



Making a Difference

In Fort Bend County

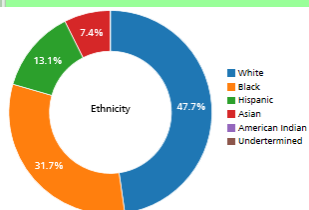
Third Quarter—2017

Special Topics for Summer 2017

- ◆ Message from the Director
- ◆ David Lobpries Retires from TPWD
- ◆ 2017 Kid's Kamp
- ◆ Child Passenger Safety Seat Program
- ◆ Robotics in Fort Bend
- ◆ Gardening with Confidence
- ◆ Quality County for 4-H and FFA Livestock Projects
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July-Sept., 2017 TOTAL CONTACTS

197 educational sessions
54,060 contacts
1,532 Social Media posts
13,247 Social Media followers
21 Newsletter Editions
34,278 Newsletter contacts
416 Volunteers assisted
1,719 Volunteer hours
1,454 Edu. Resources Used



Message from the Co. Extension Director - In light of the severe damage caused by Hurricane Harvey in 40 counties along the Gulf Coast, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announced on August 23 that Texas A&M System Chan. John Sharp will lead the effort to rebuild communities affected by Hurricane Harvey. According to a spokesman for Gov. Abbott, "this is the largest catastrophe in Texas history and the governor is going to coordinate a response as big as Texas. The governor has previously said the cost to help the state recover from Hurricane Harvey county be as high as \$180 billion. Chan. Sharp is expected to introduce his plan to fulfill the role assigned to him by Gov. Abbott with in a short period of time. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is expected to play a major part locally in each of the 40 affected counties.

And just a reminder, AgriLife Extension and the Coop. Extension Program of 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's educational programming in an effort to reach all Fort Bend citizens. Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. For more information on the various programs conducted see the contact information at the end of this newsletter.

TPWD's David Lobprises Retires...



One of the more experienced wildlife biologists in the district, Mr. David Lobpries, retired at the end of June 2017 with over 43 years of experience. David began his career with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department in 1973. He started as an expert waterfowl specialist for the department and spent most of his career serving in District 6 along the gulf coast in that capacity while stationed in Port Acres, TX. Most recently, as a district biologist in District 7 serving Wharton and Fort Bend Counties for the last 11 years while serving in FBC's AgriLife Extension facility.

David has been a very valuable to us all. Although employed by TPWD, David was a true asset to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Fort Bend County having taken part in countless educational programs ranging from Master Naturalist events, to AG'Tivity Barn at the Fort Bend County Fair, to wildlife events at Long Acres Ranch. David hosted control burns for farm and ranch landowners, pond management events, and conducted site visits as needed. The district is losing a lot of practical knowledge and a great mentor to young biologists. We wish David all the best in his retirement—lots of hunting, fishing, and time with grandkids.



The YAC's 2017 Kids' Kamp



What a terrific Week for Kids' Kamp. Scattered showers all week and topic of focus is Water. Kids Kamp began on July 17th and ran through July 21st with twenty-three kids participating. The Fort Bend County Master Gardener's YACS (Youth Activities Committee) took the lead in teaching our young citizens about water, the importance of water, water conservation, water processing and water quality. It was hard to tell who exactly was more excited, the participants or the volunteers. The selected topics were based on the needs and interests of our youth.

The YACS are in touch with so many of our community's youth ranging from schools, churches, youth groups and those participating in other Master Gardener sponsored events that it is quite easy to determine areas of interest. Yes.... they network with various groups and have traveled as far as Jackson County to visit the Master Gardener group there and help teach them about JMG. While they are involved in numerous youth-related projects, the Earth-Kind® Kids Kamp is their biggest event. Kids'Kamp is a full-day event from 9am – 3:30 each day, and Master Gardeners, agents and county staff were welcomed throughout the week.

