

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Fort Bend County

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Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture & Home Economics, Acts of Congress of May 8, 1914, as amended, and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture.
Dr. Douglas Steele, Director, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.



Extension Education in FORT BEND County

Helping Texans Better Their Lives

Summary of Activities – 2017

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides programs, tools, and resources — on a local and statewide level — that teach people how to improve agriculture and food production, advance health practices, protect the environment, strengthen the economy, and enrich youth. All 254 Texas counties are served by a well-organized network of professional Extension educators and nearly 100,000 trained volunteers.

Extension’s mission in urban counties remains the same as when it started: to provide practical, science-based information that helps people improve their lives and communities. Extension provides real learning for real life by focusing on areas such as:

- Improving family nutrition, health, & well-being
- Promoting water conservation and environmental stewardship
- Supporting business, economic development, & urban agriculture
- Empowering youth and supporting schools

The Extension program in Fort Bend County is part of the statewide Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Cooperative Extension Program of Prairie View A&M University.

It is a member of The Texas A&M University System and is linked with Texas county governments and the national Cooperative Extension System.

We are pleased to provide you with this 2016 annual report of our local educational achievements in Fort Bend County. Our goal is to provide quality, relevant outreach and continuing educational programs and services to the people of our unique and diverse population.

2017 Educational Outreach in Fort Bend County

Educational Sessions Conducted: 2,235

Educational Session Contacts: 70,469

eXtension’s Ask the Experts—815

Indirect Contacts/Media/Social Media: 64,480

Direct Contacts (office/site/phone): 6,628

Social Media Posts: 4,320

Social Media Followers: 172,148

Volunteers Involved: 1,151

Volunteer hours: 67,698

Value of Volunteers: \$1,594,972

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture,
and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.*

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Program areas relating to Agriculture & Natural Resources cover a wide range of subject areas through the course of a year. In 2017 major topics included commercial/home agricultural production, marketing, and sales of crops, cattle, and horticulture commodities; animal and plant pest control; wildlife habitats; water/soil conservation & management; and pesticide safety, training and continuing education. Major programming efforts in 2017 included:

- Fall Forage Seminar and Hay Show
- Row Crop/Pest Result Demonstrations
 - ◊ Cotton, Corn & Sorghum
 - ◊ Sugarcane Aphids, Headworm/Midge
- Row Crop Production Meeting & Tour
- Feral Swine Trapping Demonstrations
- Feral Swine Dressing Workshop
- Four Private Applicator Pesticide Trainings
- Three Licensed Pesticide Applicator CEU classes
- AG'tivity Barn Ag Awareness—corn, cotton & rice
- Three Advance Horsemanship Clinics
 - ◊ Hunter/Jumper, Barrel Racing, & Fundamentals
- 40-hours of Master Naturalist Volunteer Trainings
- AG'tivity Barn Ag Awareness at the FBC Fair
 - ◊ Wildlife Habitats, Fish, & Skins/Pelts/Scats
- Annual Prairie Heritage Festival
- Garden With Confidence Series
 - ◊ Rose Selection/Care, Perennial Color,
 - ◊ Warm-Season Veggies, Gardening with Children,
 - ◊ Shade Gardening & Fruit Trees for FBC.
- 60-hours Master Gardener Intern Trainings
- Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conference
- Advanced Irrigation Efficiencies Training
- Three Home Rainwater Harvesting Workshops
- Three Drought-Tolerant Landscape Demonstrations
- AG'tivity Barn Ag Awareness
 - ◊ Landscaping, Irrigation & Bees
- Pecan & Citrus Workshops and Production Shows
- Fruit & Pecan Budding/Grafting Workshop
- Livestock Supply Point & Displaced Animal Penning

Family and Consumer Sciences

County Extension Agents within Family Community Health work across the wide spectrum of family needs. These include foods & nutrition, health & wellness, food preservation, community & volunteer development, financial literacy, and parenting skills. Major efforts in 2017 include the following:

- Cooperative Extension Program Childhood Obesity
- Child Care Provider Conferences (4)
- Child Passenger Safety/Booster Seat Campaign
- Dinner Tonight Cooking Schools
 - ◊ Two cooking Schools
 - ◊ Email tips to 3500 recipients
- Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes Series
 - ◊ Nutrition & Health, Managing Diabetes
- Financial Literacy Series
 - ◊ Money Management, Balancing Checkbooks,
 - ◊ Sale/Exchange of real estate, Investing
- Food Protection Management for Food Handlers'
 - ◊ Hand-Washing, Safe Temps, Personal Hygiene,
 - ◊ Cross-Contamination, Uses/Types of Utensils
- Walk Across Texas Program – 17 Teams
- Texercise Program – Proper Nutrition & Fitness
- Friends of North Rosenberg Garden Fresh Produce
- Food Protection Management – Food Mngrs. Cert. (3)
- Home Food Preservation—4 quarterly classes
- Better Living for Texans: Fresh Start to Healthier You
 - ◊ Shopping Tips, MyPlate, Pantry/Frig. Inventory
- Health & Wellness Series
 - ◊ Proper Nutrition & Exercise, Managing Diseases,
 - ◊ Managing Meds, Recognizing Complications
- Healthy Holiday Habits Workshop
- Master of Memory Workshop
- 40-hour Master Wellness Volunteer Training
- Parenting Connection Program Series (3)
 - ◊ Child Growth/Development, Positive Discipline,
 - ◊ Effective Communication, Self-Esteem
- AG'tivity Barn Ag Awareness at the FBC Fair
 - ◊ Hand Sanitation, Benefits of Fresh Fruits/Vegs.
- Texas Extension Education Association support
 - ◊ 4 clubs, 42 members, 1000 hrs. of volunteer service

