



**Extension Education in Wise County**  
*Making a Difference*  
**2012**

*Improving Lives.  
Improving Texas.*

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has been dedicated to educating Texans

for nearly a century. In 1915, the agency was established under the federal Smith-Lever Act to deliver university knowledge and agricultural research findings directly to the people. Ever since, AgriLife Extension programs have addressed the emerging issues of the day, serving diverse populations across the state.

Through a well-organized network of professional educators and some 100,000 trained volunteers, Extension delivers practical research-based knowledge to Texans in all 254 counties. Our expertise and educational

outreach pertain to the food and fiber industry, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, nutrition and health, and community economic development. Among those served are the hundreds of thousands of young people who benefit annually from Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

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

## Wise County – Summary of 2012 Educational Contacts

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

### 2012 Contact Summary

Education Programs	
Programs Presented	568
Total Group Participants	13,317
Contact hours-	31,892

### Educational Contacts

Office Visits-	4,131
Site Contacts-	1,678
Phone Calls-	15,055
Mail/Email Contacts	28,202
Newsletters	1,700
News Releases	120
Website, Facebook, Blog & Twitter	21,200

### Volunteer Involvement

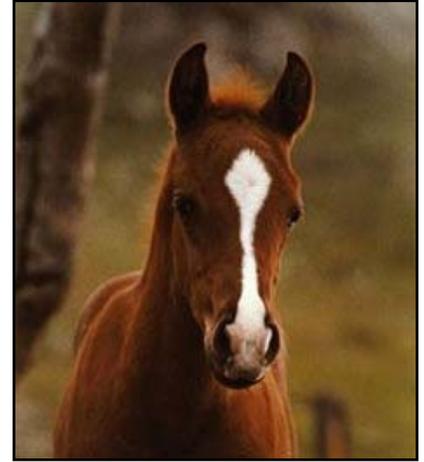
Clientele Reached	12,351
Volunteer Hours	6,247



## **Extension Horse Committee**

Developed by Todd Vineyard, CEA-Ag, Wise County

The Extension Horse Committee continues to encourage new membership to strengthen the committee. The committee's new membership has proved to be very strong additions. In 2012, the Wise County Extension Horse Committee was successful in organizing and conducting the largest American Stock Horse Show of the year. The committee conducted the Wise County Stock Horse Extravaganza. The stock horse event featured 74 riders in the clinical training portion of the event and had 103 riders for the competition. The Wise County Stock Horse Extravaganza also featured a collegiate event that served as the Texas Collegiate Finals.



The committee is committed to hosting another Stock Horse event in 2013; as well as, conducting a mare/foal program and several riding clinics open to youth and adults in Wise County.

### Acknowledgements

Wise County Horse Committee provides direction and support for these and other programs that impact quality of life in the county:

*Billy Stout*

*Greg Byers*

*Marilyn Christopherson*

*Susan Hairrell*

*Fields Richardson*

*Gordon Maatsch*

*Sharon Baumgartner*

*Tamra Lewis*

*Frank Lauro*

*Joan Martin*

*Shawn Kelly*

*William Chambers*

## **4-H Agriculture and Natural Resources Projects**

Developed by Todd Vineyard, CEA-Ag, Wise County

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Wise County team continues to work hard to provide a quality program for 4-H members to become involved. We work closely as Agents to enhance and increase involvement in Agriculture Judging events. The **4-H Livestock Judging** program has been a key focus for increasing participation and competitiveness. In 2011- 2012, the addition of Mohair Judging, as an opportunity for 4-H members, has been very successful. We continue to have a strong presence at the District 3 Livestock Judging Contest in the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Divisions. Our Senior Livestock and Mohair teams both qualified for State 4-H Roundup. Our Senior Invitational Livestock Judging Team placed 6th and our Mohair Judging team was 5<sup>th</sup> at the State 4-H Roundup.

In 2012, we have worked to increase and strengthen participation in the area of livestock projects. 4-H families were able to participate in workshops and clinics for all species. Many of our families are new with livestock projects. Since we have many new families, one on one consultations continue to be key to providing and answering all of the questions that new families need.

