



Extension Education in Gregg County

2017 Annual Report

Making a Difference

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has long been dedicated to educating Texans. Extension education evolved nationwide under the 1914 federal Smith-Lever Act, which sought to extend university knowledge and agricultural research findings directly to the people. Ever since, Extension programs have addressed the emerging issues of the day, reaching diverse rural and urban populations.

In Texas, all 254 counties are served by a well-organized network of professional Extension educators and some 100,000 trained volunteers. Extension expertise and educational outreach pertain to the food and fiber industry, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, nutrition and health, and community economic development.

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Providing Solutions*

Among those served are hundreds of thousands of young people who benefit annually from Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

Texans turn to Extension education for solutions. Extension agents and specialists respond not only with answers, but also with resources and services that result in significant returns on the public's investment. Extension programs are custom-designed for each region of the state, with residents providing input and help with program delivery. Here are just a few highlights of Extension impacts on this county and its people.

Gregg County – Summary of 2017 Educational Contacts

As of October 31, 2017

- **Total Contacts – 48,784**
- **Educational Event Contacts – 9,190**
- **Individual Contacts (Direct) – 7,801**
- **Individual Contacts (Indirect) – 24,626**
- **Marketing Contacts (Newsletters, Web Site and Email) – 9,256**
- **Volunteer Contacts (Individual) – 2,408**
- **Social Media Post – 349**
- **Social Media Followers – 4,164**

Beef & Forage Management Plan

Purpose & Background Data:

Beef Quality Assurance and the Texas Beef Quality Assurance program continue to be an important issue in Gregg County. To date, a small amount or number of producers are certified. BQA will be one of the driving forces in continued quality beef production and our producers need to realize this especially as its effect marketing issues.



Beef and forage production is still a major factor and contributor to the total agricultural income in Gregg County, accounting for 50% of the total agricultural income that is reported each year. The Beef Quality Assurance issue, as it deals with proper beef cattle health management and food safety, have come about in a big way since 2000. More than ever, beef consumers are aware of the issues that affect food safety and providing a wholesome, safe product for their families. Beef producers need to be more aware of this issue as it relates to their product, beef cattle. Gregg County beef producers, under the direction of the Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club and Gregg County Extension Agriculture Committee, provides input into the program planning, implementation and evaluation of educational programs and activities to address beef quality assurance issues, as well as general beef cattle management as a whole. The programs planned will affect not only beef cattle management, but forage production practices as well.

Planning Group – Gregg County Extension AG/NR Committee & Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club

Response

The Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month for their monthly meeting and educational program or speaker. The opportunity is also presented at some meetings throughout the year to offer one (1) CEU toward any Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide license to participants while attending the meetings, if at all possible.



Utilizing Clovers in a Winter Pasture Program was held in January with Dr. Ray Smith, Professor and Legume Breeder with Texas A&M Agrilife Research Center in Overton as the featured speaker. Dr. Smith discussed new and up-coming varieties, as well as planting and management of clovers in a winter feeding program.

A Farm and Ranch Security Program was held at the Gregg County Extension office and was also co-sponsored by the Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club in March. The program was held with Special Ranger Larry Hand, with the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raiser's Association and Gregg County Sheriff, Maxey Cerliano. Both speakers gave tips and suggestions on ways for farm and ranch families to beef up security in and around the farm and ranch.

The Beef & Forage Weekly Electronic Newsletter - The Agricultural Email list in the county and East Texas area, continues to grow monthly, as new producers ask to be added to the list. The email list serves several purposes, mainly to send out educational program reminders on a weekly basis, as well as the weekly Price Trends Cattle Price Report that is prepared weekly by Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist in Overton and the monthly Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club Newsletter.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Spring to Summer Pasture Forage Transition Program was also held at the Gregg County Extension office in April with guest speaker, Dr. Monte Rouquette, Texas A&M Regents Fellow and Professor of Forage Physiology. Monte discussed proper forage use and management tips for the time of the year when forage is making its transition from winter to spring, or warm season growth.



The Chute-Side Manners Program was held in Longview in May, with Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist from the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Overton. Jason discussed proper use of vaccinations to cattle, as well as proper handling techniques. One credit hour toward BQA (Beef Quality Assurance) was also made available to those producers who could use them.

The Oil Belt Scholarship Reception and Dinner was held in June at the Griffin Ranch in Kilgore, Texas. This gave to opportunity for members to recognize this year's winner of the Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club's scholarship, in memory of J. Marvin Watkins. Seven high school youth made application for this year's scholarship and was awarded to a youth from Sabine High School.



