



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 2015 Educational Contacts

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

2015 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



2016 Beef Cattle and Forage Profitability and Management

Todd Vineyard County Extension Agent Ag./NR
 Wise County – Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

RELEVANCE

With beef cattle and forage production topping 40 million dollars annually through cow calf pairs and hay production. We have been experiencing a trend of drought since 1996: however in 2011 we experienced extreme drought. These conditions have been fairly constant until the spring of 2015. From the first of May until December 15 of 2015 we have seen the opposite, with rainfall totals exceeding 55” of precipitation. In 2011 cattle producers were forced to drastically down size their herds. This continued in 2012. Over the 2 year period, cow herds decreased by 50%. As the number one agricultural enterprise, it is important for producers to analyze the productivity of their operations and to make production changes that will result in production and profitability. The effects of drought have forced decisions and issues producers must deal with. Obviously now, producers are dealing with rebuilding the cowherd, culling, stocking rates and pasture and forage management. Extension programs will address these topics, providing cattlemen information needed to deal with issues that result in severe economic risk and the management of risk.



RESPONSE

Through the leadership of the Wise County Livestock and Forage Committee a set of beef cattle and forage educational programs were planned, organized and implemented. The goal was to have beef producers evaluate their cattle operations for risk resulting from drought conditions. Educational programming focused on management actions that would mitigate risk and the effects of drought. Program development and educational events conducted were:

Wise County Pasture Management Program - (February 2015) Managing Soil Fertility and Re-establishing Pasture. 121 attended

Proper Weaning and Vaccination Program for Success Marketing of Calves – (August 2015) How to improve a calf’s health and marketability at weaning. 98 attended

Rancher’ Gathering – (August 2015) The Top Five Management Practices to Increase Profitability in the Cattle Business. 245 attended

Wise County Hay Show - (September 2015) Maximizing Hay Quality and Production. 65 attended

Pecan School 201 - 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.



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Noble Tour - (May 2015) Producers participated in a Noble Foundation Tour. Topics included: Noble Foundation History, Beef Cattle Working Facilities, Boer Buster Feral Hog Trapping System and the new Forage 365 Program. 24 participated

5 Hour CEU Program

The annual **5 Hour CEU Program** was conducted with 127 in attendance. Various speakers were used to discuss topics

Results

A total of 553 producers attend the four major educational events detailed above. In 2015 producers were ask to provide information on their educational experience retrospective post evaluation and verbal surveys. The surveys were designed to measure knowledge or level of understanding concerning the various rick management practices before the programs as compared to after the programs. Verbal surveys were used to better understand how valuable the programs were to each individual. Verbal surveys allow producers a more comfortable atmosphere to provide testimonials.

140 producers completed an evaluation, of those 129 (92%) reported that they anticipate an economic benefit from their participation. A total of 37 producers provided an estimate of the per head economic benefit, and the number of head of livestock that they manage. Based on these numbers, the **average economic benefit per producers was \$842.98.** These producers who completed the survey reported an average of 76 head of cattle owned or managed, and estimated that the educational program will save them \$11.47 per head over the next year.

Producers were asked to provide the level of knowledge that they had before and after the event on three specific topics. The following table shows the change in understanding as a result of the program.

Topic	Average Before	Average After	Percent Change
Proper timing for de-worming in a cow-calf herd	2.18	3.52	45%
Most productive cattle to retain during a drought	2.39	3.58	40%
Health management practices in the pre-calving period	2.34	3.41	36%
Health management practices during the calving period	2.37	3.40	34%
Health management practices during the pre-breeding period	2.32	3.30	33%
I understand the economic feasibility of buying vs. raising replacement heifers	2.75	3.55	27%
I understand the importance of properly stocking in preparation for the next drought	2.91	3.57	22%
I understand the value of the dollar today, versus tomorrow	2.99	3.58	20%

Summary

Educational programming directed toward Beef Cattle / Forage – Profitability yielded positive results in the minds and actions of producers. Survey results show that programming efforts did make a difference in increasing knowledge levels and understanding. Results also show positive anticipated dollars gained by producers. Feedback form participants expressed appreciation for the efforts providing means in dealing with

Agriculture and Natural Resources

the risk to production and the economic loss potential. Comments revealed that cattle numbers are continuing to build back their herd numbers. Future programming efforts will focus on optimizing cattle stocking rates while improving land and forage management practices.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following for their contributions and/or assistance: Livestock and Forage Committee members, NRCS, FSA, Wise County Agribusinesses, Wise County Commissioners Court and Texas A&M AgriLife Service Extension Specialists.