## **Small Landowner Education**

Developed by Todd Vineyard, CEA-Ag, Wise County

### **RELEVANCE**

In April 2011 the Wise County Leadership Advisory Board conducted an Issues Identification Forum for Wise County. As a result of the Forum, fragmentation of land and small landowner education was indicated as one of the top five Agriculture and Natural Resource Issues for Wise County over the next four Years. The Agriculture and Natural Resource group that met during the Forum felt that due to the proximity to the Dallas/Ft. Worth area the fragmentation of land would certainly continue, along with non-educated landowners attempting to manage the land. The group felt that quality educational programs would be imperative for Wise County to maintain a healthy landscape and rangelands

### **RESPONSE**

With the guidance of the Livestock and Forage Committee, we addressed the issue of Small Landowner Education. In 2012, I conducted a Small Landowner 101 class for landowners with less than 100 acres. The curriculum was designed to assist the small landowner with limited knowledge about conservation of land and the opportunities available to them for agriculture enterprises. As you are aware the smaller the land tract the more limited you are for agriculture production. The class



helps the participants to understand that the idea of making a sizeable profit is limited. However, the opportunity for landowners of this size to become good stewards of the land by using sound agriculture practices is possible. We want these producers to develop a sense of belonging to the agriculture community which can at times be a very close knit group. Our hope is that when participants finish this series of classes they will feel comfortable with managing their property with an agriculture enterprise, but more importantly maintain a healthy landscape.

This program is a four part series. The first program was conducted by myself and representatives of the FSA and NRCS offices in Wise County. I taught the group about what Texas AgriLife Extension Service has to offer and I gave a presentation on the “Proper Use of Fertilizer and Application.” FSA and NRCS personnel presented information on programs that each agency can provide for the land owner. Session two featured Dr. Frank Craddock, State Sheep and Goat Specialist out of San Angelo, with opportunities available with sheep and goat management and production. In session three we used some of our technologies available to us by having Dr. Bruce Carpenter, Beef Cattle Specialist from Fort Stockton. Dr. Carpenter via LYNC presented a program on the possibilities beef cattle production and management for small landowners. Myself and Gary Clayton, retired Wise County Extension Agent, gave a live cattle demonstration on cattle handling and chute management. We finished the curriculum with Will Hatler, Extension Program Specialist Ecosystem Science and Management. His presentation focused on the identification and control of the top ten problem plants and new products available. Following the classroom participants were given a tour of mesquite plots established in the spring. The program ended with the demonstration of equipment used for individual plant treatment. Hand sprayers and four wheeler equipment was demonstrated.

**RESULTS**

The series of educational events for new and small acreage landowners began May 15, 2012 and concluded on June 5, 2012. There were 12 participants who completed the entire course, and 11 who completed the evaluation instrument. Of those 11, the average number of acres owned/managed was **54.5**. **Ten of the 11 participants reported that they anticipate the course will benefit them economically.** The total economic impact of the series is estimated to be **\$13,625, or \$1,239 per participant** (with one participant reporting no economic impact). Participants indicated that the economic impact was attributable to the following:

- Reduction in management costs (10 responses)
- Increased property value (8 responses)
- Tax valuation of property (7 responses)
- Health of natural resources (6 responses)



Participants were asked to indicate their plans to adopt best management practices which were taught during the series, their responses are included in the table below:

**Intentions to Adopt Practices:**

<b>Practice to be adopted</b>	<b>Percent who have <u>already</u> adopted</b>	<b>Percent who <u>definitely</u> will</b>
I plan to make AgriLife Extension my first stop for land management information	0	82
I will utilize resources available from local USDA offices	0	82
I will always read to label prior to administering any medication or vaccine	9.1	72.7
I plan to conduct a soil test to determine nutrient needs of plants	18.2	72.7
I plan to utilize other resources identified in the course, i.e. Feed Stores, etc...	27.2	72.7
I plan to adopt the use of Individual Plant Treatment for nuisance plant management	9.1	63.6
I plan to manage livestock grazing to decrease soil erosion	27.3	54.5

Additionally, participants were asked to rate their level of knowledge on key topics prior to the course, and at the conclusion of the course. Participants indicated very large changes in knowledge in all areas taught, with the range in percent increase in scores from a **low of 42.4% to a high of almost 70%**. The table below summarizes those responses.

**Perceived Knowledge Increase:**

<b>My Understanding Of:</b>	<b>Mean Before</b>	<b>Mean After</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
The advantage of hair sheep and meat goats for small acreage landowners	1.5	3.6	69.7%
The use of new herbicides for weed and brush control	1.5	3.6	69.7%
Resources available from the County USDA Offices	1.8	3.7	63.6%
Life cycles of parasites in sheep and goats	1.4	3.3	63.6%
The cost of maintaining a beef cow in Texas	1.5	3.5	63.3%
The effectiveness of foliar treatments for greenbriar control	1.6	3.5	60.6%
Justis Von Liebig's "Law of Minimum" limiting factors for plant growth	1.6	3.4	57.6%
Natural resource concerns in Wise County	1.7	3.5	57.6%
How to use basic equipment for individual plant herbicide treatments	1.9	3.5	51.5%
Basic nutrition and health practices for livestock	2.1	3.5	45.5%
Soils and their management	1.9	3.3	45.5%
Reading labels on all medications and vaccines	2.2	3.5	42.4%

**SUMMARY**

Participants conveyed that they were ready to sign up for the Small Landowner 201 class when available. The evaluation results were used to interpret the value of the small landowner 101 class to the Commissioners Court and the Livestock and Forage Committee. I will continue to develop programs for small land owners through the guidance of my Livestock and Forage Committee.



## Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Livestock and Forage Committee works hard to deliver programs to Wise County producers that are timely and relevant to producers in our area. The committee has conducted many programs in 2012; however, to highlight a few would be the Pasture Management Program, Fish Pond Field Day and the annual Ranchers Gathering.

The **Pasture Management Program** was conducted in February in Boyd Texas at the Boyd Community Center. The program had 80 in attendance with 12 women also present. Gerald Hopson, representative with Du Pont Chemical gave a presentation on Weed Identification and Chemical Use for Control. Todd Vineyard, Wise County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent gave a presentation on Fertility Requirement and Fertility Options in Bermuda Grass.

The **Fish Pond Field Day** was held in May with 53 in attendance with 8 women present. The featured speaker for the program was Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Wildlife and Fisheries specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Dr. Higginbotham spoke on Basic Pond Management, Stocking Rates and Weed Management.

The **Rancher's Gathering** has become a very strong tradition in Wise County. The Livestock and Forage Committee take pride in planning and conducting the annual event. This year the Gathering had 176 in attendance with 24 booths at the trade show. This year's speaker was Stan Bevers, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Economist Specialist. Mr. Bevers spoke on surviving the drought and the feasibility of rebuilding a cowherd.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wise County Livestock and Forage Committee provides direction and support for these and other programs that impact quality of life in the county:

<i>Jeff Baker</i>	<i>Preston Cocanougher</i>
<i>Carroll Collier</i>	<i>Roland Davie</i>
<i>Roger Gentry</i>	<i>James Haynes</i>
<i>James McGilvray</i>	<i>Hector Pruneda</i>
<i>Larry Stenzel</i>	<i>Wade Watson</i>
<i>Brennan Williams</i>	<i>Ric Wilson</i>
<i>Dr. Don Wollar</i>	<i>Tracey Meadows</i>



## 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. Physical inactivity is 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. According to data from the Department of State Health Services, 38% of Wise County residents are overweight and 26% of residents are obese.

### RESPONSE

Adults and children established a habit of regular physical activity through an 8 week program known as Walk Across Texas (WAT). The program was conducted in 2012, reaching 137 youth and adults. Six weekly newsletters were sent to WAT email subscribers which updated them on current standings and information available on the WAT blog.

### RESULTS

Walk Across Texas participation and results: 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	Miles Walked	Potential Health Care Savings	Number that could avoid or delay developing diabetes
137	97(70%)	11,376	\$1,635,001	21

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

- *I like that it was free and my family did it together*
- *I lost 14 lbs.*
- *I like the WAT newsletter which made me aware of the amount of exercise others were doing.*

Results of efforts to improve the health and wellness of persons in Wise County have been interpreted to stakeholders during the meetings with commissioner's courts, local healthcare providers, and Extension Committees along with press releases prepared and published in local newspapers.



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wise County Family and Consumer Sciences Committee provides direction and support for these and other programs that impact quality of life in the county:

*Elaine Davis*  
*Pat Stegall*

*Marilynn Collins*  
*Cheryl Lovett*

*Jo Watson*  
*Christina Cantu*

## Helping People in Wise County Eat Better and Safer

Developed by Tanya Davis, CEA-FCS, Wise County

### 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 5300 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). 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

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. Also a two hour food handler program, *Food Safety, It's In Your Hands* was offered to food service employees.

FCS agents in Wise, Jack, Montague, Young, Parker, and Palo Pinto counties alternate hosting the site so that the *Food Safety It's Our Business* course was offered monthly in a 6 county area. Two 15 hour courses were offered in Wise County that reached 31 persons. In addition, a *Food Safety, It's in Your Hands* classes reached 11 food handlers.

Better Living for Texans (BLT) - During 2012, more than 90 Wise County adults participated in the BLT *Back to Basics* series. This program focuses on meal planning, stretching food dollars, and adopting selected behaviors that can reduce the risk of foodborne illness. BLT is delivered through a variety of teaching methods that reflect audience needs.