The Annual East Texas Regional Forage Conference was held in Carthage with the five county groups of counties co-sponsoring the program this year. Gregg, Harrison, Panola, Rusk and Upshur Counties participated. Program topics were as follows; Use of clovers in a Winter Pasture Program, Pasture Herbicide Updates and "Adding Value" to Beef Cattle. The conference ended the day with a panel discussion, which was led by Dr. Gerald Evers, Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club President on each of the following topics, each with a representative; NETBIO Program, Wagyu Cattle Program, Iron Farm Organic Raised Beef, A Cattle Buyers Perspective and a Registered Cattle Raisers Perspective. The Noon meal was sponsored by Legacy AG Credit and two credit hours were also awarded to participants toward TDA pesticide recertification requirements.

USDA-FSA Programs for East Texas Producers was hosted by the Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club in September with Chris Lynn, CED for USDA-FSA office in Rusk County, as well as Joseph Grier, Farm Loan Manager with USDA-FSA, also in Rusk county. Discussions were held, letting producers know about the various farm programs that are available to local producers in the East Texas area.

The Monthly Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Newsletter is published every month and sent via email to club members, those that do not have email, hard copies are sent by regular mail. The newsletter features program updates and reminders, as well as beef and forage related articles from Texas A&M and other institutions like the Noble Foundation in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Results

During the 2017 year, three beef and forage educational programs were evaluated using the "East Region" survey tools that are located on-line. These three events were; The East Texas Regional Forage Conference, Chute-Side Manners program and The Clover Utilization Program.

2017 East Texas Regional Forage Conference

Average head of cattle managed from the participants – 85.93 head

Average number of acres managed from participants – 376.30

Total anticipated economic benefit per acre - \$9.26

Total anticipated economic benefit per head - \$11.74

Average total economic impact per producers operation - \$4,840.19

Total economic impact for this program – \$164,566.46

2017 Clover Utilization Program

Average number of acres managed from participants – 258.83

Total anticipated economic benefit per acre - \$14.12

Average total economic impact per producers operation - \$3,643.97

Total economic impact for this program – \$36,439.79

2017 Chute-Side Manners Program

Average head of cattle managed from the participants - 83 head

Average number of acres managed from participants – 456

Total anticipated economic benefit per acre - \$17.17

Total anticipated economic benefit per head - \$94.37

Average total economic impact per producers operation - \$7,833.00

Total economic impact for this program – \$39,165.00

Total economic impact for the three Beef & Forage major programs held in 2017 in Beef & Forage -

\$240,017.25

2016 Beef & Forage Program Notes...

Office Contacts - 360

On-Site Contacts - 824

Phone Contacts - 228

Contacts by Extension Volunteers - 348

Email Contacts – 18,256

Newsletter Contacts - 1080

Other Agricultural Related Programming Efforts (Base AG/NR Plan and Master Gardener Program)

Planning Group – Gregg County Extension AG/NR Committee, Gregg County Extension Beekeeper's Committee & Gregg County Master Gardener Association

The Longview Beekeeper's Association was started in Gregg County in June 2015. The club meets on the 4th Thursday of each month and features club business and then a program speaker each meeting. The club averages 40 to 50 members each meeting and continues to grow in membership. The club became official in September of 2015, voting and approving the club by-laws. This new beekeeper's association serves a wide area, including members from not only Gregg County, but Harrison, Rusk and Upshur Counties as well. In 2016 the Gregg County Extension Beekeeping Committee was also formed due to the popularity of beekeeping in the area to give direction on educational programming efforts in the county and continues to grow each year.



Mass Media Contacts are achieved through a regular, weekly news column that is written and appears in the Sunday edition of the Longview News Journal. There is also a regular blog in the Longview News Journal that features comments and educational materials dealing with home horticulture topics.

2017 New Beekeeper's Class was held with four consecutive sessions in January and February. This class gave new beekeepers the chance to learn about beekeeping from experienced beekeepers in a classroom, as well as in the field setting.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

2017 Longview Beekeepers Beekeeping Exhibit & Demonstration was held at the Longview Mall in October with approximately 250 people being reached. The booth was set up at the mall and this gave beekeepers a chance to visit with the general public about bees in general and the hobby of beekeeping.



2017 Annual Pesticide Credit Hour Program was held in January at Enoch's Stomp Winery in Harleton, Texas with over 80 participants, who had the opportunity to earn six credit hours toward their Texas Department of Agriculture pesticide license. Various topics were presented and attendees from several counties participated in this annual event. Topics included this year were; Forage Management in East Texas, Aquatic Weed control Management, External Parasite on Beef Cattle, Pasture Weed Control Updates, Biological Control Options for Insects and Pesticide License Management.

