

Making a Differencein Fort Bend County

2012—Volume 1, Issue 3—SUMMER

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AG 'tivity Barn.....At the Fort Bend County Fair

TEACHERS —Listen Up! The **2012 AG 'tivity Barn** will have 21 agricultural industry related exhibits including The Farm Bureau Mobile Classroom, the Southwest Mobile Dairy and a tour of livestock exhibits. The Texas Parks & Wildlife, Texas Master Naturalist and Texas Master Gardeners are pairing up for one great exhibit and presentation. The North Fort Bend Water Authority's Mobile Teaching Lab, also returns for an in depth look at water conservation. Each student will receive a goodie bag full of fun activities. As you know there are many other things to see at the Fort Bend County Fair, so make your plans now to attend. The AG 'tivity Barn is open to the general public during the Fort Bend County Fair, but there will be organized private tours and special presentations available to all school districts within Fort Bend County, Monday, October 1, 2012, through Friday, October 5, 2012.

Guided tours are **FREE** and will be available on a first come first serve basis with a confirmed reservation. (Un-scheduled tours will not be permitted during the designated session times.) Please, please register early. A Maximum of 250 youth per day is all we can handle. If you have any questions, please call 281-342-3034 ext. 7030 and speak with Melissa Anderson.



Fresno Fit Challenge.....Letter to Parks & Rec.



In efforts to combat the rise in diet-related diseases and increase optimal health and wellness in citizens, a health and wellness/fit challenge will be conducted in the Fresno, Texas community. The goals of this program are to: provide families with relevant nutrition education and access to enhance food resources, present opportunities for participants to experience a variety of foods, increase consumption of vegetables and fruits, and engage citizens in regular physical fitness activities. The

Fresno Fit Challenge will challenge citizens to make positive changes to their diet and increase physical activity. Free educational sessions will be held throughout the month of August each Tuesday and Thursday starting August 7th, 2012, 7:00-9:00-pm at the Mustang Community Center located at 4721 FM Rd 521, Rosharon, TX 77583. Please feel free to contact me for any questions or concerns at (281) 342-3034 or via e-mail fwanderson@ag.tamu.edu.

Fathers Reading Every Day.....And Granddads Too!

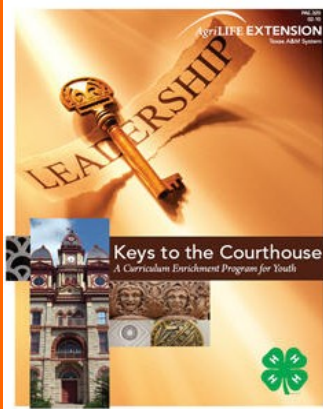


2012 Fort Bend County Fathers Reading Every Day - Research shows that reading aloud to children on a frequent basis promotes early literacy among young children, and that strong relationships exist between children's literacy skills, academic performance, and future income potential. AgriLife Extension and FB ISD Title I Schools initiated a program to encourage families (particularly dads) to become more involved in their students educational process - *Fathers Reading Every Day (FRED)*. More than 260 parents & children completed some aspect of *FRED*, with 86 parents & children completing the entire program. Parents read an average of 31 books with their children, and averaged more than 490 minutes of reading time together during the four-week program. Results indicate more time is spent reading, improved vocabulary, higher grads and improved relationships.



Keys to the Courthouse.....A Lesson in Government!

Educating youth about the role of county government in the daily lives of Texans prepares them to become knowledgeable constituents. In an effort to assist youth in social studies, the "Keys to the Courthouse" curriculum was introduced to local schools in the spring of 2012. The program featured 5 lessons that contain age-appropriate (7th and 12th grade) classroom and research activities. Two Fort Bend ISD teachers were trained to facilitate and present the "Keys to the Courthouse" curriculum to 141 students. Results indicated that 83% could make better leadership decisions, 77% have a better appreciation for government, 58% wish to become involved in government, and 65% can now help to educate other youth. For more information: Contact the Cooperative Extension Program in Fort Bend by calling 281-342-3034.



Welcome Missouri City 4-H Club....Newest Fort Bend Club

We want to welcome Missouri City 4-H Club! The club manager is Hannah Mize. They meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Missouri City Community Center, so if anyone knows of someone that is interested in joining 4-H in the Sugar Land - Missouri City area, give them our website, fortbend.agrilife.org to click on the 4-H tab and download the 2012 Fort Bend County 4-H Club Listing to get Missouri City 4-H's contact information if you would like to check out the line-up of projects and perhaps join.



TEEA 4-H Scholarship Winner for 2012....Great Job!

The Texas Extension Education Association proudly presents a 4-H Scholarship to a very worthy young 4-H member. Congratulations to Dakota Freund of Guy 4-H in Guy, Texas on receiving the 2012 TEEA 4-H scholarship - valued at \$300.00. He plans to further his education in the Ag Business field. Dakota's record book has been submitted to the next level of competition where it will compete in District 9 for a \$1,000.00 scholarship.



Fort Bend 4H 'ers Bring Home the Prizes.....Great Job!