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 2015, reaching **64** adults and 801 school walkers. Seven weekly newsletters were sent to WAT email subscribers. They were updated on current standings and education 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 **12** 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.

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
Adult- 64	52 (81%)	37 (58%)	12,742	\$1,149,012	11
School- 801	363 (45%)	75 (10%)	12,924	NA	N/A

Family and Consumer Sciences

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

- ❖ *My daughter walked with me after work and school*
- ❖ *I have been more conscious of being active during the day.*
- ❖ *I lost four pounds.*
- ❖ *It made me think about how much sitting I was doing and made me conscious about what it is not to move around and how much better you feel when active. I hope we can continue the program next year.*

Step Up & Scale Down

- **13** people registered for the Step Up & Scale Down program series in Decatur.
- **12 (92%)** people completed the 12 week series.
- 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 realized that the information I need to make good choices is readily available.*
- ✓ *I want to utilize the chair exercises that you provided.*
- ✓ *Read labels and plan ahead. Never give up- just start fresh tomorrow.*
- ✓ *I really need friends and family to support. Keeping track of what you eat and planning. I found new friends.*
- ✓ *Reminder to eat and increase fruits and vegetables. Encouragement to exercise.*

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-** Since these issues are relevant in Wise County, a coalition was formed to plan a healthy cooking school including community members, healthcare professionals, and Chefs. The Dinner Tonight! Healthy Cooking School offers a face-to-face educational method to teach families about meal planning and healthy food preparation. These events are intended to be high-visibility, large scale events that are fun and informative for participants.
- **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. One 15 hour course was offered in Wise County that reached 5 food managers. **Six** two hour food handler courses were offered that reached **97** local food handlers and cottage business owners.
- **Better Living for Texans (BLT)** - During 2015, more than 249 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 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

- The Dinner Tonight Cooking School reached **87** people. All Extension staff members assisted with the event.
- Evaluations indicate the event was highly successful in impacting family nutrition.
- Participants ranged in age from 11-87 years.
- Ninety-eight percent (n=60) of participants rated the Cooking School as “good” or “excellent”.
- Eighty five percent (58 of 68 respondents) of participants increased their understanding of the Mediterranean Meal Plan.



Better Living for Texans (BLT)

All program series were conducted via the use of a pre, post, and 30 day follow-up survey for **249** participants, **224** of those participants completed the pre, post, and 30 day follow-up.

- Participants were primarily female (66%) and from a variety of ethnic backgrounds.
- 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

- Wise County residents (n=124) indicate the BLT curriculum goals were met by participants. Best practice behaviors with the greatest participant improvement were:
 1. Planning breakfast ahead of time
 2. Planning snacks ahead of time
 3. Making sure that fruits and/or vegetables cover half of the dinner plate.

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 **22** 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 2014, this group of ladies donated **\$4,530** and volunteered **2327** hours. According to the Independent Sector, these volunteer hours are valued at **\$51,854**.



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, and 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 19 youth competed at the District 3 4-H Livestock Judging Contest which led to teams placing high in each age division.

Shooting Sports – Several coaches were trained in archery and pistol. We are looking forward to setting practice and growing the program in 2016.

Vet Science Project - Agents help 4-H leader with establishing and conducting curriculum for the Veterinary Science Club. The group meets monthly with lessons in injections, necropsy, ear notching and presentations from local vets and Dr. Joe Mask.



