



Extension Education in Wise County
Making a Difference

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has long been dedicated to educating Texans. Extension education evolved nationwide under the 1914 federal Smith-Lever Act, which sought to extend university knowledge and agricultural research findings directly to the people. Ever since, Extension programs have addressed the emerging issues of the day, reaching diverse rural and urban populations.

In Texas, all 254 counties are served by a well-organized network of professional Extension educators and some 100,000 trained volunteers. Extension expertise and educational outreach pertain to the food and fiber industry, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, nutrition and health, and community economic development.

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Providing Solutions*

Among those served are hundreds of thousands of young people who benefit annually from Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

Texans turn to Extension education for solutions. Extension agents and specialists respond not only with answers, but also with resources and services that result in significant returns on the public's investment. Extension programs are custom-designed for each region of the state, with residents providing input and help with program delivery. Here are just a few highlights of Extension impacts on this county and its people.

Wise County – Summary of 2014 Educational Contacts

County Seat	Decatur
Area – Total	905 sq mi
Population – (2000)	59,415
Density	66/sq mi

2013 Contact Summary

Education Programs	
Programs Presented	613
Total Group Participants	29,218
Contact hours-	20,597

Educational Contacts

Office Visits-	4,023
Site Contacts-	2,548
Phone Calls-	12,256
Mail/Email Contacts	31,953
Newsletters	1,700
News Releases	120
Website, Facebook, Blog & Twitter	21,200

Volunteer Involvement

Clientele Reached	12,351
Volunteer Hours	6,247



**Agriculture and Natural Resources Projects
Developed by Todd Vineyard, CEA-Ag, Wise County**

The **Wise County Livestock and Forage Committee** focused on Beef Cattle Profitability for 2014 with a focus on a hands on approach. Programs conducted in 2014 were:

Pasture Management program that focused on renovation of Bermuda grass pastures and weed control for improved and native pastures. Dr. Larry Redmon, Professor and Agronomist Specialist with Texas AgriLife Extension Service and a representative with DOW Ag. Products were utilized as speakers. 102 present

A hands on **Cattle Sorting** program was conducted for producers to learn how to move and sort cattle on foot through pen scenarios that reduce stress and on cattle. Dr. Ron Gill, Professor and Extension Beef Cattle specialist provided the presentation. 35 present



A **Horn Fly Control Demonstration** was conducted with the new Vet Gun technology. Two small herds were used as the treatment and control herds. Results will be posted in 2015 for immediate information. This will be ongoing research to determine the effectiveness of treatment.

The **Rancher's Gathering** focused on the Farm Bill and how it affects cow/calf and forage producers. The Livestock Feed Supplement program for 2011-14 was addressed as well. 192 in attendance.

The first annual **Wise County Hay Show** was conducted. The 2014 Hay Show featured 34 samples and 76 in attendance for the program. The Hay Show auction to support the Wise County Youth Fair raised \$2045. Dr. Larry Redmon, Professor and Agronomist Specialist with Texas AgriLife Extension Service provided information to assist producers in interpreting their hay sample results and how they can improve production in the future.

RESULTS

405 Producers participated in four programs geared towards Beef Cattle Profitability. Of the 138 producers who attended the Rancher's Gathering 77 producers, representing 5078 head of cattle, filled out evaluations. 97.2% of the producers who attended learned the value of purchasing insurance to cover the grazing losses during a drought. 100% of the attendees understand that you may not use your own rainfall data in order to determine their insurance indemnity payment. 63.8% of the producers felt the program would benefit them economically. Of those the estimated amount per head that they would benefit through increased productivity or decreased cost; 58.8% felt the increase would be \$1 to \$5 per head, 35.2% felt they would increase by \$6 to \$15 per head and 5.8% would increase by more than \$25 per head.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Noble Foundation Grazing Workshop - Conducted at Livestock and Forage committee member ranch. Producers learned the effects of grazing rotation and how it affects forage production.

Pecan School 101 - Agent utilized Noble Foundation Pecan Specialist – Dr. Charles Rohla to provide education to producers that have small pecan orchards or thinking of starting an orchard on: site selection, irrigation, cultivation, pruning, and variety selection.

TDA Applicators License Trainings

TDA applicators license trainings were conducted throughout the year as classes of fifteen fill. In 2014 we conducted 5 trainings with 28 in attendance.

