmers and ranchers produce the food we eat.
- 63% of Cooking Well with Diabetes participants indicated they add extra vegetables to dishes such as casseroles, soups, sandwiches, and salads.
- 3 new Healthy Texas Youth Ambassadors for a total of 6 now represent Kleberg-Kenedy County.



Walk Across Texas Battle of the Badges winners for 2021 – Team from Kleberg County Adult Probation Dept.



Students receiving education on citrus production in Texas as part of the 2021 Path to the Plate Youth Expo.



Adults exercising as part of the Cooking Well with Diabetes/Walk Across Texas at El Buen Pastor Church.



Harrel Elementary students learning about healthy snacks using smoothie bikes as recognition for earning the Healthy South Texas Healthy Campus Recognition.

HEALTH PROGRAMS	TOTAL
Adult Nutrition Education	252
<ul> <li>Dinner Tonight: 153</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Cooking Well with Diabetes: 61</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Step Up Scale Down: 38</li> </ul>	
Youth Nutrition Education	862
<ul> <li>Path to the Plate Youth Expo: 862</li> </ul>	
Adult & Youth Physical Activity	579
<ul> <li>Walk Across Texas Adults: 330</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Walk Across Texas Youth: 249</li> </ul>	
HST Recognized Schools	1
<ul> <li>Harral Flomontany</li> </ul>	1

Harrel Elementary

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