### RESULTS

Food Protection Management – Passage of the CFM exam as well as customer satisfaction with the CFM program is presented in this report. Client Satisfaction with the *Food Safety It's Our Business* instruction scores were based on a 5 point Likert Scale. 1 = very satisfied to 5 = very dissatisfied.

- Client satisfaction with instructor's knowledge of the subject 1.4
- Client satisfaction with instructor performance 1.4

Wise County overall pass rate for course participants was 83%.

## Family and Consumer Sciences

Better Living for Texans – Eat Better to Live Better program series was conducted via the use of a pre, post, and 30 day follow-up survey for 49 participants. Thirty-five of those participants completed the pre, post, and 30 day follow-up. Participants were primarily female (62%) and White (71%).

Overall, more than half of the participants were using the targeted food resource management practices “always” or “sometimes” when they first entered the BLT program. Immediately after the program ended there was noted increase in the percentage of participants who intended to practice these behaviors ‘always.” Thirty days later, the percentage of participants practicing all four behaviors “always” was higher than when the program began. Probably the greatest improvement was seen in the use of unit pricing to identify economic food buys.

Twenty-eight out of 35 participants (80%) rated the BLT program as “excellent”.

Results of efforts to help persons in Wise County eat better have been interpreted to stakeholders during meetings with commissioner’s courts, local healthcare providers, and Extension Committees along with press releases prepared and published in local newspapers.

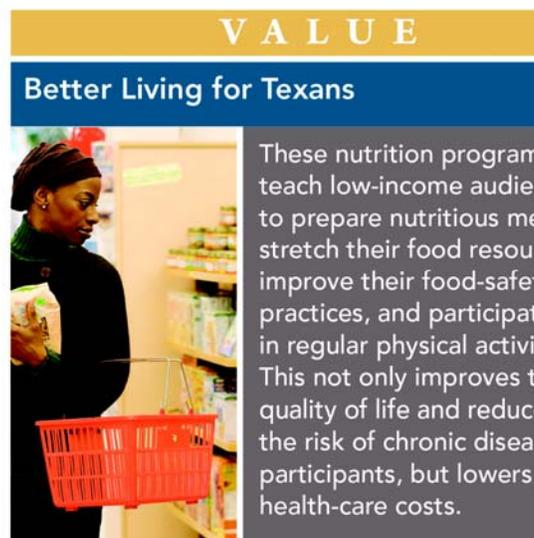
### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Wise County Family and Consumer Sciences Committee provides direction and support for these and other programs that impact quality of life in the county:

*Elaine Davis*  
*Laura Walker*  
*Cheryl Lovett*

*Marilynn Collins*  
*Dixie Range*  
*Christina Cantu*

*Jo Watson*  
*Pat Stegall*  
*Rebecca Connell*





## Friend to Friend in Wise County

Developed by Tanya Davis, CEA-FCS, Wise County

The *Friend to Friend* program's purpose is to encourage women to get regular mammograms and Pap test for the early detection of breast and cervical cancer, when the disease is most curable.

### RELEVANCE

Regular screening significantly increases the likelihood of finding cancer early, when treatment is more often successful. Women living in rural areas of Texas are less likely than their urban counterparts to have had a mammogram or Pap test within the past two years. Mortality is higher for rural women because of later diagnosis.



### RESPONSE

- 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.
- Funding was applied for and awarded by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) to fund screenings and transportation to uninsured and underserved women in need of screening services.
- An eleven person *Friend to Friend* planning coalition was formed for the purpose of planning and implementing a *Friend to Friend* event. Women attending are given the opportunity to sign a commitment card to obtain a mammogram and/or Pap test within the next year and the option to complete a help request form for assistance in obtaining screening services.

### Impact of the Program

- 113 women from 11 Wise County communities attended the *Friend to Friend* event on October 16, 2012 at the Weatherford College-Wise County Campus.
- Demographics of women who attended the events:
  - Ethnic breakdown:
    - White, Non-Hispanic: 52.85%
    - White, Hispanic: 42.85%
    - African American: 1.45%
    - Asian: 0%
    - Native American: 2.85%
    - Other: 0%
- Coalition members promoted the event and secured facilities, speakers, door prizes, and exhibitors.
- A doctor and cancer survivor urged women to obtain a mammogram/Pap screening at the events.
- 48 women signed a commitment card to obtain a mammogram/Pap test within the next year.



## Wise County Extension Education Association

Developed by Tanya Davis, CEA-FCS, Wise County

## Family and Consumer Sciences

The mission of the Texas Extension Education Association is to work with Texas 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 2012 two EE clubs were comprised of 27 members.



