

2023 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS Kleberg-Kenedy County

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Agriculture & Natural Resources

Row Crop Profitability:

With an estimated 95,000 acres and \$58 million in gross receipts, row crop production has been a significant industry in the county. Producers are persistently challenged by the high costs of equipment, repairs, fertilizers, pesticide herbicide applications as well as employee retention, market prices, and weather-related conditions. The local row crop committee together with industry partners and Extension specialists worked to offer different approaches such as workshops, demonstration trials, and soil campaign to producers which allowed them to make sound decisions for their operation. Results are:

- 88% of the participants increased their knowledge of corn and sorghum hybrid varieties
- 48% of the participants indicated they definitely or probably will adopt a soil management program
- 80% of the participants anticipated benefitting economically as a direct result of the field tour and educational program





Water Education:

With an increase in the U.S. population, water has become an important subject for many communities. Water quality and conservation were identified as relevant issues affecting the local community. Partnerships with the Leadership Advisory Board, Texas Well Owner Network,

and surrounding counties provided information to residents on how to conserve water, water testing, and remediation recommendations. The following are the results:

- 64% of the participants their knowledge of how to remediate their well water if not within the thresholds set by EPA/TCEQ
- 83% of the participants increase their understand of the importance of annual testing their water well
- 77% of the participants anticipated benefitting economically as a direct result of the program



Educational vorkshop discussing contaminates and emediation in private water wells



Family & Community Health

Kleberg County ranks as one of the least healthy counties in Texas, according to countyhealthrankings.org. Improving physical activity and dietary habits can help manage complications and delay the onset of chronic diseases. In response to community needs and coalition guidance, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service introduced community-based programs, led by Extension Agent Zelina Zavala, in Kleberg-Kenedy County to encourage better nutrition choices and healthier lifestyles.



Wesley Nurse at Heart Strong



Heart Strong Heart Health Conference - 97 adult participants

• 93% of adult participants correctly identified the normal reading for blood pressure as 120/80.

Cooking Well for Healthy Blood Pressure - 5 adult participants

• 60% increase in fruit and vegetable consumption from none or 1/4 of their plates to 1/2 or 3/4 of their plates.

Stress Less with Mindfulness - 5 adult participants

• 60% of participants answered 5, 6, or 7, when asked "In an average week, how many days do you practice mindfulness exercises such as yoga, guided reflection, body scanning, or meditation?

Walk Across Texas! Adult - 307 adult participants

• The economic benefit of the Walk Across Texas! Adult program was \$1,756,958. This measure that uses WAT! program evaluation results, disease risk rates, health care costs, and worker productivity.

Historic Downtown Kingsville 5K/1K - Over 200 adult and youth participants

• 64% of respondents said they would still participate in the event even if there was a registration fee.

Teen Cuisine - 18 youth participants

• 80% of participants decreased consumption of sweetened drinks like soda, fruit juice, sports drinks, energy drinks, and vitamin water.



Kingsville ISD Faculty & Staff WAT Tean





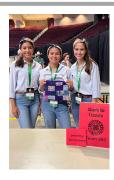
4-H & Youth Development













4-H Members
364
4-H Clubs
14

4-H Volunteers
408

Youth Reached Through
Outreach Efforts
1,141

- Clothing & Textiles Workday: Workday provides 4-H members with the opportunity to learn about Clothing & Textiles projects in preparation for Fashion Sensation-Fashion Show and Duds-to-Dazzle contests. Educational sessions, provided by experienced members, included interview skills, Duds-to-Dazzle contest information, differences between Buying and Construction in Fashion Show.
- Kleberg-Kenedy County Fashion Sensation-Fashion Show and Roundup Contests: Occurred on February 26, 2023, with 1 individual Fashion Show entry, 1 Duds-to-Dazzle team entry and 5 Educational Presentations.
- 4-H Community Service Project- "Expressing our gratitude to our First Responders": 4-H members assembled and delivered 36 goodie baskets for First Responders in Kleberg-Kenedy County.
- **4-H Hamburger Fundraiser:** 4-H members and parents assisted in assembling to go bags, preparing vegetables and grilling hamburger patties for approximately a thousand sold hamburgers. Kleberg-Kenedy 4-H generated over six thousand dollars!
- Texas 4-H Roundup: occurred on June 5-8, 2023, with 1 Senior Duds-to-Dazzle team, 1 Senior Food Challenge Team, 1 Senior Consumer Decision Making Team, 2 Senior Educational Presentations, and 2 Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship Recipients.



Early Childhood Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! Garden Program: 110 Early childhood education students participated in this program where they maintained their own garden and learned about plants from the hands-on, science based curriculum.





Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! Garden
Program: 156 students in 3rd -5th
grades, participated in this program
where they planted and maintained a
garden, learned about plants and
their needs, and how their nutrients
benefit our bodies.





Slidin' Into Summer Camp 2023: 292 campers ages 5 – 12 years, engaged in 15 camps involving indoor & outdoor activities and received education on bullying, the damaging effects of drugs, alcohol, and other substances, how to build self-esteem and handle peer pressure.





Earth Day 2023: 136 adults and 84 youth attended Earth Day.
Participants engaged in earthfriendly activities and received education from Texas Forest Service, Kleberg-Kenedy Soil & Water Conservation District, Coastal Bend Bay's & Estuaries Delta Preserve Program, and their partners.





Pollinator Habitat Program: 10 students from Sarita Elementary School participated in this new science-based program where they learned about different types of pollinators such as ants, bats, honeybees, butterflies, and hummingbirds including their lifecycles and ecosystems.





Spring Break 2023: 76 campers participated in 2 days of fun and engaging educational activities presented by Kleberg – Kenedy County AgriLife Extension and the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries and other conservation groups.

