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## Extension Education in Harrison County

Making a Difference  
2011

*Improving Lives.  
Improving Texas.*

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service has been dedicated to serving Texans

natural resources, family and consumer sciences, nutrition and health, and community economic development. Among those served are the hundreds of thousands of young people who benefit annually from Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

for nearly a century. The agency was established in 1915 under the Smith-Lever Act to deliver university knowledge and agricultural research findings directly to the people. Extension programs have continued ever since to address the emerging issues of the day, serving diverse rural and urban populations across the state.

Texans turn to Extension for solutions. Its agents and specialists respond not only with answers, but also with resources and services that result in a significant return on investment to boost the Texas economy. The agency custom-designs its programs to each region of the state, relying on residents for input and for help with program delivery. Here are just a few highlights of Extension's impacts on this county and its people:

Through a well-organized network of professional educators and more than 100,000 trained volunteers, Extension delivers practical research-based knowledge to Texans in all 254 counties. Our expertise and educational outreach pertain to the food and fiber industry,

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## **Harrison County – Summary of Educational Contacts**

- ☞ Total Educational Sessions Conducted - 230
- ☞ Total Contacts By Faculty & Volunteers - 184,694
- ☞ Total Educational Contacts by Volunteers - 41,566
- ☞ Total Contact Hours - 22,380
- ☞ Web Contacts - 2,645

## Improving Landscape & Adult Volunteer Management Skills in Harrison County Through Gardening - Harrison County Master Gardener Program

### Relevance

Five issues were addressed with this outcome plan:

- ✍ Volunteer development continues to also be another key issue that will be developed and targeted by this plan through community volunteer involvement from Master Gardener participants.
- ✍ Measure Knowledge Level of Earth Kind Practices by county Master Gardeners and the public is the first step toward conserving and protecting natural resources through the use of environmentally-friendly landscape management practices.
- ✍ Improper landscape fertilization increases the risk of surface and groundwater contamination from nitrogen and phosphorus. This threatens the preservation and protection of Texas natural resources;
- ✍ The improper use of chemical and organic pesticides in the landscape increases the risk of these materials damaging the environment. This issue is critical to the long-term health and safety of Texas citizens.
- ✍ Grass clippings and other landscape wastes are a significant source of materials entering landfills. This issue impacts the longevity of landfills and future needs to build new ones.



### Response

In Harrison County, two major program series were implemented to impact landscape management and improve adult volunteer development skills.

**Master Gardener Course** is an in-depth training program which provides 50 plus hours of in-depth instruction to an adult audience on various horticultural topics to prepare them to lead and instruct others in future programming efforts in horticulture related topics. Topics included in this in-depth training program included; Soils & Soil Structures, Basic Plant Fertility, Soil Testing, Insect Identification & Control, Plant Disease, Turfgrass Issues, Plant Propagation, Home Vegetable Production, Proper Use of Plant Materials, Composting, Basic Landscape Tree Care & Management and tours of the SFA Arboretum, Native Plant Center and commercial greenhouse operations in East Texas.

**Community Workshops** were presented in 2011. These programs were offered to the general public and featured the following topics; **Home Canning Workshop**, to prepare participants to choose and harvest fresh produce to be at their peak for canning, as well as the home canning process with demonstrations on this topic. **Holiday Decorating Workshop** was also held to allow participants a 'hands-on' type workshop showing decorating tips and ideas using natural, inexpensive plant materials around the home.

### Results

**Master Gardener Course** impact for the 2011 year was determined through a pre and post test that was conducted on the first day of the Master Gardener training class in January and the same test

(post), was implemented on the last day of class in March to find out what the participants learned as a result of the training program. Eleven out of sixteen participants completed the evaluation survey tool. There were also evaluation surveys completed at the end of some of the individual training sessions through-out the training program.

