

Extension Education - Making a Difference in Brazos County

2021 Executive Summary



Chadd Caperton

CEA - Ag & Natural Resources
B.S. Animal Science
M.S. Agriculture



Robert "Skip" Richter

CEA - Horticulture
B.S. Animal Science
M.S. Horticulture



Flora Williams

CEA - Family and Community Health
B.S. Family and Community Studies
M.A. Education



Katie Zender

CEA - Better Living for Texans
B.S. Nutrition Dietetics

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 agricultural producers:

Small Ruminant (Sheep & Goat) Education— This volunteer led Committee contributed to the planning and facilitation for the annual Maroon and White Sale that exceeded 300 participants. The committee also helped to provide assistance with the Aggieland Lamb and Goat Camps which hosted over 200 youth and their families.

Youth Commercial Heifer Program—34 youth participated in the commercial heifer program where they selected, fed out and bred a pen of heifers. Learning opportunities included workshops, recordkeeping and interviews beyond daily management. 80 heifers netted \$260,000 in total sales directly benefiting youth participants.

Equine Education—The Brazos Extension Horse Committee hosted several programs including Aggie Super Circuit Clinic with 85 participants, Equine Evening at the Brazos County Expo and a 3-day adult horsemanship class and a 2-day youth horsemanship class with 45 participants. They have also contributed \$21,835 in Scholarships and other donations.

Forage and Livestock Production— Several volunteer led committees organized and facilitated educational programs that trained producers from across the county in several ag production areas. A few of these were a virtual USDA Assistance Following an Emergency program, the annual O.D. Butler Forage Field Day, the annual Winter Crops meeting and others.

HORTICULTURE

Horticulture programs and services provide unbiased research-based education and assistance to residents, city parks and planning departments, local organizations, and the commercial horticulture industry. Our program's benefits include:

- Landscape water conservation
- Enhanced home property values
- Free plant/pest/disease diagnostic services
- Community beautification
- Reduced fertilizer & pesticide use
- Home food production
- Yard waste recycling
- Youth life science & food production education

In 2021, with limitations on public events our education shifted to enhanced online and media outreach:

- 21 face to face programs
- 52 radio shows
- 24 online presentations
- 52 newspaper columns
- 11 television segments

Master Gardener Volunteers continue to expand our outreach through educational activities:

- 98 Master Gardener volunteers
- 3,100 hours of service to community
- 13 new volunteers trained
- 1,865 youth gardening bags distributed

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH (FCH)

FCH programming helps Texans better their lives through science-based educational programs designed to improve the overall health and wellness of individuals, families, and communities.

- Face-to-Face Education-584 attendance; Technology Assisted-2,124 attendance
- Master Wellness Volunteers Re-certified-5
- Childcare Provider Trainings-3 trainings; 42 childcare providers; 101 clock hours
- Car Seat Inspections and Hands-on Training-51 seats inspected; 36 families
- Parenting Connections 4-hour Parenting Course-7 parents; court mandated
- Dinner Tonight Healthy Cooking Schools; 4 offered; 56 Texas A&M University employees; 20 TAMU students
- Health Talks-250 reached addressing meal prep, handwashing, food preservation; bicycle safety, passenger safety, cancer prevention
- Walk Across Texas! (WAT) 8-week physical activity program and Weekly Virtual Workouts-181 teams; 218,188 miles; 75% completion rate; 7 virtual workouts/1547 attendance
- Certified Food Manager Training-31 food service employees; 217 training hours

BETTER LIVING FOR TEXANS (BLT)

Classes and series emphasized healthy eating, saving money at the grocery store, improving food safety practices, and increasing physical activity.

- Face-to-Face Education-263 attendance; Technology Assisted-127 attendance
- Nutrition: 28 sessions, 203 attendance
- Physical Activity: 13 sessions, 82 attendance
- Single Education Sessions: 5 sessions, 105 attendance



Matt Pfeifer

CEA - 4-H & Youth Development
B.S. Agricultural Studies



Hendrix Broussard

Extension Agent (CEP) - 4-H & Youth
Development - Prairie View A&M
B.S. Agricultural Sciences
M.A. Museum Education



Makayla Cruz-Donaldson

Program Assistant
4-H & Youth Development
B.S. Agriculture Leadership



Meaghan Threadgill

Assistant County Extension Agent
Family & Community Health
B.S. Animal Science

Support Staff

Emily Besser

4-H & Youth Development

Janice Anderson

Ag/NR and Horticulture

Charlotte Hold

4-H & Youth Development

Z'audria Warren

Family & Community Health

4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Enrollment of 528 4-H members in 17 4-H Clubs, 141 adult volunteers work to support the 4-H youth

Pizza Ranch - Pizza Ranch is an interactive agriculture awareness event. Groups of 4th grade students rotate between 8 sessions referred to as "slices." Through each slice they learn how vegetables, grains, dairy, poultry, beef, and pork are produced. Stations also highlight why: farm safety, water conservation, food safety, and healthy eating are important to our daily lives. A total of 610 4th graders from 10 different schools attended Pizza Ranch this year. Partners from 10 agriculture organizations provided sponsorship dollars or educational assistance to the program. Each student who attended the event was given a t-shirt and a take home bag with educational goodies to share with their families.

