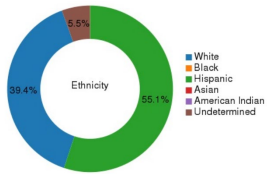


Educational Contacts

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has been dedicated to educating Texans for over 100 years. Extension education evolved nationwide under the 1914 federal Smith-Lever Act, which sought to extend university knowledge and agricultural research findings directly to the people. Ever since, Extension programs have addressed the emerging issues of the day, reaching diverse rural and urban populations. Extension Agents in Jim Wells County work with community members who serve on various program area committees, volunteer boards and a Leadership Advisory Board which oversees the entire direction of the Extension Program in the county.



In 2023 (January 1-August 31), a total of **3,488 educational contacts** were made by Extension faculty and their volunteers, with a total of **104,995 educational hours**. A total of **130 volunteers** contributed approximately **3,011 hours** in delivering and implementing programs, for a total value of **\$94,093 in cost savings** to the residents of Jim Wells County.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Agriculture accounts for over \$70 million of gross income in Jim Wells County. According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, Jim Wells County (JWC) is home to 770 beef cattle operations with a total of over 36,000 head of beef cows and calves at the time of the survey. It is also home to over 85,000 acres of row crop production with most of the acreage being planted in corn, grain sorghum and cotton. Sunflowers, watermelons, peas, sesame, and wheat account for less than 15% of the total planted acres.

Three years of continual drought have proved to be a challenge for agricultural producers to say the least. Drought plagued our area for the first four months each year and then was followed with four months of excessive or intermittent rains which made row crop production and harvest a great challenge. For beef cattle producers, input costs such as fuel, feed, and fertilizer have hindered profitability.

A total of 13 Extension educational programs and activities were conducted this year. Approximately 467 people participated in these programs. Below is an outline of the most significant program efforts. Number of participants are in (n).

Range Resource Management

- Ag in the Classroom – March 2: Dubose Elementary 2nd Grade Students (80)
- South Texas Agriculture Symposium - April 11: Online (108)
- TCFA Vet Tech Training – April 27: TAMUK (40)
- Texas Youth Livestock Ambassadors – June 28: GCLA (27)
- JWC Animal Issues Committee – May 10: JWC Fairgrounds (8)
- Result Demonstrations – Huisache Control Trial – 2 treatments
- Feedlot Tour – July 17: Howell Feedlot, Premont (21)

Row Crop Production

- Planter & Sprayer Clinic – January 26: Tellus/John Deere (60)
- Auxin Training – January 26: Tellus/John Deere (49)
- Harvester Clinic – May 24: Tellus/John Deere (25)
- JWC Row Crops Tour – June 13: Bus Tour (40)
- Rotary Club of Alice – July 19: Alice Country Club (15)
- Result Demonstrations – 2 sorghum, 1 corn, 1 cotton variety



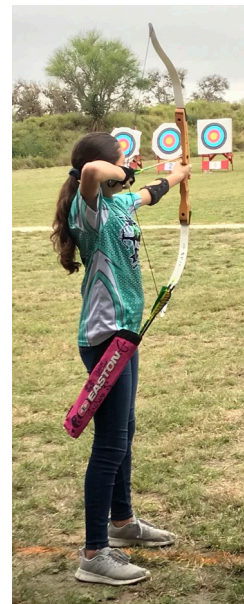
4-H and Youth Development

Jim Wells County boasts an active group of approximately 175 4-H club members this year. With the help of our volunteers, our 4-H program continues to grow and be successful. The shooting sports program is the most popular project for our families. Certified coaches in Archery, Shotgun and Rifle offer nearly 60 of our project members the opportunity to learn, practice and compete in each discipline.

Safety comes first !!! Jim Wells County has 8 active, trained, and certified coaches who volunteer countless hours each year for the program. They ensure that the safety of our kids by monitoring their shooting range, equipment and actions of each member. You can find them at the JWC Fairgrounds on Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons providing equipment and giving the kids the opportunity to practice.

The opportunities are endless !!! Shooting sports project members participate in county, district, and state matches. Postal matches are also hosted by our district and state for each discipline. The State Fair of Texas and the Houston Livestock Show also provide opportunities for our project members to compete. And last but not least, our project members can also compete at the State Games and Texas Outdoor Challenge.

Promote 4-H !!! Jim Wells County recently received word that three of our very own will be serving as Texas Shooting Sports Ambassadors. Cyreniah Hinojosa, Darin Landrum and Wesleigh Pool will spend the next year promoting the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Program and learning more about it. Congratulations !!!



Families & Health



HEALTHY SOUTH TEXAS

Healthy South Texas continues to play an integral part in educating families and youth about health, nutrition, and general safety of our community. Health Agents are responsible for teaching lessons on eating healthy, reading labels, exercising correctly, and many other things to help individuals stay healthy and avoid death causing diseases such as hypertension and diabetes. Other topics which also affect the wellbeing of our families are child passenger safety and finance management. This year, two programs were successfully conducted in Jim Wells County.

Hygiene and Heat Stroke Prevention: Fourteen (14) youth from the Alice Housing Authority were educated on the importance of good hygiene and how it correlates with self-confidence. The youth were also educated on how to recognize the symptoms of heat illness and how to prevent heat stroke. With temperatures reaching well over 100 degrees this summer, this was an excellent program for the youth.

Child Passenger Safety: As part of the Texas A&M Child Passenger Safety Program, six Jim Wells County families received free child seat inspections to ensure their child was properly fitted in their seat. Child seat inspections were made by certified technicians and assisted by our local police and sheriff departments.

