



**PRAIRIE VIEW
A&M UNIVERSITY**
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND HUMAN SCIENCES



**TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION**

Cooperative Extension Program



Making a difference 2017-18

Extension Outreach Educational Programs FOR FORT BEND COUNTY

WHAT IS AGRILIFE EXTENSION?

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service recently celebrated its 100th anniversary of the signing of the Smith-Lever Act which was introduced in the US Congress on May 8, 1914 by Sen. Hoke Smith of Georgia and Rep. A.F. Lever of South Carolina and was signed in to law on July 2, 1914. This act expanded vocational agriculture and home demonstration programs in rural America and beyond. From those agrarian beginnings, cooperative extension has evolved to serve a wide range of human needs, while continuing to support agriculture, conservation, and a healthy economy, in both rural and urban settings.

Today AgriLife Extension Service in Fort Bend welcome the opportunity to provide your club, school, organization, and business a wide variety of research-based educational programs. As you review our list of available programs, you will notice each is developed to reach adults and youth throughout Fort Bend. We do offer something for everyone! Included in this brochure is a shared vision of our future for both, AgriLife Extension and the Cooperative Extension Program. We invite you to contact us for information on any of the programs listed in this brochure.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Cooperative Extension Program through PVAMU are part of the Texas A&M System. The Texas A&M System, U.S.D.A., and the Fort Bend County Commissioners' Court cooperate as a team to provide support for Extension educational programming in an effort to reach all Fort Bend citizens.

Extension's educational programs are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. Individuals with disabilities who may require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension educational program or activity are encouraged to contact the Extension office for assistance seven (7) days prior to the event date.

Our Vision

Help Texans Better Their Lives

To find out more about Extension, its administration, its programs, and its personnel, visit the Extension at:

<http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/>
www.facebook.com/ForrtBendCountyExtension



**For More
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Issues Important to Our Citizens of Fort Bend County

The Fort Bend County Leadership Advisory Board (LAB) is made up of fourteen community leaders from all walks of life and from throughout Fort Bend County. In March 2015 the LAB met along with key individuals to conduct the 2015 Texas Community Futures Forum designed to identify pertinent issues in Fort Bend and rank each according to their level of importance. They are the basis of our programming efforts in Fort Bend County.

Agriculture/Natural Resources & Horticulture

- ◇ Education relating to water conservation & availability
- ◇ Traditional Ag-related programs (base programs) relating to pesticides, row crops, cattle, etc.
- ◇ Increase & expand education relating to food preservation and environmental education.
- ◇ New Agribusiness Opportunities
- ◇ Government involvement and resources for rural communities.

Family & Consumer Sciences (Health & Wellness)

- ◇ Support the development of mental health programs that address family violence, the stigma associated with mental illness and the prevention of escape mechanisms (suicide, drug abuse, running away, gang activity, etc.
- ◇ Increased educational programs to address the awareness of and tolerance (and similar themes) of differences in diverse cultures, religions, sexual orientation, etc.
- ◇ Provide generalized health & wellness education including nutrition/fitness for youth/adults and caregivers.

Community/Resource Economic Development

- ◇ Infrastructure: a) Mobility - Accessible transportation countywide; b) Mass Transit countywide; c) Traffic flow issues/safety.
- ◇ Water: a) supply; b) infrastructure; c) usage.
- ◇ Population Growth: a) Affordable housing; b) water conservation; c) Urban sprawl, farmland fragmentation, farmland issues; 3) Language/Cultural diversity.

Youth Development

- ◇ Summer & After-School Programs in areas of arts & humanities and environmental sciences are needed with sensitivity of diverse audiences.
- ◇ Health issues relating to youth – fitness & nutrition.
- ◇ Partnerships between youth & adults focusing on leadership, cultural diversity and historical aspects that build self-esteem.

Our programming efforts listed on page 3 are based on the above identified issues as we try to meet the needs of our local citizens. Each and every program offered can be modified at any time according to specific need of our audience or emerging needs that might develop.

A Snapshot of Educational Programs available to Our Community

4-H & Youth Development Programs

Traditional Topics:

- Beef, horses, poultry, swine, sheep/goats
- Shooting Sports
- Leadership
- Recreation
- Fashion Shows/Fashion Story Board
- Robotics (STEM Projects)
- Pantry to Plate Cooking Camps

Non-Traditional Topics:

- Anger Management – Schools
- Character Counts – Schools
- Take a Stand Against Bullying

- Junior Master Gardeners
- Citizenship/Public Speaking
- Community Service
- Food Shows/Food Challenge
- Consumer Decision Making/Horticulture
- Veterinary Science Club
- Sewing Camps/Duds to Dazzle

- Etiquette Day - Schools
- Jr. Mast. Gardener/Learn Go Eat Grow
- Companion Pets

Agriculture Programs

- Horse
- Pastures & Forages
- Pesticide Training, Licensing and Re-Certification
- Row Crops (corn, sorghum, soybean, cotton)