A total of seventeen (17) Master Gardener class participants for the 2011 class completed a pre and post test. The test consisted of 50 questions, with 52 scored answers. Each test was graded independently, based on the answers supplied by the class coordinators in the answer key. A summary of the results is below:

### **Statistics Based On Individual Questions:**

Students increased the number of correct answers on **45 of 52 (87%) of questions.**

The questions with the highest increase in correct responses are summarized in the table below;

Question	Correct Pre-Test	Correct Post-Test	Percent Increase
Normal number of chill hours in Northeast Texas	2	8	300%
Process by which soil is covered with clear plastic for sterilization	1	4	300%
Process by which a plant is rooted while connected to parent plant	1	4	300%
What is the female portion of the plant called?	4	12	200%
What are the symptoms of thrip damage?	3	8	167%
What causes cucumber fruit to be small & misshapen?	3	7	133%
Timing of Brown Patch and Take All Root Rot on Turfgrass.	3	6	100%
What are the components of the Disease Triangle?	2	4	100%
Best description of Brown Patch in St. Augustine grass.	1	2	100%
Perennials highly recommended for Northeast Texas.	5	9	80%
Importance of soil pH	4	7	75%
Causes of Blossom End Rot in tomatoes.	6	10	67%
Most important characteristic in a potting mix for tropical plants.	5	8	60%

### **2011 Master Gardener Program Notes...**

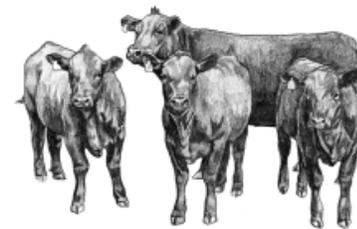
- Number of individuals that participated in the Gregg-Harrison County 2011 Class Training - **17**
- Total number of Master Gardener Volunteers (Harrison County) - **44**
- Estimated Total Number of volunteer hours provided by Master Gardeners & Interns in 2011 - **1800**, which is worth an estimated **\$36,000** to local government's in man hours volunteered.
- Number of youth reached through school enrichment programs - **849**

## Other Educational Programs in Agriculture/Natural Resource Areas;

### Beef & Forage Production

#### Relevance

Beef Quality Assurance and the Texas Beef Quality Assurance program continue to be an important issue in Harrison 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 if effect marketing issues.



Beef and forage production is still a major factor and contributor to the total agricultural income in Harrison County, accounting for over 25% 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 effect food safety and providing a wholesome, safe product for their families and beef producers need to be more aware of this issue as it relates to their product, beef cattle. Harrison County beef producers, under the direction of the Harrison County Cattlemen's Association, which 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 effect not only beef cattle management, but forage production practices as well.

#### Response

**The Annual Cattlemen's Crawfish Boil** is the major fund raiser for the Harrison county Cattlemen's Association. Funds raised with this event go toward the Annual Cattlemen's Association Scholarship program that awards a \$1000.00 scholarship to a well deserving Harrison County youth to attend college and further his/her educational needs.



**The 2011 Multi-County Silvopasture Program** was held in July and featured several speakers that discussed silvopasture topics that related to timber, as well as beef and forage producers from both Harrison and Panola Counties. The program showed how the two, beef, forage, timber production and wildlife management can all be managed for a quality income producing operation. The program was held in Carthage and was also co-sponsored by both Harrison and Panola County Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

**The 2011 Multi-County Beef & Forage Conference** was sponsored by Gregg & Harrison Counties, was also held in September. The conference focused on Planning & Management of Winter Pasture Programs as well as Cattle Feeding Stategies, due to the extream drought of 2011. The conference was held in Longview, Texas at the Gregg County AgriLife Extension office and featured Dr. Vanessa Corriher, Assistant Professor & Extension Forage Specialist from Overton, Texas. Dr. Jason Banta, Assistant Professor and Extension Beef Cattle Specialist with the Texas AgriLife Research Center in Overton, Texas was also a speaker on the program.

**The 2010 Annual Cattlemen's Association Meeting** was held in November with Dr. David Anderson, Professor and Extension Economist being featured as the program speaker for the evening. "Waht to Expect With Cattle and Feed Markets" was discussed, mainly due to the 2011 drought, as well as the presentation of the Bill Davis Award, which is presented each year to the outstanding cattle producer for the current year. The evening meal was sponsored by the Harrison County Cattlemen's Association.

