

Cooperative Extension Program Willacy County 2021



PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Cooperative Extension Program

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Rolando Zamora, Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent



Soil, Water and Forage Management

I hosted two Virtual Sustainable Agriculture Programs in Soil & Forage Management and Water Resource Management in the months of August and September of 2021. Topics ranging from Understanding the Pasture, Soil Analysis & Use of the Fertilizer Calculator, Use of Soil Web GIS Platform, Control of the Bermudagrass Stem Maggot, and Common Contaminants Found in South Texas Water Wells. Over 50 limited resource producers were in attendance and participated in a water quality program by testing their underground well water.

In January 2021, I hosted a workshop discussing the importance of collecting a soil sample and building a low tunnel structure to improve yields. Over forty participants participated in this virtual workshop. Evaluations showed that over 90% of participants would be interested in building a low tunnel for their own garden.

Livestock Management: Beef Cattle Production

I hosted two Virtual Livestock Management Programs in Beef Cattle Production Management in the months of July and September which focused on the Reproduction and Health Herd Management. Topics included Selecting Replacement Heifers, How Much to Pay for A Bull, Economic Impact on Open Cows, De-Horning & Castrating Practices, and Program Updates from the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency. These programs were well attended over virtual learning.



Community and Economic Development

Megan Rodriguez,

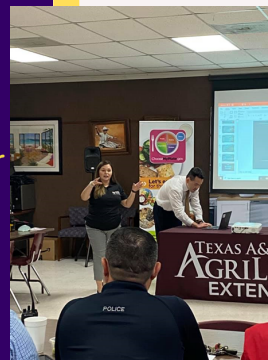
Community & Economic Development Agent



Furniture for families in need:

In August and October the CED unit worked on an initiative with the Houston Furniture bank to provide families with furniture that have been affected by the recent floods. Willacy County Judges and Commissioners Court committed \$6,000 to this program. As well as other donors such as VTX1, MTC Corporation, Raymondville Chamber of Commerce, Representative Ryan Guillen, Senator Eddie Lucio, and Luis Villarreal. Bringing the grand total of donations to this program to \$9,900!

After 5 rounds of the furniture distributions, we were successful in providing a total of 56 families with furniture within our Willacy County Community.



Willacy County Emergency Preparedness Conference

Willacy County Emergency Preparedness Program was a success! The Cooperative Extension program worked in collaboration with Judge Guerra's Administration, Willacy County EMS, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. We were able to reach 36 business owners to release information that was important for upcoming hurricane session. Some other presenters include KRGV Meteorologist Andrew Chung, Willacy County EMS, General Land Office, DAR Agents, Willacy Co. Sheriff Joe Salazar, HST Agent Perla Melba Flores and EFNEP Melissa De Leon. The purpose of the event was to gather small business owners to prepare themselves during emergency events.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Willacy County 2021

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Agriculture and Natural Resources

Georgina Macias
Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent
& 4-H Coordinator

Row Crop

- Weekly field scouting
- Sorghum variety trial, six hybrids were planted in east Willacy County
- Virtual Pre-plant conference in January with 110 participants
- Cotton and grain field day in Lyford, 45 participants



Beef Cattle and Wildlife

- Livestock identification and calf management program, covering record keeping and livestock theft prevention, 12 participants
- Reproduction management program with 71 participants, where 97% increased knowledge of herd health management in beef cattle and anticipated benefitting economically from the program.



**102 Adult & 254 Youth Physical
Activity walked 19,000 miles**

Perla Flores
Extension Agent Healthy South Texas



Youth Nutrition Education

Lyford CISD
implemented the Learn,
Grow, Eat, & Go,
curriculum with 125
participants. All
participants were
evaluated through pre
and post-test and
behavioral changes were
increased at vegetable
consumption



Adult Nutrition Education

A total of 529 participants attended a nutrition education classes through Dinner Tonight Cooking Schools with 20 participating and Cooking Well with Diabetes had 509 participants.

- ### Willacy 4-H
- 58% increase in youth member and adult volunteer enrollment
 - 12 members competed at the Willacy County Livestock Show, Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show, and major livestock shows, with over \$22,000 going towards future projects, or higher education
 - 8 members competed at the District 12 livestock judging contest taking home 1st place junior, 2nd place intermediate, and top ten senior
 - 3 members attended Texas 4-H roundup in College Station, competing in horse judging, educational presentation, and livestock judging
 - Top 10 state goat record book
 - 4 members attending district and state leadership camps