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Making a
Difference

in Navarro
County

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND HUMAN SCIENCES
Cooperative Extension Program

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Extension Newsletter for County Commissioners Court

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

AgriLife Extension teaches agricultural producers to adopt best management practices based on new scientific knowledge that will help them increase production, enhance sustainability, and conserve natural resources. Also, by educating the public about agriculture and food production, AgriLife Extension creates a partnership with all Texans that can improve food safety and security, reduce the prevalence of food insecurity, and improve diet and human nutrition throughout the state.

Additionally, safeguarding our precious natural resources and maintaining a clean and healthy environment are among AgriLife Extension's top priorities. We encourage production practices and the use of technologies that promote sustainability in agricultural production, conduct conservation programs that reduce drought impacts, improve, and preserve water quality, minimize wildfire risks, and help maximize water supplies through more efficient irrigation and conservation. We also help to promote the safe and reduced use of pesticides through the pesticide use training, and the integrated pest management program.

Program Accomplishments

Animal Agriculture



Contact totals for **livestock and forage** producers was 58,114. Clientele participated in 32 educational programs conducted in 21 counties. Wildlife education continues to be a significant portion of the Extension program effort. Wildlife education reached

8,342 total clientele. Wild pigs continue to be a significant pest in District 8. The Extension response in District 8, included 27 events, total contacts for this effort were 15,518.

CROPS, Water, & Applicator Training

Thirty-nine field crop related educational programs were conducted in 15 counties involving 87,111 total clientele.



Water quality and conservation continues to be a major issue. Both youth and adults have been participants in home, landscape, and production agriculture activities. 18 counties conducted events and involved over 17,449 individuals. Applicators with agricultural, structural, and private pesticide licenses must participate in continuing education to maintain certification. District 8 has 10,638, this equates to an estimated \$93,987,728 wage base that benefits from certifications provided by Extension.



Andrew Lewis
CEA - Ag and
Natural Resources



Lorie Stovall
CEA - Family Community



Cecily Nors
4-H—Youth Development

HORTICULTURE AND PUBLIC / AG INTERFACE



Horticulture continues to be in strong demand by District 8 clientele. The Extension response in District 8 is a robust effort that strives to reach these folks through multiple efforts, including 15 Master Gardener Chapters with 700+

members. These members contributed 50,000+ Volunteer hours back to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Total **horticulture** contacts in 2021 were 57,582.

Agriculture literacy was identified as a major issue. Extension engaged in a unique opportunity and provided outreach while involving various commodity and health related groups. Activities featured unbiased research-based information concerning the importance and appreciation of the vital role agriculture plays in daily lives. 35,332 adults and youth participated.

Although District 8 does not include any "major" metropolitan areas, we do see an influx of folks moving into counties in the District to enjoy a more rural lifestyle. With this comes the need to educate that clientele about issues and opportunities that come with a rural lifestyle. The Central Region educational response included 10 Counties, providing New Landowner Series with a total of 60 face to face sessions. Total contacts were 3,167.

District 8 continues to have a robust agriculture production impact in Texas. Beef cattle continues to lead the way with other commodities.

District 8

Top Ranked Commodities by Economic Impact of Agricultural Production and Related Items, 2021

Commodity	Estimated Value* (\$1000's)	Percent of District Value	Economic Impact** (\$1,000's)
Other Beef	\$903,744.80	32.31%	\$1,867,515.43
Milk	\$378,678.50	13.54%	\$845,115.36
Hay	\$382,267.90	13.67%	\$806,811.57
Feed Corn	\$319,308.30	11.42%	\$769,552.80
Broilers	\$201,180.00	7.19%	\$461,965.61
Total	\$2,185,179.50	78.12%	\$4,750,960.77

Agriculture and Natural Resources:

43rd Annual Beef Calendar:

1,000 calendars printed and distributed to feedstores, banks, and residents of Navarro, Freestone, and Ellis County. Resource provides information about herd management, forage production, and more. 2X ***State Award Winning***

County Clean Up Day:

In collaboration between the city of Corsicana, & multiple Navarro County Offices. 106 vehicles with 206 participants collected **316** cubic yards of waste. Over **75** Volunteers.