## Natural Resource Programs

### Relevance

Will provide educational activities, as well as educational programs to Harrison County residents, based on recommendations of the Harrison County Natural Resource Committee. Subject areas will include forestry, farm pond management and wildlife. The goal To reach wildlife managers, as well as producers who manage their own lands for natural resource purposes.

### Response

**The 2011 Harrison County Farm Pond Field Day** was held in May in the Waskom area, the field day focused on Aquatic Weed Control & Management, Pond Design & Construction Issues and Water Quality & The Importance To Pond Fish Management. The program was also co-sponsored by The Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District, who provided the Noon meal.

**The 2011 Beaver Trapping Field Day** was held in June with local two local trappers from Harrison county covering Proper Trap Setting, Discuss Potential Damage on Local Pond Dams and When To Call A Professional as the main topics. The main high light was the demonstration of blowing up a beaver lodge with explosives. The Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District also sponsored the Noon meal.



**The Annual Multi-County Wildlife Informational Seminar** was held in September with Harrison and Panola Counties participating. The program focused on The Use of Remote Sensing Cameras In Deer Management, as well as MLDP Program & Brief Updates on Antler Restriction Regulations. Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Professor and Extension Wildlife from Overton & Fisheries Specialist and Charlie Muller, Private Lands Biologist with Texas Parks & Wildlife were the program speakers.

## Pesticide Safety Programs

### Relevance

Most agricultural producers in the county and the East Texas area have a TDA pesticide license in order to use restrictive use pesticides in their operation. Producers are required by Texas law to earn at least fifteen credit hours of CEU's every five years in order to keep the license current. The goal of educational effort is to offer agricultural producers viable, useful and up-to-date pesticide safety information, as well as product up-dates on newer products that are available for their use.

### Response

**The 2011 Multi-County Pesticide Credit Hour Program** was held in January, offering pesticide license holders a chance to earn 6.5 credit hours toward their pesticide license re-certification requirements. The program was held in Marshall at the Harrison County AgriLife Extension office and several speakers participated in presenting relevant information.

**The Private Applicators License Training Programs** were held twice, once in the spring in Longview and in the fall in Marshall, to allow for producers to earn and receive their private applicators pesticide license to enable them to purchase and use restricted use pesticides in their operation.

## Improving Health & Wellness in Harrison County 2010

### Relevance

Physical inactivity is associated with an increased risk of a number of chronic health conditions including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, some cancers, high blood pressure, as well as overweight and obesity. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2005, there were 3,196 people diagnosed with diabetes (9.8%) in Harrison County.

### Response

The Harrison County Family and Consumer Sciences Committee identified childhood obesity and diabetes education as a major need. **Walk Across Texas, Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes** and **Cooking Well with Diabetes** programs were offered in Harrison County. **Walk Across Texas** is an 8 week on-line program which encourages youth and adults to adopt a regular physical fitness routine. **Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes** is a Type 2 diabetes educational program designed to help individuals learn how to manage their diabetes successfully. The program consists of five nutrition lessons and four self-care management lessons. **Cooking Well with Diabetes** is a four lesson series where Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes graduates learn how to prepare nutritious, diabetes meals snacks. A coalition was formed to help teach classes, assist with marketing, registration, data collection, food preparation and gathering resources.

### Results

#### Walk Across Texas

72 Good Shepard Marshall Hospital employees, 48 Harrison County employees, 40 Panola Harrison Electric Cooperative employees, 120 Marshall High School students participated and logged 30296.63 miles. State Representative Bryan Hughes donated bottles of water to the high school students for their Mid-Way event. His District Coordinator, Courtney Smith, attended the event, distributed bottles of water and walked a few miles around the high school track with the students. "I have lost 25 pounds and I feel better." "The weekly newsletter kept me encouraged to continue walking." If participants continue walking as they did during Walk Across Texas, they have the potential to save a collective \$1,225,026 in future healthcare costs by avoiding Type 2 diabetes and reducing health care costs.



#### Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes

25 adults have completed the five week series course. Three graduates purchased a diabetes bracelet. 60% had a hemoglobin A1c test and it was below 7. 56% checked their blood sugar before meals. 50% rated their ability to control their diabetes as good. "I realize that I need to stop smoking to control my diabetes. After I smoke my last 5 ½ cigarettes, and I promise Ms. McDonald I will not smoke again." "One of my classmates and I plan to walk in the mall for 30 minutes about 2 to 3 times a week." "I will start reading food labels to help me select healthier foods." Participants have the potential to save \$1,237,049 in future health care costs for their remaining years of life if they continue to do as well as they were doing at the end of the series.

#### Cooking Well with Diabetes

Six adults completed the four lesson series. Participants had an opportunity to prepare meals that were low in fat, sugar and sodium. 100% learned one way to make food taste sweet is to add vanilla. 80% learned they can increase the fiber in their diet by eating more fruits and vegetables. "Thank you for introducing me to tasty diabetic



foods.” “I plan to prepare a few of the recipes we tested in class.” “I did not think I would enjoy the glazed carrots.”

## Future Plans

In an effort to continue to improve the health and wellness in Harrison County the Harrison County Family and Consumer Sciences committee and Harrison County Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes Coalition plan to continue to implement the same programs in 2011.

## Better Living for Texans

### Relevance

In Harrison County, an estimated 20,737 have incomes that are 185% of poverty or below; 11% receive food stamp benefits. Research has shown that individuals who live in poverty have dietary intakes that are not congruent with current recommendations (i.e. Dietary Guidelines or MyPyramid). This audience, like many, may not recognize their risk for foodborne illness. Stretching resources so food is available throughout the month is also a challenge.



### Response

The Better Living for Texans (BLT) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed) is offered through the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and funded via the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), and the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) of USDA. A component of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), BLT provides educational programs to food stamp recipients, applicants, and other approved audiences to help improve their ability to plan and prepare nutritious meals, stretch food dollars, and prepare and store food safely. BLT is delivered through a variety of teaching methods that reflect audience needs. Teaching methods include, lesson series, single education events, one to one consultations, demonstrations, and tours. The Harrison Family and Consumer Sciences Committee assisted with marketing and implementation of this program. During 2010, more than 25 Harrison County adults participated in the BLT *Eat Better to Live Better* series. This program focuses on meal planning, stretching food dollars, and adopting selected behaviors that can reduce the risk of foodborne illness.



### Results

Harrison County goal was to reach 60 participants in 15 one shot programs in 315 hours. This goal was exceeded. Evaluation of the Harrison County BLT series program with 24 adults was conducted via the use of pre and post surveys. As a result of this program, 54% will always wash cutting boards, knives and counter tops after cutting up raw meat or poultry, 50% will always compare prices during grocery shopping, and 33% will occasionally use unit pricing when purchasing food items.



## Harrison Extension Education Association

### Relevance

The Texas Extension Education Association was organized in 1926 as a way to strengthen and enrich families through educational programs, leadership development and community service by volunteer members of the

Association, in coordination with Texas AgriLife Extension TEEA functions exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes as a 501c3 organization.

## Response

The Harrison Extension Education Association consists of three clubs: Leigh-Lotta Latex Club, Town and County EEA Club, and Sabine EEA Club. There are twenty-seven members. These individuals have donated a total of 1700 volunteer hours in programs and community activities. The following are programs that members implemented:

**Connecting Generations (Part 2)**-individuals learn how to understand the importance of connecting generations for the emotional health of the elderly and gain insight into writing life stories.

**Laughter as a Natural Resource**-participants learn to assess their own humor traits and understand the connection of humor and laughter in supporting physical, emotional and mental health.

**Senior Medical Patrol: Preventive Medicare Fraud and Abuse** learn what constitutes medical fraud and abuse and distinguish between fraud and billing errors.

