

Rains TEEA Clubs Win District Awards

The primary focus of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Family & Consumer Science Agents is to provide educational programming in the areas of health, wellness, and nutrition in their respective counties. However, we also provide training in other areas such as youth and 4-H development, strong families, diabetes, and other areas as directed by our local coalitions. One constant in our continuing programming strategy has been a partnership with the Texas Extension Education Association (TEEA). Their name and structure have changed over the years, but their mission and goals remain closely parallel to those of the Extension Family and Consumer Sciences programs.

TEEA is a separate organization from Extension, but has a rich history of a partnership has been the foundation for strengthening families and communities through Extension's educational programs. Extension agents provide support to TEEA club officers and members through leadership training and subject matter programming.

Rains County has two TEEA clubs, the Crafty Ladies and the Piecemakers. There are approximately 40 members between the two clubs. Not only do they support the Rains County Family & Consumer Sciences Agent, but they also provide leadership at the district and state levels of TEEA. Some of their other activities include hosting a Valentine Party for the local nursing home, food drives for Good Samaritans, toy drives for the Angel Tree project, host the annual Quilt Show on Founder's Day and help chair the Rains County Fair Creative Arts Exhibits. They also learn the skills and techniques of hand and machine quilting and craft projects as a part of their monthly meetings.

Recently at the District IV TEEA Spring Conference, several members were recognized for their leadership and work. Kaye Pressley was awarded the 2017 Texas Treasure Award. She is active in both clubs and has also served as president, county chairman, and as a district and state delegate. Kaye works tirelessly with Extension programming, 4-H programs, Rains County Fair Creative Arts exhibits, and local quilt shows. She was nominated for this award by the late Kay Chastain who wrote on the application, "Kaye is our true Texas Treasure. With a kind and loving heart she graciously serves others."

The 2017 Texas Leadership Award was also presented to Rains TEEA members, Linda Smith, Kaye Pressley, Cindy Pollard and the late Kay Chastain. These ladies have all served in various leadership positions over the years and consistently attend the state conference for professional development. They then present the state programs to the members of both clubs, as well as, at the district level. Throughout the year this group works together to provide leadership not only in their organization, but in the community. They have developed confidence, poise, speaking ability, and leadership through their club work, and it has helped them grown and serve other areas of their families and community

The Crafty Ladies Club meets the second Thursday of each month at the Texas A&M AgriLife Conference Center at 1:00 p.m. and the Piecemakers Club meets the third Monday night of each month at the Texas A&M AgriLife Conference Center at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in more information or joining one of these clubs, please contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at 903-473-4580 or visit us at rains.agrilife.org. We are also on Facebook at [Facebook.com/pages/Rains-County-Family-Consumer-Sciences](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rains-County-Family-Consumer-Sciences).