



Cooperative Extension Program
Prairie View A&M University



Fort Bend County 2010

CAPACITY

Improving Lives, Improving Texas



The Extension program in Fort Bend County is a valuable part of the statewide Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University. AgriLife Extension is a member of The Texas A&M System, Texas county governments, and the national Cooperative Extension System through the USDA. Extension values and promotes citizen and community involvement, scientifically-based education, lifelong learning and volunteerism. We are particularly proud of the fact our programs are woven throughout, and thoroughly support quality of life in Fort Bend County.

As it stands today, Fort Bend County has one of the lowest unemployment rates in Texas and the U.S. (U.S. Dept. of Labor), is still the fastest growing county in the greater Houston area, is consistently ranked in the top 3% of the nation's counties in five key demographic areas, incorporates an exceptionally educated and skilled resident workforce, and is a leading example of successful diversity in the community and in the workplace. And, despite massive population growth in recent years, Fort Bend still touts a thriving agriculture industry with more than 84,000 acres of crop and grazing lands.

This report reflects AgriLife Extension's 2010 programmatic efforts in Fort Bend County. Thanks to a dedicated staff, outstanding program-area volunteers and the support of our community stakeholders, Extension was able to provide countless educational programs to the residents of Fort Bend County.

Developing Our Youth

Majestic Girls Summer Camp - Fifty-five young ladies participated in an Etiquette Session provided by the Cooperative Extension Program and conducted for the Majestic Girls Summer Camp held in Missouri City. The session provided information about fashion, conduct, self-image, and self-esteem. A wardrobe presentation was used to give the girls an opportunity to understand the importance of good first impressions. During a fun activity the ladies used their creativity to design and model "trash bag" dresses they created. The ladies also engaged in a "Tea Party" in which proper table manners were demonstrated. Many young ladies expressed positive feedback about the information that was presented during the session. Contact Fralonda Anderson.

2010 Fort Bend County 4-H Day Camp - 112 youth and 19 team leaders participated in a one-day 4-H Day Camp held at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg, Texas on July 14. This year the Day Camp focused on "Old Fashion Good Time," - a trip back in time. The participating youth experienced an opportunity to make home-made refrigerator pickles taught by Tricia Kaminski, hand stitched a picture project for community service, learned & practiced leather-working with the Big Creek 4-Hers bracelet-making project group, and were taught how to make a mobile by Fort Bend Master Gardeners. In addition, the campers enjoyed hotdogs & snacks, played games, won door prizes provided by local merchants, and each took home a goody bag loaded with great stuff. Contact Dwight Callis.

2010 Educational Outreach

Educational Programs Presented: 609
Attendance at Educational Programs:
342,438
Individual Contacts: 161,118
Volunteers Involved: 1300
63,145 volunteer hours

Valued at \$1,316,573.25

Developing Our Youth

2010 4-H Sew & So Camp - Rosenberg, TX - Fort Bend County and Galveston County FCS Agents conducted four week-long events to teach 20 youth ages 10 to 18 to sew. Camp activities included construction of a pair of pants or skirt, a shirt, two pillowcases (one donated to the Ronald McDonald House and the other for personal use), and a knitting project. At the end of each camp, a fashion show to display the items was held. Approximately 40 parents, siblings, other relatives and friends attended each week. Following each camp, several e-mails were received expressing the continued interest their children developed with 100% indicating they will continue to sew. Two other activities included a Winter Workshop with 19 participants who constructed Christmas gifts and a Quilt Challenge hanger and a Quilt Challenge Workshop. Eight participants each made a patchwork block that was incorporated into a 45"x45" quilt that was auctioned off at the annual 4-H banquet. One hundred thirty-five dollars was generated and donated to Sew & So Camp to purchase supplies for the 2011 4-H Quilt Challenge Workshop. Contact Sandra Fry

2010 Earth-Kind® Kids Kamp - Thirty youth participated in the second annual Earth-Kind® Kids Kamp June 14-18 hosted by Master Gardeners. The focus on this year's camp was Conserving Habitats. The campers were enthralled by several presenters on various topics relating to wildlife and the loss of their habitat and the importance of insects to our environment. Campers enjoyed seeing snakes from Brazos Bend State Park, birds from the Houston Audubon Society, frogs and toads from Texas Parks & Wildlife and many interesting insects from the FBC Master Gardener Entomology Group. Afterwards the campers promoted habitat conservation by participating in a community service project. They built six Bluebird houses to be distributed at community gardens in Fort Bend County. The campers also learned how to identify snakes. The 2010 Earth-Kind® Kids Kamp was hosted by the FBC Master Gardeners under the direction of Dr. Sharon E. Grahmann, CEA-Hort. Several parents and kids expressed their gratitude and left with enthusiasm for next year's camp. Contact Dr. Shari Grahmann. & Shelley Pappas.