**“Roger”**-members will identify the root cause of mis-communication and learn how to build useful partnerships.

**Women and Heart Disease Red Dress Luncheon**-February is National Heart Disease Month. The Harrison Extension Education Association members held their Annual Women and Heart Disease Program and Red Dress Luncheon at Roseville Bed & Breakfast. Jennifer Kranzman, RN-MSN was the guest speaker she discussed how heart disease effects women more than men.

**Creating a Vision and Establishing Goals**-members will define visioning and distinguish between visioning and planning.

**Cultural Arts**-Cultural Arts featured Show & Tell, craft demonstrations and hands-on demonstrations. The Spring Cultural Arts theme was centered on the Hawaiian culture. Anna Alonzo, Harrison County 4-H Council secretary and Harrison County 4-H Homeschool club secretary served as the guest speaker. She discussed the Hawaiian culture. All attendees brought a homemade Hawaiian dish. Members participated in the County Cultural Arts Contest. The winners advanced to the District competition.



**Cornbread and Bean Luncheon Fundraiser**-The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Cornbread and Bean Luncheon Fundraiser raised over \$1,620.50 after expenses. Over 235 tickets holders at \$7 each attended the event. Carry out orders were also completed. The money each year is used for educational programs, conventions, training meetings and scholarships.

**Community Service Contributions**-Visit the sick and shut-in senior citizens Financial contribution the Harrison County Literacy Fund and Boys & Girls Club of Big Pines Harrison County 4-H scholarship fund. Donated auction items and money to the district and state for 4-H scholarships.

Donated funds to the Coins for Friendship to help support the state 4-H Center in Brownwood.



## Quilt Study Group

### **Relevance**

Quilting is becoming an lost art. Several female adults requested to start a quilt study group in 2004.

### **Response**

Due to low enrollment members decided to have a beginners quilt four week class in 2011. Participants met twice a week during the month of June. The course was a success. Twelve individuals from the course are currently participating in the quit study group. The Quilt Study Group meet each first and third Tuesday in the month to learn quilting techniques, fabric selection and different quilting patterns. They show their finished projects at Quilt Shows and in their study group. This year members made and donated lap quilts to seniors in nursing homes.



## Women and Heart Disease

### **Relevance**

Women are dying of heart disease at an alarming rate. Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of women regardless of race. Adopting a healthy eating lifestyle can help a women reduce her chances of developing heart disease.

### **Response**

Good Shepherd Medical Center-Marshall suggested they partner with the Harrison County Extension Office and offer a Heart Healthy Cooking Seminar. The Seminar was implemented two consecutive weeks. Participants learn how to prepare heart healthy snacks and meals. Hospital Foundation members were also presenters. During the third week, the hospital conducted an Annual Red Dress Luncheon.



## Improving Academic & Life Skills of Harrison County Youth - Harrison County Junior Master Gardener Program

### Relevance

The following three goals are being addressed with this outcome plan are:

### ***Understanding of Natural Sciences, Life Sciences, Interest and Academic Achievement in Science***

Texas schools are under many demands to perform well on the standardized TAKS test. Since the introduction of the test, students have been tested at various grade levels for achievement of skills in math, language arts, and writing. As a result of Senate Bill 103 and the introduction of Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), students are now tested on their ability to demonstrate an physical sciences, and earth sciences.

School districts are anxious to find science curriculum that will help students master the knowledge and skills required by the state mandated standards.



### ***Environmental Stewardship***

Landscape irrigation in Texas accounts for up to 40-60% of the total residential water use during peak summer months. Water conservation is a critically important issue for residents throughout the state of Texas. Moreover, proper use of fertilizers and chemicals wastes is important to the long term health and safety of residents in the county. Finally, programs that promote reduction of landscape wastes and recycling will assist in maintaining land fill availability. This issue is critically important in preserving and protecting our valuable natural resources.

