

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN NUECES COUNTY



NOVEMBER, 2019



OFFICE OF NUECES COUNTY
 710 East Main Ave. Ste. 1
 Robstown, Texas 78380
 361.767.5223 Phone
 361.767.5248 Fax
 Website:
<https://nueces.agrilife.org>
 Email: nueces@ag.tamu.edu

EXTENSION STAFF

Kevin Gibbs
 Horticulture

Yvette Jacinto
 EFNEP

Kyle McManus
 4-H & Youth
 Development

Norma Muñoz
 Family & Community
 Health

Lynn Mutz
 Health Agent
 Healthy South Texas

Jason P. Ott
 Agriculture/Natural
 Resources

Lane Spannagel
 Asst. 4-H & Youth
 Development

Daisy Castillo
 BLT Extension
 Agent

Michelle Dehnert
 BLT Extension
 Agent

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

Agriculture & Natural Resources: We completed the harvest of 2 on-farm cotton demonstrations in August. Most producers within the county experienced good cotton yields that were slightly above average. I was tasked to be part of an AgriLife Hemp Team to gather facts needed by prospective growers about the crop, and visited several hemp growers in Colorado and Oklahoma. In September, I spoke at both the National Association of County Agricultural Agents and National Extension Disaster Education Network's national conferences on AgriLife's response to Hurricane Harvey and our EMAC deployments for Hurricane Florence and the Camp Wildfire. In October we worked with the Texas Corn Producers to offer a Farm Bill Workshop demonstrating a web-based decision tool available to assist growers in making decisions on the 2018 Farm Bill. A Texas Water Steward Workshop was held for 55 participants. A variety of continuous education for several professional licenses were offered for the program. A Crop Marketing Workshop was held on October 9th, to help growers develop appropriate strategies for dealing with production risk in a depressed crop market. Growers in attendance managed 23,500 acres and estimated an average direct economic benefit of \$9.50/acre or a total impact of \$223,250 from the program. On October 17th, 95 participants attended the Fall CEU Conference. The conference featured a brief tour of "Cover Crop and Tillage Research" being conducted and a Pest Identification Contest. Participants received \$9,500 worth of continuous education towards their pesticide licenses through this program.



Family & Community Health: The Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities program is back with energetic participation for the Fall planting season. There are currently a total of 10 garden sites with 118 garden beds. We have 152 adults currently participating. Participants are taught how to build garden beds and maintain and harvest the vegetables they grow. Recipe demonstrations utilizing the vegetables grown in their gardens are also provided to participants. Harvesting will begin mid-November. The Better Living for Texans program welcomes Michelle Dehnert to the Nueces County team. Michelle is the Extension Agent for BLT-Nutrition, and will be providing nutrition and physical activity programs for both adults and youth. Welcome Michelle!



Healthy South Texas (HST): Cooking Well For A Healthy Blood Pressure classes continued in partnership with Mission of Mercy and the Wesley Nurses (Methodist Healthcare Ministries) serving any community member interested in learning cooking techniques and positive behaviors related to chronic disease. The monthly diabetes support group continues to meet. Monthly, approximately 20 participate in supporting each other, discussing topics related to their disease and learning about healthy diabetes friendly recipes. A Health Talk Express Series began at the Humana Community office that will continue into November. Topics include "Pressure Down, controlling your blood pressure", "Act FAST to prevent a stroke", "Take Action to be Active", and "Take Action to be Medicine Smart." Everyone is welcome to attend. The schedule can be found at humana.com/corpuschristicomunity. The Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! youth gardens are underway! Gardens are being planted at Petronila Elementary and River Hills Christian Academy. 3rd grade students learn the process of vegetable production from planting to harvesting. Agents, volunteers, and HST Coalition met to discuss and plan for 2019-2020 programs. A physical fitness task force was created to assist in guidance and support of upcoming programs.



Horticulture: August saw the start of Master Gardener Intern training and Master Naturalist intern training. KEDT family day was a great success with 689 stopping by the Master Gardener Booth. The Horticulture Agent attended the TNLA (Texas Nursery and Landscape Association) Expo in San Antonio. The annual soil campaign kicked off in September. The Fall Home and Garden Show was very successful with 117 entries in the youth photography show and 115 entries in the youth plant show; with more than 6,000 in attendance at this year's show. Master Naturalists hosted Celebration of Flight at Hazel Bazemore Park. The Second annual Nueces Master Gardener Plant Sale had more than 200 in attendance at the Garden Senior Center in Corpus Christi. YWCA Gardening Classes celebrated the start of the fall gardening season with a Garden Tea Party.



4-H & Youth Development: Nueces County 4-H had its annual banquet in August where over 200 youth & adults were in attendance & recognized for their achievements. The guest speaker was Nueces County Judge Barbara Canales. Nueces County 4-H Council is back with its 2019-2020 newly elected officers. Early in September Nueces County 4-H hosted the 3rd annual Boot, Scoot, and Shoot fundraiser in Corpus Christi. 22 teams competed in the Shoot Competition in the morning and combined with the evening auction and dance, a total of \$34,000 was raised to support the 4-H program. 4-H Fun Day & One Day 4-H was held at the Richard M. Borchard fairgrounds where 4-Hers and their friends helped clean up the fairgrounds and participated in fun, team-building activities. 100 pair of traction socks were created and donated to Robstown Nursing Home and several donations were collected for animal shelters.



Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP): This quarter our unit participated in 8 outreach activities at Wellness events throughout the area. We also reached 390 adults in 109 classes taught with our Healthy Bites Healthy Moves (8 week) Curriculum. Our Youth Educators taught 1,390 students with our Professor Popcorn (6 week) Curriculum. We also hosted 2 Dietetic Interns.

