



Special Topics for Summer 2013

- Fort Bend County 4-H Day Camp
- Etiquette Day
- About Fort Bend
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- Fort Bend Crops Tour
- Richmond Farmers' Market
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July– Sept. 2013

TOTAL CONTACTS

294 educational sessions
86,083 attendees
1,248 site visits
1,042 office visits
1,648 phone calls
17,686 emails
661 websites
3,974 mailouts
210 volunteers assisted

4-H Day Camp

The 4-H Day Camp was developed to give non-4-H members a chance to experience a day full of 4-H activities. This camp was started as a recruitment event to expose youth from 6-10 years of age to 4-H. Each summer the event is held in July at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds with participants taking part in a wide range of hands on activities and enjoying a hot dog lunch, snacks, and door prizes for all participants. This event is also a great time for our volunteers to conduct the learning sessions. We utilize Master Gardeners, Parent & 4-H Leaders, Texas Extension Education Association members, County Council Officers, Teen Leaders, agents and staff.



Fifty-one attended the 2013 Day Camp with the average age of 7.8 years. Of the 51, three joined 4-H in September. We do not do a formal evaluation due to the age of the participants; however, we do ask questions about what they liked about the camp. One hundred percent of the participants enjoyed the day and were excited about what they were able to learned and accomplished.

Etiquette Day...5th Graders Getting Ready for Jr. High

Preparing for junior high school weighs heavy on the minds of 5th graders as the school year comes to a close. During the month of May, FCS agents contributed to the 4-H Etiquette Day at T.L. Pink Elem. and Velasquez Elem. Female 5th graders at Pink were taught "Hygiene & Wardrobe," while 5th graders at Velasquez were provided a presentation on the importance of "Building a Healthy Plate." Students engaged in open discussion about food choices and proper manners they use at breakfast, lunch, and dinner time. Ag agents taught male students dress & hygiene, phone etiquette and character building.

About Fort Bend County

For more than 20 years, Fort Bend has been in the top 20 counties in the United States for economic excellence and population growth. Several times Fort Bend has been recognized as the fastest growing, most diverse, and highest quality of life in the state and nation. Excellent schools, affordable housing, and extensive recreational facilities have attracted families with impressive demographic profiles. This results in a local employment base that provides relocating companies with a diverse mix of professional, technical, skilled, and unskilled labor with the highest educational attainment levels in the region. To learn more about Fort Bend County go to: http://www.fortbendcounty.org/quick_stats.htm .

A GLIMPSE OF FORT BEND COUNTY:

2013 Population: 643,408

College Educated: 40.40%

Median Household Income \$81,528

Mean Household Income: \$108,994

Per Capita Income: \$37,152

Junior Master Gardener's 4-H Activities

Junior Master Gardening program is an international youth gardening program of the University Cooperative Extension network. It is currently used through community clubs, after school and school based program. The goal of the JMG program is to grow good kids through igniting a passion for learning, success, and service through unique gardening experience. During the summer four noteworthy activities took place in Fort Bend.

- 1) Science and Technology Camp sponsored by Operation Military Kids was held in Conroe, TX. The JMG "Hamburger Plant" was taught and use as Ag Awareness during the camp. The camp was attended by 20 participants including several from Fort Bend.
- 2) The Boys and Girls Club of Fort Bend County, the JMG "Hamburger Plant" was taught as part of a jump start to the planting of a garden at the center. There were 34 boys and girls in attendance.
- 3) Mission West Elementary started the renovations to their school garden. The Mission West Green Club along with a Girl Scout Troop, made a total of 20 students, cleaned out the grub and weeds of their over- grown school garden. They plan to restore the garden and make it an educational outlet for their students K-5th grade in 2014
- 4) Two water programs were conducted for 27 kids at the JMG Earth Kind Kids Kamp. The first lesson activity was over the water cycle with an activity that demonstrated where water is located on the planet and how it flows to and from each location. The second lesson and activity covered water conservation and the effects of water usage and pollution on water sources.