4-H and Youth Development

4-H is a community of young people across America who are taught leadership, citizenship and life skills. 4-H is about having fun, learning, exploring and discovering. In 4-H, young people make new friends, develop skills, become leaders and help shape their communities. Some 4-H youth work with animals, while others choose food, crafts, sports, or even technology. Major efforts include the following:

- The Art of Living Etiquette & Leadership Camp
- Pantry-to-Plate Cooking School & Teen Chef Camp
 - ◊ Reading a Recipe, Eating Fresh Fruits & Veggies,
 - ◊ Kitchen Safety, Food Safety, Food Preparation
- Hatching in the Classroom for 3 elem. schools
- Gulf Coast Classic Livestock Project
 - ◊ Livestock Husbandry, Ethics/Showmanship
- Junior Master Gardener Programs
- 4-H Robotics Camp & Workshop (1 each)
- Robotics Project Interest Meeting (1 new club)
- Jr. Master Gardener Youth activities (3 schools)
- Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! Curriculum (7 schools)
- College Readiness & Entrepreneurship Program
- Cooking Camps, Foods & Nutrition, Fashion Camp
- One-Day 4-H! (in support of FBC Animal Services)
- Fort Bend County 4-H Awards Banquet
- Youth Pork Producers 4-H Club Industry Trip to Iowa
- Heroes for Health Programs (3-schools, 2 B&G Clubs)
- National 4-H Week in FBC Proclamation
- AG-tivity Barn Ag Awareness at the FBC Fair
 - ◊ 10-Day Event, 19 Exhibits, 1095 Students (K-5),
 - ◊ 56 teachers/chaperones, 49,500 visitors,
 - ◊ 181 coloring contest entries
- 4-H Vet Science Certificate Program Info. Meeting
- 4-H Veterinary Science Certificate Program
 - ◊ 5-Year/500 Clinical Skill Hours required,
 - ◊ Youth Completed the curriculum (6)
- State Vet Science Skillathon (5 FBC participants)
- Total of 10 Vet Science Clubs in FBC
- Let's Go – Let's Grow 4-H in Fort Bend County
 - ◊ 623 4-H members
 - ◊ 96 Adult leaders
 - ◊ 31 Clubs, 3 new clubs for 2017
 - ◊ Roundup entries—330/County, 129/District, 45/ State
 - ◊ 197 Cattle Project Validations
 - ◊ 170 entries in Major Shows
 - ◊ 43 camp attendees
 - ◊ 19,093 in Special Interest Programs

Community Economic I

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's Community & Economic Development Program provides educational workshops and technical assistance to communities and individuals throughout Fort Bend County. Its mission is the development of individual abilities and community support for creating and growing businesses, jobs, wealth and income. While CED broadly interfaces in most ANR, FCS & 4-H/YD programming efforts, we are particularly proud of the following:

- Fall Forage Seminar, Hay Show, Result Demos, Turn-row Meetings for increasing forage quality, sales and profit
- Private/Commercial/Non-Commercial Pesticide Applicator Trainings for reducing pest pressure & maintaining yields
- *Garden with Confidence* Series to increase home food production and reduce food costs
- Fort Bend Regional Vegetable Conf. to promote commercial fruit and herb production and enhance marketing
- Childcare Provider Conferences to assist providers in increasing effectiveness and quality of their operations
- Health & Wellness programs including WAT and Texercise to reduce the impact of diseases and loss in productivity
- Parenting Programs to help youth grow, prosper & succeed, and become productive members of society
- Financial Literacy Series to teach adults & older youth about money management, investments & owning property.
- Rebuild Texas Commission: Daily contact with 19 FBC jurisdictions; Livestock Supply Point as FBC Fairgrounds: 300 Round Bales, 1100 Small Square Bales; 14 Tons of Cattle Feed; 9 Tons of Horse Feed; 10 Tons of all stock type feed, 1 ton of hog feed, 7 Tons of Pet Food (80% went to county animal control), 200 bags of shavings, 80 yards of bulk, shavings; 200+ tubs and buckets for water and feed; ~40 halters and lead ropes, & 220 water well samples.