Their dedication to community service is outstanding. Some of the outstanding community service projects were targeted at local volunteer fire departments; Wise Areas Relief 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 Project, and the 4-H Clothing and Textiles project. For 2012, this group of ladies donated \$4060 and volunteered 2277 hours. According to the Independent Sector, these volunteer hours are valued at \$48,636.



### Diabetes Education

Health consequences of mismanaged diabetes include heart disease, blindness, kidney disease, and nerve damage. Persons diagnosed with diabetes need education to manage their diet, to adopt a regular exercise program; monitor their blood sugar and understand the consequences of failure to manage this chronic disease. 6.2% of the population (2200 persons) in Wise County has been diagnosed with diabetes.

Two diabetes workshops were presented to 78 persons on the topic of Managing Diabetes with Health and Nutrition.

### Parenting Education

At the request of the Child Protective Division of the Health and Human Services Commission a parenting series was organized for parents in need of parenting education. The 2 hour session reached 11 parents that featured the following topics: Child Growth and Development; Discipline; Parenting Styles. Customer satisfaction surveys indicated that the information was relative to their lives.

## **2012 Wise County Leaders 4 Life**

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

### **RELEVANCE**

Youth Leadership development is a main goal of the 4-H program and the purpose of projects and programs. In the past, there has not been a defined way of teaching youth leadership and parliamentary procedure. Parliamentary procedure is a skill that assists youth in organizing and conducting effective club meetings, and a skill they can use in other youth organizations as well as adults in the future.

The goal of the introduction of the Leaders 4 Life program in Wise County was to increase the knowledge of parliamentary procedure among each age group that will then impact the individual clubs. The Wise County Leaders 4 Life program is composed of 4-H youth from across the county that wanted to participate in an additional leadership project who range in age of 8 to 10 years old.

### **RESPONSE**

In an effort to strengthen youth leadership development for Wise County 4-H Council/Officer Teams, the Leaders 4 Life curriculum and contest was introduced to youth in Wise County. In Wise County there are a total of 12 clubs and each club has 6-10 officers. Each year there is a County Council Officer and/or Club officer training but we realized that our youth need more training to be effective officers in their respective club. The Leaders 4 Life curriculum was introduced during five meetings and a county wide workshop.

The focus of the meetings during the fall months was parliamentary procedure, communication, and teamwork. Activities consisted of How to Make a Motion, Agenda Mania, Stand Up for Parliamentary Procedure, Parliamentary Procedure Jeopardy, and a mock contest. Each lesson focused on different skills such as basic parliamentary procedure and communication which are the foundation of being an effective officer. Building an agenda taught the importance of each item on an agenda and how to be successful as a club officer.

### **RESULTS**

The evaluation provided by the Leaders 4 Life program was utilized to determine level of understanding and behavior change of the youth attending the Leaders 4 Life Meetings. A total of 16 youth attended the workshops, with 11 youth participating in more than half of the meetings and the contest. The 6 youth completed the evaluation.

#### **Evaluations were utilized using a retrospective post evaluation.**

Level of Understanding	Understanding Before Program	Understanding After Program
Knowledge level of different leadership strategies	42%	79%
Knowledge of teamwork	75%	96%
Understanding of creativity and its characteristics	50%	83%

## 4-H and Youth Development

Knowledge of the strategies to facilitate groups	46%	75%
Knowledge level of different leadership styles	66%	95%
Knowledge of how to build an agenda for business meetings	50%	83%
Understanding the roles and duties of 4-H officers	57%	85%
Knowledge of the 16 motions that re most commonly used in parliamentary procedure	42%	70%

Behavior	Yes
More confident in serving in a leadership role	83%
Can define leadership and leadership qualities	83%
Know how to be an effective communicator and a good listener	100%
Have developed or improved my teamwork skills	100%
Use creativity to brainstorm and come up with the best solution to a problem	83%
Know my leadership styles and how to use them effectively in leadership roles	83%
Have a personal vision	83%
Have set personal goals to help me fulfill my personal vision	100%
Can effectively participate in a business meeting using correct parliamentary procedure	100%
Have or plan to implement a community service project	83%

### FUTURE PLANS

The Leaders 4 Life program will continue in Wise County as a leadership program being offered to 4-H members that currently serve as officers or have aspirations to become one. There are plans for a multi-county officer training in August and the main curriculum will be Leaders 4 Life: Parliamentary Procedure. The Wise County Senior team will advance to the State Roundup in 2013 and they will continue to meet through the spring. This will only increase the effectiveness of the program through the experience of attending the State contest.