5 Hour CEU Program

The annual **5 Hour CEU Program** was conducted with 127 in attendance. Various speakers were used to discuss topics such as: Pond Management, Trees Dying “Drought or Disease”, New Technology in Weed Control, Beef Cattle Fly Control and Internal Parasites, and Laws & Regulations.



Result Demonstrations For 2014

Vet Gun – Horn Fly Control Demonstration
 Mesquite – IPT Foliar Treatment
 Prickly Pear Control IPT
 Fence Line Brush Control Options IPT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wise County Livestock and Forage Committee provides direction and support for these and other programs that impact quality of life in the county. Livestock and Forage Committee met 4 times in 2014.

Greg Byers	Preston Cocanougher	Brennan Williams
Carroll Collier	Roland Davie	Ric Wilson
Roger Gentry	James Haynes	Dr. Don Woller
James McGilvray	Mickey Scarborough	Tracy Meadows
Larry Stenzel	Wade Watson	Carla Payne



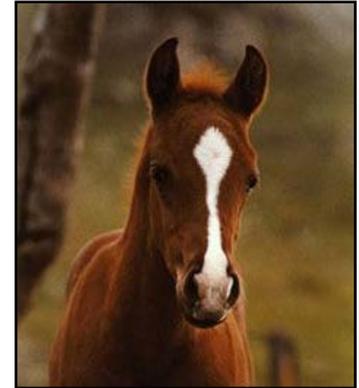
Extension Horse Committee

Developed by Todd Vineyard, CEA-Ag, Wise County

The Wise County Extension Horse Committee was very busy in 2014 once again working to plan and organize the 2014 Wise County Stock Horse Extravaganza and working with youth horse projects.

The Horse Committee provides leadership to youth with horse projects in training for the District 3 and State 4-H Horse Shows. Committee members also provide leadership to the 4-H Horse Club and the 4-H Horse Judging and Hippology projects.

The Wise County Horse Committee hosted the third annual *Wise County Stock Horse Extravaganza*. Once again we hosted the largest ASHA show of 2014 with over a 100 riders. The committee utilized 28 volunteers to conduct the show. The Wise County Stock Horse Extravaganza also has a sanctioned Collegiate Show.



The Committee utilized its profits this year by rewarding three 4-H members who have participated in the State 4-H Horse Show and representing Wise County by awarding them each a \$1,000 scholarship.

Acknowledgements

Wise County Horse Committee provides direction and support for these and other programs that impact quality of life in the county. Horse Committee met 7 times in 2014.

Billy Stout
Greg Byers
Marilyn Christopherson

Fields Richardson
Joan Martin
Sharon Baumgartner

Sally Sandford
Stacy Baumgartner
Tamra Lewis



Improving Health and Wellness in Wise County

Developed by Tanya Davis, CEA-FCS, Wise County

RELEVANCE

The Wise County Leadership Advisory Board has identified health and wellness issues as top priority for programming in Wise County. Nearly two out of three (64%) of U.S. adults are overweight or obese. According to data from the Department of State Health Services, 38% of Wise County residents are overweight and 26% of residents are obese. Adult overweight and obese individuals are at increased risk for a variety of healthcare issues. Physical inactivity is also associated with an increased risk of a number of chronic health conditions including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, some cancers, high blood pressure, as well as overweight and obesity research indicates that only 43% of adults and 25% of high school students get regular, moderate exercise. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, 25% of women in Wise County are at risk for cervical or breast cancer due to lack of screening. When considering child passenger safety, misuse and non-use of child safety seats remains high.

RESPONSE

Nutrition/Physical Activity Education

- **Walk Across Texas (WAT)** is an 8 week on-line program to help people of all ages support one another to establish the habit of regular physical activity. For 8 weeks, teams of 8 people, school classes, or individuals walk 830 miles across a map of Texas. The program was conducted in 2014, reaching **115** adults. Seven weekly newsletters were sent to WAT email subscribers which updated them on current standings and educational information available on the WAT blog.
- **Step Up and Scale Down** is a 12 week curriculum series intended to help Americans choose a healthful eating plan with their calorie requirements to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. The series was implemented with **10** participants who attended 8 of the 12 classes. Weekly recipe demonstrations were held in addition to the weekly lesson. Weekly reminder news letters were emailed to participants on Friday afternoon, prior to the Tuesday class.