2017 Peach Tree Pruning Demonstration was held at a local peach farm in February and was co-sponsored by the Gregg and Harrison County Extension offices. Basic peach pruning was discussed and the reasons why you prune, as well as insect and disease management were also discussed.



2017 Forest Management Plan Workshops were held at the Gregg County Extension office in Longview each month from January through August for Landowners to participate in to gain assistance from the Texas Forest Service to write and manage a Timber Management Plan for property tax reasons and for timber valuations in the region. The sessions were taught by TFS personnel each month and participants were awarded a certificate of completion at the conclusion of the workshop. Plans are to hold the workshops again in 2018.

2017 Income Alternatives for Landowners Program was sponsored by the Oil Belt Farm & Ranch club, as well as the Gregg County Extension AG/NR Committee and was held in February. The program was led by Shelly Plante, Tourism Coordinator with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department from Austin, Texas. Shelly discussed eco-tourism and how this segment of the wildlife industry is growing at a huge rate across the state.

2017 Northeast Texas Forest Management Seminar was held at the Gregg County Extension office in Longview. The seminar was held in April and the main topic or theme was "Are Your Woods Healthy?" Topics for this regional seminar included; Forestry Myths & Misconceptions and their Impact on Management, Guide to Forestry Services: Mechanical, Chemical, Fire, Timber Sales Operations and Contracts, Farm Finance and many others. The noon meal was sponsored by Legacy AG Credit of Longview and CEU's were awarded for TDA, Pro Logger, as well as Texas Accredited Forester.

2017 Farm Pond Management Updates Program was held in conjunction with and sponsored by the Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club in August. Ken Hale, Owner and CEO of Boatcycle, Inc. of Henderson, Texas was the speaker for the evening. Ken discussed pond management in the fall and winter months leading into next spring.

2017 East Texas Fruit & Vegetable Conference was held in the northern part of East District 5 with ten counties participating. The conference was held at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center in Overton. The following topics were discussed; Disease Identification, Backyard Critter Management, Peach Production, Berry production in High Tunnels, Pollinator Management, Cover Crops for Fruit Trees and Aquaponic Greenhouse Production. There was a total of 5 CEU's available as well for pesticide license recertification.

2017 Gregg County Timber Field Day was held at the Griffin Ranch in Kilgore, Texas in October. Topics included; Estimating Tree Value & Volume, Sale Preparation, Marketing, Harvesting Operations, as well as Timber herbicide Updates. Two pesticide



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CEU's were available to participants, the noon meal was sponsored by Red River Specialties in Shreveport, Louisiana.

2017 Game Law Updates Program, An Evening with Todd Long, Gregg County Game Warden was held with the Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club in October. Todd discussed the functions and responsibilities of a game warden, as well as passed out the updated game law book.

Results

During the 2017 year, three outcome based educational programs were evaluated using the "East Region" survey tools that are located on-line. These three events were; New Beekeeper's Class, Income Alternatives for Landowners and the 2017 East Texas Fruit & Vegetable Conference-North, which was a multi-county planned program.

2017 New Beekeeper's Class

Level of understanding acquired...

Understanding of...	Before	After	% Change
Supplies Needed	1.60	3.50	63.3%
Different Types of Hives Used	1.64	3.82	72.7%
Collecting Feral Hives	1.36	3.55	73.0%
Uses & Products of the Hive	1.82	3.55	57.7%
Bee Biology	1.64	3.73	69.7%

Economic impact for this program was \$3,109.04

2017 Income Alternatives for Landowners Program

Level of understanding acquired...

Understanding of...	Before	After	% Change
Economic Impact of Eco-Tourism in Texas	1.71	3.14	47.7%
Nature Tourism Potential	1.57	3.00	47.7%
Potential Partners	1.71	3.29	52.7%
Examples of Nature Tourism in Texas	1.57	3.43	62.0%

Average total economic impact per landowner - \$220.00

Total economic impact for this program – \$1540.00

2017 East Texas Fruit & Vegetable Conference (Ten county area sponsored program)

- 87% of participants indicated that they increased their knowledge by 87%
- Number of Practices adopted were; 63 out of 840

Average total economic impact per producers operation - \$8,535.91

Total economic impact for this program – \$375,580.00

Total economic impact for "Other" AG Programs that were evaluated - \$377,120.00

Gregg County Master Gardener Program

The Gregg County Master Gardener program continues to be a viable and growing organization in Gregg County. The association continues to hold their monthly Master Gardener Association meetings, host educational programs for the public, post events on their Facebook site and help Extension staff with news articles and other promotional items.