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 – 4-H members show both meat and exhibition poultry. A Broiler workshop was conducted for 10 youth and 12 adults. The workshop included nutrition, housing and showing.

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 180 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 **Kitchen Boot Camp workshop** for 22 youth. Sessions were led by Agents and committee members. The two day camp featured 6 hands-on recipes, a lesson in wheat with a wheat grinding demonstration, fieldtrips to a local produce stand and a grocery store.



Kitchen Boot Camp Workshop

Duds to Dazzle Workshop – 13 youth attended the workshop to learn about the contest. Teams brainstormed items to make during the contest. Follow up practice included hands-on lessons on how to make various embellishments.

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; 7 youth participated in district nutrition quiz bowl. The Nutrition Quiz Bowl team placed 1st in district competition and advanced to State Roundup where they also placed 1st. The team competed at the National Roundup in Decatur where they placed 4th in the FCS Skillathon.

Clothing and Textiles –4-H'ers participated in County Fashion Show and 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 43 youth who learned about selection and coordination of garments.

4-H and Youth Development

4-H Explosion – The annual 4-H recruitment event was a hit with a change of location and date change. The parent orientation meeting was well attended in its third year. The event was attended by 60 youth and 75 adults.

Record Books are important to every 4-H member's project and 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.

Scholarships are an important milestone for the 4-H members of Wise County. This year six 4-H members applied for the Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarship and received a total of \$76,000. Three scholars received Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo scholarships worth \$18,000 each. One student received a \$1,000 San Antonio School Tour Scholarship. One scholar received two \$1500 scholarships.

Etiquette Workshop was attended by 23 youth. The event was coordinated by Wise 4-H. Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce and Conoco Phillips. Youth learned about interviews, meal etiquette, thank you notes, and proper dress.

Do It Yourself (DIY) Mondays reached **18** youth. DIY Mondays were half day camps featuring Science Engineering and Technology, Upcycle/Recycle, and Rocketry, Disaster Preparedness, Pinterest Party .

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.

Texas 4-H at the Capitol was attended by 11 you and 3 adults from Wise County. Individuals met with Rep King's staff and observed the opening of the Senate.





2015 Wise County Learn, Grow, Eat & GO!
 Tanya Davis, CEA-FCS and Andrea Clark, 4-H PA

An interdisciplinary approach to reducing child obesity through the Learn, Grow, Eat & GO! curriculum (a modification/revision of the Junior Master Gardener “Nutrition in the Garden”), Walk Across Texas, and the Coordinated Approach to Child Health program.

Relevance

The high prevalence of childhood obesity in Texas is cause for concern because it is linked to negative health consequences for children and their families. Schools are uniquely positioned to have a positive impact on children’s knowledge and behaviors associated with obesity. For example, vegetable exposure plus school gardening has been shown to improve consumption of fruits and vegetables. Adding more frequent and more vigorous physical activities during school has been shown to improve student fitness and weight. The home environment is also an important influence on a child’s eating and activity behaviors. The greater the frequency of vegetable consumption and physical activity by parents, the greater the consumption of these foods and exercise by their children. With child obesity rates among low-income children in Texas ranging from 10% to over 20%, engaging schools and families in prevention efforts is critical.

Response

To target this high prevalence of childhood obesity, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Baylor County partnered with the Bridgeport Independent School District to implement the Learn, Grow, Eat & GO! curriculum in the environmental science classes at Bridgeport Intermediate School. Classes consist of third, fourth and fifth graders.

