

- *Cotton production Meeting*
- *County Livestock Show*
- *Corn Conference*
- *Science Camp*
- *Safe Passenger Safety Check*

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 and 4-H PROGRAMS

The winter months are always a good time of the year to hold producer meetings in Ochiltree County. Two different meetings were held in January and March with the primary focus on crop production and water conservation. Both of these meetings were scheduled as a result of the Ochiltree County Ag Committee requesting more information related to irrigation management. More producers are considering converting more of their irrigated acres to cotton due to irrigation risk management. A cotton production meeting was held with subject matter ranging from marketing, insect management, variety selection, irrigation management, weed control, and other general management considerations. In March, the 1stst Annual Northeast Panhandle Corn Conference was held. Seventeen producers from Ochiltree and surrounding counties attended and received the latest research based information related to corn production. The major theme of the corn meeting was irrigation management due to the fact that corn is such a high water use crop. The results of the Efficient Profitable Irrigation in Corn or EPIC program were presented along with updates from the North Plains Water Conservation District. Producers attending both meetings were surveyed to find out the effectiveness of the information provided. They were also asked what dollar value per acre the information was to their individual operation. That number came to \$20.00 per acre on average.

January through March was a busy time for 4-H families and volunteers in Ochiltree County. In addition to regular club meetings and a variety of project activities, livestock shows took center stage for many Ochiltree County 4-Hers. Considerable amount of time was spent daily by members, parents and volunteers managing beef, sheep, swine and goats for show. The extension service played a vital role in providing technical guidance and training with the participants to prepare for competition. The Ochiltree County show was held January 27. Fifty Four 4-H members entered 81 head of livestock in the beef, swine, sheep and goat divisions. Each member participating had the opportunity to sell one item in the premium sale. This years sale receipts totaled over \$300,000 which is the second highest recorded. 12 4-H members participated in the Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio Livestock shows in February and March. Currently there are 24 members judging horses and livestock and preparing for the District contests in April.



Erica Hefner and Scott Strawn

Family & Consumer Science

Extension started the new year off with the task of feeding all those who partook in the county stock show events. Scheduling volunteers and preparing food for over a thousand people was daunting, however, including TEEA members to fill in holes helped make all efforts a huge success.

Crockin' Crazy : Eating with Erica turned out to be a huge success with the downtown workers and courthouse employees, all took home safety information and recipes after enjoying lunch in the courthouse kitchen with Judge Earl McKinley.

Spring Break Science Camp made its debut in the county and made a difference in 84 kids. The collaborative effort included robotics, weather, Legos, horticulture, water and topography studies, mechanics, physics, and human biology.

Safe Passenger Car Seat Check Up Event also

made its first debut in the county. This was a wonderful partnership between the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Passenger Safety Project, Ochiltree County Extension, the Immaculate Conception Church in Perryton, Texas Department of Transportation, and Ochiltree General Hospital. The proper use of child safety seats reduces

the risk of injury and death, leading to reduced medical costs, avoidance of lost future earnings, and improved quality of life. The total economic impact for the inspections at the event on March 27th is \$28,211.



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