Cancer Education

Friend to Friend encourages women to get regular mammograms and Pap tests for the early detection of breast and cervical cancer, when the disease is most curable. This project's goal is to decrease breast and cervical cancer morbidity and mortality for women living in rural Texas counties by improving screening rates and early detection of cancer. Thirty-eight women attended the Friend to Friend event on November 3 at the Bridgeport Estates Meeting room.

Passenger Safety

The Passenger Safety Project of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension works to reduce deaths and injuries from motor vehicle crashes by increasing the use of child restraints and safety belts. The project's emphasis is on increasing the use of child safety seats across Texas.

RESULTS

Walk Across Texas

Team captains logged miles for their team members each week on the state web site after registering team members. The data was analyzed showing the number of team members, average age, total mileage, and economic impact for team members.

# of Walkers	# Completing 8 weeks	# Increasing wkly. dist. walked over 8 wks.	Miles Walked	Potential Health Care Savings	Number that could avoid or delay developing diabetes
115	83 (72%)	22 (19%)	27,720	\$1,087,484	18

The following responses in the wrap up surveys of *Walk Across Texas* conveyed how the participants benefited from being a part of the program.

- ✓ *Being on a team really motivates you to do more. It is really fun seeing the mileage add up and the fun competition with the other teams, even though you don't personally know them. It has been great!*
- ✓ *This made me more aware of how much exercise I was doing each day. I plan to keep up with logging my miles each week on my own*
- ✓ *Watching all of my coworkers getting healthy and feeling better along with me*
- ✓ *I like that it was free and my family did it together*
- ✓ *I like the WAT newsletter, which made me aware of the amount of exercise others were doing*

Step Up & Scale Down

- 17 people registered for the Step Up & Scale Down program series in Decatur.
- 10(58%) people completed the 12 week series.
- A total of **104 pounds** was lost by 10 individuals that attended at least 8 of the 12 classes.
- Use of calorie information at fast food restaurants more than doubled from beginning **20%(2)** to **70%(7)** at end of series.

Weight loss is a long and challenging process for most adults. While all participants who completed the program series did not lose a significant amount of weight overall, there was evidence of the adoption of several health habits that may lead to more positive health benefits down the road. The following responses in the wrap up surveys of *Step Up and Scale Down* conveyed how the participants benefited from being a part of the program.

- ✓ *I loved being held accountable each week for the weigh in*
- ✓ *I am buying more colorful fruits and vegetables. I loved that week's challenge*
- ✓ *It was great to be encouraged each week by the instructors*

The following statement came from a participant who spends her winters in Texas with family and then returns to home in Idaho for spring, summer and fall.

Family and Consumer Sciences

- ✓ *Thanks for a wonderful class. You have such a great way of presentation along with encouragement to do better. I will share your ideas in classes I teach in Idaho.*

Friend to Friend, Staying Healthy Together

- Of the **31** women who attended, the median age was **64**
- **Nine** people were on the planning committee
- At the end of the event, **93%** of women correctly identified the need for a mammogram screening every year.
- **Nine** women requested help to navigate screening and diagnostic services. They were referred to Mary's Gift and to Wise Regional for services



Passenger Safety Program

- There were **15** children who received booster seats through the Booster Buddy program. 16 adults received instruction and viewed a demonstration on how to properly install the booster seats. Four safety seat inspections and **2** new installations took place at the Extension office.
- 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.



Helping People in Wise County Eat Better and Safer

Developed by Tanya Davis, CEA-FCS,
 Connie Shawn, Better Living for Texans, Assistant

RELEVANCE

Each year, an estimated 1 in 6 people become ill from the food they eat. More than half of all foodborne diseases are attributed to improper food handling in restaurants. Food safety education is a critical prevention component for reducing the risk of foodborne diseases.

In Wise County, an estimated 4841 individuals receive benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), historically known as the food stamp program. Studies have shown individuals who live in poverty (including SNAP recipients) have dietary intakes that are not congruent with current recommendations (i.e. Dietary Guidelines or MyPlate). Dietary behavior change can be difficult and requires knowledge, skills, motivation and an environment conducive to change. This audience, like many, may not recognize their risk for foodborne illness. Stretching resources so households don't run out of food is also a challenge.