The 2017 Master Gardener Class graduated nineteen interns from this class and was awarded completion certificates during their Annual Master Gardener Awards Luncheon that was held this spring. The 2018 Master Gardener class schedule has been set and registrations are coming in. The Annual Master Gardener class will be a joint program between Gregg and Harrison Counties. The class will start in January 2018.



2017 Master Gardener Tree-Give-Away was held at the Gregg County Extension office Auditorium here in Longview. This was the first year to hold the program and was a joint effort between the Gregg County Master Gardener Association and the Texas Forest Service office in Marshall, Texas. Approximately 3000 seedlings were furnished by the Texas Forest Service, which were donated to the Master Gardener's and were given away to local Gregg County residents to plant on their property.



2017 Spring Landscape & Gardening Seminar was held once again at the First United Methodist Church in Longview. This is a staple program for the Gregg County Master Gardener Association and is held on an annual basis every year. This year's speakers were; Tom LeRoy of Conroe, Texas, who spoke on Vegetable Gardening in Containers and Steven Chamblee, who spoke on his gardening experiences in the Fort Worth Metro-plex area. This program was also a fundraiser for the Master Gardener Association as well.



The Rose Pruning Demonstration was held at a local residence here in Longview and was a "Hands-on" type program to give participants a chance to prune a rose bush. The demonstration was taught by Pete Quinn of Longview.

The Third Annual Fall Master Gardner Plant Sale was held in October of this year at the Gregg County Extension office. This plant sale serves the association as their major fundraiser for the year. The association did well and the sale was a success, most of the plants sold were grown by Master Gardeners, with the exception of some roses.



A Water Management Workshop was held at the Gregg County Extension office in June. This program was an effort to show Gregg County residents how to save water resources with the use of drip irrigation, as well as other water saving ideas. The session was taught by Dotty Woodson, Extension Water Resource Specialist from Fort Worth, Texas.

The Edible Landscape was a program that was sponsored by the Gregg County Master Gardener Association and was held in August with Greg Grant, County Extension Agent – Horticulture in Smith County as speaker. Greg discussed planting vegetables in the landscape, which offer not only a landscape appeal, but also a source of growing vegetables to eat as well. This program was one of our best, as far as attendance.

The Two-Night Landscape Design Workshop was held in November and was sponsored by the Gregg County Extension office as a fund raiser for the Gregg County Program Development Fund. The workshop gave homeowners a chance to complete a basis landscape plan of their property with hands-on type help from

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experts. Part of the workshop assignments, or homework was to complete the plan by the end of the program, which was two nights, a week apart.

Results

During the 2017 year, two In-Depth based educational programs were evaluated using the “East Region” survey tools that are located on-line. These three events were; the 2017 Master Gardener Class and the Water Management Program.

2017 Gregg-Harrison County Master Gardener Class

Level of understanding acquired...

Program Content...	Before	After	% Change
Plant Disease Problems	1.64	3.14	50.0%
Basic Tree Maintenance	1.93	3.14	40.3%
Insects	1.64	3.21	52.3%
Vegetable Production	2.21	3.71	50.0%
Composting	1.77	3.77	66.7%
Plant Propagation	1.31	3.08	59.0%
East Texas Horticulture Industry	1.29	3.71	80.7%
Water Gardens & Features	1.50	3.36	62.0%

Water Management Program

Level of understanding acquired...

Program Content...	Before	After	% Change
How landscape design can effect water usage	2.33	4.00	55.7%
Appropriate plant selection to better conserve water	2.33	3.56	41.0%
How to manage your irrigation system	1.78	3.56	59.3%
How to use mulch more effectively	2.67	3.56	29.7%
Rainwater harvesting to conserve water in the landscape	2.22	3.67	48.3%

Average total economic impact per participant - \$482.94

Total economic impact for this program – \$4,346.46

Total volunteer hours provided by Gregg County Master Gardeners Association for 2017, was 3486.50 hours, valued at \$84,164.11 to Gregg County and the City of Longview. (As of 11-9-17)

Total Economic Impact for the Master Gardener Program - \$88,510.57

Total number of contacts reached through Master Gardener program contacts: **4363**

Acknowledgments

The Gregg County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee and the Oil Belt Farm & Ranch Club both offer great insight into the educational programs and activities in the county, thanks for their

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dedication and service to the educational needs of the county as a whole. Also, to the farm supply stores and various vendors in the area for supporting Extension education. Thank you to Legacy Ag Credit for sponsoring many of the meals and educational content that was offered in 2017.