## Progressive Agricultural Safety Day

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

Approximately 45 percent of unintentional injury deaths occurred in and around the home. Unintentional home injury deaths to children are caused primarily by fire and burns, suffocation, drowning, firearms, falls, choking and poisoning. Youth do not understand the importance of safety and how it impacts their daily lives. The Progressive Agriculture Safety Day helps teach the youth valuable lessons that will help save their lives. In Wise County, a need for Safety education was identified. Hands-on experiences led by local community members taught safety day participants lifelong safety lessons. Over time, we hope that by sharing and applying the lessons learned at the safety day, participants will help to reduce the number of children who die or are injured in safety related incidents.

### RESPONSE

Progressive Agriculture Foundation, which administers the Safety Day program, shows its commitment to safety education by sponsoring Safety Days throughout the United States and Canada. In 2007, 80,000 children were reached in 350 Safety Day events. Wise County's Safety Day was implemented this year to address middle school age youth safety education. Response from the schools, community, volunteers, and sponsors has been very positive, and the event will be repeated again this spring.

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day was held September 25, 2012, at the Decatur Middle School with 237 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, featuring skilled instructors who used a variety of methods to teach safety practices. Weldon Floyd, District 3 IT Specialist presented an impactful presentation about Internet Safety to kick off the day. Wise Choices (Pregnancy Center) educator Leigh Sheppard held a round-table type discussion with youth on respecting each other in relationships. Texas Game Warden Penny Nixon addressed current issues on safety around water and gun safety while hunting. Lowes workers displayed different types of heaters that are used and safety precautions around the home. 4-H Program Assistant Andrea Calabretta shared a video and facts regarding ATV safety.

The Decatur Middle School Counselor Cindy Barksdale, Principal Dewayne Tamplin and the Wise County Extension Office staff served on the Safety Day Planning Committee. The Safety Day Planning Committee planned the 2012 Safety Day Event planning. Andrea Calabretta and I served as co-coordinators for the Safety Day Events 2012. As co-coordinator, I meet with the planning committee, recruited instructors, coordinated with school staff, and coordinated set-up for the events.



## 4-H and Youth Development

Five sessions were taught at the Wise County Progressive Agriculture Safety Day in 2012. A total of 237 youth and 30 adult persons were reached. Sessions taught included: internet safety, electric heater safety, fire safety, water safety, gun safety, ATV safety, and relationship safety.

### RESULTS

Decatur Middle School students in 6th grade, 237 students and 30 adults attended five different sessions that addressed: internet safety, electric heater safety, fire safety, water safety, gun safety, ATV safety, and relationship safety.

“This summer has been particularly tragic with the many accidents on area lakes. Having the opportunity to present water safety awareness to local youth that might be near the water unattended will hopefully prevent accidents in the future.” Game Warden Penny Nixon stated in response to the Safety Day held at Decatur Middle School.

The Safety Day held at Decatur Middle School as allowed an inlet for other curriculum enrichment opportunities in the Decatur community. We are currently working on presenting Internet safety to students in a local elementary school as well as presenting to their parents that evening. We hope that this is just the beginning of the great things Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will achieve when partnering with the Decatur School District.

### FUTURE PLANS

The 2013 Safety Day will be held in May at an elementary school campus and will target 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade youth in Wise County. Topics that were identified for future rotations were: internet safety, water safety, gun safety and ATV safety.

### Acknowledgements

Without the support of the Decatur ISD and their staff, and the Extension Agents in the Wise County office this would not be possible. The training and curriculum provided to coordinator was sponsored by Progressive Agriculture Safety Day.



## Environmental Education for Youth in Wise County

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

### RELEVANCE

Water conservation and use continues to be a significant issue across Texas and citizens -- youth, in particular -- need to be educated about water, where it comes from, its uses and how it can be conserved and protected. The Wise County Leadership Advisory Board identified water as an issue facing Wise County.

### RESPONSE

As Texas concentrates on cleaning up its water and on capturing ample supplies to satisfy the growing population, the Wise County Extension staff took a proactive approach in an effort to make every drop count. They partnered with Texas AgriLife specialists and Tarrant Regional Water District to host the second *Wise County Youth Water Camp*, better known locally as *WCH20*. During the school year, efforts were made to get into area schools with our water curriculum.

### RESULTS

During the school year, the rain water simulator was presented at two schools for a total of three sessions. A total number of 5 adults and 141 youth were educated on rain water. Todd presented the Underground water module to 35 youth and 1 adult at one campus. The middle school FFA teacher used *Something's Fishy* to teach aquatic science to 90 students.

Twenty eight youth, ages 8-12 and three youth leaders, ages 14-18 were treated to an educational and fun filled day learning valuable facts that will hopefully keep our streams flowing for many generations. Campers attended six stations to learn about erosion, rainwater harvesting, pollution and projected shortages that their generations will likely be dealing with. The camp concluded with a variety of water games and a post test.

