



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Atascosa County

2023 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 2023.

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 approximately \$83,000.00 in sales.

February, we established a grass bur pre-emergent trial and evaluated strawberry result demonstration plots.

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 11 producers present at the program. The fall strawberry program had 8 attendees.

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 48 producers attending.

In April the Atascosa Cattleman Association Annual meeting was held with 36 producers attending the event.

In May, 34 cattle producers were in attendance for the multi county beef cattle and forage program. The Multi County Reproduction Management workshop was held with 34 producers attending.

In July 18 Atascosa landowners attended and oak wilt educational program and 12 attended the turf grass educational workshop.

In September, 27 attended the multicounty carbon credit workshop. 6 new strawberry variety and nutrient demonstrations were established.

In October, 612 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.

December's Preparing for the Spring CEU Workshop had 37 producers in attendance. The wildlife ag valuation program had 22 attendees including personnel from neighboring appraisal districts.

A fall multi-county water well screening was offered to residents and conducted to address contamination concerns. 17 samples were screened for nitrates, salinity, fecal coliform contamination, and hydrocarbons.

A total of 14 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.

Food Safety: Food Protection Management Certifications and Food Handlers are other program areas that are offered to help the community stay up to date on new food laws and safety protocols. Many Atascosa County residents participated in the AgriLife Learn Food Safety Class.

Health: Promoting health in the community is also a priority. Programs offered throughout the year were: Learn Grow Eat Go, Fresh Start to a Healthy You, Path to the Plate, and Culture Cooking.

4-H Youth and Development

Over 190 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 33 placing projects. In February, 119 members participated in Fort Worth, San Angelo, and San Antonio Stock Shows. In March, 70 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, 2 at District Fashion Show, and 8 competed in the District 12 Horse Judging Contest. 61 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 28 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 1 Atascosa 4-H member and 2 of Atascosa's 4-H members represented our county as county council delegates at Election Convention. 3 4-H members participated in Texas Brigade camps.

Several livestock project workshops were held on our campus including 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 at Rockberry Farms with a Fun Day event for all members. The Atascosa 4-H Showmanship show was offered with 27 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 \$6,036.03 for the program. Also, this month, Atascosa 4-H was represented at the District 4-H Food Show with 1 participant and 13 participants competed at the Consumer Decision Making Contest.