



# Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

## Atascosa County

### 2022 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. We look forward to working with Judge Weldon Cude and Commissioner Mark Bowen in 2023. 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 2022.

### ***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 \$100,000 in sales.

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 has been going on. 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 36 producers attending the event. Also a Multi County Pecan Program was in April.

In May, 26 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 5 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 and subsequent evaluations were conducted in November with the assistance of agency specialists. December's Preparing for the Spring CEU Workshop had 26 producers in attendance.

In October, 617 county fourth graders were introduced to agriculture science at the annual Ag Science Fair held in person. A total of 9 different stations showcased the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives.

A fall multi-county water well screenings were offered to residents and conducted to address contamination concerns. 38 samples were screened for nitrates, salinity, fecal coliform contamination, and hydrocarbons.

A total of 11 private applicator training courses were hosted in our office throughout the year and a total of 22 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.

**Vehicular 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. In 2022, Atascosa was a fitting station for the county. There were several car seat distributions and installs conducted in our area.

**Food Safety:** Food Protection Management Certifications and Food Handlers are other program areas that is offered to help the community stay up to date on new food laws and safety protocols. Classes were offered throughout the year.

**Health:** Promoting health in the community is also a priority. Programs offered throughout the year were: Learn Grow Eat Go, Better Living for Texas, Fresh Start to a Healthy You, Matter of Balance, Path to the Plate, Walk and Talk, and Culture Cooking.

A partnership with MHM Wesley nurse in Poteet led to several youth healthy nutrition programs. A partnership with the Wesley nurse in Pleasanton produced other community programs including General Nutrition, MyPlate and Eating Healthy on a Budget.

With the Better Living for Texans program and a partnership with Las Fresas Poteet, Choose Healthy was offered at their summer kid's camp, teaching healthy snack preparation and conducting exercises with the smoothie bike.

FABLOW AgriLife is a multi-county collaboration between the FCH agents of Frio, Atascosa, Bandera, and Wilson County and part of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Family & Community Health. Together they assist Texans better their lives through science-based educational programs designed to improve the overall health and wellness of individuals, families, and communities. FABLOW's goal is to implement and promote Better Living for Healthy Texans, another FCH program by addressing health and wellness topics through online content. FABLOW has received several awards for our digital newsletter, and Social Media content at the state and national levels. In 2022, FABLOW won first place at the National Level for Online programing and presented at the National Family and Community Consumer Science Convention.

## ***4-H Youth and Development***

Over 265 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 1 competitor at District Roundup, 1 at District Fashion Show, and 8 competed in the District 12 Horse Judging Contest. 74 4-H members participated in District 12 Shooting Sports.

June kicked off the summer 4-H activities for our members and agents. State contests like 4-H Round-Up held at College Station, was attended by a total of 26 Atascosa 4-H members. They competed in events like shooting sports, range and plant ID contests, and horse show, amongst others. Leadership Lab was attended by one Atascosa 4-H member and two of Atascosa's 4-H members represented our county as county council delegates at Election Convention. Six 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 dairy farm and a feed company. The Atascosa 4-H Awards Day was held on the campus with a Fun Day event for all members. The Atascosa 4-H Showmanship show was offered with 32 4-H members participating in this event. 4-H Members attended a commissioner court meeting and interpretation.

The annual Atascosa 4-H fundraiser, the South Texas Double Trouble Prospect Show was held in November, raising \$6036 for the program. Also, this month, Atascosa 4-H was represented at the District 4-H Food Show and 18 participants competed at the Consumer Decision Making Contest.