Total Economic Impact for all Agricultural/Horticulture Programs in 2017 - \$705,647.82, for program's that were evaluated, as well as volunteer hours donated.

Making a Difference

Family and Community Health (FCH) Program Planning Groups – Gregg County FCH & Worksite Wellness Committee



Family & Community Health (FCH) Committee

The Family and Community Health Committee was formed and met for the first time on June 29, 2015. This committee supports the FCH Agent and programs implemented in Gregg County. This group consists of nurses, a public health director, business managers, teachers, and past volunteers. The committee met quarterly and will continue to meet to assist the FCH Agent with future programming.

Gregg County Worksite Wellness Committee

Worksite health promotion provides an opportunity to initiate preventive strategies to improve employee health. Given that employed Americans spend on average 57% of their waking time at work, the workplace is an ideal setting for health promotion. Worksite or workplace health promotion is defined as an employer initiative directed at improving the health and well-being of workers, and, in some cases, dependents. The Gregg County Worksite Wellness Committee was formed in February 2016 with the first meeting being held at the Gregg County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office on March 3, 2016. In 2017, the committee was approved by the Gregg County Judge and County Commissioners. After the committee was approved a budget was established and approved for future Worksite Wellness program efforts. The committee promoted the Walk Across Texas (WAT) program in April and October of 2017 (below), scheduled Chris Hill from Personally Fit to present to the committee and had one committee member graduate from the Master Wellness Program.



Walk Across Texas “Gregg County”

34% of adults (% of adults with a BMI greater than or equal to 30 kg/m²) in Gregg County are obese. This calculates to approximately 42,479 adults in this county. Obesity leads to other preventable illnesses like type 2 diabetes, hypertension, coronary heart disease, heart failure, high blood pressure, stroke, high blood cholesterol, metabolic syndrome and cancer. This is a major concern for Gregg County. Walk Across Texas was implemented twice in the year 2017. The first kick off was held at the Gregg County Court House. Walk Across Texas is an eight-week program to help people of all

ages support one another to establish the habit of regular physical activity. The program is recognized as a Best Practice Physical Activity Program by the Texas Department of State Health Services. Each team consisted of eight people walking a minimum of 13 miles per week. The first WAT began in April with approximately 136 participants. The second WAT began in October of 2017 with approximately 104 participants. Each team competes and walks across Texas and always seems to walk across more than one time.

The Harvest Festival hosts the Crawfish Boil in April and the Live Stock and Home Economics Divisions and Judging in October. The judging of the Home Economics Division was held from October 25th thru the 28th of this year. There were approximately 295 entries submitted for Gregg County, four agents assisting, approximately 21 adult volunteers judging and approximately 6 Junior Board Members volunteering with registration and judging. The Grand Champion's cake sold for over \$750.00.



The Better Living for Texans (BLT) is a statewide nutrition education program for adults (and kids) who want to learn how to make healthy meals, improve their physical fitness, save money at the grocery store, grow their own foods, and adopt better food safety habits. BLT has offered nutrition education to SNAP participants and program eligible persons in over 200 Texas counties for over 20 years. Gregg County started the 2017 year off offering the Growing & Nourishing Healthy Communities Garden Course at New Gate Mission. The program helps increase the availability of fresh produce through

teaching participants how to grow fruits and vegetables in community and backyard gardens. The gardening series includes topics such as how to select the right garden location, planting and watering techniques, controlling insects, and composting. Gregg County AgriLife Extension partnered with LeTourneau Nursing and with their assistance built, planted and maintained 12 small gardens throughout the lesson. There were 13 participants and although it was a challenge with the participants taking ownership and responsibility of the garden, it seems that they each



learned more than what they knew prior to taking the classes. It was estimated that approximately 75-100 lbs. of produce and herbs were harvested from the gardens. We also implemented a program called A Fresh Start to a Healthier You. This program teaches a holistic adult-learning series that uses practical experience and information to help change lives and improve health. Participants also gain support and understanding from the instructor and other participants while learning how to provide safe, healthy, and economical meals for their families and themselves. Classes were held at New Gate Mission, Buckner, and Longview Bridges Out of Poverty. As we started off the new year at the schools, we partnered with three of Longview Independent School Districts (LISD) and one Pine Tree schools offering a ten-week

curriculum called Learn Grow Eat & Go (LGEG). LGEG is an evidence based, academically-rich program where students learn about plants, what they need, how plants provide for *our* needs and how a class can work together to provide for the garden. The BLT Grant provided supplies to build and maintain the garden while also offering craft items for lessons.

