

## Impact Statements:

- *Moth-trapping study targets three species*
  - ◆ Traps inspected weekly
  - ◆ Consultants & pesticide applicators notified of trap counts, assisting in decision-making
- *Local Sorghum trial*
  - ◆ Highlights hybrids
  - ◆ Learning experience for producers
- *Pesticide training*
  - ◆ Educates those interested in private applications
  - ◆ Licenses earned by participants
- *FCS: BLT class members*
  - ◆ Stretched food dollars
  - ◆ Expanded knowledge of nutrition & menu choices
- *4-H:*
  - ◆ Youth, adults enrolled for coming year
  - ◆ Project work & skills demonstrated at contests

## Deaf Smith County

### Mission Statement

*Improving the lives of people, businesses, and communities across Texas and beyond through high-quality, relevant education.*

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

The Texas A&M University System, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

## Agriculture & Natural Resources — Moth Trapping Study, Sorghum Trial and Pesticide Training



**Corn Borer damages crops**

A moth-trapping study was conducted this growing season in conjunction with the district entomologist and area county agricultural agents. This was used to determine weekly moth numbers and flight patterns for the corn producer. Three moth species were targeted that were determined to have the greatest potential for damage to area corn. The three species were southwestern corn borer, fall army worm and the western bean cutworm. I established four separate locations running from south to the north end of the county. Traps were inspected weekly to determine moth numbers. Trap count numbers were disseminated via text messages, e-mails and newsletters to area producers, crop consultants and aerial applicators on a weekly basis to assist them in making

informed and timely insect control decisions. There will be a follow-up survey disseminated to all end users to determine the usefulness of these trapping studies. Funding from the Texas Corn Growers to continue this study has been applied for the upcoming 2014 planting season.

Agent held a turnrow meeting at the grain sorghum demonstration plot in late August. Highlights of hybrid entries in the trial were discussed as well as area sorghum production problems and potential insect issues in late season crops. Eleven producers participated in the event. Observations on the sorghum trial were gathered throughout the summer months, 50% bloom dates on all entries, to assist in determining maturity levels of the various hybrids, height measurements, bird damage, lodging percentages in each plot as well as insect issues that may affect one hybrid and not others.

Agent conducted private pesticide applicator trainings for Panhandle District 1 producers and homeowners who are interested in attaining private pesticide licenses. Trainings and testing were held monthly throughout the summer months in Hereford, as well as at the district office in Amarillo. Thirty-seven individuals were trained and completed their testing requirements to apply for their licenses. Seven separate individuals who wanted to train and test for their commercial or their non-commercial pesticide licenses were also assisted in preparation during this time period also.



**Deaf Smith County sorghum field**

# Deaf Smith County



Rick Auckerman

## Family and Consumer Science—Better Living for Texans:

Better Living for Texans is a program for adults and kids who want to learn how to eat well and save money. You can make friends and have fun while you learn about eating healthy foods and saving money! To be a part of the Better Living for Texans program, email, call or drop by your local county Extension Office.

### By participating in BLT programs, you can learn how to:

- Choose foods that are inexpensive and good to eat
- Make your food dollars last longer
- Be sure you and your family get enough to eat
- Use food labels to choose good foods at the grocery store
- Fix meals that will keep your family healthy
- Prepare your favorite food with less fat and sugar
- Help your children learn how to eat healthy snacks they will like
- Share useful information with your family and friends

For example, you can learn about unit pricing to help stretch your food dollars, or how to read labels to make healthier meal choices, or even how to keep pests out of your pantry!

In Deaf Smith County, BLT programs are offered by BLT Program Assistant Amalia Mata on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office in Hereford. These classes are three-lesson series that include a wide variety of educational topics.

## 4-H & Youth Development—

Deaf Smith County 4-H has been a beehive of activity as they begin the 2013-14 season of projects and contests.

Annual 4-H enrollment has been brisk as youngsters choose among the following project groups: Livestock, Rabbit, Horse, Shooting Sports, Public Speaking, Food & Nutrition and Clothing & Textiles.

Numerous local youths participated in area fairs, exhibiting an impressive array of livestock, rabbits, artwork, photography and garden produce.

Deaf Smith County 4-H recognized the work and success of local youth, volunteers and special friends in the community on Sept. 29 during the annual Achievement Banquet. A highlight of the day was the 4-Wheeler Drawing which raises general operating funds for the local 4-H program. Recognized as Distinguished Leaders were Tamara Mimms and Pam Louder. Darren Schlabs, son of Tom and Joyce Schlabs, earned his Gold Star award.

Thirteen Deaf Smith County 4-H youth traveled to Pampa in October to compete in the District 4-H Food Challenge, a team contest similar to the Food Network's Iron Chef and Chopped. Three local teams placed in top three among 233 competitors from 20 Panhandle counties.

Fifteen 4-H public speakers have qualified for District competition in November by developing educational presentations and Share-the-Fun musical performances.



Dr. Howard Johnson wins 4-Wheeler

For more information  
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