Test results showed a complete reversal in knowledge gained when compared to the pre-test results. As shown in Table 1 the largest increase in knowledge came in the area of: types of water pollution; the projected water shortage in 2060 and whose problem that will be; the amount of rainwater that can be collected with just one inch of rain; and the amount of water that the average person in the world has available to them for personal use each day.



## 4-H and Youth Development

Knowledge Questions	Answered Correctly Pre Test	Answered Correctly Post Test
<u>Rainfall Simulator</u> -What fills the estuaries and steams after a rainfall that causes damage?	60% (n=21)#	100% (n=35)
<u>Rainfall Simulator</u> -Native grasses are beneficial to our landscape because.....	20% (n=7)#	83% (n=30)
<u>Stream Trailer</u> -What is a healthy stream side area?	60% (n=21)#	88% (n=27)
<u>Groundwater demonstration model</u> -How many years does it take to grow 1 inch of soil?	30% (n=11)#	100% (n=35)
<u>Incredible Water Journey</u> - How does water naturally travel over the earth?	48% (n=11)*	82%(n=19)
<u>Enviroscape</u> -What impact do fertilizers have on lakes and rivers?	40% (n=14)#	75%(n=26)
	*surveyed 23participants # surveyed 35 leaders and participants	

Results of efforts to increase knowledge and change attitudes towards environmental education for the youth of Wise County were interpreted to stakeholders during meetings with commissioner's courts, WCH2O sponsors and Extension specialists along with press releases prepared and published in local newspapers.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service specialists and Tarrant Regional Water District representatives provided direction and support towards the success of WCH2O.

*David Waidler*  
*Darrel Andrews*

*Dottie Woodson*  
*Justin Mechell*

*Lorrie Reeves*  
*David Waidler*



## Wise County Overview of Project Involvement

Developed by Tanya Davis, CEA-FCS and Chrissy Karrer, CEA-4-H

### 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; and, for 2012, healthy lifestyles was continued. 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 15 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 281 entries by 4-H'ers who participated in the county fair held in March. Twenty volunteers supported 4-H'ers with their time.



Instead of hosting the traditional leaders training and open house, we presented all food and nutrition project knowledge via a **Kitchen Boot Camp** with 4-H and non-4-H members present.

This event promoted county food show, food challenge, recipe rally and nutrition quiz bowl competition, reached 34 participants and focused on knife skills, garnishing tips, healthy substitutions, and MyPlate.

### Results of efforts

**Food Show, Food Challenge, and Nutrition Quiz Bowl Competitions-** As a result of all project meetings, 20 participated in county food show, 12 in district food show; 31 participated in county food challenge, 14 competed in district food challenge teams; 6 youth participated in district nutrition quiz bowl.

**Consumer Life Skills Project** meetings began in December and continued through April in order to prepare for the spring contests. Twenty youth participated in District 3 competition.

**Clothing and Textiles** - Nine 4-H'ers and four leaders were recruited and organized to conduct the Fashion Storyboard program in Wise County. Thirty 4-H'ers participated in County Fashion Show, 18 4-H District Fashion Show that was hosted in Bridgeport. The National 4-H Week Fashion Show at David's Western Wear involved 56 youth who learned about selection and coordination of garments. A tour of JcPenney's Corporate office and story board workshop was organized and a total of 40 youth and adults participated, 14 youth were from Wise County.



**Do It Yourself (DIY) Mondays** reached 43 youth. DIY Mondays were half day camps featuring Science Engineering and Technology, Junior Master Gardeners, Kids in the Kitchen, Upcycle/Recycle, and Rocketry.

**Wise County 4-H and Youth Program Involvement**  
 2012 4-H Club Membership Information (Primary Club)

	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Adults</u>
Alvord 4-H Club	47	6
Boyd 4-H Club	23	8
Bridgeport 4-H Club	52	16
Chico 4-H Club	35	9
Clothing & Textiles Club	6	1
Decatur 4-H Club	100	13
Horse 4-H Club	18	3
Paradise 4-H Club	59	9
Rabbit 4-H Club	12	4
Slidell 4-H Club	47	11
Dog Project	1	3
Shooting Sports Project Club	15	2
Horse Project Club	6	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>85</b>



**2012 4-H Program Outreach Projects**  
**Program Showcase**

**Plant Pals**

Chico Elementary – 36 students

**Garden in a Glove**

Wise County 4<sup>th</sup> graders- 650 students  
 Chico Elementary – 36 students  
 Slidell Elementary - 100 students  
 Boyd Elementary – 80 students