"Think Positive, Think Outdoors" - On July 21 a Think Positive, Think Outdoors Educational Program was held at Seguin Elementary School in Richmond, Texas. The program was designed to promote positive attitudes about health and well-being for the more than 60 youth in attendance. Program participants took part in three concurrent sessions focusing on environmental awareness, nutrition education, and physical activities. Each session was developed to enlighten and empower each individual while expanding on topics such as sun safety, healthy living through gardening, proper nutrition to stay healthy and physical activities relating to the great outdoors. Contact Timothy Sandles.

Protecting Our Environment

Pesticide Re-Certification Programs were specifically offered to 127 private, commercial and non-commercial applicators to help keep licenses current. Classes were 5-hours in length and covered a variety of subjects.

Private Applicator Training and Testing was offered to 63 Fort Bend County citizens and 28 clientele of the TDCJ Central Unit. 86% percent passed with an average score of 80. Also, CEUs were offered by County Extension Agents in fourteen general programs relating to agriculture and horticulture to an additional 1296 attendees. Contact Dr. Allen Malone.

Strengthening Our Families

Anti-Bullying Workshop - The Cooperative Extension Program of PVAMU held an Anti-Bullying Workshop entitled "Not Cool to be Cruel" for teens at Boys & Girls Club. The curriculum helped students understand the importance of positive communication, consequences of violence, showing respect and developing a strong professional self-image. The workshop included several team-working, communication, and self-awareness activities to aid in decreasing acts of bullying. The participants completed a School Bullying Survey. The survey revealed that 95% of the participants witnessed bullying while in school and 45% bullied because, "I want people to leave me alone", 20% bullied because, "I was taught to stick up for myself", another 20% expressed, "I don't bully, and 15% bullied because, "My friends and I think it is fun." Stated in the Anti-Bullying Post Test, 100% of the participants can identify acts of bullying, and expressed a plan to help them and their peers decrease bullying actions. The program will continue in 2011 with plans to train volunteers to assist in this increasingly important program area. Contact Fralonda Anderson.

Fort Bend Senior Fraud Expo - A Senior Fraud Expo was presented on May 12th at First Colony in Fort Bend with sixth-three seniors in attendance. The purpose of the expo was to create an awareness of common fraudulent schemes that will cost them money. Topics included Medicare Fraud, How to Identify Theft & Mail Fraud, and How to Protect Yourself Against Fraud. Presenters were from Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Better Business Bureau and the Securities & Exchange Commission. Fourteen exhibitors/ agencies took part to supply additional information and recourses. Contact Sandra Fry.

Improving Our Health

Informational Fair - The FCS Program Area Committee planned and hosted the 4th Annual Information Fair on February 24th. Forty-eight non-profit and government agencies including Texas AgriLife Extension and Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension participated. The goal of the fair is to create an awareness of what agencies can do to help out one another. The fair was held at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds providing easy access from all directions of the county. Several agencies traveled from neighboring counties as they provided services in Fort Bend. For the first time, the Information Fair was open to the general public during the afternoon hours. Contact Sandra Fry.

Better Living for Texans (BLT) - BLT is a federally-funded nutrition program designed to help low-income and/or food stamp recipients stretch their food dollar. A series of trainings include the use of PowerPoint presentations, handouts and product samples. AgriLife agents assisted as presenters under the direction of Maria Rangel, CEA-FCS. During this reporting quarter four sessions were presented on understanding the Food Guide Pyramid to 247 clientele, with 75% being minority. Participants learned food groups, portion sizes, and learned the negative effects of too much sugar, fat and salt in our diets. Contact Maria M. Rangel.

Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes - DWBW graduated five participants with diabetes for attending the five week series. Six other participants also completed the series, but attended as a support person for someone in the family who has diabetes and could not attend. The series was held in Rosenberg at the Extension office under the direction of Sandra Fry. Participants learned about nutrition and self care of diabetes, and received many incentive items for attending DWBW. Contact Sandra Fry.

Diabetes Education Awareness & Prevention (DEAP) - This CEP's health education project that takes a holistic approach to reducing diabetes in children and adults in minority communities. The primary focus of the project is to create lifestyle changes, including a healthy diet, exercise, and weight loss, if needed, to help prevent or delay the onset of diabetes. Twenty one participants from Christ Clinic of Katy, TX, enrolled into the program in the pursuit to help better manage their diabetes. Over 50% of the participants are diagnosed Type 2 Diabetics. Participants gained knowledge relating to the cause and risk factors of diabetes, monitoring blood glucose levels, incorporating physical activity, and management of diabetes through meal planning. In addition, they learned to integrate behavioral changes to living a healthy life with diabetes. Contact Fralonda Anderson.

Supporting Our Agriculture

Fashions from the Cotton Patch Expo is an event planned by the Fashions from the Cotton Patch Task Force. It is a multi-county, multi-disciplinary task force including agents from Fort Bend and Galveston Counties and members of the American Sewing Guild - Houston. 2010 was the fourth year for this event that addresses construction skills through modeling of garments, accessories and home decor using 100% cotton fabrics. Participants learn about the culture of cotton through a presentation made by the Fort Bend County Agricultural agent. There were 92 participants attending the Expo including youth and adult models presenting 23 entries. Awards consisted of rosettes, sewing machine, serger, electric scissors, and sewing tote. Contact Sandra Fry.