Child Passenger Safety Seats



The Passenger Safety Project, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation provides valuable traffic safety information and education to people throughout Texas. The goal of the project is to reduce motor vehicle fatalities and injuries and their associated costs. The project's primary focus is on increasing child restraint and safety belt usage. All team members are certified child safety seat technicians and/or instructors. In addition to programming in traffic safety, Passenger Safety conducts the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's standardized child passenger safety certification trainings. The training provides individuals the opportunity to become certified as child passenger safety technicians or instructors. Our FCS unit provides safety seat checks, replacement seats, and specific instruction on fastening and fitting. Call us for more details. The results of

the 2017 Fort Bend County Child Passenger Safety Programs & Booster Seat Campaign for the summer of 2017 include: 74 contacts were made; 57 new child safety seats were installed; 2% of the children arrived at the FBC office correctly restrained in a seat belt; 16 old and/or unsafe seats were collected and destroyed; 61 inspections were conducted on previously installed seats; and 91% of the children arrived unrestrained or incorrectly riding in a passenger safety seat.

Dinner Tonight!...for real help in the kitchen.

Have you ever wondered what is for dinner after a long day of work, errands, or afterschool activities? We know we could drive through another fast-food restaurant to save time, but is that meal meeting the nutritional needs of your family?

The Dinner Tonight program was developed to provide busy families with quick, healthy, cost effective recipes that taste great. Not only does the Dinner Tonight program provide recipes, it also gives you weekly video demonstrations on cooking tips and techniques, nutrition topics, menu planning basics and information on healthy living.



Our goal for the Dinner Tonight program is to improve the health and wellness of Texans through nutrition education. We are so excited to help you get you started on preparing your dinner tonight. Here in Fort Bend we offered a Dinner Tonight Cooking Class to over 200 attendees at the Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conference. Not only did the participants see the actual preparation of an entire meal including dessert, they ate a catered lunch of the very same thing. Wow!

Robotics in Fort Bend County

The Fort Bend County 4-H Robotics program is drawing much interest among youth in the urban sectors of the county. Angela Romans reported that she had several planning meetings with Robotics Project Leaders and teachers from George Jr. High and W.I.D.E School as well as local churches in hopes of starting new 4-H Robotics project clubs in areas of Fort Bend where we have limited or reduced 4-H participation. Training meetings involving the Robotics 1:EV3 curriculum was utilized to illustrate and gain interest in the FBC Robotics Program. Furthermore, to support the growth of the program Mrs. Romans received grant funds through the Texas 4-H Foundation to provide resources for both community outreach programs and 4-H Robotic club startups. As a result of Angela's efforts robotics classes were included in several summer camps and three local schools incorporated robotics and computer science into their daily curriculum.



2017 Gardening w/Confidence

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Fort Bend County, along with the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, have developed a home landscape program series based on Earth-Kind Landscape principles. Earth-Kind Landscaping uses research-proven techniques to provide maximum garden and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting the environment. The objective of Earth-Kind Landscaping is to combine the best of organic and traditional gardening and landscaping principles to create a horticultural system based on real world effectiveness and environmental responsibility. The Earth-Kind Landscaping encourages Landscape Water conservation, the Reduction of fertilizer and pesticide use, Landscaping for energy conservation, and the Reduction of landscape wastes entering landfills. Individuals using Earth-Kind landscaping principles and practices can create beautiful, easy-care landscapes, while conserving and protecting natural resources and the environment.



To market the program to new homeowners, we adopted to series title of Garden With Confidence for 2017. A group of easy to understand topics were created based of commonly shared areas of interest and need of this audience. These topics included: Rose Care, Perennial Color, Warm Season Vegetable Gardening, Butterfly Gardening, Shade Gardening, and Growing Fruit Trees. The programs were delivered once a month on Saturday mornings, aiming to attract a similar group of participants through the complete series.

RESULTS: 125 registered guests participated in the 2017 series of GWC. Many guests attended multiple programs, and 4 guests attended all 6 topics. Results gained through formal customer satisfaction evaluations and verbal feedback confirm that this series was well received and that people are eager to see continued efforts and new offerings in the future. The below evaluation results from a first type program shows the need for and success of these courses.

Quality Counts Verification ...for all major livestock shows!