RESPONSE

- **Dinner Tonight-** This program encourages family mealtime by providing quick, nutritious, cost – effective recipes to consumers through weekly video webcasts and other web-based methods. Every Monday, a new video demonstration is released by the Dinner Tonight team. In addition, the Dinner Tonight Healthy Cooking School provides an opportunity to bring people together to further the mission of teaching families about healthy meal planning and food preparation
- **Food Protection Management-** To promote the goal of serving safe food, food managers and handlers in Wise County were offered the two day Food Safety, It's Our Business-15 hour course. The course is followed by an approved Department of State Health Services exam. Extension agents in a six county area alternated hosting the site so that the Food Safety It's Our Business course was offered bi-monthly Administration of the program included collaboration of marketing, teaching, and testing. Two 15 hour courses were offered in Wise County that reached 11 food managers. Four two hour food handler courses were offered that reached 54 local food handlers and cottage business owners.
- **Better Living for Texans (BLT) -** During 2014, more than 216 Wise County adults participated in the BLT Back to Basics, Don't Good Bugged, Choose My Plate, or Three Easy Bites and Get the Facts series. These programs are a cooperative endeavor among AgriLife Extension, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of USDA. The program series focused on five topic areas: Meal planning, food



Family and Consumer Sciences

safety, label reading, stretching food dollars and healthy food choices, BLT is delivered through a variety of teaching methods that reflect audience needs.

RESULTS

Dinner Tonight

- 51 video demonstrations were released reaching a weekly email list of 202 subscribers (10302 contacts)
- The Dinner Tonight Cooking School reached 51 people. All Extension staff members assisted with the event. Ag/Natural resources Extension agent, Todd Vineyard, joined the [Dinner Tonight](#) program team by presenting information that connected the Wise County beef industry to serving up a quick and easy, yummy and highly nutritious steak salad!
- Evaluations indicate the event was highly successful in impacting family nutrition.
- Participants ranged in age from 11-87 years.
- Ninety-three percent (n=47) of participants rated the Cooking School as “good” or “excellent”.
- Fifty percent of participants planned to modify their recipes by reducing sodium or fat.



Better Living for Texans (BLT)

All program series were conducted via the use of a pre, post, and 30 day follow-up survey for 283 participants, 216 of those participants completed the pre, post, and 30 day follow-up.

- Participants were primarily female (66%) and from a variety of ethnic backgrounds.
- Forty-eight percent (n=103) of the participants received SNAP benefits;
- Seventy-eight percent (n=168) had received food from a food pantry in the previous 30 days.
- In addition to Healthy Eating tips, the importance of increasing physical activity was presented in the form of activity stations.

Adoption of behaviors

- The percentage of participants who “never” thawed food at room temperature rose from 15% upon entry to 64% after the program ended.
- For participants who completed the pre, post, and follow-up surveys, the percentage who rated their perceived ability to prepare nutritious meals as either “good” or “very good” was 72% before BLT pre survey and 98% after BLT (30 day survey).
- At the beginning of the program, almost 80% of the participants allowed frozen foods/meat to thaw at room temperature ‘always’ or ‘sometimes’. Thirty days following completion of the series, the percentage of participants who were ‘never’ thawing food at room temperature had risen to 63%(up from 19% pre and 56% post)
- More participants reported label reading from 19% (pre survey) to 71% (follow up survey; 30days following the series)

Participant behavior improvements

- Positive behavior change reported by participants when asked “what changes have you made?”
 - Always reading nutrition labels and we’re including our children in the process
 - I now check the amounts of salt in food that I buy.
 - I check the nutrition label for calories and don’t eat as much as I did

Texas Extension Education Association

The mission of the Texas Extension Education Association is to work with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to strengthen and enrich families through educational programs, leadership development, and community service. Wise County EE members take this mission statement to heart and continually set goals to improve their quality of life through participation in research based educational programs and also develop leadership skills. In 2014 one EE club was comprised of **25** members. Their dedication to community service is outstanding.