### ***Healthy and Active Lifestyles Through Improved Diet and Physical Activity***

Experts continue to promote healthy diets and life styles including exercise, reduced fat diets, and increased consumption of fruits and vegetables as an important factor in maintaining long-term human health. Unfortunately, research studies indicate that a high percentage of youths do not eat healthy diets and exercise regularly, which has resulted in increased childhood obesity and poor nutritional eating habits. This issue is critically important to improving the health and well being of the children of Texas.

### ***Leadership Development and Community Service***

Juvenile crime, school violence, and in detrimental youth activities including drug/alcohol abuse, bullying, coupled with poor youth self esteem have been manifested in an increase of youth violence and crimes. A comprehensive prevention strategy that will engage youth in positive, worthwhile activities at an early age that foster leadership development, positive success and reinforcement, positive peer and adult role models, and engage youth in service learning projects are critical to improving youth quality in local communities..

### Response

# 4-H and Youth Development

In Harrison County, particularly within the Marshall Independent School District, a five million dollar federal grant through TEA was developed by the Boys & Girls Club of Harrison County for an aggressive after school program and was kicked off with the Marshall ISD. Program plans are to reach out to other school district in the county over the next year or two, but is being piloted here in Marshall. The Harrison County Extension office, as well as the Harrison County Master Gardener Association was contacted by the school district and the Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club to assist in the curriculum and to provide in-service training opportunities to local teachers and school administrators on the Junior Master Gardener Program. The following programs and activities were held this year;

**Junior Master Gardener In-Service Training** was held in August of 2011 at one of the local elementary schools here in Marshall, Carver Elementary. The in-service training was a day long program and was presented and taught by Harrison County Master Gardener Association members who had attended the National JMG Training that was held in College Station on the Texas A&M Campus.

All of the training materials, including a three-ring binder was prepared for all of the participating teachers and administrators that attended. As stated before the in-service training was taught by JMG certified Master Gardener Association members. The level one JMG activity books were also purchased by the Master Gardener Association, to act like seed money until the grant funds were made available later in the school year. It might also be noted that some school in the district will be following the traditional Junior Master Gardener program and will be incorporating the curriculum in the classroom and not an after school program.

## Results;

The results for the Junior Master Gardener program are early, as this program was not started until August of 2011 and ES-237 numbers will not be reported until summer of 2012. At the conclusion of the in-service training, an evaluation tool was distributed to all of the participants that participated in the in-service training program that was held in August.

Evaluation Ratings (15 received); Options range from 5 (Completely) to 1 (not at all).

- ☞ The objectives of the training were met - **15 out of 15 said completely (5).**
- ☞ This training benefitted my professionally - **15 out of 15 said completely (5).**
- ☞ The sessions were well organized. - **15 out of 15 said completely (5).**
- ☞ Would recommend this training to others? - **15 out of 15 said completely (5).**
- ☞ Do you feel more confident participating in the Junior Master Gardener program as a result of this training? - **13 out of 15 said completely (5).**
  - 1 out of 15 said yes (4).**
  - 1 out of 15 said average (3).**

# 4-H and Youth Development

## *Comments made by teachers as noted from the evaluation survey;*

- ✓ Excellent information that all elementary teachers can adapt to their curriculum.
- ✓ Students will love learning science & math as well as ELA!
- ✓ Gave tangible examples to bring back to the classroom to use as a visual tool.
- ✓ Awesome job! Very Fun! My kids will really enjoy this!
- ✓ Excellent program
- ✓ Awesome program!
- ✓ Keep doing the same thing, everything was wonderful & fun!

## **Relevance**

Youth leadership is a fundamental component of every county 4-H program. Youth need to learn how to serve through leadership to develop valuable knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors. By providing learning opportunities as well as application opportunities supports the continued development of these valuable skills in youth and help to lead the 4-H program at the local and county level.