Livestock Projects - Brazos County 4-H continues to have a strong livestock program. In cooperation with FFA, over 1000 livestock projects are validated for show each year. Livestock projects include Market Steers, Commercial Heifers, Commercial Steers, Market Goats, Market Lambs, Market Hogs, Market Rabbits, Market Broilers, and Market Turkeys. These projects were exhibited during 3 fall shows and many more will be exhibited in the upcoming 6 spring livestock shows across the state. Brazos County 4-H also maintains close partnerships with the Brazos County Youth Livestock Show, the Brazos County Youth Commercial Heifer Show, and the Brazos Valley Fair.

Non-animal Projects and Educational Activities - Active 4-H projects in Brazos County for 2021 – 2022 include Citizenship, Computer Science, Consumer Education, Dog Care/Training, Fashion & Interior Design, Food & Nutrition, Healthy Lifestyles, Horticulture, Leadership, Outdoor Education, Photography, Public Speaking, Robotics, Shooting Sports, as well as Theater and Performing Arts. Brazos County has representation on the District 9 4-H Council with 2 members holding offices. Brazos County 4-H members are also active on the state level to include 1 Texas 4-H Council Member, 9 Livestock Ambassadors, 2 Photography Ambassadors, 3 Water Ambassadors, and 1 Fashion & Interior Design Ambassador. Furthermore, 9 Sr. level 4-H record books advanced to the state level during the summer. Brazos County 4-H will also be sending a meat judging team to compete at the national level in January.

Curriculum Enrichment and Outreach - Brazos County conducted a large outreach effort to kick off the start of the 2021-2022 4-H year to include a County Club Fair that hosted 400 potential new 4-H volunteers and members. Brazos County 4-H partnered with 10 local schools to present the "Egg to Chick" school curriculum enrichment program. Brazos County 4-H continues to evolve and grow with the needs of our community. More events will be planned to assist new members in understanding the many opportunities available from 4-H membership.

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, Brazos School for Inquiry & Creativity, and Arrow Academy. With the help of teachers and volunteers, over 500 youth learned about gardening, eating healthy and exercising 60 minutes a day. Again, this year, the Brazos 4-H Robotics Program with approximately 60 youth partnered with Harmony Science Academy, Brazos School for Inquiry & Creativity, and other community clubs to conduct workshops and participate in Robotics competitions on the county and district level. This year, Heroes 4-Health reached over 120 youth. It was a hands-on cooking education in preparing healthier snacks as opposed to unhealthy options. The classes are led by youth ambassadors and volunteers. New this year is the Kids Connecting Communities and Law Enforcement (KCCLC). This program engages youth in the knowledge of Texas Law Enforcement by partnering with local police departments. It is designed to strengthen the relationship between youth and officers of the law. Brazos County youth also participated in 3 virtual summer camps. The camps were Youth Lab, Junior Youth Lab, and Ag Conservation Camp. Due to COVID-19 many in-person programs were converted into a virtual format. Youth were offered Panther Coding, Operation College Access, Water Education, 4-H at Home Gardening Projects and 2 National 4-H STEM Day activities all in a virtual setting.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Food Protection Management Certification Program - Brazos Extension offers one-day training courses to educate food service employees in the principles of food safety to produce safe food products for consumers. New and existing food establishments ranging from mobile food trucks to national chains utilize the training course to meet regulatory standards to operate.

Parks & Greenspace Beautification - Brazos Extension serves local municipalities through horticultural consultations on parks, street medians, and other greenspace development. Diagnostic services help city and county maintenance identify and manage threats to trees and other plants.

The Demonstration Idea Garden is a learning laboratory for Master Gardeners, as well as an educational site for residents to learn and gain inspiration to utilize for their homes and businesses.

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

Texas 4-H Horse Show - Over 350 4-H equine youth and their families from across Texas met in Brazos County to compete at the State 4-H Horse Show at the Expo. The Texas State 4-H Horse Show is the pinnacle of the 4-H horse project and offers opportunities to youth including up to 40 classes of competition, educational programs, scholarships, and college preparation opportunities.

Brazos Valley Fair & Rodeo - The Extension office supported the BVF&R livestock show by helping with shows and entries as well as directing traffic during unloading and loading periods.