This year Gregg County AgriLife offered Money Smart which is a Family Economics program. We partnered with Austin Bank to provide this financial education curriculum designed to help adults enhance their money skills and create positive banking relationships. The primary target audiences are low and moderate-income adults, including those who do not have bank accounts and immigrants; and middle-income adults with limited financial savvy. There are 10 modules covering topics such as borrowing basics, bank on it and keep it safe. We started the group out with 10 participants and ended up with 6 graduates from the program. They each left with a vast amount of information to help with their economic growth.



Other Family & Community Health (FCH) Programs implemented in Gregg County were partnering with LeTourneau Nursing presenting a diabetes program called Do Well Be Well w/Diabetes to the residents of Arabella, providing approximately 41 articles to the Longview News Journal over Health, teaching nutrition at the Kids Adventure Camp and Marion County church camp, supervising 4-H fish camp in Brownwood. Also providing a workshop over LGEG to LISD teachers. Assisting with the Vaccine Awareness Coalition Back to School Immunizations clinic and all 4-H activities such as the kick off and food and nutrition

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workshop. We partnered with Harrison County hosting an Alzheimer and Dementia Conference and Upshur County to help judge the Yamboree.

Making a Difference

4-H & Youth Development

Texas 4-H is a club designed for youth grades 3rd-12th, and it's BIG! It's the largest youth development program in Texas with more than 550,000 members each year. No matter where you live or what your interests are, Texas 4-H has something that allows you to be a better you! You may think 4-H is only for your friends with animals, but it's so much more! You can do activities like shooting sports, food science, healthy living, robotics, fashion, and photography. Gregg County currently has approximately 55 4-H members to date and four community clubs, *Shiloh (White Oak Community Center)*, *Happy Hearts (Longview, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church)*, *Big Woods Archery (Longview)*, *Livestock, (Kilgore Community Center) Shamrocks, (County Extension Office, Longview)*, that participate in a wide variety of projects from Leadership, Livestock, Fashion, Food Science, Robotics, Shooting Sports and much more. The skills learned from these projects allow for the youth of Gregg County to develop life skills through responsibility, citizenship, humility and dedication.

Planning Groups:

Gregg County 4-H Council- The council is made up of 11 to 18-year-old 4-H members who have been selected by their peers to serve as a delegate on the county level. Their duties are to plan and implement county contest, events and programs.

Volunteer Leaders Council- This is a collected group of parents, leaders and volunteers to help in guiding our 4-H program through assisting the 4-H Council and managing events and fundraisers, as well as handling County 4-H funds.

Gregg 4-H Programing Committee- is a Coalition of teachers and community members whose focus is on the education of agriculture and natural resources, as well as, healthy lifestyle changes for all youth in Gregg County. The focus is to target areas of educational needs identified by teachers and administration through curriculum based outreach activities.

Projects:

Citizenship – To learn, lead, and make a difference in our community through the 4-H citizenship project. As our members learn more about our community and how to participate, they will learn about local government and Texas legislative process. Some 4-H members even decide to serve on community boards for parks or local community groups. Your leadership, communication, decision making skills will improve as you develop a sense of pride in your community.

Livestock- Members involved in the 4-H Livestock project (beef, sheep & goat, swine, rabbit, poultry) learn all about animal health and nutrition, breeding, selection and marketing. Members

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

can participate in market projects, breeding projects and even non-competitive projects. Make it your own! This is a great way to gain valuable life experiences while making lifelong friends.

2017 State Livestock Project Validations continue to be held with State Steer, State Fair of Texas Lamb & Goat Validation in June, State Lamb & Goat Validation in October and State Heifer Validation that is held in the spring and fall of this year.

Judging – Judging is a great way to learn decision making and public speaking skills. Through judging you are able to learn past the individual production of your project and apply your knowledge on an industry bases and learn valuable marketing skills. Gregg County currently participates in Meat, Dairy, Goat and Consumer Decision Making.

Quiz Bowl – Quiz bowl is an opportunity to demonstrate all of the information that you have gained through your project. This is a contest that will help members learn more about his or her project while getting the opportunity to compete. It is a team event where you compete against another team and whoever buzzes in first, gets to answer the question. This is another project that offers members the opportunity to learn past their individual project and learn key knowledge of an entire industry.

Fashion – Our 4-H members who are interested in fashion and being creative participate in the Clothing and Textiles project. In the 4-H this Project members learn to sew, how to be a good consumer when purchasing clothes, and the art of designing clothes and accessories, and careers in the fashion industry.