2013 Barrel-Racing Clinic



The Horse Task Force of Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service of Fort Bend County sponsored a three-day "Barrel Racing & Poles Clinic" at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds "O.D. Tucker Rodeo Arena," located at 4310 Highway 36 South in Rosenberg, Texas on July 6 - 8 with 16 participating. The clinic instructor was Connie Combs,



Women's Professional Rodeo Association's World Champion Barrel Racer, seven-time National Finals Rodeo (NFR) qualifier and three-time average winner. She has been a clinic instructor and horse trainer for over 25 years, winning Houston, Cheyenne, and other major rodeos.



Fort Bend County Crops Tour

Row crops and rice production continues to play a vital role in Fort Bend County economy, with 16,967 acres of corn, 34,787 acres of grain sorghum, 22,762 of upland cotton, 1476 acres of soybeans, and 5588 acres of rice. Since a large majority of the crop production is conducted as a dry-land enterprise, our crops are more susceptible to drought and climatic irregularities. It goes without saying that profitability is greatly affected by market/price changes and even more of an issues during times of climatic stress. Strategic planning efforts continue to rein-

force crop production programs and is a high priority promoting the use of new technology, improved varieties, use of best management practices and environmentally sound options allowing enterprises to be economically sustainable.

As a result, on July 2, 2013 the Texas AgriLife and the Ag/Hort Committee hosted the FBC Crops Tour to showcase result demonstration/applied research efforts underway in Fort Bend. Corn Sorghum and cotton trails were discussed in detail. Specialists were called in to talk about emerging issues including diseases, insects, cropping systems and installation costs. Seed representatives from several companies talked about varieties and production expectations. Extension economists talked about legislation status of 2013 farm bill and profit margins. A total of 58 were in attendance include farmers, program hosts, speakers and agents.



Richmond Farmers' Market....back for year #2

If you haven't had a chance to visit the Richmond Farmers Market, you have been missing out. First, according to market manager Liz Stegint, "Our farmers offer a variety of freshly harvested local greens and vegetables -- fresh Asian salad greens, lettuces, kale, salad mixes, onions, beets, turnips, fresh herbs and more. We also have locally grown vegetable and herb plants for your garden, local honey, and fresh free range eggs."

Secondly, you may have been missing out on the opportunity to support local agriculture. Locally grown fresh farm sales allow small and limited resource farmers a "piece of the pie" so to speak. The locally-produced food movement is making its way into our region and into the minds of consumers. Your support helps make this way of life sustainable for your local farmer.

Currently, the market is running every Friday afternoon from 2 pm to 6 pm and Sundays from 10am-2pm. - located one block West of the Brazos River in downtown Richmond, at the corner of Hwy 90 and 3rd Street. Stop by the market and meet your farmer. Also, go online and "like" the market at [facebook.com/richmondfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/richmondfarmersmarket) for information on what's fresh, additional market events, and for vendor applications. See you at the market!

Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) ...literacy advocacy

Research shows that reading aloud to children on a frequent basis is one of the most effective ways to promote early literacy among young children and that strong relationships exist between children's literacy skills, academic performance, and future income potential. Children who are read to at least three times a week by a family member are almost twice as likely to score in the top 25% on tests of reading ability than children who are read to less frequently. Children who do not develop a habit of reading will fall behind others in academic achievement.

FBISD Title I schools initiated Agrilife's Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED) to twenty-one schools to help father develop a healthy habit of reading to their children. FRED is designed to increase parental involvement in children's literacy development, with a specific focus on fathers. Since its inception in 2002, over 20,000 parents and children have participated in FRED. Fort Bend ISD has been incorporating FRED in their fathering initiative for the past four years. In 2013, 3,351 parents and children completed some aspect of the FRED program from Fort Bend ISD. Wow!



2013 Operation Military Kids

Fort Bend County has established a great partnership with Operation Military Kids. We have had great success while using their resources for community service projects, technology training, and STEM related activities for our 4-Hers. Operation Military Kids is the U.S. Army's collaborative effort with America's communities to support children and youth impacted by deployment. OMK's goal is to connect military children and youth with local resources in order to achieve a sense of community support and enhance their well-being. A Day of Service (9/11) event was a community service event attended by 17 youth of Fort Bend County 4-Hers and non-4-Hers. A total of 10 quilts were made a given to wounded soldiers and veterans.



