

Making a Difference

2016 Haskell County ANR In-depth Summary

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Relevance

The economic viability of Haskell County relies primarily on farming and ranching. The cotton, wheat and cattle industries remain the largest commodities for the county and account for 80% of revenue in the agricultural sector. Cotton accounts for \$30,000,000, wheat \$15,000,000 and cattle \$8,000,000. Extension programming within Ag and Natural resources allows for issue identification and education for producers and ranchers. The relevance of these programs is directly related to the strength and growth of Haskell County as well as the economic stability.

Response

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Haskell County developed programs with direct discussion with agricultural producers and agricultural committee meetings. Programs were developed addressing the needs of each commodity program. Newsletters to producers with agendas and supporting information are mailed prior to the meetings. Weekly Ag articles are circulated in newspapers to support each industry as issues need to be addressed. Wheat and cotton demonstrations as well as applied research plots provided statistical and practical data for producers.

- *Rolling Plains Crop Conference 1-19-2016 Multi County (86 attendants)*
- *Wheat Field Day 4-2016 (13 attended)*
- *Cattle Health Program- Trichomoniasis 7-6-2016 (51 attended)*
- *Haskell County Beef Cattle Conference 9-20-2016 (15 attended)*
- *Cotton Variety Trial Field Day 10-13-2016 (5 attended)*
- *Forage Demonstration Plots (3 Producers)*
- *Grain Variety Trials (3 Producers)*
- *Dryland Cotton Variety Trials (1 Producer)*
- *Irrigated Cotton Variety Trials (1 Producer)*

Programs were marketed through all means of mass media. Partnerships between Farm Service Agency, Texas Beef Council, Texas Department of Agriculture, Nex Gen, Fibermax, Delta Pine, and Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Specialist were utilized to aid in planning and implementing all educational efforts.

Results

A retrospective post evaluation instrument was used at the Rolling Plains Crop Conference to measure knowledge gained and adoption of specific program topics. 42% of participants responded to the evaluation instrument.

VALUE

Crop and Forage Production Education



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service programs targeted to producers of crops and forages are increasing profitability and productivity of farmers, thereby helping to build and sustain rural economies and support jobs.

Knowledge gained	Percent Change
<i>Best sugar cane aphid insecticide</i>	56.7%
<i>Resistant sugar cane aphid sorghum varieties</i>	49.0%
<i>New herbicide technologies</i>	27.3%
<i>New cotton technology varieties</i>	23.7%
<i>Soil erosion's effect on soil fertility</i>	22.7%

76% of respondents anticipate benefiting economically as a direct result of what they learned from the Rolling Plains Crop Conference.

A retrospective post evaluation instrument was used at the Haskell County Beef Conference to measure knowledge gained and adoption of specific program topics. 50% of participants responded to the evaluation instrument.

Knowledge gained	Percent Change
<i>Antibiotics and the use of dart guns</i>	46.7%
<i>Understanding Beef Quality Grades</i>	40.0%
<i>Stocker cattle health on wheat pasture</i>	33.3%
<i>Understanding of beef yield grades</i>	33.3%
<i>Nutrient requirements for replacement heifers</i>	26.7%
<i>Where mosquitoes breed and why it's important to manage those sites.</i>	26.7%
<i>Importance of rotating chemical classes of insecticides to prevent resistance.</i>	20.0%

80% of respondents plan to adopt at least 1 practice or technology discussed at the Haskell County Beef Cattle Conference. The overall anticipated economic impact for producers was \$20.50 per head of cattle.

Acknowledgements: Haskell County AG Committee

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE
Providing Solutions