Shooting Sports – Members that enjoy the outdoors and hunting, love the shooting sports project! This project covers firearm safety and teaches responsible handling and use. This project is hands. Our members learn about a variety of firearms – currently our focus is in Archery and Shotgun.

Food & Nutrition- Preparing and serving food is a passion for our members who compete in the food & nutrition project! They learn kitchen and cooking safety, how to prepare nutritious meals and snacks, and meal ideas to reduce your risk of disease. Learning experiences focus on nutrition, food purchasing, food preparation, food safety, and related careers.

Robotics- Robots are all around us. From the food we eat to the cars we drive, robots help makes our life easier, more efficient, and simply more fun! The field of robotics is expanding at a rapid pace, and Texas 4-H is poised to help lead young people into this exciting field. Our members learn how to design, build, and program robots in an exciting and hands-on project. We build robots to do certain task; the robot can be whatever you can imagine it just has to complete the task. This is a great project for creative minds.

Youth Development

Garden-n-Gloves- This lesson allows student's hands on opportunities to plant flowers/vegetables and watch their entire growth of the seed to a flower. The students record the progress of the seeds and partake in experiments to show how the environment and other conditions effect the seeds growth performance.

Hatch in the Classroom – This lesson provides an excellent opportunity to learn the development of each stage from the egg to the chick. The students record changes in the eggs by checking fertile eggs, monitoring temperature and humidity and listening for chirps in the last stage of

growth. Educational activities include in-depth discussion on: egg formation, embryology, incubation and classroom experiments.

Stream Trailer – working model that demonstrates stream processes and best management practices for protecting and restoring our streams and rivers. The demo uses running water that travels over crushed, recycled plastic buttons, which represent sediment. It includes a range of props like houses, animals, and trees to represent structures in the real world that contribute to the state of our water systems. Stream Trailer lessons include topics like meandering rivers, vegetation, flooding, and sediment.

Science of Ag Day – Science of Agriculture Day is one of the best visual, classroom enrichment field trips and close-up learning experiences for students to learn about their local food and fiber commodities. The goal is to help students and adults learn, understand and appreciate where their food/fiber comes from, not just that they purchase them at the store. In addition, to food/fiber a focus of safety in agriculture all while students learn in a highly visual and technological way, how the items are produced and how they arrive at the store for our consumption. Approximately 450 students from Chandler Elementary in Kilgore participated in Science of Ag Day in the middle of November and three Longview ISD schools will participate with their 5th graders in another Science of Ag Day in December. Reaching an approximated total of 1,000 Gregg County youth from 3rd-5th grade.



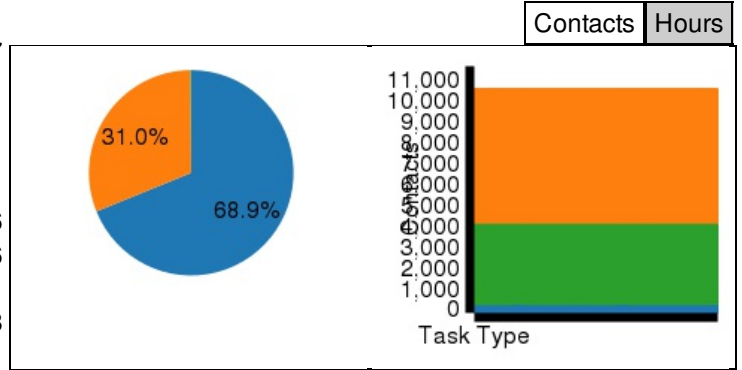
Texas Reporting Retrieval - Summary - Gregg