Feral Hog Biology and Reproduction Facts:

- Adult weight: 100 to 400+ pounds.
- Adult height: 3 feet (males are generally larger than females).
- Color: Varies from solid black, brown, blond, white, or red to spotted or belted.
- Feet: Similar to deer tracks, except toes have more round or blunt tips.
- Gestation period: 115 days.
- Litter size: Four to eight, but may be as large as thirteen.
- Number of litters: Two litters per year, at any time of the year.
- Social structure: Generally travel in family groups comprised normally of two sows and the young. Boars are generally solitary, only joining a group to breed.

FBC Crop Weather Station—Did you know Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Fort Bend has a weather station in our own backyard. We are one of 30 selected sites across the southern portion of Texas to help farmers, ranchers, pest applicators and even homeowners make better choices in dealing with Mother Nature. To access data from the station go to <http://cwp.tamu.edu>, then Log-in OR Register. Once logged in, you will be able to select the time frame of the data you are needed. A table will pop-up that lists (by the hour) - maximum, minimum & average temperature, relative humidity, wind speed & direction, soil temperatures at 1', 3', and 8" levels and total rainfall for the period of time selected—the day, month, year.... Great Info.!



Dinner Tonight Cooking School

The percentage of the food budget spent on away-from-home food has increased steadily since the 1970s. Consequently, the proportion of calories provided by away-from-home food has also increased. When dining out, there is a tendency to choose foods higher in calories, and large portions are increasingly common. Research shows daily calorie intake from foods eaten away from home increased 18% to 32% in the last 25 years. Many people become overwhelmed when they think of menu planning and trying to prepare healthy, cost-effective meals for their families. Providing families with healthy recipes and menu planning tips through the multi-faceted Dinner Tonight! program is intended to encourage families to eat at home more often and hopefully make healthier food choices. The goal for cooking healthy programs is to help families learn to how to cook quick, nutritious meals for their families in an attempt to achieve good health and cut down on diet related illnesses.

The Dinner Tonight! Program encourages family mealtime by providing quick, nutritious, cost-effective recipes to consumers through weekly video webcasts. Every Monday, a new video demonstration link is emailed to distribution list numbering nearly 3500. The Dinner Tonight Healthy Cooking School provides an opportunity to bring people together in a fun environment to further the mission of teaching families about healthy meal planning and food preparation. Five Dinner Tonight Healthy Cooking Schools were conducted reaching 143 individuals thus far in 2013.

Snap-Spot of Upcoming Events:

- Fort Bend County Fair, Sept. 27 – Oct. 6. COME BY AG'tivity Barn. :-)
- Preserving the Bounty (Canning) Workshop – Thru., Oct. 24, @ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm, Extension Office
- SHOT Clinic & Competition – Oct. 25 & 26, at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds Rodeo Arena, Rosenberg
- Water Conservation Workshop – Sat., Oct. 26, 8:30 – 12:30, T.E. Harman Center, Sugar Land
- Upper Gulf Coast Wildlife Expo & Trade Show - Wed., Nov. 6, 8 am – 2:30 pm, Rio Brazos Hunting Preserve Simon-ton
- Feral Hog Management Workshop - Sat., Nov. 9, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Fort Bend County Fairgrounds (D)
- Food Management 2-Day Cert. Training - Nov. 12, 2013, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm (both days), Extension Office
- Water Conservation Workshop - Sat., Nov. 16, 8:30 – 12:30, Katy High School, Katy
- The A.R.T. (Attention, Respect & Trust) of Horsemanship clinic - Nov. 23 & 24, Fort Bend Co. Fairgrounds
- Fort Bend Co. Pecan Show - Sat., Nov. 23, 12:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Bud O'Shieles Bldg, Rosenberg
- Pesticide Applicator Training - Tuesday, December 11, 7:30 a.m. – 3:30, AgriLife Extension, Rosenberg

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Our Vision

To be the premier 21st Century outreach & continuing education organization in Texas responding to the needs of the people.