

Outcome Summaries:

- *Irrigation/Water Use Efficiency*
- *4-H AG/NR*
- *WaterWise*
- *Family & Consumer Science*
- *4-H & Youth Development*

Sherman 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 & Natural Resources

This first quarter is once again the time of year in which we put together meetings and plan for the upcoming year. We started off the year off with a cotton meeting in Dumas between the Moore and Sherman County Extension Offices in January. The following day I attended the High Plains Irrigation Conference put on by former Extension Specialist Nich Kenny in Amarillo. This was a day long conference covering all facets of irrigation including new technology available to producers and ways to implement it into our current research. I attended a training online in February discussing crop insurance and changes to the programs over the past couple of years. This training was designed to better help me understand how crop insurance works and help producers make informed decisions.

I held an Irrigation Strategies Meeting in Stratford later on in February for producers to discuss the various technologies available to help producers conserve irrigation on their corn crop while at the same time maintaining or increasing yields. We have completed two years of research using some of the latest technology available such as Pivotrac, AquaSpy, and AquaPlanner to monitor soil moisture levels and determine when to apply irrigation. After two seasons and seven fields that have been in the demonstration, our average water savings are 2.8 inches of water per field with an increase of 20.6 bushels per acre. This correlates to an average increased profit of \$149.86 per acre. After two seasons we feel that we are really on to something if we can convince more producers to adopt this technology. We are starting to work with different producers now, which is why I have chosen a different producer for this third year. We were recently approved for the grant funds for 2013 to continue our work this year by the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District. After a couple of meetings this year to discuss the program and future of the demonstration without an Irrigation Specialist they agreed to fund it. My demonstration will be at the farm of our new water district representative.

I attended a cotton training and a wheat disease training, both online to further my knowledge in these respective areas. With depleting water supplies and increasing cotton acres, cotton will likely become a growing commodity in the future. Wheat diseases are a concern from time to time, especially viral diseases such as Wheat Streak Mosaic, which can be difficult to diagnose. This training

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Jill Killian and Brad Easterling

I have been making plans to continue the result demonstrations that I have been establishing over the past couple of years including the EPIC, Reduced Irrigation Trial, and my cotton variety trial. I am also going to collect Corn Earworm, Western bean Cutworm, and Fall armyworm moths again this year in local corn fields to assist our Extension Entomologist with an emergence model that he is building to predict when these insects will most likely come out and attack corn.

4-H & Youth Development

We held our county stock show in January and while most all of our numbers were very consistent from previous years our sale once again topped an all time high of \$121,000. That is an average price of \$2200 per exhibit sold. Our sale is twice what it was two-three years ago. We once again had around 200 people come up to the county barn for the sale and enjoy and evening with a steak dinner. It is not the local event that it used to be, but it is definitely growing. We sent hogs to Ft. Worth as well as sheep to San Angelo this year.

Our 4-H Rifle Program is off to a fantastic start this year. The youth are practicing at least once a week in preparation for the upcoming District and hopefully State competitions. We have 25 youth shooting this year with 5 coaches helping out. As always, we could use a few more coaches and then we could coach a few more shooters.

Over 30 4-H members participated in some aspect of the 4-H Clothing & Textiles Project - clothing construction, buying, storyboard design contest, arts and crafts show and attending a craft rodeo. Sherman County had one of the largest 4-H Fashion Shows in recent years. Two senior 4-H members are competing in the State 4-H Photography Contest and the senior Nutrition Quiz Bowl team is diligently practicing weekly to prepare for the state contest.

Family & Consumer Science

I prepared newsletters for 75 low income families receiving food boxes from the community food bank. Topics included food safety, nutrition, food storage and recipes to utilize produce and cook nutritious meals with products they receive. Newsletters are distributed in English and Spanish. 50 members of the Sherman County Older Texans (SCOT) learned about the importance of balance and physical activity and the program series "A Matter of Balance".

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