

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE

2021 Duval County Annual Summary



The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is a unique education agency that provides programs, tools, and resources on a local and statewide level that teach people improved agriculture and food production, advanced health practices, environmental protection, economic, and youth programs. With 250 county offices serving Texans in all 254 counties, county Extension Agents serve families, youth, communities, and businesses throughout the state.

Duval County

In Duval County, County Extension Agent John Barton, Health Agent Marisa Dimas and administrative assistance Ana Saenz address the needs and issues of the **11,177** citizens of Duval County. Duval County consists of the communities of San Diego (County Seat), Benavides, Freer, Realitos, and Concepcion along with several ranching communities.

Youth

There are four school districts within the county: Benavides ISD, Freer ISD, Ramirez CSD, and San Diego ISD with a cumulative student population of 2,972.

Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) in Duval County

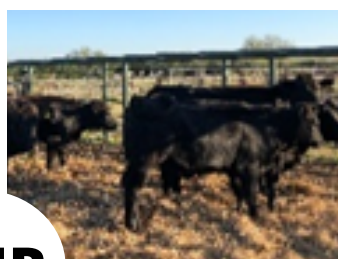
What Duval County lacks in population it makes up in land. Duval County is ranked **13th** in Texas in land area boasting **1,293.48 square miles (1,200,000 acres)**. Duval County has beef cattle, deer, feed crop, and food crop production with a total value of **\$66,988,824** with beef cattle and deer production leading **\$53,302,00** and **\$10,125,000** respectively.



4-H Club Members: 116

4-H Adult Volunteers: 14

Future Clover Kids: 46



ANR



State Livestock Judging Competitor
Stephanie Cavazos

Shot Gun District 42 Champion
Makaylee Adams
Duval 4h Shooting Sports
4H member



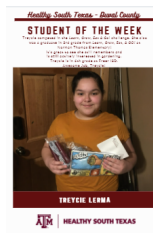
\$25,000
for shooting sports complex improvements

County Health Rankings

The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute conducts a County Health Rankings and Roadmaps program annually to bring awareness to communities throughout the United State of their overall community health. The rankings are based on various health factors and outcomes such as obesity, poverty levels, insurance, food accessibility and chronic conditions. Two hundred thirty-four counties were ranked in Texas, Duval County ranks **243rd** in **Overall Health** with **34%** of adults reporting being in **poor or fair health**. Adults reported **5.1 days of poor physical health** and **4.6 days of poor mental health** a month. Twenty-six percent of the adults in Duval County are obese. Duval county has almost twice the per capita of **premature deaths** than the state average, **122 per 1,000** versus 66 per 1,000 respectively.

Texas Community Futures Forum (TCFF)

In 2019, Duval County stakeholders met at the Texas Community Future Forum to identify issues they perceive as affecting the community currently. In agriculture and natural resources the forum idneitfy soil health, water well testing and community gardens. In youth, they identified a need for a vet-tech program and combining youth/adult programs to develop leadership. In health, they identified chronic disease education, continued need for BLT programs and mental health awareness. . In community development, they identified community gardens and community activities.



Helping Texans Better Their Lives

In response to the issues identified during the TCFF and program planning both Barton and Dimas developed programs to address Duval County needs. Due to the COVID pandemic several programs were cancelled to include the Annual Beef Cattle Seminar and Duval County Livestock Show. Even with the cancellation of programs, the Duval County office had a total of **2,891 contacts**, of which **44%** were through **educational events**. Dimas transitioned **Learn, Grow, Eat, & Go!**, **Cooking Well With Diabetes**, **Step Up Scale Down**, and **Walk Across Texas** to online platforms with the help of sister county offices. Barton secured grants from the **Wyatt Foundation** and the **Feral Hog Eradication Program**. Barton made improvements to the shooting sports complex with the Wyatt Foundation grant and assisted the farmers in Duval with the Feral Hog grant. Barton continued to support community events such as **Clay's for Christ** and **Wyatt Foundation Christmas Toy Give Away**. Once the school reopened, Dimas started Healthy Texas Programs at **Ramirez Commons School District** and **Benavides Elementary**. Saenz chartered 4H clubs and support 4H endeavors. Throughout the year our office did outreach through our Facebook page on agriculture, 4H, health and wellness with over **245 social media post** reaching **11,452 followers**. Our volunteers continued to support our programs during the pandemic. We had **61 volunteers** that contributed **2,721 hours** with a total value of **\$74,092.80**. **Together, we are helping citizens of Duval better their lives.**

