

Making a Difference

2020 Palo Pinto County - AG&NR In-Depth Plan Summary
Jason Westbrook - Palo Pinto Ag & Natural Resource Agent

Relevance

Agriculture and Natural Resources accounts for \$5,629,000 annually to the economy of Palo Pinto County. This information comes from the 2017 U.S. Census report. The economic viability of Palo Pinto County depends on this segment of industry. Agricultural and natural resource programming is planned through the County Agriculture Committee and delivered by the County Extension Agent and members of the committee. The issues solved within the committee driven programs have a future impact on management options available for Palo Pinto producers.

Response

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension and Palo Pinto County developed programs through the work of the Palo Pinto County Ag Committee and direct discussion with agricultural professionals. Programs were developed addressing the needs of pesticide management, pond management, land management and beef cattle management. Demonstrations were developed for cedar elm control and a virtual demonstration video was used on how to treat pond weeds. Program announcements to producers with agendas and supporting information are mailed prior to each meeting. Monthly Ag articles were posted of Facebook to support issues that arise. Quarterly newsletters were distributed to area producers.

VALUE

Water Conservation Education



Texas A&M Agrilife Extension programs that teach farmers, homeowners, and business administrators to conserve water are helping reduce demand on the state's limited water resources. Texans benefit from a safer, more reliable water supply at no additional cost.

- CEU Pesticide Workshop (51 attended)
- Virtual Pond Management Program (48 participated)
- North Texas Cattleman Clinic (40 attended)
- Demonstrations: Cedar elm, pond vegetation control video (50 producers)
- Quarterly newsletter Jan, March, July, November (200 producers)
- Monthly Facebook post (200 people)
- Landowner calls (67 calls)
- 3 PAC Meetings (8 members)

Year End Program
Summaries 2020

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Cross Timbers Land Symposium

“Understanding Native &
Improved Rangelands”

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.”
“The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating”

Programs were marketed through all means of mass media. Partnerships between the USDA Farm Service Agency, Helena Chemical, NRCS, Farm Bureau, Capital Farm Credit, Animal Health Industries, Waldens Farm and Ranch and Texas A&M Agrilife Extension personnel were utilized to aid in planning and implementing all educational efforts.

Results

A retrospective post evaluation instrument was used at the Palo Pinto County Pesticide Workshop and Virtual Pond Management Program to measure percent increase in understanding and intentions to adopt specific program topics. 83 attendees of 99 attending the programs responded to the surveys for a survey response percentage of 84.3%.

Program Content	Percentage Increase in Understanding
Sugar cane aphid control	95.3%
Various sorghum and Sudan varieties	85.7%
Pond Ecology	82.8%
Vertebrate pest control and devices	82.1%
Forage insect and control methods	81.4%
Species stocking strategies	75.0%
Importance of catch records.	72.4%

Practice or technology that could be adopted	Percent that will adopt
Use methods to control herbicide drift minimization	90.9%
Use pesticides to control armyworms	82.4%
Use methods to identify and control forage insects	74.1%
Pond weed identification and control	65%
Using the AQUA Plant website	65%

Overall Anticipated Economic benefit of Pond Management Program \$128 per producer

Overall Anticipated Economic benefit of Pesticide Workshop is \$12.89 per acre

Acknowledgements: Palo Pinto Ag Committee, Animal Health International, Texas Beef Council, Capital Farm Credit, Farm Bureau and Walden Farm and Ranch

Making a Difference

2020 Palo Pinto County- Youth Livestock Judging In-Depth Plan Summary

Jason Westbrook- Palo Pinto Ag & Natural Resource Agent

Relevance

Livestock judging is a highly competitive experience that enhances independent decision-making abilities while challenging participants to process information quickly and be able to defend a position or decision. Livestock judging is the visual appraisal of an animal's physical traits, including positive and negative features. The ultimate goal in judging livestock is to compare and contrast the four animals in a given class against one another, and then compare them to what is considered the "ideal" animal. Livestock judging allows personal growth and development as it requires a student to think critically. It can teach youth valuable time management skills, responsibility, and how to be competitive while demonstrating honesty, integrity, and respect. Livestock judging instills these valuable life skills, but also provides opportunities for learning about selection and obtaining general knowledge about the livestock industry, as well as interacting with current industry leaders which may prove beneficial throughout the one's 4-H career and into adulthood.

Response

The Livestock Coalition and County Extension Agent held weekly workshops to train and teach youth on various aspects of livestock judging. The Texas 4-H Explore livestock judging guide was used to educate youth as well as animal handling demonstrations and virtual judging classes. Estimated Performance Data (EPD's) were utilized to train youth on the importance of proper performance selection. Youth were also trained on how to give a set of oral reasons and interpret what they judged.

