



Making a Difference

In Fort Bend County

Fall 2017



Special Topics for Fall 2017

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Oct.-Dec, 2017 TOTAL CONTACTS

784 educational sessions
135,909 contacts
715 Social Media posts
32,805 Social Media followers
30 Newsletter Editions
33,720 Newsletter contacts
761 Volunteers assisted
2,948 Volunteer hours
1,611 Edu. Resources Used Reached:
36.4% white
24.6 % Hispanic
20.8% Black
18.1% Asian

Message from the Co. Extension Director

In light of the devastation caused by Hurricane Harvey in Fort Bend County and surrounding areas FEMA is working as fast as humanly possible to pool all available resources to help recover. By working together, Texans can help keep their communities safe and strong. FEMA's spokesperson summed it up by saying, "In order for an area to recover from a storm like Hurricane Harvey, it takes more than just the government: it takes the whole community. The whole community includes:

Individuals and families, including those with access and functional needs who can contribute to their own recovery in addition to that of their families and neighbors. Citizens who contribute by: 1) Taking time to understand emergency needs of their communities before disaster occurs; 2) Volunteering with established organizations and 3) Taking direction and responding reasonably to alerts, warnings and other public emergency information.

Voluntary organizations contribute by: 1) Training and managing volunteer resources; 2) Identifying shelter locations and supplies needed for recovery; 3) Providing goods to those in need such as: cleaning supplies, clothing, food, shelter and post disaster clean-up; and 4) Identifying survivors with unmet needs and finding assistance to meet those needs.

Businesses and Private Industry contribute by: 1) Providing technical assistance to restore utilities and engineering services to rebuild stronger; 2) Working with emergency management personnel to find out what resources may be needed and how they can help; 3) Providing assistance (including volunteers) to support communities during a disaster and throughout the recovery process.

If you want to help survivors and communities in Fort Bend County, but aren't sure where to start, visit our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) at (281) 342-6185. The purpose and mission of the CERT Team is to aid and support the people of Fort Bend County preparing for, responding to, recovering from, or mitigating the effects of natural and Man-Made disasters. CERT training is designed to prepare you to help yourself, your family and your neighbors in the event of an anticipated disruptions and potential hazards before and following a disaster.



4-H Awards & Recognition Banquet

Fort Bend County 4-H Annual Awards Banquet - This very important "4-H year-end" event was held on Sunday, August 6 at the FBC Fairgrounds. This year's Master of Ceremony was 4-H member Arron Phoels. The event opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the 4-H motto, then the "Welcome" and invocation. Everyone then enjoyed a catered meal and afterwards the fun began. The special recognitions included the Clover Kids Recognition for participation followed by the Veterinary Science recognition. The awards included: District/State Awards; County Awards; District Awards; State Awards; Rising Star Awards; Bronze Star Awards; Silver Star Awards; I Dare You Awards; Gold Star Awards; Hall of Fame Award; and the A. P. George Scholarship. The current Volunteer Youth Leadership Council was recognized followed by the installation of new Council officers. The banquet concluded with closing remarks and the 4-H Prayer.



A Success! ...Fort Bend County Fair & AG'tivity Barn!



The fair's 10-day run came to an end, but not until over an estimated 90,000 people attended the Fair. This is the 81st Annual Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo since the original Fair held in October of 1933. And, it was quite a celebration in Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's AG'tivity Barn. And, it was especially nice since we were housed in the new George Arena. AgriLife Extension collaborated with several local partners to form the Fort Bend County Fair AG'tivity Barn Committee. Members consist of Extension staff, Fort Bend Farm Bureau, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Southern Cotton Oil Company.



Most impressive was the variety of events going on daily to entertain the crowd. One of which was AG'tivity Barn in which local youth were exposed to various agriculturally-oriented educational activities during the annual Fort Bend County Fair. Approximately 1,100 students and 56 teachers and chaperones participated in hands on activities during guided school tours such as Crop Production (Corn, Cotton, Soybeans, and Rice), live animal exhibits (Beef Cattle, Chickens, Sheep, Goats, and Swine), Natural Resources (Rainwater Harvesting), Horticultural Pro-

duction (Earth Kind Gardening), Bees, Fish and much more. Also during the 10-day event the AG'tivity barn is opened to the general public that comes through the gates. We estimate that 60% of the total people that came to the fair actually visited the tent, and in 2017 that equated to 60,125 visitors who came and learned something in the AG'tivity Barn. To get more youth involved in Agriculture during the county fair we also offered a coloring contest to youth in grades K-5. We design an Agricultural theme coloring sheet and this year and distributed them in all FBC libraries as well as all Fort Bend County Tax office locations. We had 181 sheets submitted in with 138 girls and 43 boys participating in the contest. Winners are selected in each grade level with 1st and 2nd receiving prizes. Way to go!



Coastal Prairie Master Naturalist Short Course

From March 21st through June 1st, twelve (12) new members completed 50+ hours of training classes covering topics including Texas Eco-Regions, Insects, Birds, Mammals, Reptiles, Plants, Streams, and other disciplines related to the natural sciences and educating the public. They will be working toward earning full membership in order to continue providing nature-related programming for the citizens of Fort Bend County. The Coastal Prairie Master Naturalist chapter has more than 100 volunteers that contributed over 11,500 volunteer hours which have economic benefit of more than \$275,000 to Fort Bend and Waller Counties. This is a year-to-year increase of almost 40%. In total, Coastal Prairie Master Naturalists participated in more than 30 public and school-related events with more than 4,200 adults and children in attendance.