Some of the outstanding community service projects were targeted at local volunteer fire departments; Wise Areas Mission (W.A.R.M) which is a local food pantry; 4-H’ers who need financial assistance with various projects and activities; **\$1000** annual 4-H Scholarship to a graduating senior; financial assistance to all Wise County 4-H’ers who attended Texas 4-H Roundup; community parks, Coins for Friendship which benefits the Texas 4-H Conference Center; and adoption of Spirit of Christmas angels. Not only does their service come in financial assistance, but time and energy as well. Members were recruited to assist with various other programs such as 4-H Foods and Nutrition Projects, and the 4-H Clothing and Textiles project. For 2013, this group of ladies donated **\$4530** and volunteered **2357** hours. According to the Independent Sector, these volunteer hours are valued at **\$50,345**

Let's Go Let's Grow Rifle Project

Developed by Chrissy Karrer, CEA-4-H, Wise County

RELEVANCE

Promoting and growing the county 4-H program is an ongoing goal across the state. With the “Let’s Go, Let’s Grow” initiative, counties have been challenged in a new way to bring in new 4-H members. In Wise County, there has been significant interest in the Shooting Sports project, particularly Rifle. In 2014, volunteer leaders took on the training and leadership of this project. Traditionally the Shooting Sports projects have members that are not ‘traditional’ 4-H members and participate in only the Shooting Sports projects. With the vast number of youth hunters in our county and access to the local grasslands, there was a dire need to offer this project to provide safety training as well as accuracy when shooting. The Wise County 4-H Rifle Project is composed of youth 8-18 who wanted to participate in meetings focused on safety, developing skills, and preparation for contests.

RESPONSE

In an effort to strengthen shooting sports knowledge and firearm safety in Wise County, two adult volunteers attended a State Natural Resources led Shooting Sports training focusing on the Rifle project. A meeting was held with Public Works to use a facility on our local fairgrounds for air rifle practice. Contact was also made to the county sheriff’s department in order for the rifle range to be used.

In Wise County, a total of 15 families who showed interest in the Rifle project. At the initial open house meeting, a total of 21 youth and 21 adults were present. Each youth participant as required to go through a mock range focusing on range safety to guarantee the safety of each individual while at the range. A total of 9 practices were held during 2014 with educational topics: range safety, trigger squeeze, proper breathing techniques, sight alinement and proper cleaning techniques.

RESULTS

A survey was conducted at the end of the 2014 year. The survey was sent out to all rifle project participants on the coach’s email contact list. Surveys were sent to a total of 18 families and 16 responses were received.

For the “Let’s Go, Let’s Grow” initiative, families were asked about the demographics in relation to 4-H membership.

- 50% of families said this was their first year in 4-H
- 56% of families had only one 4-H member in their family
- 44% of families had two 4-H members in their family
- 81% of families had one 4-H member participate in the rifle project
- 13% of families had two or more participants in the rifle project
- 38% of participants are 8-10 years old
- 56% of participants are 11-13 years old
- 6% of participants are 14-18 years old
- 38% of adults are registered 4-H volunteers

For the success of the rifle project, members were asked if they would recommend the rifle project and how many meetings they attended.

4-H and Youth Development

93% of families would recommend the Rifle project to another family
38% of families have attended 1-2 project meetings
25% of families have attended 3-4 project meetings
38 % of families have attended 5 or more project meetings

FUTURE PLANS

The rifle project will remain in Wise County 4-H program as it continues to gain members each month. During the 2015 spring contest season, youth will compete in the District 3 4-H Contest. To help the current coaches with the frequency of practices, agent will continue efforts to recruit volunteers to become certified coaches. Along with the rifle project, agent will continue to lead the search for a coach for an archery project.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Without the help of coaches, Jed Boyd and Ben Karrer, this project would not be possible. This year the knowledge, leadership and time dedicated to this project led to its success. The parents attending the meetings are also very helpful in insuring range safety. Thank you to the Wise County Public Works department for helping set up an air rifle shooting area and to the Wise County Sheriff's Office for allowing 4-H members to use the rifle range.



Safe Sitter

Developed by Chrissy Karrer, CEA-4-H, Wise County

RELEVANCE

Each year, youth set out to find their first job which in some cases is babysitting. This job, not only provides employment on an as needed basis, but opens up opportunities to give youth the responsibility of caring for children. Are youth equipped with the proper skills to insure the safety of the children they watch? In general, inadequate emphasis is placed on the magnitude of the responsibility a young teen accepts when caring for themselves and others. Most young teens lack the knowledge of first aid, rescue skills, behavior management techniques, and life experiences necessary for handling medical, behavioral, or household emergencies which might occur.

