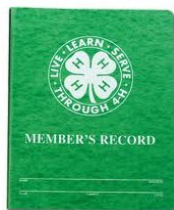


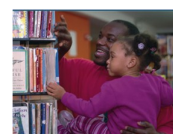


**PRAIRIE VIEW  
A&M UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Cooperative Extension Program



# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



## Making a difference 2013-14

**Extension Outreach  
Educational Programs  
FOR  
FORT BEND COUNTY**



### WHAT IS AGRILIFE EXTENSION?

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act which was introduced in the US Congress on May 8, 1914 by Sen. Hoke Smith of Georgia and Rep. A.F. Lever of South Carolina and was signed into law on July 2, 1914. This act designed to expand vocational agriculture and home demonstration programs in rural America. From those agrarian beginnings, cooperative extension has evolved to serve a wide range of human needs, while continuing to support agriculture, conservation, and a healthy economy, in both rural and urban settings.

Today AgriLife Extension Service in Fort Bend welcome the opportunity to provide your club, school, organization, and business a wide variety of research-based educational programs. As you review our list of available programs, you will notice each is developed to reach adults and youth throughout Fort Bend. We do offer something for everyone! Included in this brochure is a shared vision of our future for both, AgriLife Extension and the Cooperative Extension Program. We invite you to contact us for information on any of the programs listed in this brochure.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Cooperative Extension Program through PVAMU are part of the Texas A&M System. The Texas A&M System, U.S.D.A., and the Fort Bend County Commissioners' Court cooperate as a team to provide support for Extension educational programming in an effort to reach all Fort Bend citizens.

Extension's educational programs are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. Individuals with disabilities who may require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension educational program or activity are encouraged to contact the Extension office for assistance eight (8) days prior to the event date.

#### Our Vision

*To be the premier 21<sup>st</sup> Century outreach and continuing education organization in Texas responding to the needs of the people.*

To find out more about Extension, its administration, its programs, and its personnel, visit the Extension:  
<http://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/> or  
[www.facebook.com/FortBendCountyExtension](http://www.facebook.com/FortBendCountyExtension).



**For More  
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[www.http://fortbend.agrilife.org/](http://www.fortbend.agrilife.org/) , [www.facebook.com/FortBendCountyExtension](http://www.facebook.com/FortBendCountyExtension)

## **Issues Important to Our Citizens of Fort Bend County**

The Fort Bend County Leadership Advisory Board (LAB) is made up of fourteen community leaders from all walks of life and from throughout Fort Bend County. This group of enthusiastic members assist in fine tuning the most important issues facing our county's citizens.

In March 2013 the LAB met to review and modify our list of issues and later ranked and rated each according to their level of importance. In addition, some of the issues were tagged as: 1) cannot be addressed by AgriLife; 2) probably can be addressed by AgriLife; and 3) most likely can be addressed by addressed by AgriLife.

These Issues as identified by our own Fort Bend municipalities and ranked by our LAB are listed below. They are the basis of our programming efforts in Fort Bend County.

### **Ag & Natural Resources include:**

- Land Fragmentation
- Fresh/locally grown produce/food preservation
- Water (quality, quantity, drought/flooding issues)
- Environmental Sustainability (sustainable ag. w/ little environmental impact)
- Agricultural Profitability

### **Youth Development:**

- Education (quality/affordable)
- After-School Youth Activities
- Crime/Bullying (against youth, involving youth)

### **Families & Health:**

- Education (parenting, youth education, home economics/skills)
- Nutrition (education, food preparation/processing)
- Wellness (Overall wellness - diabetes, obesity, healthcare, exercise)
- Economics (Affordable housing, healthcare, safety)

### **Community & Economic Development:**

- Employment (jobs, economy, transportation, new businesses)
- Water (costs, water rights, impact of flooding/drought)

# A Snapshot of Educational Programs available to Our Community

## 4-H & Youth Development Programs

### **Traditional Topics:**

- Beef, horses, poultry, swine, sheep/goats
- Shooting Sports
- Public Speaking
- Community Service
- Food Shows
- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Pantry to Plate Cooking Camps

### **Non-Traditional Topics:**

- Anger Management – Schools
- Character Counts – Schools
- Take a Stand Against Bullying

- Junior Master Gardeners
- Citizenship
- Leadership
- Recreation
- Fashion Shows
- Veterinary Science Club
- Sewing Camps

- Etiquette Day - Schools
- Junior Master Gardener
- Companion Pets

## Agriculture Programs

- Horse
- Pastures & Forages
- Pesticide Licensing and Re-Certification
- Row Crops (corn, sorghum, soybean, cotton)