Congratulations Major Show Participants -We are proud of each and every one of you for participating in the major shows, you are all winners! Congratulations are also in order to our Horse & Livestock Judging Teams. We do not have the status on placing at this time. If we left anyone off the list we do apologize. Please let us know and we can put it in the next newsletter. Fort Bend 4-H placings are as follows:



Fort Worth Expo

Wyatt Lutringer - 4th place Heifer - Brangus
Starr Swanson - Scramble Heifer Competition - Caught

San Antonio Livestock Expo

Clayton Gardovsky - Steer - 4th place
Megan Grant - Heifer - 2nd place Simbrah
Wyatt Lutringer - Heifer - 3rd place Brangus
Starr Swanson - Scramble Heifer Competition-Caught

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

Meghan Cernosek - Broilers - pullets - 30th place
Reagan Cooper - Steer - 3rd place Red Angus
Madison Eben - Broilers - cockerels - 8th place
Wyatt Lutringer - Heifer - 7th place Brangus
Haley Patton - Broilers - cockerels - 51st place
Alexis Smith - Broilers - cockerels - 38th place
Cassidy Smith - Broilers - cockerels - 9th place
Mitchell Wendt - Swine - 2nd place Hampshire

Joe Mask, County Extension Agent—4H/Youth Development....Welcome Joe!

Howdy, I am **Joe Mask**, the new County Extension Agent for 4-H & Youth Development. I was formerly the Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent for five years in Fort Bend County, and most recent I served as an Agricultural Science Teacher at Cinco Ranch High School in Katy I.S.D. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Science from Texas A&M University, a Master of Science Degree in Agricultural Education from Tarleton State University and I'm in the process of completing a Doctor of Philosophy in Extension Education from Texas A&M. The 4-H program is not new to me, as I served on the Texas 4-H Council in 1990 - 1991, and I also shadowed and helped with some aspects of the program under the direction of Dwight Callis while working as the Agricultural Agent. I look forward to expanding the 4-H and Youth Development Program here in Fort Bend County. I was asked recently if I replaced Mr. Callis and my answer was, "You can not replace Mr. Callis, I have taken his position and will try to up keep the standards and focus of the Fort Bend County 4-H and will introduce as many new ideas as possible." I am looking



Angela Bosier, 4H Program Assistant joins AgriLife....Welcome Angela!



Greetings! I am **Angela Bosier**, the new 4-H Program Assistant for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Fort Bend. I am new to the area originally being from Lake Charles, Louisiana. I am a recent graduate from McNeese State University. I have a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Sciences and a Master's degree in Agriculture. My background consists of Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine. I have not only studied these areas in school but have worked for several veterinarians at the local emergency vet clinic. I have also worked for Nutro products as a pet nutrition specialist. The 4-H club is a new and exciting endeavor for me, where I wish to expand my specialty while having a positive impact on the community. I have already been introduced to several parents and youth of Fort Bend County 4-H and look forward to meeting all of you. While I will be focusing on the urban communities, the Fort Bend 4-H Youth & Development team will be working on merging the urban and traditional 4-H. So the youth of Fort Bend can look forward to meeting new people and their clubs expanding.

TID-BIT:

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**FOR A COM-
PLETE LIST OF
UPCOMING
EVENTS—
VISIT OUR
WEBPAGE!**

2012 Fort Bend County Statistics

County Population (2012): **606,953***

Percent Change since 2010: **3.7%**

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|           |         |         |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| White:    | 219,110 | (36.1%) |
| Hispanic: | 146,883 | (24.2%) |
| Black:    | 130,495 | (21.5%) |
| Asian:    | 106,217 | (17.5%) |
| Other:    | 4,249   | (0.7%)  |

Persons under 5 years: 7.3%

Persons under 18 years: 29.0%

Persons 65 years and over: 7.7%

Female: 50.8%

Male: 49.2%

*\*U.S. Bureau of Census—Quickfacts*

## **TSC Paper Clover Campaign....Benefiting Fort Bend 4-H**

On May 2- 13, 2012 the Tractor Supply Company in Katy, Texas and the Richmond Store location began asking customers at the register if they would like to donate a \$1.00 to Fort Bend 4-H. Please help spread the word to all of your friends and family to visit one of these TSC stores during that time. Let 's all join forces & support Fort Bend 4-H.

In the fall of 2011 the TSC Paper Clover Campaign in Fort Bend County collected a total of \$270.00 with the Katy Store location that sold 84 clovers and the Richmond Store location sold 366 clovers. Sixty percent of the funds went to Fort Bend 4-H. Way to go!

## **Quality Counts Training Scheduled....An Ethics Program.**

As we look forward in the 4-H year, the Quality Counts verification is a necessity for all exhibitors that plan to enter the 2013 Major Stock Shows in Texas. Joe Mask is planning three nights for Quality Counts workshops. The program will be offered August 30, September 6, & September 13, from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Fort Bend County Extension Office. These programs will be on a different section each night. While this will be new to some members and a refresher for others, it is a great opportunity to learn more about Quality Assurance and Character Education. While these programs are not mandatory to complete the verification, it is a great way to get young people together to learn about Quality Counts, meet other youth, and gain a different perspective. The first 25 members that sign up and complete all three lessons will receive this durable duffle bag. Email Melissa at [meanderson@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:meanderson@ag.tamu.edu) to reserve your spot.

