

EDUCATING FORT BEND COUNTY

AgriLife Extension Education

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Educational programs, provided by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University, in conjunction with Fort Bend County Commissioners' Court in this second quarter of 2011, are in direct response to the needs of our clientele. Despite the size of the audience or subject matter interest, Extension's vision as an outreach organization focuses on attitude, skills and/or knowledge gained to improve the lives of our Fort Bend County citizens, businesses and communities across this county and this great state. We are pleased to provide you with this edition of *Educating Fort Bend County* as a snapshot review of our educational activities here in Fort Bend.



County Extension Director, Fort Bend

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Preserving the Bounty - The Family and Consumer Sciences Department provided a home food preservation workshop on June 7th with 12 participants. The four hour workshop used demonstrations as the main teaching tool for water-bath canning and pressure canning. Participants were able to taste bread & butter pickles and salsa after the canning process. As a bonus, they were able to take home a sample of each as well as a jar of apple jelly and green beans. The workshop will be repeated in the fall. The registration fee of \$40 included samples as well as home food preservation guidelines and recipes. Contact Sandra Fry, CEA-FCS

Majestic Girls Summer Camp - 44 young ladies of the Majestic Girls Summers Camp held in Stafford, TX participated in an Eat Smart - Fruit & Vegetables presentation provided by Ashley Moore (CEP-Summer Program Associate). This presentation provided research based evidence on the health benefits of fruit and vegetables, and how a proper diet helps prevent the development of cancer, diabetes, and hypertension. The young ladies shared their knowledge of the benefits of consuming fresh produce. When asked, "what do you know about fruits and vegetables?" they responded, "fruits and vegetables give us energy!" First Lady, Michelle Osama's "Let's Move" Campaign Dance was also utilized to encourage the young ladies participate in activities that provide them with the physical fitness needed to remain healthy. Contact Fralonda Anderson, EA-CEP-FCS

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) - During the month of June, youth throughout Fort Bend County were engaged in nutrition education. Utilizing the Purdue University "Professor Popcorn" Curriculum, approximately 200 youth were educated. Programming was offered at several area locations including: Kid R Kids in Stafford, Four Corners Community Center, Mustang Center, Boys and Girls Club as well as the Fort Bend Academy of Arts and Dance. Contact Krystal Wilcox EFNEP-PP

Quarterly Clientele Contacts for April-June:

- 199 Educational Sessions
- 25,505 Session Contacts
- 220 Office Visits
- 258 Site Visits
- 40,883 Mail, Email Contacts
- 588 Volunteers Involved
- Demographics:
 - White—53%
 - Black—19%
 - Hispanic—27%
 - Asian—1%
 - Female—49.8%
 - Male—50.2%
 - Youth—34.4%
 - Adults—65.6%

**Improving Lives,
Improving Texas!**



“BETTER LIVING FOR TEXANS - The BLT covers nutrition-related subject matter designed specifically for food-stamp eligible clientele and those attending Title 1 schools. Programs consisted of three different series as well as one-shot event opportunities. Target audiences included FBISD LEP Program in the monthly Title1-Cluster Meeting, Healthy Marriage Program from Head Start, and in the summertime fBISD's Family Literacy Program. The series topics included *Back to Basics*, *Get the Facts*, and *Three Easy Bites*, while one shot events were made up of *Shopping Strategies*, *Stretching Your Food Dollars*, *MyPlate*, *Food Safety*, and *Reading Labels*. Over 206 limited-resource participants gained insight and saved on the food costs. Contact Maria M. Rangel, CEA-FCS or Terri Bisor, BLT Extension Assistant.

