



# Making a Difference

## In Fort Bend County

## Second Quarter Newsletter—2018

### Special Topics for Spring 2018

- ◆ Message from the Director
- ◆ REBUILD TX Launches Recovery Tracker
- ◆ Amber Leung Joins AgriLife Extension
- ◆ Scott Lightle at Long Acres Ranch
- ◆ Lamar CISD's STARR Blitz Day at LAR
- ◆ *Path to the Plate* - an ag-awareness concept
- ◆ 2018 Fort Bend Co. Fair Coloring Contest
- ◆ REBUILD TX Infographic
- ◆ Upcoming Events
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### April—June, 2018 TOTAL CONTACTS

453 educational sessions  
79,935 contacts  
1,447 Social Media posts  
38,112 Soc. Media followers  
83 Newsletter Editions  
36,596 Newsletter contacts  
759 Volunteers assisted  
1,660 Volunteer hours  
2,270 Edu. Resources Used

#### Clientele Reached:

44.9% Adults  
55.1% Youth

**Message from the Co. Ext. Director** With Hurricane season upon us once again and since we are still recovering from major flooding in 2017, it is not too early in the year to talk about our Texas Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN). EDEN is a collaborative educational network dedicated to educating citizens about disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Simple actions such as: developing a family plan, being financially prepared and downloading the FEMA app will help you get ready—not just for a hurricane, but for any type of disaster that might occur.

Texas EDEN is a part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and is affiliated with National Extension Disaster Education Network; and is a vital part of the REBUILD TEXAS Commission. This site is intended to accommodate Texas AgriLife Extension agents and all Texas citizens by sharing educational resources to reduce the impact of natural and



man-made disasters for individuals, families and communities. Check it out at: <https://texashelp.tamu.edu/>.

*Vince J. P. Moore*

### Governor's Commission to Rebuild Texas

**—Launches Recovery Tracker** The Governor's Commission to Rebuild Texas on Monday launched a new Recovery Tracker feature that provides information regarding the usage of funds related to the state's recovery from Hurricane Harvey.

"As the state continues to receive federal aid and devote necessary resources to our recovery efforts, it is important that Texans know where this money is going," said Governor Greg Abbott. "The Recovery Tracker is a good start in achieving transparency for the people of Texas as we work to rebuild in the aftermath of Harvey. I thank Commissioner John Sharp and the Commission to Rebuild Texas for leading on this project, and for all their continued work helping victims in need."

The Commission has compiled and consolidated data that is owned, created, and maintained by other agencies involved in the rebuilding process. Through the Recovery Tracker, that information is presented in a visual dashboard that is easy for local officials and members of the public to access.

"It is important that the state's recovery process be as clear and transparent as possible for all Texans, especially those affected by the storm," said Commissioner John Sharp. "Launching this early version of the Recovery Tracker is a crucial step toward that goal."

Still a work in progress, the Recovery Tracker currently contains data from the TX General Land Office and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.



Additional information from other agencies will be added as it is provided to the Commission. Currently, the new feature includes information on how much assistance has been provided to survivors thus far, how many direct housing assistance projects have been completed, how many individuals are in FEMA-funded hotels, and other key topics. This data is available for the entire state, individual counties affected by the hurricane, and specifically for the City of Houston. Visit the Recovery Tracker at: <https://www.rebuildtexas.today/recovery-tracker/>.

## ***Amber Leung— New Program Coord. for 4-H/YD!***

Let's welcome Mrs. Amber Leung, our new Program Coordinator for the 4-H & Youth Development Unit. Amber is a native of Austin, but she, her husband and daughter reside in Fort Bend County now. She holds a BA in Marine Science from TAMU-Galveston. She is currently serving as President of our own Coaster Prairie Master Naturalist and is a professional photographer. She is particularly interested in all areas of natural resources, photography and robotics/drones. She is a natural teacher and relates well with both youth and adults. She has assisted with natural-related educational programs at Seabourne Creek Park, Brazos Bend State Park and Long Acres Ranch. She is heavily involved in prairie restoration, biological inventory projects, all areas of birding, native habitats and edible wild plants. Previously, she has worked as a researcher for the oil and gas industry on several projects in the Gulf of Mexico. Let us welcome Amber to



## ***C. Scott Lightle at Long Acres Ranch***



Mr. Scott Lightle has been hired as our new Extension Program Coordinator IV stationed at Long Acres Ranch in Richmond. The ranch, owned by the Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation (HWF) is composed of 768 acres located on the beautiful Brazos River in Richmond, TX in Fort Bend County and offers a natural outdoor laboratory that will undoubtedly link children and nature. Through a long-term agreement between H-W Foundation and AgriLife Extension (TAMU System) the Foundation will provide the venue and the means, while AgriLife will provide the knowledge.

Mr. Lightle has a B.S. degree from Texas A&M in Agricultural Development with a majority of his coursework in animal science, agronomy, entomology and ag leadership. He has 17 years of teaching experience, having taught science & math for the first nine years of his career at Frost Elementary in Richmond and Beckendorff JH in Katy. Afterwards, he served as an Engineering teacher at both Beckendorff and Seven Lakes High School in Katy. He comes from a farming family—rice, cattle, crawfish and hay. He is the recipient of numerous awards including District-wide Teacher of the Year. He has taken his students to national science competitions, he belongs to several professional associations and hold five certifications through the State Board for Education.