National Livestock Judging Contest Results

Fort Bend County attending National Livestock Judging Contest – The Fort Bend County Livestock Judging successfully competed at the Texas 4-H Round State Livestock Judging Contest where they took home the title of 3rd place and awarded an invitation to compete in the American Royal Livestock Judging Contest. The team placed 4th overall among seventeen of the nation's top 4-H livestock judging teams. Other team awards includes: 2nd Swine, 5th Beef, 4th Reasons, and 8th Sheep/Goat.



2017 4-H Veterinary Science Certificate Program

The 4-H Veterinary Science Certificate Program is a 5-year curriculum-based program that includes 100 lessons and 50 activities that give young people interested in veterinary medicine the opportunity to learn and work with professionals in the field. The program is career-oriented and provides on-the-job training for students to prepare them for a career in veterinary medicine. Students who participate in this program work closely with licensed veterinarians or registered veterinary technicians in their veterinary practices for a minimum of 500 clinical skills hours. This hands-on training provides them with an opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to become a veterinary assistant. The program follows an established curriculum that allows students and adults to work together to achieve success. Since the establishment of the Veterinary Science Certificate Program in Fort Bend in 2012 highlights include:

- In 2017 we have a total of 10 clubs servicing 53 youth with 18 adult leaders assisting.
- We had five vet science 4-H members take part in the Vet Science Skill-a-thon at State 4-H Roundup. We had 11 youth participate in the Veterinary Science Career Day hosted by Texas A&M University.
- We hosted 3 hands-on workshops: Animal Nutrition, Vet Science Skillathon and Production Practices. We had 41 youth participated and 28 adult volunteers. To further explore youths interest in vet medicine, 13 youth visited the TAMU Vet School to check out their world-class facilities.



Financial Literacy Series

To address the issues of financial literacy several activities were implemented throughout the county that focused on bettering the lives of Fort Bend County residents. The Home Buyer's Workshop series was implemented throughout the county. This workshop held on 10/7/16 for nearly 100 participants was designed to increase the amount of home buyers in the county area, provide adequate information for residents looking to purchase homes, and decrease the fear associated with first time home buyers. The workshop addressed topics such as down payment assistance, the loan and application process, and credit issues. Financial Literacy was also presented within the Tackling Tough Skills Curriculum which was presented to the Fort Bend County Jail. These topics addressed the importance of managing family resources, developing shopping budgets, and formulating a resume. Financial literacy was also a component of the Etiquette and Leadership Camp which helped students identify the importance of money management, develop new skills such as writing and balancing of checks, the sale and exchange of real estate, and the benefits of investing.

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants were able to ask questions to deepen their understanding of the material presented. Data from the surveys indicate that the knowledge of the home buying process was provided in a clear manner and the participants felt as though their knowledge of the process had increased. The Financial Literacy component included from the Tackling Tough Skills curriculum also proved to be a success and a great motivator for many participants. Individuals expressed that they were even interested in pursuing higher education as a result of this portion of the life skills series.



Fort Bend County Recovery

Hurricane Harvey: County Updates

Dec. 31, 2017



all totals as of Jan 12, 2018



22,654
THOUSAND
APPROVED
REGISTRATIONS
FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

99.8% HOME
INSPECTIONS
COMPLETED

**NATIONAL
FLOOD
INSURANCE
PROGRAM
(NFIP)**

Claims **3,799**

Paid
\$203.5 MILLION

**PUBLIC
ASSISTANCE**

Provides grants to Government organizations and certain private nonprofits.



2 PROJECTS
OBLIGATED

\$4.5 MILLION
FEDERALLY FUNDED

Housing and
other disaster
related expenses:
additionally

\$91.4 MIL

Direct Housing **15** **173** total
HOUSED **8%** complete

Small Business Administration (SBA)

Loans
Approved: **3,169** for **\$289.5 MIL**

421 HOUSEHOLDS
IN FEMA
FUNDED HOTELS

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency, FEMA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Small Business Administration, National Flood Insurance Program, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Snap-Shot of Upcoming Events:

- Small Ruminant Management—Jan. 6, 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
- Keys to Success in Home Fruit Production—Jan. 7, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Step Up, Scale Down Reg. Deadline—Jan. 7, 5:00 p.m.
- Veterinary Science Info Meeting—Jan. 11, 6:30—8:30 p.m.
- Fruit & Citrus Tree Sale Jan. 13 & 14, 9:00—12:00 noon
- Child Care Provider Ed. Course Reg. Deadline—Jan. 19, 5:00 p.m.
- Food Handlers' Course—Jan. 26, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Gulf Coast Vegetable Conference—Feb. 8, 8:00a.m.—3:30 p.m.
- Private Pesticide Applicators Training—Feb. 16 & 17, 8:30 a.m.—12:00 noon
- Vegetable & Herb Plant Sale—Feb. 24 & 25, 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon
- Parenting Connection Workshop—Mar. 6, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
- Home Food Preservation (Salsa & Relish) - Mar. 9 & 10, 9:00—Noon
- Feral Hog Program—Mar. 10, 8:00a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Walk Across Texas Program Begins—Mar. 12, 8:00 a.m.
- Fruit and Pecan Pruning Clinic—Mar. 17, 9:30-11:30 a.m.



A Glimpse of FBC:

The 2017 population has reached 764,828 of which 41.4% are college educated, 88.5% are high-school graduates and earn an average household income of \$118,558. For over 20 years, Fort Bend has been in the top 20 counties in the U.S. for economic excellence and population growth - and that is by design and not by accident.

Excellent schools, affordable housing, planned communities and extensive recreational facilities have attracted families with impressive demographic profiles. These actions results in a local employment base that provides companies with a diverse mix of professional, technical, skilled, and unskilled labor with the highest educational levels in the region. To learn more go to: www.fortbendcountytx.gov/.

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<http://fortbend.agrilife.org/>

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