4-H / Youth Development / Urban Youth Development

TEEN LEADERSHIP, SUGAR LAND MIDDLE SCHOOL - During the month of May, approximately 47 youth of the Sugar Land Middle School Teen Leadership classes were engaged in leadership development facilitated by The Cooperative Extension Program. Youth explored concepts such as team building and stereotyping. The main result of this program was to empower teens to make quality decisions on their own, and to resist negative pressures. Contact: Timothy Sandles, EA-CEP-4H/YD



ARCHERY EDUCATION - Archery education continues to be a growing success in Fort Bend County. Throughout the months of June and July archery was facilitated at the Fort Bend YMCA including the Mustang Community Center and Four Corners Community Center and also the Fort Bend Boys and Girls Club. Approximately 190 youth were educated through program efforts. Contact Timothy Sandles, EA-CEP-4H/YD

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER TEACHER TRAINING - Seventeen teachers from LCISD, FBISD, Needville ISD and private schools attended this one day training on June 14 to review the JMG Curriculum. Teachers were given an overview of



the Curriculum, as well as the Teacher/Leader Guide lessons and activities. They were educated as to the objectives of the program along with suggestions for implementing in their classrooms. Select activities were conducted as part of the training and teachers were encouraged to look for ways to modify or enhance the activities to suite the learning environment and lesson objectives in their classroom. Additional JMG curriculum; Health and Nutrition From the Garden, and Operation Thistle: Plant Growth and Development were also presented in the training. Each teacher left with the resources needed to get a JMG program started in their classroom. Contact Dr. Shari Grahmann, CEA-Horticulture

THE 2011 MAJOR LIVESTOCK SHOW SEASON was a success for Fort Bend 4-H. The season began with 3 members competing at the Southwestern Livestock Expo in Fort Worth. The next stop was in San Antonio at the San Antonio Livestock Expo with 11 livestock exhibitors and a Grand Champion Red Angus Steer! We also had 8 youth participating in horse judging and 24 youth participating in livestock judging. March brought the Houston Livestock Show with 20 livestock exhibitors, 12 horse judging participants and 24 livestock judging participants. It was a winning year in Houston with 8 or 9 poultry exhibitors making the premium sale and a catch for one of our calf scramblers. We ended the major show season in Austin at the Star of Texas Fair with 9 livestock exhibitors. Contact Dwight Callis, CEA - 4H & YD

DISCOVERY ZONE GARDENING PROJECT - Students at Juan Seguin Elem. School in Richmond took part in the Discovery Zone Gardening Project this spring '11. They planted and harvested tomatoes, corn, squash, okra onions, cucumbers, herbs and cabbage. The largest cabbage was entered in the Bonnie Mega Cabbage Contest. Contact Major Stevenson, EA-CEP-ANR



Agriculture / Natural Resources / Horticulture

FORT BEND CO. PESTICIDE PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING AND TESTING - This program provides educational training for individuals who want to become certified pesticide applicators. In May of this year 7 individuals participated in our training efforts. The training covered Pesticide Laws & Regulations, Record-Keeping, Environmental Considerations, Spray Equipment Calibration and much more. The test is administered by Texas Department of Agriculture which reported that all 7 trainees passed the examination. Contact Dr.. Allen Malone, CEA-ANR

BASIC HORSEMANSHIP TRAINING—The Fort Bend County Horse Task Force in conjunction with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service held its annual Basic Horsemanship clinic for Horse enthusiast in Fort Bend County. The Clinicians from Texas A&M University provided individual instruction to the participants and enhanced their skill development in the areas of: Safety and Horse Theft Prevention, selection and proper use of equipment, loping and two tracking your horse and many more topics. Seven individuals participated in the training. Contact Dr.. Allen Malone, CEA-ANR

FORT BEND COUNTY CROP TOURS - In May and June of this year crop tours were held for the farmers of Fort Bend County. The events focused Corn, Cotton, Sorghum and Soybean Production. Information was presented on Varietal performance, insect and disease control, Products to control alpha-toxins, Nitrate and Prussic Acid poisoning and much more. During the May Field day at Stasney Farms participants were also treated to a herbicide result demonstration to control glyphosate-resistant Pigweed (*Palmer amaranth*). The resistant strain of Pigweed is becoming a problem for crop producers in Fort Bend County. Contact Dr.. Allen Malone, CEA-ANR

