

Making a Difference

2016 Baylor County – Youth Water Resources

In- Depth Program Summary

Josh Kouns and Monica Walker – Baylor County CEA's

Relevance

Water quality and conservation have emerged as predominant issues across Texas as indicated through local input, elected officials/legislative actions, and numerous other indicators. Water for domestic and agricultural use is becoming increasingly limited in Texas and the Rolling Plains. The steady influx of new people presents challenges to continued water availability. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) projects that by 2060; an estimated population of 46.3 million will reside in Texas and require approximately 22 million acre feet of water per year. TWDB also projects an annual shortfall of some 7 million acre feet of water given the existing infrastructure. Locally, Baylor County is not immune to drought and water restrictions. Water education will always be needed to preserve and respect our local aquifer. Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service and our local Program Area Committees find it relevant and necessary to educate our youth early and often about preserving our water resources.

Response

The Baylor County Farm Bureau, along with county Extension Agents Josh Kouns and Monica Walker, hosted a one day event called “Ag In The Classroom” for the 5th and 6th grades at Seymour ISD. This event covered many facets of agriculture and management practices of protecting water quality and enhancing conservation. Stations were set up at the Cliff Styles Ag Building that students rotated through, and adult volunteers interacted with each group of students. Some examples of the stations and their purpose are listed below:

- Water Erosion Table demonstrating the cause and effects of water erosion and how to prevent it. Provided by the Baylor County NRCS.
- Rainfall Simulator presented by Farm Bureau Field Representative Trey Berend.
- Various livestock stations demonstrating the feed and water needs of those animals and also the benefits that those species provide humans. Provided by Dustin Walker and Baylor County 4-H members.
- Local Grown Crops station that educated students on water needs to grow crops and also the benefit that those crops have on feeding our population. Provided by Baylor County Farm Bureau.



Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Results

87 5th and 6th graders attended the educational event and 54 completed a post evaluation. The following table reflects their understanding of water and our agricultural resources through a posttest.

Question	Yes	No	Don't Know	Valid Percent of Understanding
I understand the different sources of water.	43	2	8	79.6%
I understand the importance of water in agriculture.	48	1	4	88.9%
I Understand there is limited fresh water available.	46	2	4	85.2%
I understand Texas farmers and ranchers work hard to provide a safe, affordable food supply.	52	1	1	96.3%
I understand agriculture touches my life every day.	45	5	4	83.3%

Summary

Youth water education in Baylor County once again served as a very valuable resource for our young people. With various collaborators and volunteers, the “Ag Day” event was well received and enjoyed by everyone. As water remains a critical issue in our county and state, Extension will continue to educate youth and utilize resources at our disposal to put the best program in front of them. Our target audience will remain 4th-6th grades.

Acknowledgements

The Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service in Baylor County would like to thank the Baylor County Farm Bureau, Seymour ISD, NRCS, Baylor 4-H, and the many volunteers that assisted and helped to coordinate “Ag Day”.

VALUE

Water Conservation Education



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension programs that teach farmers, homeowners, and business administrators to conserve water are helping reduce demand on the state's limited water resources. Texans benefit from a safer, more reliable water supply at no additional cost.