



Making a Difference in *Fort Bend* County...

Extension Outreach Educational Programs *2019-20*

What is AgriLife Extension?

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is a unique education agency with a statewide network of professional educators, trained volunteers, and county offices in 250 of the 254 counties. Our agency reaches into every Texas county to address local priority needs. The process of identifying local needs and relevant issues is fundamental to the program development model for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. To identify local needs we employed the Texas Community Futures Forum, a 4-year cycle held on May 6, 2019 to identify relevant issues in Fort Bend based educational programs in our four major program areas - agriculture & natural resources, family & health, youth development, and community development.

The TCFF involved a representative group of local leaders from a wide variety of businesses and agencies, both public and private. The charge was to simply answer this question - In the next 3-4 years, what are the most critical issues in this county? Page 2 of this document lists the critical issues in each of the four program areas identified above. Some of our major issues related to drought & flood management, preserving nature, production agriculture, healthy food & nutritional choices, improving emergency management, enhancing food security, and protecting & educating our young.

A word about Extension! Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Cooperative 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 educational programming in an effort to reach all Fort Bend citizens. Extension's educational programs are open to all without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, national origin, genetic information, veteran status, and sexual orientation/gender identity.

To find out more about Extension, its administration, its programs, and its personnel, visit the Extension at:

<http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu> or

www.facebook.com/FortBendCountyExtension

Our Vision

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service offers practical, how-to education based on university research. It's available to any resident of Texas. You may read it in the newspaper, hear it on the radio, attend an Extension workshop, order a publication, or just call your local Extension Office!

Helping
Texans better
their lives...

Issues Important to Our Citizens of Fort Bend County

The 2019 Fort Bend County Leadership Advisory Board (LAB) is made up of twelve community leaders from all walks of life throughout Fort Bend County. In May 2019 the LAB met along with key individuals to conduct the 2019 Texas Community Futures Forum designed to identify pertinent issues in Fort Bend and rank each according to their level of importance. The results listed below are the basis of our programming efforts in Fort Bend County.

Agriculture/Natural Resources & Horticulture

- **Environment/Habitat**—Loss of natural/native habitat and the development of greenspace
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources**—Public awareness and greater promotion of AgriLife Extension programs relating to Agriculture and horticulture.
- **Water**—Water issues relating to flooding and drainage
- **Water**—Water use, conservation and supply

Family & Community Health

- **Family Life**—Support educational programs relating to baby-boomers aging in place; address technology, cyber-safety, property management, senior-living and health & nutrition.
- **Food & Nutrition**—Address food insecurity and food deserts in limited-resource areas of FBC.
- **Health & Wellness**—Support the development of mental health issues for both youth & adults.
- **Emergency Management & Preparation**—Collaborate with various agencies to address disaster preparation & community education.

Community/Resource Economic Development

- **Community & Economic Development**—Support workforce development relating to technical training, workforce housing, and adult education.
- **Community & Economic Development**—As public transportation increases, there is a shortage of certified drivers and park & ride facilities.
- **Community & Economic Development**—Connecting skilled people with available jobs and creating relationships between potential employers and training opportunities for the unskilled.

Youth Development

- **Leadership, Community & Youth**—Youth programs are needed that address healthy living, mindfulness, social learning, emotional learning and self-awareness.
- **Environmental Stewardship**—Increase awareness of nature through the appreciation of nature and mindfulness and the preservation & sustainability of natural habitats.
- **Leadership, Community & Youth**—Seek and secure funding in support of after-school programs relating to critical thinking, leadership, and character building.
- **Technology & Creativity**—Work to help create a balance between the use of technology & family life.

Our programming efforts listed on page 3 are based on the above identified issues as we try to meet the needs of our local citizens. Each and every program offered can be modified at any time according to specific needs of our audience or emerging needs that might develop.



Educational Programs Available to Our Community

4-H & Youth Development Programs

Traditional Topics:

- Beef, horses, poultry, swine, sheep/goats
- Shooting Sports
- Leadership
- Recreation
- Fashion Shows/Fashion Story Board
- Robotics (STEM Projects)
- Pantry to Plate Cooking Camps

Non-Traditional Topics:

- Anger Management – Schools
- Character Counts – Schools
- Take a Stand Against Bullying

- Junior Master Gardeners
- Citizenship/Public Speaking
- Community Service
- Food Shows/Food Challenge
- Consumer Decision Making/Horticulture
- Veterinary Science Club
- Sewing Camps/Duds to Dazzle

- Etiquette Day - Schools
- Jr. Mast. Gardener/Learn, Grow, Eat & Go!
- Companion Pets