SEABOURNE CREEK PARK - Under the direction of the Coastal Prairie Master Naturalist, activities at Seabourne Creek Park have progressed into what is now a functional nature preserve. Walking paths, new plantings and structures have been added to not only help educate our clientele and visitors, but also in increase both flora and fauna populations. On 4-8-11 a checklist of plants was added to the CPMN's website (<http://txmn.org/coastal/signature/seabourne-creek-park/>) for reference and as a handy checklist for visitors. This list contains nearly 200 species including 107 species of forbs, 22 species of trees, 38 species of grasses, plus a variety of other plant types. In addition, on 5-20-11 a similar listing of over 100 birds were added. This list included water fowl, storks, vultures, woodpeckers, hummingbirds, wrens, sparrows, cardinals and a host of others. Contact Dr.. Allen Malone, CEA-ANR



2011 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP - Held on May 20th in Sugar Land with 82 in attendance. Those in attendance represented 25 agencies that provide emergency preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation. This agency provided information relating to the EDEN weblink and included the "Preparing for the Unexpected" and "After a Disaster" publications. The scope of this event was to inform and interact with other agency to form a coalition of sorts. Contact Vincent Mannino, County Extension Director

2011 PECAN/CITRUS GRAFTING CLINIC - The annual Grafting Clinic took place on April 2, 2011 at John White's Place in Fulshear, TX. Over 25 individuals attended the clinic and learned techniques to graft pecan and citrus trees. The demonstrated techniques included 4-Flap, Inlay Bark, t-budding, and patch-budding. Monte Nesbitt, Extension Fruit & Pecan Specialist, Pete Pavlovsky, Fort Bend Pecan/Citrus Committee member and Cliff Bergman, Fort Bend Pecan/Citrus Committee member demonstrated several grafting techniques. Contact Dr. Shari Grahmann, CEA-H



BEEF CATTLE PALPATION CLINIC - On April 29-30, 2011 twenty-three small farm beef cattle producers from Fort Bend, Waller and Washing County attended a Beef Cattle Palpation Clinic which allowed producers the ability to better manage their beef operations. Dr. Wendell C. Baker, DVM facilitated the clinic. Detailed information included management tools to determine pregnancy, practices to improve reproduction, culling decisions, and the use of specialized equipment. Attendees took part in method demonstrations which allow them hands-on experience in palpation techniques to help determine the stage of pregnancy. Contact Major Stevenson, Jr., EA-CEP-ANR.

AgriLife Expo (May 9 – 13, 2011) – Over 620 individuals attended AgriLife Expo in May. This Ag Awareness event is intended to introduce 4th graders to agricultural commodities. This year the focus was on Beef, Dairy and Vegetables. Participants learned about how each of these topics contributes to the agriculture industry. They learned about the process each product goes through from farm to your table and the various by products we get from each area. The day culminated in the students shopping for specific items related to each agricultural commodity. Contact: Dr. Allen Malone CEA-ANR and Dwight Callis, CEA-4H/Y



Extension's Vision: To be the premier 21st Century outreach and continuing education organization in Texas responding to the needs of the people.

TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE
 1402 BAND ROAD, SUITE 100
 ROSENBERG, TX, 77471-8678
 PH: 281-342-3034, FAX: 281-633-7000
 WEB: <http://fortbend-tx.tamu.edu>

Fralonda Anderson	Coop. Ext. Program—Family & Consumer Sci.
Terri Bisor	Better Living for Texans—Extension Assistant
Dwight D. Callis	County Extension Agent—4-H/Youth Development
Sandra K. Fry	County Extension Agent—Family & Consumer Sciences
Sharon E. Grahmann, PhD	County Extension Agent—Horticulture
Allen Malone, Ed.D.	County Extension Agent—Agricultural/Natural Resources
Shelley R. Pappas	County Extension Agent—Urban Youth Development
Maria M. Rangel	County Extension Agent—Family & Consumer Sciences.
Timothy Sandles	Coop. Ext. Prog.—4H/Youth Development
Major Stevenson, Jr.	Coop. Ext. Prog.—Agri/Natural Resources
Krystal Wilcox,	Paraprofessional -Expanded Nutrition Program, CEP



**Fort Bend County Commissioners' Court
 County Judge Robert "Bob" Hebert**

Precinct 1 Commissioner Richard Morrison
 Precinct 2 Commissioner Grady Prestage
 Precinct 3 Commissioner Andy Meyers
 Precinct 4 Commissioner James Patterson

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.