



# 2023 Annual Report

## Highlights of Brooks County

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### OUR STAFF:

**Patricia Garza**

Administrative Staff

**Kimberly De La Garza**

CEA Family & Community Health Agent

**Nikolo Guerra**

CEA Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent



### COMMUNITY RESOURCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**THE BROOKS COUNTY AGENTS CONTINUE TO PLAY A ROLE IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR BROOKS COUNTY, OVERSEEING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR FALFURRIAS FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND ATTENDING ALL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MEETINGS PREPARING FOR WEATHER EVENTS AND NATURAL DISATERS. BROOKS COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE CONTINUES TO COLLABORATE WITH OUR COMMUNITY RESOURCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE IN SECURING DONATIONS AND GRANTS FOR OUR SHOOTING SPORTS COMPLEX. WE WILL BE HOSTING OUR 2ND ANNUAL 4-H SPORTING CLAY SHOOT ON OCTOBER 7, 2023 AT OUR NEW LOCATION FOR BROOKS COUNTY 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS COMPLEX. THE MONEY RAISED IS TO BE USED FOR SCHOLORSHIPS FOR OUR 4-H SENIORS, LIVESTOCK LOANS, AND TO HELP SUPPORT OUR BROOKS COUNTY 4-H CLUBS. AGENTS HOSTED A 2ND ANNUAL FIRE CHIEF WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS 2023 WILDFIRE SEASON AND BEGIN PREPARATION FOR 2024.**

# AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

• THE ANR AGENT HAS WORKED ALONGSIDE THE FALFURRIAS ISD, FFA ADVISORS TO STATE VALIDATIONS TAGS AND HAS AIDED FAMILIES IN ORDERING LIVESTOCK PROJECTS FOR THE 2024 SHOW YEAR.

• THE ANR AGENT HAS WORKED ALONGSIDE THE BROOKS COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION TO TAG ALL LIVESTOCK FOR THE FAIR AT VALIDATIONS.

• THROUGHOUT THE SHOW YEAR, THE ANR AGENT HAS MADE HOUSE VISITS FOR 4-H LIVESTOCK PROJECTS WHICH CONSISTED OF WEIGHING PROJECTS AND ADVISING 4-H FAMILIES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIVESTOCK PROJECTS.

• ASSISTED LOCAL RANCHERS AND FARMERS WITH AG & TIMBER LICENSES, WATER WELL AND SOIL SAMPLING.

• ASSISTED FAMILIES PLANNING ON ATTENDING MAJOR LIVESTOCK SHOWS

• HOSTED PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING TO HELP PRODUCERS OBTAIN THEIR PRIVATE APPLICATOR LICENSES.

• HOSTED LAST CHANCE CEU OPPORTUNITIES

• CERTIFIED 25 YOUTH IN HUNTER'S EDUCATION

• HOSTED A PRESCRIBED FIRE WORKSHOP WHERE PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTERS WERE INTRODUCED TO WILDFIRE FOR TRAINING.

HOSTED A PRESCRIBED BURN PROGRAM WHERE THERE WERE 52 PARTICIPANTS, TOPICS INCLUDED EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY FOR PRESCRIBED BURNING, PREPARING BURN PLANS, BENEFITS OF PRESCRIBED FIRE FOR WILDLIFE, AND 3 CEU CREDITS FOR PRIVATE APPLICATORS.

HOSTED A BRUSH/PASTURE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP WHERE THERE WERE 46 PARTICIPANTS, TOPICS INCLUDED PICOLINIC ACID TRAINING, BRUSH MANAGEMENT CHEMICAL VERSES MECHANICAL, GRASSBUR CONTROL, HERBACIDE UPDATE BY PROGRAM SPONSORS ENVU, CORTEVA. THERE WERE 5 AVAILABEL CEU'S FOR PESTICIDE APPLICATORS.



# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

**THE FCH AGENT HAS WORKED ALONG SIDE WITH BEHOLD COILITION TO PARTICIPATE AND HELP WITH EVENTS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.**

**THE AGENT HAS ALSO WORKED ALONG SIDE WITH THE SHAC COMMITTEE TO HELLP AND PARTICIPATE IN HEALTH FAIRS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR.**

**AGENT IN THE SPRING HELD A WALK ACROSS TEXAS PROGRAM TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND WELLNESS FOR THE COMMUNITY. THERE WERE FOURTEEN ADULT TEAMS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND THREE YOUTH TEAMS FOR THE FALFURRIAS MIDDLE SCHOOL.**

**FCH HAS WORKED ALONG SIDE COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF THE COASTAL BEND TO HELP PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH IN DOING THE MINDFULSELF PROGRAM WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS.**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH BROOKS COUNTY ISD AND WITH THE HELP OF COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS WE WERE ABLE TO HOST A DINNER TONIGHT AT THE FALFURRIAS MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE COMMUNITY.**



# 4-H YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT



- The 4-H Youth Development program saw an increase in 4-H enrollments. The program has two clubs with a total of 93 members and 9 volunteers.
- Our two clubs the Westside Kountry Kids and NCCA Mighty Warriors 4-H clubs have been actively busy.
- Both clubs were a part of the chicken plate sale for the county fair.
- Extension hosted a summer activity program for the month of July. They got to make cookies, paint a picture, and paint a rock. It was a three day program.
- We had 36 live stock participants in the county fair. 3 participants participated in major shows.
- We had 4 Archery participants participate in the state archery contest.