RESPONSE

In an effort to provide the skills and training to future babysitters, agent and program assistant attended the Safe Sitter Instructor training hosted at the District office in the spring. This training introduced the Safe Sitter program as well as trained instructors on choking child rescue and CPR for both infants and young children. According to the Safe Sitter instruction manual the mission for the organization is “to prepare young adolescents for the profound responsibilities of nurturing and protecting children”.

A partnership between Parker County and Wise County was established for extra assistance and support during instruction days. A one day session was held in Parker County and a one day session was held in Wise County in March and June. Promotion of the Safe Sitter training days included news releases, social media, email lists and flyers posted at local schools.

RESULTS

Participants were given a pre and post-test to measure knowledge gained. A total of nine youth completed the Safe Sitter training in 2014. A total of nine pre and post tests were collected.

Level of Understanding	% of correct answers on Pre-Test	% of correct answers on Post-Test
If you have to preform back blows and chest thrusts on a choking infant, the infant’s head should always be down – lower than the chest – to allow gravity to help move the obstruction out of the airway.	44%	88%
Madison, age 4, is angry because she wants to play with her older brother. The situation gets out of control and Madison needs to take a break and start over. How long should the break be?	11%	88%
What are the five pieces of information needed to secure a babysitting job?	33%	66%
What are the 4 routines a babysitter needs to know for a child?	11%	100%

First Aide Level of Understanding	% of correct answers on Pre-Test	% of correct answers on Post-Test
How should you handle the following injuries?		
Severe loss of blood	33%	88%
Possible broken bone	22%	66%
Minor puncture wound	22%	88%
Trouble breathing after swallowing liquid drain cleaner	44%	77%

4-H and Youth Development

Participants provided feedback on what they best about the day and program. Comments are below.

- Learning about CPR and choking child rescue. I feel better knowing that I could save a life if I needed too.
- The hands on training that was provided during the day.
- Working with the infant and child dummies for CPR and choking child.

FUTURE PLANS

Babysitting is a great introduction for young people into the working world. Most youth start by watching siblings and family and statistics show that there is not adequate training to handle a crisis situation. Wise County will continue this program so that new and/or experienced babysitters will have proper training to be successful in their business and when handling an emergency situation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kayla Neill, CEA 4-H, and Kathy Smith, CEA FCS, were gracious in letting us partner with them for support for this new program. Bridgeport Community Center and Weatherford College in Wise County hosted each session of Safe Sitter.



Wise County Overview of Project Involvement

Developed by Todd Vineyard, CEA AG/NR, Tanya Davis, CEA-FCS and
 Chrissy Karrer, CEA-4-H

4-H Youth Agricultural and Natural Resource Education

The 4-H Livestock program has grown in numbers and support for the past several years. Educational efforts have increased recruitment of new families to the arena and built support with local businesses. The livestock program is not only for youth that complete in the showing, but also for students learning management, veterinary skills and nutrition in their own herds.

Range and Natural Resource Field Day – The first annual Natural Resource Field Day was Conducted for Decatur, Slidell and Chico. A total of 297 fifth and sixth grade students experience 6 concurrent sessions related the Natural Resources. The sessions conducted were: Fish Pond Management, Radio Telemetry, Wildlife Management, Plant ID Trail, Soils and Entomology.

Trails for Success with Paradise Elementary – Program assistant was able to partner with Paradise ISD to develop a science-based field day for 184 students. Curriculum included: plant ID, fire ants, cityscape watershed trailer, solar energy and wildlife feeders.

Livestock Judging – Agent utilizes 4-H leaders to assist with conducting and teaching practices of analyzing quality traits of livestock. A total of 17 youth competed at the District 3 4-H Livestock Judging Contest which led to teams placing high in each age division.

Vet Science Project - Agents help 4-H leader with establishing and conducting curriculum for the Veterinary Science Club. At this time the group has met 4 times with lessons in injections, necropsy, and ear notching.



Beef Projects - Beef Showmanship and Hoof Trimming workshops are held throughout the year to assist families with care and management of beef projects. 4-H members also participate in Showmanship practices.

Swine Workshop – Each project requires grooming skills therefore swine clipping workshop was held for families to learn how to properly clip their swine projects.

Showmanship Clinic was held for various species including sheep, goats, cattle, rabbits, swine and poultry. A total 41 youth and 28 parents learned grooming, nutrition, showmanship, and proper care of livestock.