Total Contacts	51,708
Educational Events	10,771
Other Contacts	40,937

Educational Events

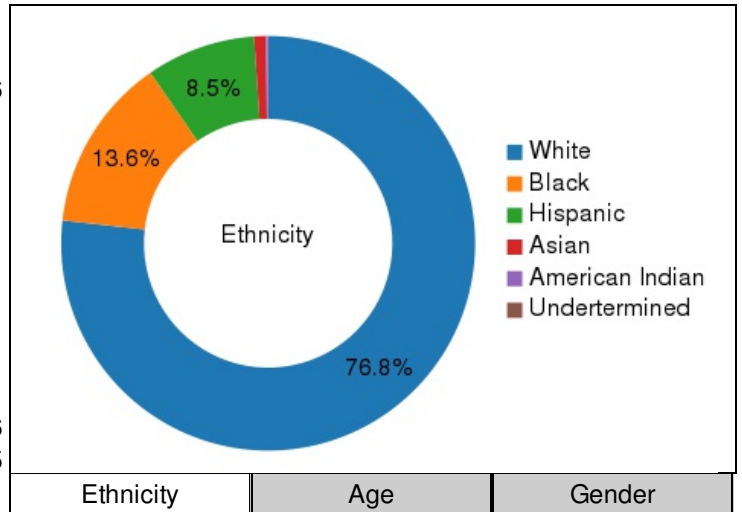
All Session Contacts	10,771	27,660
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Plan Level	Contacts	Hours
In-Depth	7,417	17,577
Outreach	3,342	10,071
Organizational Support	12	12
Task Type	Contacts	Hours
Planning Group	407	698
Educational Method	6,517	15,146
Interpretation	3,847	11,816
Delivery Method	Contacts	Hours
Face-to-Face	10,769	27,658
Technology Assisted	2	2



Demographics

Ethnicity	Contacts	Hours
White	8,268	22,586
Black	1,466	3,071
Hispanic	919	1,860
Asian	101	142
American Indian	17	1
Undetermined	0	0
Age	Contacts	Hours
Adult	7,632	20,371
Youth	3,139	7,289
Gender	Contacts	Hours
Male	5,053	12,756
Female	5,718	14,905



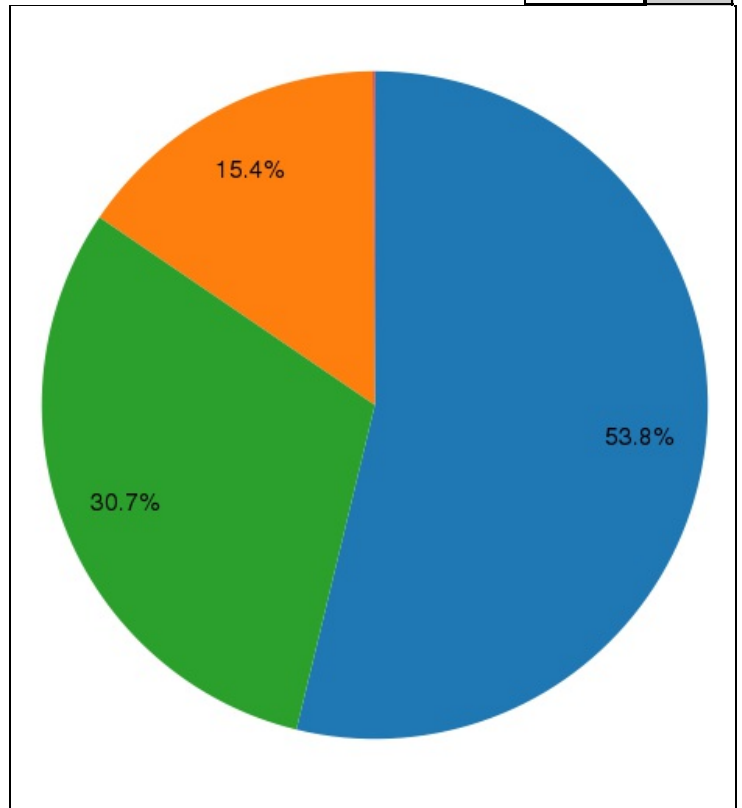
Ethnicity

Age

Gender

Breakdown - Gregg		Contacts	Hours
■ Randy Reeves	5,793	16,081
■ Trevor King	1,659	1,765
■ Tami Putnam	3,309	9,805
■ Cory Alvarado	10	10

Contacts	Hours
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289 Sessions reported as part of 271 Reports in 12 Plans. Of these, 183 session(s) were predominantly Adult Audiences, while 106 session(s) were predominantly Youth Audiences, and 1 sessions were Technology Assisted.

Other Contacts

All Contacts	40,937
Individual Contacts - Direct	8,759
Individual Contacts - Indirect	24,646
Newsletters	897
Editions	10
Educational Resources	4,213
Individual Contacts - Volunteer	2,412

Broadcast Mass and Social Media

Broadcast Mass Media Sessions: 2	Duration: 33	Distribution: 0
Social Media Posts: 357	Followers: 4,212	

Volunteer Involvement

Total Involved: 630 Hours Contributed: 1,043

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Gregg County

Extension Office Personnel

Randy Reeves – CEA - AG/NR
Tami Putnam – CEA - FCS
Trevor King – CEA - 4-H & Youth
Cory Alvarado – BLT Extension Assistant
Veronica Boykin - Office Manager/Secretary

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