## ***Lamar CISD's STAAR Blitz day at L.A.R.***



Long Acres Ranch in Richmond teamed with the Fort Bend's AgriLife Extension Service and Lamar Consolidated ISD to create the STAAR Blitz Day for a total of 1,027 students and 55 teachers. Schools participating included Lamar Middle School with 486 students plus 23 teachers, George Jr. High with 484 students plus 22 teachers and Jackson Elementary with 57 students and 2 teachers. The program ran for a total of 5 days, both mornings and afternoons, and consisted of five learning stations in rotation to reach each and every young person. Twenty-four volunteers assisted including AgriLife Extension agents, Coastal Prairie Master Naturalists, USDA—NRCS, Lamar CISD and LAR employees.

Students were given a pre-test prior to arrival at LAR to test their current knowledge of nature in general and a post-test after leaving LAR to gauge their level of knowledge gained. Each was given a journal with pertinent bits of information including vocabulary, definitions and reading material that supported the standardized test questions that all students should be familiar with.

Over a 5-day period, students moved from station to station every 15-20 minutes. The five stations included: Dichotomous Keys of Trees; Topography & Satellite Imagery; Food Webs; Environmental Changes & Effects on Organisms; and Wildlife & Habitats. Knowledge gained is a prime indicator of our success in providing educational programs to our youth that was captured from the results of the post-test; however, the “real” test is how well the students will score on their STARR exam. Good luck, kids!



## ***Path to Plate! ... is here in Fort Bend County***

*Path to the Plate* is a concept that Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is promoting to help consumers understand where their food comes from (from the very beginning to the very end) where & how it was grown, how it was processed, how it was prepared, what nutrients it contains and the cost of preparing the finished product – the plate. In a nutshell *Path to the Plate* helps consumers make the connection between agriculture and health. Many similar programs were created over the years but *Path to the Plate* seems to be more inclusive. This program is in reality an agriculture-awareness program, designed to help primarily urban and suburban dwellers understand where their food comes from and how it was prepared for consumption. Using research-based information, *Path to the Plate* aims to dispel popular myths and misconceptions about food production practices.

The concept is not limited to fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs, but also row crops, rice, ranch and fisheries, as well as value-added commodities such as processed foods - honey, wines/beers, jellies/jams, pickled products, dried fruits/vegetables/meats and others as well. In addition, other worthy bits of valuable information are included as part of *Path to the Plate* including food safety, nutrient value, and MyPlate portion sizing – all to help maintain a healthy weight and ward off or manage health related issues. Visit the Path to the Plate component of each and every food-related Extension program.



## **2018 FORT BEND CO. FAIR “COLORING CONTEST”**

For the past 12 years, AgriLife Extension has hosted a coloring contest which is open to students of Fort Bend County in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. We will offer one outstanding rosette per grade for a total of 6 and one honorable mention rosette per grade for a total of 6. These twelve winning entries will be exhibited all ten days of the Fair in the AG'tivity Barn. Only the winners' names and grade will be posted. All entries become the property of the Fort Bend County Fair. In addition, all outstanding rosette winners will receive a \$25 gift certificate while all honorable mention rosette winners will receive a \$15 gift certificate. All 12 winners will receive their entry in an 11"x17" frame. Note: We will only allow one entry per student.

Deadline for entries: Postmarked no later than September 5, 2018. Every effort will be made to contact winners by telephone or e-mail prior to September 24. An awards presentation will be held in the AG'tivity Barn on Friday, September 28, 2018, at 12:00 p.m. Friday, September 28, 2018 is “Opening Day of the Fair” – Free admission for all students. Coloring contest forms and mailing instructions are available at all Fort Bend Libraries, at the tax office and at: <https://fortbend.agrilife.org/coloring-contest/>





# Fort Bend County Recovery

## Hurricane Harvey: County Update



all totals as of July 13, 2018



# 22,929

**APPROVED  
REGISTRATIONS  
FOR INDIVIDUAL  
ASSISTANCE**



## Direct Housing



# 74

**Housed**

Housing  
and other  
disaster  
related  
expenses:

# \$96.43 MILLION



Small Business Administration (SBA)

# \$307.80 MILLION



Approved Loans **3,407**

**NATIONAL FLOOD  
INSURANCE  
PROGRAM (NFIP)**

AS OF 1/12/18

Claims **3,799**



Paid

# \$203.53 MILLION

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Provides grants to Government organizations and certain private nonprofits.



**9 PROJECTS  
OBLIGATED**



# \$5.1 MILLION FEDERALLY FUNDED

### Snap-Shot of Upcoming Events:

- ♦ EarthKind Kids' Kamp—Deadline to register, July 1, 5:00 p.m.
- ♦ Ranch Horse Program—Aug 5, 8:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
- ♦ EarthKind Kids' Kamp—Aug. 6-10, 9:00a.m.—3:00p.m.
- ♦ Parenting Connections—Aug. 14, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
- ♦ Food Management Cert . Registration Deadline, Aug.15, 5:00 p.m.
- ♦ Private Pesticide Applicator Trng.—Aug. 17 & 18, 8:30 a.m.—12:00 noon
- ♦ Food Managers' Cert. Course—August 22 & 23, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
- ♦ Food Handlers' Short Course—Sept. 19, 9:00—11:00 a.m. ,
- ♦ Child Care Providers Ed. Course Registration Deadline—Oct. 12, 5:00 p.m.
- ♦ Fair Day— Sept. 28 , 12:00 noon to midnight
- ♦ Fort Bend County Fair—Sept. 28—Oct.

For all of the above programs visit <http://fortbend.agrilife.org/>  
or email us at [fort-bend-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:fort-bend-tx@tamu.edu) or call us at 281-342-3034

### A Glimpse of Fort Bend Co.

A Glimpse of Fort Bend Co.

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/](http://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/).

**Vincent J. Mannino**

**County Extension Director - Fort Bend County**

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

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