Poultry Workshops – 4-H members show both meat and exhibition poultry. In the past several years popularity has grown in both arenas but education has not. New this year was an exhibition poultry workshop. Topics included selection, showing, showmanship, nutrition and grooming and was attended by 22 youth and 17 adults. This workshop has resulted in several new 4-H members showing poultry at the State Fair and Ft. Worth Stock Show and placing in the showmanship division.

4-H and Youth Development

Major Livestock Shows – Agents serve in a supervisory role to 4-H families that participated in Major Livestock Shows

Mohair Judging –4-H members learn how to judge Mohair. 4-H members learn how to determine quality of Mohair and place them accordingly.

Paradise Elementary School Science Day - Agents gave educational presentation to Paradise Elementary Students using a Water Stream Module to show runoff and how it can affect our reservoirs.



4-H Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Projects

4-H FCS projects are a strong component of the Wise County 4-H Program. The curriculum includes foods and nutrition; consumer life skills; clothing and textiles healthy lifestyles. Whether the youth are competitive or not, the curriculum is designed to assist youth with developing skills that help them become productive, responsible adults. A 4-H FCS Task force of 12 4-H'ers and leaders helped to plan and implement project activities and contests.

The Wise County Youth Fair Food Show recruited, taught and recognized 175 entries by 4-H'ers who participated in the county fair held in March. Twenty volunteers supported 4-H'ers with their time.

This year 4-H FCS Task force members hosted a **Foods Project workshop** for 35 youth and 14 parents/volunteers. Sessions were led by 4-H committee members and included recipe demonstrations, Ag Product ID, competition tips and strategies.



A multi-county **Clothing & Textile tour** to Tandy Leather in Ft. Worth had 17 youth and 6 adults learning more about the leader industry and market. Youth were able to complete a craft to take home.

Results of efforts



Food Show, Food Challenge, Consumer Education and Nutrition Quiz Bowl Competitions - As a result of all project meetings, 11 participated in county food show, in 8 district food show; 25 participated in county food challenge, 14 competed in district food challenge teams; 3 youth participated in district nutrition quiz bowl. The Nutrition Quiz Bowl team placed 1st in district competition and advanced to State Roundup where they placed 2nd.

Clothing and Textiles – Fifteen 4-H'ers participated in County Fashion Show, 14 competed at the 4-H District Fashion Show that was hosted in Seymour. The National 4-H Week Fashion Show at David's Western Wear involved 41 youth who learned about selection and coordination of garments.

4-H Explosion – The annual 4-H recruitment event was a hit with over 38 youth attending. The parent orientation meeting was well attended in its second year with 22 adults present.

4-H and Youth Development

Record Books are important to every 4-H member's project and a training was held that reached 15 youth and 10 adults that covered the how-to's of a record book. A total of **49** record books from Wise County advanced to District judging.

Shoebox Christmas is Wise County 4-H's biggest community service project. 4-H members adopted **87 Headstart** youth from the Decatur and Bridgeport programs and fill boot boxes full of clothing, shoes, toiletries, toys and warm weather gear.

Scholarship 101 presentations were held in the spring and fall this year as a partnership with Weatherford College – Wise County. A total of 11 youth and 21 adults learned about financial aide, applying to college, finding scholarships, tips on applying for scholarships and more. Four 4-H members applied for the Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship and each received an \$18,000 Houston Stock Show and **scholarships awarded to local youth because of their dedication and involvement in the 4-H program.**



Safe Sitter babysitting program was offered in the fall and summer to youth age 13 and up. A total of **9 youth** completed the training which focuses on entrepreneurship, CPR and choking rescue for babies and children and child development.

Do It Yourself (DIY) Mondays reached **18** youth. DIY Mondays were half day camps featuring Science Engineering and Technology, Junior Master Gardeners, Robotics, Sewing, Chef Camp, Upcycle/Recycle, and Rocketry.

Clover Kid Day camps are focused towards out up and coming 4-H members, youth entering Kindergarten – 2nd grade. **16** youth were introduced to the food & nutrition project, clothing & textiles, gardening, public speaking and recycling.



