

Extension Education— Making a Difference in Brazos County

2018 Executive Summary



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Agriculture and Natural Resources

Livestock, forage, and horse production continue to be three of the largest agricultural commodities in Brazos County. The following educational programs targeted these producers:

Small Ruminant (Sheep & Goat) Education—*Small Ruminant Management* 63 producers from Central Texas learned about Flock/Herd Health, Parasites—Learn to Live With Them, Developing & Utilizing Websites for Marketing. Two livestock sales: *Trendsetters Select Lamb Sale* and the *Maroon and White Goat Sale*. Regional event with eight other participating counties titled *Production & Hair Sheep Management Seminar*.

O.D. Butler Forage Field Day –187 participants - Three program stops included “Mechanical & Chemical Yaupon Control”, “Safely Loading & Hauling Farm Equipment and Moving Farm Pesticides & Pesticide Equipment”, “Safety Concerns when Attaching, Detaching and Using Farm Equip”. The afternoon program consisted of “DPS Laws & Regulations Affecting Farmers and Ranchers”. TDA licensed applicators received CEU credits for attendance.

Youth Commercial Heifer Program—28 youth participated in the commercial heifer program where they selected, fed out and bred a pen of heifers. Project included workshops, recordkeeping, and interviews. 80 heifers brought in \$256,000 in total sales directly benefiting youth participants.

Equine Education—Educational events conducted: Equine Evening at the Brazos County Expo, Aggie Super Circuit, Aggie Horse Fair, Bryan SHOT Show, Freeze Branding Clinic and the two separate riding clinics. They were attended by 1,150 people. BEHC contributed \$14,283 grant and youth scholarships.

Horticulture

Extension’s Earth-Kind program promotes water conservation, landscaping for energy conservation, reduction of fertilizer and pesticide use, and reduction of yard wastes entering landfills. While teaching and promoting these Earth-Kind methods, 112 Master Gardeners gave 5,933 service hours to Extension programs, a \$143,223 gift to Brazos County.

- Education – 71 programs - 5,163 attendance
- Media education – 52 news columns and garden calendars; 14 radio and television
- Gardening Inquiries directly to county office – 1,177
- New Volunteers Trained – 14
- Master Gardeners re-certified – 78
- New Master Gardeners certified – 10

Family and Community Health (FCH)

FCH programs offer practical education to individuals/families through staff and trained volunteers.

-All Star Childcare Provider Conference- 36 providers earned 216 clock hours of state mandated training.

-Child Passenger Safety/Car Seat Inspections-101 car seats inspected; identified unsafe seats, corrected misuse, and taught proper install of car seats.

-Parenting Classes-37 parents learned how to enhance/improve parenting and communication skills.

-Dinner Tonight Healthy Cooking School-30 attended live cooking demonstrations on healthy food preparation, nutrition, food safety, and promoting Texas agriculture.

-Health Talk Express-234 employees at various Texas A&M University Systems’ worksites attended prevention and management of stroke, cholesterol, medications, cancer, diabetes, hypertension, and stress.

-Better Living for Texans (BLT) monthly classes emphasized healthy eating, stretching the food budget, and food safety to limited resource youth and adult community groups.

-Walk Across Texas! (WAT)-168 teams enrolled in the 8-week physical activity program and logged over 314,996 miles and shed 537 pounds.

-Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes-15 adults and caregivers with type 2 diabetes attended the fall or winter series on self-management of the diabetes.

-Food Protection Management (FPM) and Food Handlers courses-48 food service employees received required training for five-year food manager’s certification; 86 food handlers received two year food handlers permits.

-Preserving the Harvest classes-47 participants learned the latest practices in home food preservation through demonstrations and hands on water bath canning of jams and pickles.



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4-H and Youth Development

Enrollment of 750 in 22 clubs, with 230 Adult Volunteers

Pizza Ranch—1,369 fourth graders attended from 17 different schools in Brazos and Burleson Counties. The purpose of Pizza Ranch is to allow the children to travel through educational “pizza slice” trail stops, and learn about the science behind the making of a pizza and how it relates to agriculture.

4-H Summer Day Camps—Brazos County held a series of summer days camps to expose 4-H and non-4-H members to different programs 4-H has to offer. A week long series of camps were conducted during the month of July. The topics that were covered were STEM and STEM Extreme, Wildlife, Food Challenge, & Explore 4-H. We had a total of 83 youth attend these camps, with 21 of them being non-4-H members.

Animal Projects—Brazos County validated over 1,000 livestock projects for the 2017 and 2018 livestock shows. These included Market Steers, Commercial Heifers, Commercial Steers, Market Goats, Market Lambs, Market Hogs, Horses, Market Rabbits, Market Broilers, Market Turkeys and our growing Dog project. These projects were exhibited at their completion during the 2017 fall and 2018 spring livestock show seasons across the state and locally.

Non-animal Projects and Educational Activities- The following were active projects in Brazos County in 2017 - 2018: Citizenship, Photography, Public Speaking, Theater and Performing Arts, Fashion & Interior Design, Consumer Education, Shooting Sports, Outdoor Education, Food & Nutrition, Healthy Lifestyles, Leadership, Horticulture, Computer Science, Dog Care/Training and Robotics. One hundred twelve 4-H members participated in the District 9 Round Up and Brazos County won the District 9 Sweepstakes Award for the fourth year in a row. A total of 61 Brazos County team members competed in the following District contests: Soil Judging, Meats Judging, Horse Judging, Livestock Judging and Archery. Brazos County had 48 youth qualify and compete at the Texas 4-H Roundup and 5 of those 4-H Seniors received scholarships worth \$64,000.

Curriculum Enrichment and Outreach—Brazos County conducted a large outreach effort to kick off the start of the 2017-2018 4-H year. Informational booths were hosted at 15 elementary schools in Bryan and College Station to promote the 4-H program. A total of 15,000 people were reached during this effort.

Cooperative Extension Program - To strengthen the Brazos County 4-H program through educating limited-resource youth and families the **Learn, Grow, Eat & Go program** was implemented at Harmony Science Academy and the Brazos School for Inquiry & Creativity. With the help of teachers and volunteers, over 400 youth learned about gardening, eating healthy and exercising 60 minutes a day. Again, this year, the **Brazos 4-H Robotics Program** with approximately 48 youth partnered with Harmony Science Academy and Brazos School for Inquiry & Creativity to conduct Robotics workshops participate in Robotics Competitions.

Community Economic Development

Horticulture - 2018 Texas Master Gardener Conference, College Station – With over 800 attendees, this 4 day April event was held on the campus of Texas A&M University and included tours to businesses throughout the region. Co-hosted by Brazos County Master Gardeners, the community economic impact was \$1.3 million based on data from Experience Bryan College Station.

The Demonstration Idea Garden is a destination for tourists and county residents. It is a learning laboratory for Master Gardeners, as well as an educational site for residents to experience and see professional landscapes to utilize for their homes and businesses. The fiscal and service investment to date in this garden at the Brazos County Extension office is \$471,633.

Brazos County Exposition Center—Brazos County Extension Committees and Groups utilize the Brazos County Expo Center and the Brazos Center for numerous activities that bring in visitors from across the state. These events include:

-Southern Classic Youth Livestock Experience—Over 250 participants from Brazos and surrounding counties.

-Brazos Valley Fair & Rodeo—The Extension office supports the BVF&R by providing countless volunteer hours to assist the 17,000+ visitors in the Ag Land, the youth livestock show and a gardening information booth sponsored by the Master Gardeners.