- Livestock Coalition Meeting (3) meetings
- Monthly newsletters and announcements for practices
- Live Livestock Judging practices (17 attended)
- Virtual Livestock Judging practices (17 participated)
- EPD selection practice (17 participated)
- Lamb handling demonstration (17 participated)
- Goat handling demonstration (17 participated)
- Oral Reasons practice (17 participated)
- District 3 Livestock Judging Contest (17 participated)

VALUE	
Character and Leadership Development	
	Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's 4-H Youth Development Program teaches participants leadership skills and character traits. Participating youth become mentors, role models, and leaders in their schools and communities.

Programs were marketed through all means of mass media. Partnerships between Walden Farm and Ranch, local producers, livestock judging.com and Texas A&M Agrilife Extension personnel were utilized to aid in planning and implementing all educational efforts.

Results

A retrospective post evaluation instrument was used to evaluate the program to measure knowledge gained, anticipated changes and intentions to adopt. A total of 15 youth of 17 youth in the program took the survey for a response rate of 88.7%.

Program Content	Knowledge Gained
Specific traits to look for in livestock	90%
Resiliency and working towards a goal, even when it may be difficult	90%
How to prepare and present a set of oral reasons	80%
My ability to speak in front of others	80%
How to take notes more effectively in the contest	80%

Intentions to Adopt

Definitely Will

I can work cooperatively in a team to make a decision by using appropriate decision-making methods.	100%
I can select the higher quality animal in a class of livestock.	90%

Acknowledgements: Palo Pinto Livestock Coalition, Waldens Farm and Ranch, livestock judging.com, Local Ag. Science Teachers, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension and Adult Leaders.

Making a Difference

2020 Palo Pinto County- Horticulture In-Depth Plan Summary
 Jason Westbrook- Palo Pinto County Ag & Natural Resource Agent

Relevance

Strong, healthy plants contribute to the Texas economy. In 2017, total horticulture and green industry sales, which includes growing, landscaping and retailing, exceeded \$15.6 billion, up 8.7 percent from the prior year, according to a report by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Each year the Extension office receives many phone calls regarding lawn and gardening questions. Horticulture is important in that it represents a large portion of one's property value. Palo Pinto County has a Master Gardeners program which serves as our Horticulture Committee in which many programs are developed. Quarterly newsletters and articles are distributed to support programs and issues that arise. Homeowner calls are made by the County Extension Agent to address the needs of the communities.

Response

The committee held numerous programs to address many topics. These included a wildflower program, birds in the garden program, virtual zoom meeting on succulents and a mulching program. Demonstrations included planting a burr oak and preparing seed balls for planting. The committee also had several tours that included a tulip field day, home garden tour and pumpkin patch garden. A multi county pecan show that included Palo Pinto, Young, Jack and Parker Counties was held with several Regional and State qualifying pecans. Care and maintenance of many County landscape projects are also managed by the members of the local Master Gardeners. Topics were delivered by committee members as well as Extension specialist.

- Wildflower Program (12 attended)
- Birds In The Garden Program (10 attended)
- Zoom Program on Succulent's (10 attended)
- Mulching Program (10 attended)
- Demonstrations: Planting Burr Oak/Seed Ball
- Demo (12 attended)
- Tours: Pumpkin Patch, Tulip Field Day (10)
- Quarterly Newsletters (200 sent)
- Pecan Show (14 Entries)
- 10 PAC Meetings (12 Members)

V A L U E	
Earth-Kind® Landscaping	
	<p>The Earth-Kind® program teaches participants how to care for gardens and landscapes with environmentally friendly, research-proven techniques. Instructional topics include water conservation, responsible fertilizer application, and non-chemical options for controlling pests. Use of Earth-Kind® practices benefits Texas by saving water and protecting surface and groundwater resources from potential contaminants.</p>

Programs were marketed through all means of mass media. Partnerships between the Parker County Master Gardeners, Palo Pinto Master Gardeners, NRCS, Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas A&M Agrilife Extension personnel were utilized to aid in planning and implementing all educational efforts.

Results

A retrospective post evaluation instrument was used at the succulent and mulching program. The evaluation instrument was used to measure knowledge gained and adoption of specific program topics. 10 of 10 attendees completed the surveys for a 100% response rate.

Percentage that increased knowledge

Program Content	Percentage Increase in knowledge gained
Root rot and succulents	100%
Mulch to reduce water needs	90%
Bright light and succulents	90%
Fertilizing succulents	90%
Value of mulching	80%

Percentage Intentions to Adopt

Practice or Technology that Could Be Adopted	Percent That definitely will adopt
Plant wildflower seeds	100%
Use mulch around trees and flower beds	100%
Grow succulents in bright light	80%

Anticipated Economic Benefit for Mulching Program was \$65 by Texas A&M Agrilife Extension.

Acknowledgements: Palo Pinto Master Gardeners, Parker County Master Gardeners, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, Pumpkin Patch Management, NRCS