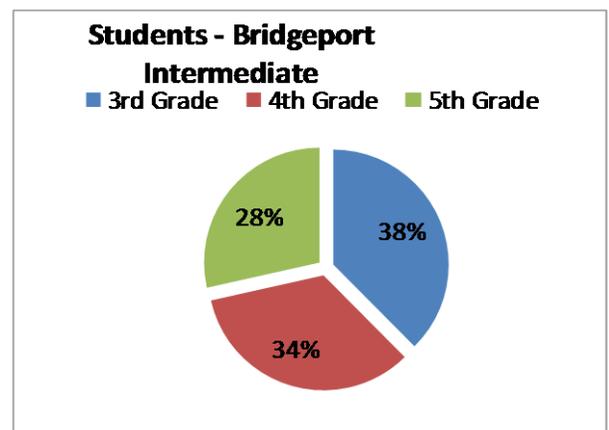
The Learn, Grow, Eat & GO! (LGEG) curriculum emphasizes science, math, language art/reading, social studies and health through effective learning activities with both the LGEG and Walk Across Texas (WAT) programs. The LGEG curriculum was designed to engage children and their families in school gardens, vegetable recipe tastings, classroom activities and take home family stories; and includes:

- Classroom raised bed gardens
- Classroom vegetable tastings and food demonstrations
- Family stories for students to take home
- Opportunities for “Growing Strong” section
 - ❖ Walk Across Texas online team enrollment
 - ❖ Family physical activity newsletters
 - ❖ Family physical activity bonus miles

Results

463 third, fourth, and fifth grade students ages 8-11 years old attended one or more of the sessions. 463 completed a pre evaluation.

- ❖ 3rd Grade- 174 students
- ❖ 4th grade- 157 students
- ❖ 5th grade-132 students



4-H and Youth Development

Nutrition: Extension personnel and teachers led 25 vegetable tastings and food demonstrations to increase child preference. Child preference for vegetables is a high indicator for consumption of vegetables.

Garden: students participated in building, planting, maintaining, and harvesting the Environmental Science classroom garden beds. Extension personnel and teachers led 51 gardening lessons.

Future Programming: The Learn Grow Eat & Go program continues in 2016 with the Bridgeport Intermediate School. For the spring semester Extension personnel and teachers will organize and implement the physical activity component as well as continue with activities that combine the interdisciplinary elements of nutrition, garden science, physical activity, food preparation and fresh vegetable tasting to improve the health and wellness of children, families and the school community. Post evaluations will be administered to students in May 2016.

Acknowledgements

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Wise County would like to recognize teachers and administrators at Bridgeport Intermediate School campus for their willingness to collaborate on this project.



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

	Youth	Adults
	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. **65 youth and adults** attended the event at the Wise County Fairgrounds.
- **Serving and Preserving the Harvest** focused on food safety and preservation. **35 participants** attended three jams and jellies workshop in July and August. Participants took home two ½ pints of jam.



2015 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.

ADULT PROGRAMMING

- Water Quality Testing and Water Well Management Information Event** One hundred Wise County residents submitted **100** water samples for screening from private water wells for common contaminants including fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates, and high salinity. Educational information for treating specific contaminants was provided to residents whose sample tested positive. Number of samples testing positive included: 4-fecal chloroform; 3-nitrates; and 53-high salinity. A meeting explaining screening results was held for all participants with **59** in attendance. **Fifty-five** participants completed the satisfaction survey which indicated that **100 %** of participants increased knowledge as a result of attending the event.



YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Trails 4 Success science day with Paradise ISD- reached 209 students

- Underground Aquifer**
 Focuses on the process of replenishing and removing water from underground aquifers
- Edible water shed**-students created their own landscape to in turn witness how water sheds are formed within their landscape.

Summer Water Camp- reached 32 youth

- CityScape Module**
 Educational trailer exhibits water run-off through city and rural areas
- Rainfall Simulator**



Community Economic Development

Demonstrated the impact that raindrops have on the soil surface

- **Water Journey Activity**

Water Journey demonstrated the circulation of the earth's water

Farm Bureau Ag Day- reached 332 students

Drinkable aquifers activity demonstrated how the use of water wells and pumps effects underground aquifers

Additional water curriculum efforts-

The Incredible Water Journey activity reached students during the following activities

- **Stemania** hosted by Weatherford College targeted (300) 4th grade students
- **Natural Resources Day** hosted by Extension AgriLife reached (500) 5th grade students
- **Classrooms** on the campuses of Paradise, Slidell, Bridgeport, and Carson Elementary taught 251 students.



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Wise County

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