

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is dedicated to serving & educating Texans for over 100 years since the establishment of the 1914 federal Smith-Lever Act. AgriLife Extension and the utilization of land-grant university research continues to provide all Texans with beneficial research-based knowledge beyond the laboratory and classroom, into everyday living. The continued support of the Frio County Judge, Commissioners Court, and local volunteers/sponsors contributed to the success of all 2023 Frio County AgriLife Extension Programming.

Agriculture & Natural Resources: Crop & forage production are the mainstays in agricultural production systems in Frio County. To allow for better management practices to increase overall profitability for the individual farming & ranching operations in Frio County, several educational activities were approached to address these current related issues. An approximate 87% economic benefit was reported by attendees from these educational programs. Below, are program and agent successes of 2023.



Southwest Texas Crop Kickoff: Conducted on January 18, 2023, **45** crop & forage producers attended this pre-plant conference. Topics included irrigation management, managing herbicide resistant weeds, managing mycotoxins in peanuts & corn, followed by an optional Auxin Training.

2022 South Texas Peanut Growers Annual Meeting: This meeting March 7, 2023, CEU educational program focusing on Peanut Breeding & Research Results, Peanut Trial Updates, Herbicide & Weed Control, followed by an optional Auxin Training for **37** producers.



2023 Multi-County Private Water Well Screening: The County Extension Offices of Frio, Atascosa, La Salle, Dimmitt, Zavala, and McMullen conducted a private water well screening at the Frio County Extension Office on April 19, 2023. A total of **17** samples were screened for bacteria, nitrates, salinity, and hydrocarbons. Virtual program was conducted by Dr. Joel Pigg.

2023 Texas Beef Quality Assurance Training: June 27, 2023, educational program focusing on health, environmental stewardship, cattle handling & welfare, and agency updates by TSCRA, Texas Beef Council, and TBQA for **37** producers. Dr. Ron Gill and Dr. Karl Harborth assisted with this training.



2023 Insect and Turf Grass Management Workshop- July 27, 2023, this multi-county CEU educational program was conducted at the Atascosa County Extension office and hosted by Frio, Wilson, and Atascosa counties. Topics included disease management, vector control, insect management, weed management, varieties update, and fertilizers for **22** program participants.

2023 Multi-County Beef Reproduction Workshop- May 9, 2023, this multi-county CEU educational program was conducted at the Tom Brother's Ranch in Campbellton, Tx and hosted by Frio, Live Oak, Bexar, McMullen, Medina, Wilson, and Atascosa counties. Topics included pregnancy testing, anatomy of a cow's reproductive tract, bull fertility, reproductive diseases, demonstrations, etc. for **8** program participants.



2023 Multi-County Beat the Heat Cattle Workshop- August 23, 2023, this multi-county CEU educational program was conducted in Hondo, Tx and hosted by Medina, Frio, Uvalde, and Atascosa counties. Topics included sustaining pregnancies during the drought, nutrition decisions, prussic acid & nitrates in forages, and stocking rates for **30** program participants.



Frio County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter: The Frio County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter is an educational newsletter focusing and addressing relevant/current general agriculture and natural resources information that should be beneficial to all Frio County Agricultural producers. This newsletter also includes upcoming Frio AgriLife Extension Events. This monthly newsletter reaches over **1,000** individuals on a monthly basis and is available on our county website, mass emails, and hard copies available.

Agents Brianna Gonzales and Dale Rankin pictured on the right after receiving the **ANR Team Award for Peanut Production** at the 2023 District 12 Fall Faculty Conference in Weslaco, Tx.



On the left, agent received the 2023 Texas County Agricultural Agents Association **Communications Award for Second Place Newsletter** at Wichita Falls, Texas. This award was presented by TCAA President, Rogelio Mercado.



Frio County Result Demonstration Work: Demonstration and applied research was conducted in Frio County. Agent took part in assisting with **Peanut Breeding Trials, Peanut Variety Trials, Peanut Herbicide Trials, and a Fecal Project with Merck Animal Health.** Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Specialists from the Corpus Christi, College Station, and Stephenville centers assisted in conducting these demonstration and research trials.