Stock Horse of Texas (S.H.O.T) Clinic & Show - The SHOT Clinic attracted 51 individuals from surrounding counties to evaluate rider and horse skills for pleasure and for occupation. Rider knowledge and skills are taught to maximize horse trainability, performance, and safety. Topics included Stock Horse Pleasure, Trail/Versatility, Reining, and Working Cow Horse. Competition took place on Saturday, October 31 to evaluate gain in knowledge and skill. One-hundred-three spectators were present. The event was sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension Service of Fort Bend County and the Fort Bend Horse Task Force. Contact Dr. Allen Malone.

2010 AG'tivity Barn - An ag-awareness event and a collaborative effort between AgriLife Extension and the FBC Fair Association. The 18 exhibits, depicting agriculture in FBC, were constructed and facilitated by volunteers from the AG'tivity Barn task force, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist groups, North Fort Bend Water Authority and FBC Farm Bureau Association. During the nine-day county fair, over 140,000 youth and adults were reached, plus an additional evaluations indicate that 94% understood the importance of agriculture, 100% knew that milk came from cows, 90% learned clothes came from cotton, 96% learned meat came from cattle, and 79% learned that shoes were made of leather from cattle. Contact Dr. Allen Malone.

Tri-County Beef Cattle Series is a comprehensive, informative and exciting training series developed by the Cooperative Extension Program of PVAMU and the Extension Agriculture & Natural Resource units of Waller, Washington and Fort Bend counties. The program touts 28 program participants and consists of hands-on training relating to “Introduction to Soils and Fencing, “Pasture & Grazing Systems, “Weed & Brush Management,” “Sprayer Calibration,” “Winter Forage Management,” “Forage Legumes for Pastures,” and “Culminating Events & Program Highlights.” Contact Major Stevenson, Jr.

AgriLife Expo was held on May 4-6, 2010. This multi-disciplinary Ag Literacy event was supported by Extension Agents from Agriculture/Natural Resources, 4-H & Youth, Urban Youth Development and Horticulture. The Expo targeted 283 second thru fifth graders plus 21 teachers and 16 parent helpers. The four major commodity groups were highlighted – beef, dairy, row crops and horticulture. The Texas Beef Council, Southwest Mobile Dairy, Fort Bend Farm Bureau, Master volunteers and TDA assisted. Collaborators included Fort Bend County Fair, Farm Bureau, Frito Lay, Food Town, Frost Bank, Rosenberg Tractor, Needville Feed & Supply, Brehm’s Feed Store, TDA and HEB. Evaluations indicated 95% understood the importance of agriculture in their lives, 90% understood that cotton fiber is used to make cloths, and 83% learned that shoes were made of leather that came from cattle. Contact Dr. Allen Malone & Dr. Shari Grahmann.

Enhancing Our Horticulture

Education is foremost in the minds of **Fort Bend County Master Gardeners**. From hosting educational seminars relating to fruits and citrus, perennials, propagation, insects, water-harvesting and much more. Master Gardeners are eager learners and often create opportunities to speak with people about gardening. Some of that energy was captured in our tenured programs such as the Green Thumb series, a proven educational resources for the community.

Green Thumb programs continue to be a success as it moved its year-long programming from Katy to Sugar Land in an effort to reach all citizens. These programs (Fruits & Vegetables; Plant Propagation; Home Lawn Care; Plants that Thrive in Fort Bend; Gardens to Attract Butterflies & Birds; and Landscape Planning) are taught by Master Gardeners, and are presented as free educational gardening talks. Average attendance is 16 with a gain in knowledge of >96%. Master Gardeners contributed 393 volunteer hours to this event series.

Master Gardener volunteers were honored at their banquet for their accomplishments in 2010, where 187 active volunteers contributed 17,833 hours of service to their communities—a value of \$371,818.05. Activities included:

- The 4-acre demonstration garden with trials for vegetable varieties, Earth-Kind® roses, butterfly gardening, Texas cottage garden, water garden, small fruits, and Texas native plants. Over 2813 hours were donated in upkeep.
- Monthly programs - Topics included vegetables, fruit, herbs, roses, Bonsai, rainwater harvesting and more. An average of 75 people attended each month for a total of 853 contacts. Volunteers contributed 1,433 hours.
- Youth Programming included: 1) the Junior Master Gardener Program is set in 5 schools with an average of 100 students participating; 2) Science Training for Educators incorporates Horticulture topics that aids in the teaching of science; and 3) Earth – Kind® Kids Kamp – is a week-long camp for 30 kids in grades 3-5. Over 2300 volunteer hours are tallied to reach an estimated 7400.

In cooperation with...

Fort Bend County Commissioners’ Court
Robert “Bob” Hebert, County Judge

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| Richard Morrison Commissioner, Pct. 1 | W.A. “Andy” Meyers Commissioner, Pct. 3 |
| Grady Prestage Commissioner, Pct. 2 | James Patterson Commissioner, Pct. 4 |

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

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