Wise County 4-H and Youth Program Involvement
 2014 4-H Club Membership Information (Primary Club)

	Youth	Adults
Alvord 4-H Club	40	4
Boyd 4-H Club	26	5
Bridgeport 4-H Club	50	9
Chico 4-H Club	39	2
Clothing & Textiles Club	13	1
Decatur 4-H Club	96	10
Paradise 4-H Club	68	7
Slidell 4-H Club	39	6
Total	371	52



2014 4-H Program Outreach Projects
 Program Showcase

Plant Pals

United Way Health Fair – 40 students

Garden in a Glove

Young Elementary - 80 students
 Chico Elementary – 40 students

Hatching in the Classroom

Boyd Elementary- 86 students
 Paradise Elementary - 90 students
 Slidell Elementary – 24 students
 Chico Elementary – 40 students
 Carson Elementary – 80 students
 Young Elementary – 80 students
 Bridgeport Elementary – 160 students

Seed Paper

Paradise Elementary – 74 students
 Carson Elementary – 78 students

Hand Washing & Healthy Snacks

Paradise Elementary – 434 students
 Victory Private School – 211 students
 Carson Elementary – 437 students
 Boyd Elementary – 58 students

Toothfully Speaking

Chico Elementary – 40 students

Worm Composting

Carson Elementary – 81 students

Safety Day

Chico Elementary - 112 students

National Youth Science Day
 “Rockets to the Rescue”

Decatur ISD GT – 32 students
 Slidell – 12 students



Eco-Bot

Carson Elementary - 56 students
 Bridgeport Intermediate – 143 students

Take a Stand (Anti-bullying)

Chico Elementary – 40 students

Healthy Snack/ Nutrition

Paradise Middle School – 170 students

Soil Profile

Paradise Elementary – 148 students

Summer Programs

Do It Yourself (D.I.Y) Day Camp- 25 youth
 Teacher Workshop – 41 teachers
 Clover Kid Day Camp –16 students
 SET @ Chico Library – 100 students
 Healthy Snack/Nutrition – 83 students



Backyard Basics

Developed by Todd Vineyard, CEA AG/NR, Tanya Davis, CEA-FCS and
Chrissy Karrer, CEA-4-H

The Backyard Basics program of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, was developed for the purpose of providing information and instruction on the production, preparation and preservation of homegrown and homemade foods. Wise County's Leadership Advisory Board chose to focus on the public interest in food safety and desire to have greater control over the foods they eat,

Educational offerings were developed to address these concerns and make people aware of how they can become more self-reliant in their food production. The focus of the event and activities planned under Backyard Basics is educating attendees on how to improve their quality of life through the consumption of wholesome nutritious homemade and homegrown food

Single educational sessions programs offered included:

- **Coop Tour** introduced the small-scale and backyard production of laying hens. The program stressed variety selection and proper animal husbandry principles. **114 youth and adults** attended the event at the Wise County Fairgrounds.
- **Serving and Preserving the Harvest** focused on food safety and preservation. **Sixteen participants** attended a salsa making workshop in June.
- **Wild Game Processing 101** was Topics covered were: field dressing, skinning and proper chilling, quartering and deboning. **61 participants** attended the live demonstration at the Nine Bar Ranch east of Decatur.



2014 Wise County Water Conservation/Quality Programming

Water continues to be an issue of concern for the citizens of Wise County. More and more people are moving to the county and living in areas where a private well is the main source of water. Recent studies have shown that the Trinity aquifer is having more water pulled out than is being recharged. It is important for landowners and homeowners with wells to know that conservation of water is important and also the quality of their well water can decline if proper management practices are not applied.

Leadership advisory board members have continuously agreed that conducting water well screening days is an important educational event. The idea of water conservation and how adults and youth can conserve water are particularly effective. Also, we as stewards of our natural resources have a tremendous responsibility to teach youth about the significant role water plays in our society.

The following programs/activities were conducted to educate Wise County residents about water quality/conservation.

- **Stream Trailer**

Educational module demonstrates how water movement causes erosion, weathering and deposition. STEM Day 150 youth were reached, 521 students at Decatur ISD and 143 students at Bridgeport Intermediate were able to increase knowledge with this visual.

- **CityScape Module**

Educational trailer exhibits water run-off through city and rural areas. This was taught at Trails 4 Success with 143 students.

- **Water Cycle Activity**

Demonstrated to 45 students at Bridgeport Elementary about the circulation of the earth's water.

- **Teacher Workshop**

Provided a demonstration of cityscape trailer, stream trailer, underground aquifer, 4-H2O and Edible watershed activity which increased classroom participation the following school year.



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Wise County

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