

Making a Difference

2016 Haskell County Youth Water In-depth Summary

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Relevance

The relevance of the Youth Water Program is a state identified issue. Water continues to be one of the state's most important natural resources. Sustained and secure water resources are vital for economic growth, ecological sustainability, public health and food production. Haskell County primarily utilizes water from ground water wells. Haskell County is also a large farming county and utilizes water resources for irrigation. Therefore, a plan was developed to educate and demonstrate aspects of water quality and water conservation. From this program youth would be better educated on water topics that are a concern across Texas. Fourth grade students in Haskell ISD were targeted as they had not yet been exposed to water education.

Response

The response for the need of this program was primarily developed with fourth grade teachers of Haskell ISD and the Haskell County Leadership Advisory Board. The Agent and teachers met to discuss topics on water quality and water conservation. From this came the idea of several demonstrations being developed to educate the fourth grade classes in Haskell County. Freddy The Fish, erosion, oil spills, aquifers and water wells were all demonstrated to the students. The program was interactive as several students participated in the program. Water erosion was demonstrated by pouring water through sand. A fish bowl with a plastic fish lure was used for water quality as food coloring was added to the water to represent different pollutants. Rocks in a pool of water were also coated with food coloring and then sprayed with a water bottle to simulate rainfall on an oil spill. A straw was placed in the sand so that the importance of conservation and the relationship between wells and aquifers could be discussed.

12:00 p.m. 1st Class Youth Water Program 5-25-2016 (20 youth)

12:45 p.m. 2nd Class Youth Water Program 5-25-2016 (17 youth)


Results

37 Students were tested at the end of the program. Students had not previously been educated on the subject matter. The table below shows results for all students was in the 90th percentile range when tested with specific questions in relation to program subject matter.

Student Test Results with percent correct:

VALUE

Water Conservation Education



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension programs that teach farmers, homeowners, and business administrators to conserve water are helping reduce demand on the state's limited water resources. Texans benefit from a safer, more reliable water supply at no additional cost.

<i>Understanding how erosion occurs when water flows fast through sand and soil</i>	92%
<i>Understanding how oil can contaminate our waterways by ships and runoff from streets</i>	95%
<i>Understanding of how chemicals and fertilizer enter waterways</i>	92%
<i>Importance of placing animal waste from dogs and cats in proper containers</i>	90%
<i>Understanding how tributaries can carry water and pollutants into rivers and streams</i>	100%
<i>Understanding of water wells and the connection to surface water and rainfall</i>	100%

Acknowledgements

Mrs. Vickie Bredthauer – Haskell ISD Fourth Grade Teacher

Mrs. Jacy West – Haskell ISD Fourth Grade Teacher

Mrs. Wendi Parks – Haskell ISD Fourth Grade Teacher

Mr. Bill Alcorn – Haskell ISD Superintendent

Haskell County Leadership Advisory Board