- Beef Cattle
- Rice
- Pond Management
- Natural Resources

Horticulture Programs

- Landscaping & Ornamentals
- Bees
- Backyard Basics - Self-Sustainability Programs
- Insects/Diseases/Weeds ID & Control

- Vegetables, Herbs, & Fruits
- Pecans/Citrus
- Texas WaterStar Programs
- Native plants/EarthKind

Family & Consumer Science Programs

Parenting Skills:

- Master of Memory
- FRED (Fathers Reading Every Day)
- Strengthening Families
- Parenting Connections
- Child Care Provider Education
- Maintain No Gain

Financial Management:

- Money Smart
- Starting Over - Making the Most of Your Money
- NEFE High School Financial Planning Program
- Wise-Up Money for Life

Health:

- Do Well Be Well w/ Diabetes
- Cooking Well W/ Diabetes
- Walk Across Texas
- Tobacco Cessation Ed.
- Step Up to Scale Down
- Cancer Prevention Ed.

Foods & Nutrition:

- Better Living for Texans
- Food Protection Mgmt.
- Food Safety
- Food Preservation

and, Volunteer Opportunities

Master Volunteer Programs

- Master Gardeners
- Master Wellness Volunteers
- Coastal Prairie Master Naturalist

Program Area Committees/Task Forces

- Beef/Forage PAC
- Horse Task Force
- Small Farms
- Master Naturalist Board
- Partners for Parenting TF
- 4-H Livestock Coalition
- Crops PAC
- Pesticide TF
- Bee PAC
- TX Extension Ed. Assoc.
- 4-H Club Managers
- 4-H PAC
- Rice Task Force
- Ag/Hort Advisory Group
- Master Gardener Board
- Family & Consumer Sci. PAC
- 4-H Project Mangers/Leaders
- 4-H Livestock Validations Comm.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service offers practical, how-to education based on university research. It's available to any resident of Texas. You may read it in the newspaper, hear it on the radio, attend an Extension workshop, order a publication, or just call your
Fort Bend County Extension Office!

2015 Fort Bend County Statistics

County Population (2017): 764,828*

Percent Change since 2010: 30.8%

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|                            |           |         |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------|
| White:                     | 253,923   | (33.2)  |
| Hispanic:                  | 181,383   | (24.5%) |
| Black:                     | 161,379   | (21.0%) |
| Asian                      | 156,025   | (20.4)  |
| Other:                     | 12,118    | (0.9%)  |
| Persons under 5 years:     | 7.1%      |         |
| Persons under 18 years:    | 27.7%     |         |
| Persons 65 years and over: | 10.6%     |         |
| Per Capita Income:         | \$ 34,084 |         |
| Mean Household Inc.:       | \$112,893 |         |

\*US. Bureau of Census—Quickfacts (July '17)

### FORT BEND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT



**County Judge Robert "Bob" Hebert**  
**Precinct 1 Commissioner Vincent Morales**  
**Precinct 2 Commissioner Grady Prestage**  
**Precinct 3 Commissioner Andy Meyers**  
**Precinct 4 Commissioner James Patterson**

## TRADITIONS

Over the last century, extension has adapted to changing times and landscapes, and it continues to address a wide range of human, plant, and animal needs in both urban and rural areas. Today, extension works in six major areas:

- **4-H Youth Development** —cultivates important life skills in youth that build character and assist them in making appropriate life and career choices. At-risk youth participate in school retention and enrichment programs. Youth learn science, math, social skills, and much more, through hands-on projects and activities.
- **Leadership Development** —trains extension professionals and volunteers to deliver programs in gardening, health and safety, family and consumer issues, and 4-H youth development and serve in leadership roles in the community.
- **Agriculture** —research and educational programs help individuals learn new ways to produce income through alternative enterprises, improved marketing strategies, and management skills and help farmers and ranchers improve productivity through resource management, controlling crop pests, soil testing, livestock production practices, and marketing.
- **Natural Resources** —teaches landowners and homeowners how to use natural resources wisely and protect the environment with educational programs in water quality, timber management, composting, lawn waste management, and recycling.
- **Horticulture** – over the years, horticulture has emerged as one of the potential agricultural enterprise in accelerating the growth of economy. Its role in the country's nutritional security, poverty alleviation and employment generation programs is becoming increasingly important. It offers not only a wide range of options to the farmers for crop diversification, but also provides ample scope for sustaining large number of agriculture related industries which generate huge employment opportunities. At present, horticulture is contributing 28.3% of GDP from 8% land area.
- **Family and Community Health** —helps families become resilient and healthy by teaching nutrition, food preparation skills, positive child care, family communication, financial management, and health care strategies.
- **Community and Economic Development** —helps local governments investigate and create viable options for economic and community development, such as improved job creation and retention, small and medium-sized business development, effective and coordinated emergency response, solid waste disposal, tourism development, workforce education, and land use planning.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal opportunities in its programs & employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity. The Texas A&M System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners' Courts of Texas Cooperating.