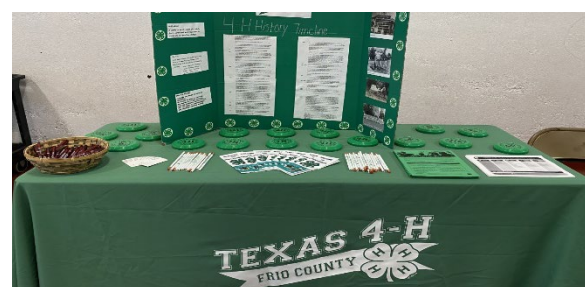
4-H Youth & Development in Frio County:

The 4-H Youth Development program helps young Texans to acquire knowledge, develop life skills, and form attitudes to enable them to become self-directed, productive, and contributing members of our society. As of May 31, 2022, the ANR agent was new to Frio County and has utilized the duration of the year to meet the community, key stakeholders, and the youth and adults of Frio County 4-H. FCH agent was new to the county effective February 2023. Many efforts and accomplishments were met by the determination from Frio County 4-H club members, volunteers, collaborators, and the community. Below, are some of the many highlights and outcomes of the 2023 Frio County 4-H year.



Frio County 4-H Community Service & Club Meetings: Agents are new to Frio County and are eager to begin establishment within the county. With 4-H job duties and responsibilities, agents began to meet and support Frio County 4-H Clubs and their members. Agents have attended 4-H club community service events and attended monthly 4-H club meetings throughout the duration of the year.

Dilley & Pearsall Independent School District Back 2 School Bashes: Agents attended the 2023 Dilley and Pearsall ISD Back 2 School Bashes. Agents were able to meet with over **200** youth and adults to discuss all the great opportunities that Texas 4-H has to offer. Agents also encouraged local 4-H member enrollment and discussed the wide variety of Texas 4-H project areas that youth can participate and compete in at the county, district, state, and national levels.





Frio County 4-H District & State Events: Frio County 4-H club members competed in District 12 4-H and Texas 4-H State Events throughout the duration of the 2022-2023 4-H year. Agent was able to provide educational support, assistance, and guidance to those participating in these events. Frio County 4-H club members participated in District 12 4-H Photography Contest, District 12 4-H Record Book, District 12 4-H Election Convention, District 12 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, District 12 4-H Horse Judging Contest, and State Texas 4-H Roundup events- Meats/horse Judging & Livestock Quiz Bowl. Also, State Shooting Sport Shotgun Comp. and member on the TX Shotgun Team.

Frio County 4-H Clubs- Dilley 4-H, Mavericks 4-H, Pearsall 4-H Claybusters 4-H, and Frio County 4-H Council. **4-H Club Members- 157 4-H Adult Volunteers- 35**

Frio County 4-H takes on 2023

MAJORS: Agent attended several 2023 Major livestock shows and competitions. Agent provided support and guidance to all Frio Co. 4-H exhibitors and competitors. Frio County 4-H was very successful this year in all project areas. This has increased overall county 4-H enrollments and participation from many 4-H club members.



Frio County 4-H Outreach: Frio County 4-H Clubs, adult 4-H volunteers, and local Extension staff participated in numerous community outreach and community service events throughout the duration of the year. This provides opportunities to club members as they recruit and speak with the youth of Frio County on the many opportunities Texas 4-H has to offer. Extension staff have the opportunities in meeting more of the community and discuss the services we have to offer within Extension. This year, the Pearsall 4-H was recognized for their citizenship by Mayor Ben Briscoe.

Frio County Youth Outdoor Safety: This educational event was a great success thanks to our wonderful community partners. Special THANK YOU to the entire Frio County Sheriff's Department, Frio County Texas Farm Bureau, Wilmeth Farms, Frio County Judge Rochelle Camacho, Tellus- John Deere of Pearsall, Texas Parks & Wildlife/ Fisheries, Texas WIC, Frio Regional Hospital, Frio Lay, McDonalds of Pearsall, Pearsall Fire Department, and Chicanos Por La Causa. Youth from Pearsall and Dilley were educated on water safety, sun safety, tractor safety, hydration, fishing and more. **Over 25** students participated in this educational activity.



Family & Community Health in Frio County:

Frio County Family & Community Health Agent Sara Nicholson is new to Frio County and AgriLife Extension effective February 2023. After completion of her onboarding and training process, Sara was eager to begin establishing herself in the communities of Frio County. With time, she became active in attending monthly Frio County Translational Advisory Board meetings, which informed her of the critical FCH related issues in Frio County. This led to the success of her programming efforts in the community, with "Healthy Carbs" being one of her many successful educational programs. Other educational programs included Growing & Nourishing Healthy Communities, Walk 'n' Talk, Get the Facts, and Frio County Youth Outdoor Safety Day. In addition, Sara has established the monthly Frio County Family & Community Health Newsletter. Her future plans are to engage the community regarding chronic disease prevention and to continue strong relationships with the Frio County TAB, the Westley Nurse, and the Pearsall Public Library.

