



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Atascosa County

2021 A Year in Review

Foreword: This document is being provided to you to highlight some of the educational programs, services and opportunities afforded to the citizens people of Atascosa County. These efforts would not be possible without the support of The Atascosa County Commissioners Court, Commissioners Mark Gillespie, Stuart Knowlton, Eliseo Perez, and Kennard Riley and Judge Robert Hurley. Thank you for all that you do in support of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Atascosa County. This is only a highlight of some of the programs and activities conducted during 2021.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

In the area of Ag and Natural Resources, January yields many calls and visits regarding plant I.D. and spring planting. The Atascosa Cattlemen's Assoc., the Atascosa Wildlife and Fisheries Committee, South Texas Peanut Growers, Poteet Strawberry Growers met this month to plan for upcoming activities. Atascosa's Club Calf Breeders produced a calf sale video in March featuring 52 head for an online auction held in April, generating \$79000 in sales. In January we also hosted February, we established a grass-bur result demonstration in a bermudagrass irrigated field.

In March we hosted a field day to show the strawberry result demonstration work that he has been doing this demonstration has been made possible by the Texas Department of Agriculture Specialty Block grant. There were 16 producers present at the program.

The South Texas Peanut Growers held their annual meeting in March with over 35 producers attending. The South Texas Peanut Tour was held in September with over 34 producers attending.

In April the Atascosa Cattleman Association Annual meeting was held with 42 producers attending the event. Also a Multi County Pecan Program was in April.

In May, 31 cattle producers were in attendance for the multi county beef cattle and forage program. The Wildlife and Fisheries Committee held a pond management workshop with 17 producers attending. The Multi County Reproduction Management workshop was held with 7 producers attending.

In June we established a weed result demonstration showcasing new products.

In July 27 held a sports field and maintenance program with 9 participants representing 2 grass farms and 3 ISD.

In September, huisache brush result demonstrations were established. Subsequent evaluations were conducted in November. A fall small grains variety was also established. Both were conducted with the assistance of agency specialists. December's Preparing for the Spring CEU Workshop had 37 producers in attendance.

In October, 252 county fourth graders were introduced to agriculture science at the annual Ag Science Fair held virtually. A total of 9 different stations showcased the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives.

A spring and fall multicounty water well screenings were offered to residents and conducted to address contamination concerns. 74 total screens were tested for nitrate, salinity, fecal coliform contamination, and hydrocarbons.

A total of 15 private applicator training courses were hosted in our office throughout the year and a total of 18 continuing education credits were offered to applicators, including 6 at our end of the year CEU Shootout program held in December.

Family and Community Health

Family and Community Health County Agents (FCH) work to keep their community safe, healthy, and of course, happy. We promote healthy lifestyles that transfer into lifelong practices. Programs offered reflect this effort.

Safety: The Atascosa and Wilson County Car Seat Coalitions work hard and year-round promoting Car Seat Safety. FCH and community partners educate individuals and groups on distracted driving, hot baby (not leaving children or pets in car), buzzed and drunk driving, and seatbelt usage for all ages.

- Atascosa is a fitting station for the county. There were 11 seat distributions and thanks to the local Fire Departments and the Grant from TxDot for booster seats we were able to supply each with the necessary seat and safely in it. The cost savings for the county equaling \$7,501.

With a partnership with the University Hospital in San Antonio I can keep up CEU's for technician status and have knowledge and resources close.

- Food Protection Management Certifications and Food Handlers is another program area that is offered to help the community stay up to date on new food laws and safety protocols. Classes were offered throughout the year for with a total of 5 Food Handlers added to the certifications.

Health: Promoting health in the community is also a priority. Programs offered throughout the year were: Cooking Well for a Healthy Blood Pressure, Wisdom Power and Control and Coping to Control (which are diabetic programs) general Nutrition, MyPlate guidelines, Eating Healthy on a Budget, Walk and Talk, Eating more Fruits and Vegetables, and a Fresh Start to a Healthy You.

A partnership with MHM Wesley nurse in Poteet leads to a Feeding the Community Day, reaching about 80 families that can now have fresh vegetables. The Wesley nurse in Pleasanton and I partner with many programs including General Nutrition, MyPlate and Eating Healthy on a Budget.

With the Better Living for Texans program and a partnership with Las Freses Choose Healthy was offered with their kid's camp. Teaching healthy snacks with the smoothie bike with Las Freses and Baptist Church daycare.

FABLOW AgriLife is a multi-county collaboration between the FCH agents of Frio, Atascosa, Bandara, and Wilson County and part of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Family & Community Health. Together we help Texans better their lives through science-based educational programs designed to improve the overall health and wellness of individuals, families, and communities. Our goal is to implement and promote Better Living for Healthy Texans, another FCH program by addressing health and wellness topics through online content. We have received several awards for our digital newsletter, and Social Media content at the state and national levels. This year we won first place at the National Level for our Online programing and presented at the National Family and Community Consumer Science FABLOW We are very proud to have virtual newsletters with 25 subscribers and 3,000 views along with the educational videos produced by FABLOW.

4-H Youth and Development

Over 206 Atascosa 4-H members help set a record-breaking sale at the Atascosa County Livestock Show in January. Our county show was the preface to Texas stock show season which produced 15 placing projects. In February 149 members participated in Fort Worth, San Angelo, and San Antonio Stock Shows. In March, 68 Atascosa 4-H members entered and participated in Rodeo Houston and Rodeo Austin.

In the spring, Atascosa 4-H had 2 competitors at District Roundup, 3 at District Fashion Sensation, 19 in District Consumer Decision Making, and 8 competed in the District 12 Livestock Judging Contest. 46 4-H members participated in District 12 Shooting Sports.

June kicked off the summer 4-H activities for our members and agents. State 4-H Round-Up was held in College Station in which 9 Atascosa 4-H members participated in Livestock Judging, Wool Judging, and Public Speaking, Leadership Lab was held at Cone Oasis Baptist Retreat Center in LaFeria, one Atascosa 4-H members attended. Election Convention also held in Alice in which two youth represented Atascosa County as Council Delegate. Sixteen members attended County Camp and participated in Texas Brigade camps.

Several livestock project workshops were held on our campus including 5 Sheep and Goat Weigh Day Play Days, Rabbit Workshop, Swine Workshop, and a virtual poultry workshop. A 4-H Livestock and Health Workshop was held where we toured a working hog farm and a beef cattle production system. The Atascosa 4-H Awards Day was held on the campus with a Fun Day event for all members. The First ever 4-H Showmanship show was offered with 36 4-H members participating in this event. 4-H Members attended a commissioner court meeting and interpretation.

With a focus on nutrition to prepare for 4-H Food Show activities, come October, members attended a Food from Around the World food and nutrition workshop at our offices in Leming. The Atascosa County Fair, held in October, provided several 4-H members the opportunity to show projects at the prospect show and Atascosa also hosted the county 4-H Food Show in which 10 individuals competed.

The annual Atascosa 4-H fundraiser, the South Texas Double Trouble Prospect Show was held in November, raising \$7900 for the program. Also, this month, Atascosa 4-H was represented at the District 4-H Food Show and 19 participants competed at the Consumer Decision Making Contest.