**Junior Master Gardener**

Bridgeport Middle School – 20

**Science Engineering and Technology**

Decatur Library - 50 students  
 McCarroll Learning Ladder – 15 youth  
 Chico Elementary – 50

**Hatching in the Classroom**

Boyd Elementary- 80 students  
 Paradise Elementary - 95 students  
 Slidell Elementary – 23 youth  
 Alvord Elementary – 23 youth  
 Chico Elementary – 38 youth  
 Carson Elementary – 63 youth

**Progressive Agriculture Safety Day**

Decatur Middle School - 237 students

**Summer Programs**

Do It Yourself (D.I.Y) Day Camp- 43 youth  
 Teacher Workshop – 37 teachers  
 Teen Retreat – 5 youth

**Eco Bot**

Chico Elementary - 40 students

**Take a Stand**

Alvord Elementary – 57 students  
 Decatur Middle School – 696 students

**Importance of Handwashing**

Boyd Elementary – 345 youth  
 Club House Day Care – 23 youth  
 Slidell Elementary – 49 youth  
 Paradise Elementary – 325 youth  
 Headstart – Decatur – 60 youth  
 Carson Elementary – 467 youth  
 Bridgeport Elementary – 131 youth  
 Learning Ladder – 35 youth

## **Wise County Firefighter Relief Benefit**

Financial resources for Wise County volunteer fire departments were drastically depleted in 2011 due to the brutally hot summer marked by incessant grass fires. Three hundred fifty firemen across the county handled roughly 6000 calls in 2011. Firefighting equipment is very expensive to purchase and maintain plus the cost of insurance, fuel, training, and repairs.

Early in 2012, a group of Wise County citizens, Extension faculty and Extension committee members formed the Wise County Firefighter Relief Benefit Steering Committee. The purpose of the committee was not only to raise needed funds for the volunteer fire departments, but to pay tribute to the volunteer firefighters for their service to Wise County.

Efforts from Extension personnel included letters/email to area churches and schools; 4-H members and leaders; Extension Education members; Leadership Advisory Board members; and Extension program area committee members. Twenty-five 4-H'ers were recruited to assist with raffle ticket sales, serving drinks and clearing tables. Prior to the event 4-H'ers were required to participate in food handler and hospitality training. 4-H'ers were also recruited to contribute towards the "dessert of the month for a year" live auction item.



The Wise County Firefighter Relief Benefit exceeded expectations set by the steering committee. It was a countywide show of support for the 17 Wise County fire departments. The event was attended by approximately 1,000 people who enjoyed the free barbeque dinner and then made generous donations or purchased auction items and raffle tickets. The grand total to be disbursed among the 17 fire departments was **\$196,374**.

Over 100 volunteers contributed time and effort towards the benefit. Prior to the event 35 volunteers donated an estimated 4 hours per person totaling 140 hours. During the benefit 75 volunteers gave five hours per person totaling 375 hours. According to the Independent Sector these volunteer hours are valued at **\$11,221**.



*One attendee was quoted as saying, "I enjoyed the participation from all over the county. The key to the night's success was the work done by organizers to involve as many people as possible. This was a much needed event because things have changed. There was a time when many Wise County volunteer firefighters*

## Community Economic Development

*answered a call in their blue jeans, work boots, and baseball caps, but those days have disappeared.”*

To date fire departments report utilizing their donations towards the purchase of various items such as fire trucks, communication equipment, new buildings, thermal-imaging cameras and public education.

## Identity Theft

The Wise County Leadership Advisory Board (LAB) identified **Identity Theft** as one of the issues facing Wise County residents. Identity theft results when your personal information is stolen and used by someone else to open new accounts in your name, access your existing accounts, or to assume your identity in financial and other transactions. While it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk of becoming a victim, there are things you can do to minimize your risk.



The United States Secret Service was contacted as a resource to help address this issue in Wise County. LAB members and Extension agents worked with nine local banks to donate \$50 each so that a hamburger supper could be served prior to the Identity Theft program. Seventy-seven persons attended to hear a United States Secret Service Agent present information on ways to avoid becoming a victim of identity theft. Sixty-three persons returned customer satisfaction surveys. 93% (50) participants were mostly or completely satisfied with the program. When asked if the information was timely, 60% of respondents indicated that it was completely timely. 89 % (56) of respondents indicated that they planned to take actions or make changes as a result of information presented at the program. Participants were asked how likely that they would recommend Extension to family, friends or resources and information, 35 (55%) gave the highest ranking (10) which was based on scale of 1-10.



# Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

## Wise County

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