Agriculture Programs

- Horse
- Pastures & Forages
- Pesticide Training, Licensing and Re-Certification
- Row Crops (corn, sorghum, soybean, cotton)

- Beef Cattle
- Rice
- Pond Management
- Natural Resources

Horticulture Programs

- Landscaping & Ornamentals
- Bees
- Backyard Basics - Self-Sustainability Programs
- Insects/Diseases/Weeds ID & Control

- Vegetables, Herbs, & Fruits
- Pecans/Citrus
- Texas Water Use/Conservation
- Native plants/EarthKind

Family & Consumer Science Programs

Parenting Skills:

- Master of Memory
- FRED (Fathers Reading Every Day)
- Strengthening Families
- Parenting Connections
- Child Care Provider Education
- Maintain No Gain

Health:

- Do Well Be Well w/Diabetes
- Cooking Well W/Diabetes
- Walk Across Texas
- Tobacco Cessation Ed.
- Step Up to Scale Down
- Cancer Prevention Ed.

Financial Management:

- Money Smart
- Starting Over - Making the Most of Your Money
- NEFE High School Financial Planning Program
- Wise-Up Money for Life

Foods & Nutrition:

- Better Living for Texans
- Food Protection Mgmt.
- Food Safety
- Food Preservation

Volunteer Opportunities

Master Volunteer Programs

- Master Gardeners
- Master Wellness Volunteers
- Coastal Prairie Master Naturalist

Program Area Committees/Task Forces

- Beef/Forage PAC
- Horse Task Force
- Small Farms
- Master Naturalist Board
- Partners for Parenting TF
- 4-H Livestock Coalition
- Crops PAC
- Pesticide TF
- Bee PAC
- TX Extension Ed. Assoc.
- 4-H Club Managers
- 4-H Parent Leaders
- Rice Task Force
- Ag/Hort Advisory Group
- Master Gardener Board
- Family & Consumer Sci. PAC
- 4-H Project Managers/Leaders
- 4-H Livestock Validations Comm.

Fort Bend County Commissioners' Court



County Judge K.P. George

Precinct 1 Commissioner Vincent Morales

Precinct 2 Commissioner Grady Prestage

Precinct 3 Commissioner Andy Meyers

Precinct 4 Commissioner Ken DeMerchant

2018 Fort Bend County Statistics

County Population (2018): 787,858*

Percent Change since 2010: 25.7%

White:	261,569	(33.2)
Hispanic:	193,025	(24.5%)
Black:	165,450	(21.0%)
Asian	160,723	(20.4)
Other:	70,907	(0.9%)
Persons under 5 years:	7.0%	
Persons under 18 years:	27.6%	
Persons 65 years and over:	10.4%	
Per Capita Income:	\$ 37,731	
Mean Household Inc.:	\$90,680	

*<https://www.homefacts.com/demographics/Texas/Fort-Bend-County.html>

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Traditions

Over the last century, Extension has adapted to changing times and landscapes, and it continues to address a wide range of human, plant, and animal needs in both urban and rural areas. Today, Extension works in six major areas:

- **4-H Youth Development**—cultivates important life skills in youth that build character and assists them in making appropriate life and career choices. At-risk youth participate in school retention and enrichment programs. Youth learn science, math, social skills, and much more, through hands-on projects and activities.
- **Leadership Development**—trains Extension professionals and volunteers to deliver programs in gardening, health & safety, family & consumer health issues, and 4-H youth development and to serve in leadership roles in the community.
- **Agriculture**—research and educational programs help individuals learn new ways to produce income through alternative enterprises, improved marketing strategies, and management skills and help farmers and ranchers improve productivity through resource management, controlling crop pests, soil testing, livestock production practices, and marketing.
- **Natural Resources**—teaches landowners and homeowners how to use natural resources wisely and protect the environment with educational programs in water quality, timber management, composting, lawn waste management, and recycling.
- **Horticulture**—over the years, horticulture has emerged as one of the potential agricultural enterprises in accelerating the growth of the economy. Its role in the country's nutritional security, poverty alleviation and employment generation programs is becoming increasingly important. It offers not only a wide range of options to the farmers for crop diversification, but also provides ample scope for sustaining a large number of agriculture related industries which generate huge employment opportunities. At present, horticulture is contributing 28.3% of GDP from 8% land area.
- **Family and Community Health** —helps families become resilient and healthy by teaching nutrition, food preparation skills, positive child care, family communication, financial management, and health care strategies.
- **Community and Economic Development**—helps local governments investigate and create viable options for economic and community development, such as improved job creation and retention, small and medium-sized business development, effective and coordinated emergency response, solid waste disposal, tourism development, workforce education, and land use planning.