Quality Counts is a curriculum, targeted to 4-H and FFA members, that teaches young people the importance of good character and ethical behavior in caring for and exhibiting animals. Many youth livestock projects enter the food supply, so quality assurance is the responsibility of these young people and the adults who work with them. The "Quality Counts" curriculum contains a wealth of lesson plans, teaching materials, handouts and images. Quality Counts verification is required for all youth exhibiting livestock (market and/or breeding) at major livestock shows in Texas (including the Ft. Worth Livestock Show, San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Star of Texas Fair in Austin, San Angelo Livestock Show, Sandhills Stock Show in Odessa, State Fair of Texas in Dallas, and Heart 'O Texas Fair in Waco). The verification process will require junior exhibitors to pass an online test that measures their knowledge on quality assurance and character education content items. Since the Quality Counts program has been in existence statewide, it has reached an average of 30,000 youth per year through the 4-H and FFA programs. The program outcomes clearly demonstrate youth being more knowledgeable of best management practices associated with livestock projects. More importantly, the program's impact has demonstrated positive changes in personal character attributes as well as adoption of livestock best management practices. To learn more, simply call us and ask for Mr. Justin Saenz, County Extension Agent for 4-H & Youth Development.

4-H Fashion, Art & Beauty Club —2017

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service collaborated with the Fort Bend County 4-H Department and local community businesses, and parents in conducting the Fort Bend County FCS 4-H Plan. Programs that fall under the Fort Bend County FCS 4-H Plan were conducted at the Fort Bend County Extension Office. These projects allow fashion week students and 4-H members to explore the academic disciplines of Family & Consumer Sciences as it relates to Fashion, Art, and Beauty and helps them gain valuable skills and knowledge that can be applied to daily life. Our mission is to inspire fashion creativity among like-minded students who learn from each other, explore their interest, and make new friends. Our goals are to share, explore, and expand ideas about the fashion industry, beauty industry, and art industry as it relates to fashion through field trips, fundraisers, workshops, competitions, and events. We hope that student involvement in the F.A.B. Club will be a positive step in creating lasting change for both our members and our community.



The objectives of the F.A.B Club are: 1) Learn responsibility, teamwork, and set and achieve goals; 2) Plan and execute fundraisers; 3) Learn about the different aspects of Fashion, Art, and Beauty; 4) Learn the basics of sewing, craft making, and product creation; 5) Learn about different careers in the fashion, art, and beauty industry; 6) To develop the ability to speak and act in front of an audience; 7) Prepare educational presentations; 8) Increase poise, self-assurance, and confidence; 9) Travel to other destinations and have a good time experiencing other parts of the U.S.; and 10) Learn about the places we will visit before the trip.

RESULTS: Fourteen students were enrolled in the Fashion Art and Beauty Program with fabulous parental support. :-)

Snap-Shot of Upcoming Events:

- Major Show Broiler Order DUE—Sept. 1, 2017 @ 5:00 pm
- Do Well Be Well with Diabetes—Sept. 7, 2017 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Food Handlers Course—Sept. 13, 2017 @ 9:00 am - 11:00 am
- Master Gardener Short Course Reg. Deadline—Sept. 22 @ 5:00 pm
- Dist.4-H Jr. Leadership Lab Reg. and Fees DUE—Oct. 11, 2017 @ 5:00 pm
- Major Show Sign Up Night—Nov. 6, 2017 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Food Managers' Certification—Nov. 15 & 16 from 8:00 am—5:00 pm
- 2017 Pecan Harvest Festival in Richmond— Nov.19, 12:00 Noon—5:00 p.m.
- Food Handlers' Course—Nov. 30 from 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
- Private Pesticide Applicators Training—Dec. 1, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Winter Gardening Program—Dec. 6, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- TX Town & Country CEU Recert. Prgm.—Dec 14 from 7:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

For all of the above programs visit
fort-bend-tx@tamu.edu or call us at **281-342-3034**



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

www.facebook.com/FortBendCountyExtension



A Glimpse of Fort Bend County:

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. "Among the largest counties (those with populations of 250,000 or more in 2015), Fort Bend, Texas, was the fastest growing, as its population climbed 4.3 percent between 2014 and 2015, to 741,237".

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.fortbendcountytexas.gov/