- Beef Cattle
- Rice
- Pond Management
- Natural Resources

## Horticulture Programs

- Landscaping & Ornamentals
- Bees
- Backyard Basics - Self-Sustainability Programs
- Insects/Diseases/Weeds ID & Control

- Vegetables, Herbs, & Fruits
- Pecans/Citrus
- Texas WaterStar Programs
- Native plants/EarthKind

## Family & Consumer Science Programs

### **Parenting Skills:**

- Master of Memory
- FRED (Fathers Reading Every Day)
- Strengthening Families
- Parenting Connections
- Child Care Provider Education
- Maintain No Gain

### **Financial Management:**

- Money Smart
- Starting Over - Making the Most of Your Money
- NEFE High School Financial Planning Program
- Wise-Up Money for Life

### **Health:**

- Do Well Be Well w/ Diabetes
- Cooking Well W/ Diabetes
- Walk Across Texas
- Tobacco Cessation Ed.
- Step Up to Scale Down
- Cancer Prevention Ed.

### **Foods & Nutrition:**

- Better Living for Texans
- Food Protection Mgmt.
- Food Safety
- Food Preservation

## *and, Volunteer Opportunities*

## Master Volunteer Programs

- Master Gardeners
- Coastal Prairie Master Naturalist

- Master Wellness Volunteers

## Program Area Committees/Task Forces

- Beef/Forage PAC
- Horse Task Force
- Pecan/Citrus PAC
- Master Naturalist Board
- Partners for Parenting TF

- Crops PAC
- Pesticide TF
- Bee PAC
- TEEA
- 4-H Club Managers

- Rice Task Force
- Ag/Hort Advisory Group
- Master Gardener Board
- Family & Consumer Sci. PAC
- 4-H Project Mangers/Leaders

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
Service offers practical, how-to education  
based on university research. It's  
available to any resident of Texas. You  
may read it in the newspaper, hear it on  
the radio, attend an Extension  
workshop, order a publication, or just  
call your  
Fort Bend County Extension Office!*

### 2013 Fort Bend County Statistics

County Population (2012): 643,408\*

Percent Change since 2010: 7.1%

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|                            |           |         |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------|
| White:                     | 230,008   | (35.7%) |
| Hispanic:                  | 160,060   | (24.9%) |
| Black:                     | 135,311   | (21.0%) |
| Asian:                     | 114,607   | (17.8%) |
| Other:                     | 3,342     | (0.6%)  |
| Persons under 5 years:     | 7.3%      |         |
| Persons under 18 years:    | 23.7%     |         |
| Persons 65 years and over: | 8.3%      |         |
| Per Capita Income:         | \$ 41,926 |         |
| Average Household Inc. :   | \$129,641 |         |

### FORT BEND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT



County Judge Robert "Bob" Hebert  
Precinct 1 Commissioner Richard Morrison  
Precinct 2 Commissioner Grady Prestage  
Precinct 3 Commissioner Andy Meyers  
Precinct 4 Commissioner James Patterson

## TRADITIONS

Over the last century, extension has adapted to changing times and landscapes, and it continues to address a wide range of human, plant, and animal needs in both urban and rural areas. Today, extension works in six major areas:

- **4-H Youth Development** —cultivates important life skills in youth that build character and assist them in making appropriate life and career choices. At-risk youth participate in school retention and enrichment programs. Youth learn science, math, social skills, and much more, through hands-on projects and activities.
- **Leadership Development** —trains extension professionals and volunteers to deliver programs in gardening, health and safety, family and consumer issues, and 4-H youth development and serve in leadership roles in the community.
- **Agriculture** —research and educational programs help individuals learn new ways to produce income through alternative enterprises, improved marketing strategies, and management skills and help farmers and ranchers improve productivity through resource management, controlling crop pests, soil testing, livestock production practices, and marketing.
- **Natural Resources** —teaches landowners and homeowners how to use natural resources wisely and protect the environment with educational programs in water quality, timber management, composting, lawn waste management, and recycling.
- **Horticulture** — over the years, horticulture has emerged as one of the potential agricultural enterprise in accelerating the growth of economy. Its role in the country's nutritional security, poverty alleviation and employment generation programs is becoming increasingly important. It offers not only a wide range of options to the farmers for crop diversification, but also provides ample scope for sustaining large number of agriculture related industries which generate huge employment opportunities. At present, horticulture is contributing 24.5% of GDP from 8% land area.
- **Family and Consumer Sciences** —helps families become resilient and healthy by teaching nutrition, food preparation skills, positive child care, family communication, financial management, and health care strategies.
- **Community and Economic Development** —helps local governments investigate and create viable options for economic and community development, such as improved job creation and retention, small and medium-sized business development, effective and coordinated emergency response, solid waste disposal, tourism development, workforce education, and land use planning.

Educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners' Courts of Texas Cooperating.