## **Response**

The 4-H Leadership and Life Skills outcome plan was implemented in 2010. Three 4-Hers participated in the District 5 Leadership Lab conference. They learn how to become better leaders. Also as a result of this plan, 4-H council members and other 4-H members served in leadership roles at the Annual 4-H Achievement Banquet by assist with selecting the banquet theme, serves as the host/hostess and decorating the banquet room. Harrison County 4-H reached 605 youth through school curriculum enrichment programs, special interest programs and traditional 4-H clubs. 4-H members participated in hands-on learning experiences, projects and activities promoting individuals growth, teamwork, leadership and responsibility.



## **Relevance**

Oversee 4-H and youth development program including management of 4-H clubs/groups, Club Managers, volunteer leaders and work with partners to ensure effective functioning of the 4-H and youth development program. Also oversee the effective use of projects and activities while developing participating youth into contributing members of society.

## **Response**

Club officers were trained on officer responsibilities, parliamentary procedures and communication. Judges for contests such as Food Show, Consumer Decision Making, Photography were recruited and trained. The 4-H program was interpreted during National 4-H week to Commissioners' Court, key leaders and stakeholders. A monthly 4-H newsletter was prepared and distributed to over 145 4-H families. Each 4-H club meet monthly and provided the agent with a report. Two Senior 4-Hers presented a pirate theme workshop for children in Marshall at the County Extension Office. The children pretended that they were pirates on the lookout for treasure. They participated in many fun activities such as Cannon-Ball Pop, Talk-like-a-Pirate, and Hook the Treasure. The children learned about the food groups found on the pyramid and now know to choose healthier foods. They even got a surprise visit from a walking, talking



banana. Twenty-six kids attended the workshop and all had fun as pirates on their adventure. This is the second summer workshop held at the Harrison County Extension Office with more to come in the following years.

## Relevance

One day 4-H is a grass roots community service effort for 4-H youth to identify, plan, and implement a community service project that serves the needs of their particular community and/or county. One day 4-H teaches 4-H members the importance of giving back to their communities based on issues they see are affecting the lifestyles of the citizens. Throughout this process, youth have the opportunity to develop a partnership with adult volunteers as they plan and implement their service project. One day 4-H helps develop the core life skills of communication, responsible citizenship, contribution to group effort, teamwork, self-motivation, problem solving, service learning, planning/organizing, and social skills.

## Response

Harrison County 4-H members participated in the state wide one day 4-H event on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. They implemented three one day 4-H projects which consisted of can food drive, market the 4-H program, and conduct a game booth for youth at the Annual Fire Ant Festival. Total of fifty-five youth and adults assisted in making this event a success. Over 15,000 individuals learned about the 4-H program. Approximately 618 canned goods and \$405 dollars were collected and donated to the local food pantry. The local food pantry supervisor stated, "Thank you so much for these canned goods, they are an answer to prayers."



## **Annual Fried Green Tomato Contest**

Harrison County Extension Office partnered with the Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce and Harrison County Farmers' Market to implement the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fried Green Tomato Contest. The event was held at the Harrison County Farmers' Market in an effort to encourage citizens to visit the farmers' market. The contest was open to youth and adults. The entry fee was five dollars plus two canned food items. Approximately \$125 and 50 canned goods were collected and donated to the local food pantry.

## **Fire Ant Festival**

Fire Ant Festival is one of the primary festivals held in Marshall Annually. The purpose of the event is to celebrate how Harrison County tries to terminate the insects and boost the economy. Each year the Extension Office assists with one of the contests while marketing the Extension program.

## **Wonderland of Lights**

Wonderland of Lights is another major festival held in Marshall Annually. People from across the country come to Marshall, TX to view the Christmas lights. Visitors can also enjoy an outdoor skating rink and tour immaculate homes with Christmas decor.

The "Healthcare Reform and What It Might Mean For You" was presented in February and was sponsored by the Harrison County Leadership Advisory Board. Mr. Russ Collier, CEO of Good Shepherd Medical Center in Marshall was the featured speaker for the evening and presented information on the new healthcare reform issues that are taking place and what these changes might cause in our current healthcare system. The program was co-sponsored by The Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Harrison County Extension Leadership Advisory Board.

# Texas AgriLife Extension Service

## Harrison County

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