County Tire Day:

25 volunteers collected **4** trailers full of tires.

R.A.C.E Trial:

Replicated Agronomic Cotton Evaluation was planted in April and harvested in September. Reed Agriculture donated acres and equipment and Texas A&M Research provided seed varieties.

Beef & Forage:

Best attendance we have had at our Yearly Farm and Ranch seminar. Held multiple forage updates with Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson

New Landowner:

New programming efforts identified to address our growing population of new and small landowners. Beef 101 and other introductory programs provided.

Family & Consumer Sciences:

Health and Wellness Education to Prevent Chronic diseases

- Walk Across Texas had **70** participants with **11499.08 miles** logged
- Maintain No Gain had **19** participants with a **75% success rate**
- Safe Canning and Food Prep with **12 participants**
- Mediterranean Cooking Class with **9 participants**

Healthy County Wellness Coordinator & Julie Wright, HR

Director

- 6 health screenings with **150 participants**
- Flu/Shot clinic with **60 participants**
- **20 County employees** participated in Walk Across Texas

Early Childhood Coalition and Education

- Quarterly programs with an average **40-50 adults and 15-30 youth**
- 6-hour Early Childhood Training for CPE hours for **15 educators**

Better Living for Texans (BLT)

- Healthy Carbohydrates with **15 participants**,
- Be Well Live Well with **24 participants**
- Heart Health and Hydration with **12 participants**
- BLT Newsletters and Healthy recipes were distributed with **250 participants**

Youth BLT Programs with the assistance of Kellie Cope, Curriculum Coordinator,

- Learn Grow Eat Go (LGEG) and Early Childhood LGEG at YMCA, **254 BLT graduates**
- Color Me Healthy had **28 BLT graduates**.
- Walk Across Texas Youth had **76 participants**.

4-H and Youth Development:

Navarro County 4-H had **11** clubs during the **2022-2023** enrollment year with **200** youth members enrolled in community clubs and **694 direct and indirect** youth/adult volunteers and adult leaders. A total of **5,156** Navarro County youth have been reached thus far through face-to-face 4-H and curriculum enrichment programming. **200** 4-H youth participated collectively through 4-H membership and various Agricultural literacy and educational programming efforts, including **1 District 8 Council Officer, 2 Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassadors, 1 Texas 4-H Fashion and Interior Design Ambassador, and 2 Texas 4-H Healthy Youth Ambassadors**.

Hatching in the Classroom: Curriculum enrichment program brings biological and life sciences into the classroom providing hands-on experience of incubating and hatching chicks over a 3-week period. Allows students to learn the basics of life cycles, animal care, and responsibility. **1,266** youth in grades Pre-K-3rd and **61** adult volunteers participated in the program during the **2022-2023** school year that included **10 school districts** across Navarro County.

Water Education: This curriculum enrichment program provides instruction and hands on opportunities to learn about water conservation, erosion, runoff, the effects of pollution, the water cycle and much more, while also providing teachers with TEKS aligned classroom resources to reinforce key points of information that students are required to know for the Science STAAR assessment. **152** 5th grade students, **12** teachers/paraprofessionals, and **28** adult and youth volunteers participated in 3 hands-on/visual education days, also including another outside educational program.

Food and Fiber Round-Up: In cooperation with the Navarro County Farm Bureau, Southwest Mobile Dairy, NRCS, and PR Equipment, 4th grade students from across Navarro County learn about different agricultural products, services, and commodities. The program involved **758** students and **111** adult and youth volunteers.

Other: **12** youth submitted record books, **2** state qualifiers, **32** youth and **5** adult volunteers participated in leadership camps, and **218** youth and **54** adult volunteers participated in summer workshops, fun days, and activities including sewing and crafts, cake decorating, STEM, BBQ Camp, wildlife and fisheries, outdoor education, and more.



Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to update you on the Extension educational programming in Navarro County and the efforts being made by your county Extension agents Andrew Lewis, Lorie Stovall, and Cecily Nors. We continue to provide programming that is in tune with our mission, which is to provide quality, relevant outreach and continuing educational programs and services to the people of Texas. If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 254-968-4144.