

Outcome Summaries:

- *Applied Research Trials*
- *Forage Insurance Meeting*
- *Livestock and Horse Judging*
- *County 4-H Camp*
- *Kelsey Beal elected to District 4-H Council*

Ochiltree County

Mission Statement

Improving the lives of people, businesses, and communities across Texas and beyond through high-quality, relevant education.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

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

AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

Applied Research Trials and Demonstrations

During the spring and summer months, a major portion of the program efforts shift to Applied Research and Result Demonstration trials. These trials serve as an excellent opportunity for crop producers to get a glimpse of how different applications of various management practices could affect their own production on their farm, if implemented. The grain sorghum producers in Ochiltree county are always interested in the replicated hybrid trials. The information provided in these trials enable them to evaluate how the different varieties perform under local growing conditions. Changing hybrid varieties is one of the easiest and least expensive way these producers can increase yields on their farms. A dryland and irrigated variety trial have been established with in cooperation with Extension, private companies, and two local producers as a cooperators. A fall field day is planned as well as harvest with the yield results to be made available to the public beginning in late November. Based on data from USDA, the average grain sorghum yield in Ochiltree county continues to rise each year. The information provided through these trials, such as these, are considered a major contributing factor in that production increase.

Other result demonstrations established in Ochiltree county for 2013 include a corn irrigation management trial, a grain sorghum irrigation management trial, a as well as a corn insect trapping and monitoring program .

The irrigation management trials are funded by the North Plains Water Conservation district. The main goals of the demonstrations are to maximize yields while applying irrigation water at efficient amounts and times. A field day to give the public a chance to review these demonstrations is planned for August 21.

Annual Forage Insurance

The USDA recently implemented a new insurance program for producers of small grains for forages— pasture, hay, and silage. Since it was a new program there was an expressed need from Ochiltree County producers to gain more information about the program. An educational seminar was held in early July with main principal developer of the program as a speaker. Twenty producers attended the meeting to learn more about this new insurance product as a risk management tool in their operation.



Erica Hefner and Scott Strawn

4-H and Youth Programs

The spring and early summer months can be a very busy time of the year for Ochiltree County 4-H members. Just some of the activities to mention, include livestock and horse judging contests. Shooting sports activities, entomology identification contest, dog project meetings and county dog show, County Camp and State 4-H Roundup.

The horse and livestock judging teams were very busy in the month of April attending weekly practices and competing in contests. Five members participated in horse judging under the direction of two adult leaders. The junior team competed in three contests and placed very high in all of them, including 1st place overall in district. The livestock team had 16 participants compete in two different contests. They were divided in to four teams each time. At least one of the teams was in the top three teams in every contest and most of the members received numerous individual awards, too many to mention. The highlight of the year was at district. Ochiltree county had the 1st place junior team in district for the consecutive fourth year! The Panhandle 4-H livestock judging contest is one of the largest district contests held each year.

County Camp is a popular camp held each year in cooperation with the three Oklahoma Panhandle counties and four Texas Panhandle Counties. Six Ochiltree County 4-H members attended the camp this year. Teen 4-H members from Ochiltree County were utilized as camp leaders and teachers. Workshops topics were a wide range of topics from sportfishing, shooting sports, recreational dance, leathercraft and leadership development.

In June three members attended the Panhandle District Leadership Workshop. They attended seminars related to developing their leadership skills as 4-H members. One highlight of the workshop was the election of District 4-H Council officers. Ochiltree County 4-H member Kelsey Beal was elected as the Health and Safety Officer to the District Council for the 2013-14 4-H year. Congratulations Kelsey!

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