

# TEXAS COMMUNITY FUTURES FORUM

## Fort Bend County - Report

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**AGRI LIFE**  
EXTENSION

**PVAVM** EXTENSION

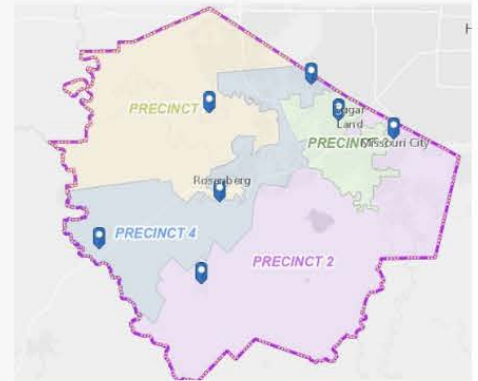
### Issue Identification: 2025 - 2030

Extending Knowledge | Providing Solutions



Thoughtful conversations occurred at in-person meetings.

Pictured above is a snapshot from the meeting at Kendleton Church of God on April 16, 2024.



Requesting Input



TOTAL RESPONSES



Responses to online survey

People at six in-person meetings

People at final focus forum

Getting Results



Issues mentioned in meetings and survey



Umbrella issues grouped in the final focus forum

### Strategic Planning for the Future of Fort Bend County

What are the issues facing Fort Bend County in the next 3 to 5 years?

In April 2024 the Extension Service engaged in long range strategic planning in preparation to meet future needs of the County.

#### On-line survey and in-person meetings

An online Qualtrics survey was distributed, and 6 in-person meetings were held to reach all parts of the County with at least one meeting in each County Commissioner Precinct.

- Monday, April 1, at Sugar Land Branch Library
- Thursday, April 4, at Justice of the Peace, Precinct 2 - Place 2 in Needville
- Tuesday, April 9, at Jones Creek Ranch Park in Richmond
- Monday, April 15, at Missouri City Library
- Tuesday, April 16, at Kendleton Church of God
- Wednesday, April 17, at Mission Bend Branch Library

A final focus forum was held to review, consolidate, and prioritize issues on Tuesday, April 23, at the Fort Bend County Extension Office.

Participants were recruited through emails, social media, and personal invitations. Many were familiar with Extension; however some were not. All Fort Bend Extension faculty and staff attended one or more of the in-person meetings to listen and understand the issues presented.

Online entries and in-person conversations were descriptive, but issues were simplified into representative words and phrases for manageability.

100% Fort Bend Extension Staff involved to listen and learn

- F Foundational Strength of Extension** (Extension Awareness)
- 4-H support and communication on activities and events, FFA Cooperation, Ag Education, Animal Care, Livestock, Beekeeping Resources, Pesticide Education, Emergency Preparedness, Livestock Preparation for and in disaster, Ag Land Use, Farming Education, *Ag Resource Values*
- Importance factor: Ranked 1st, 47 votes (15.7%) – Success factor: Ranked 1st, 28 votes (11.2%)
- O Overdevelopment Concerns** (Overdevelopment)
- Small Farmer Support, *Environment/Environmental Stress, Taxes as related to Ag Exemptions, Ag Appraisals, Ag Land Loss, Property Taxes, Infrastructure, Flooding/Drainage, Electricity, Rural/Urban Interface, Growth*
- Importance factor: Ranked 3rd, 41 votes (13.7%) – Success factor: Ranked 3rd, 27 votes (10.8%)
- R Realistic Individual Improvement** (Personal Development)
- Leadership, Mentoring, Character Development, Etiquette, Self-Sustainability, Home Management Skills, Life Skill Development, Continuing Education, Employment Opportunities, Career Development, Trade Training, Diversity Awareness, *Bilingual Education*
- Importance factor: Ranked 9th, 16 votes (5.3%) – Success factor: Ranked 10th, 16 votes (6.4%)
- T Taking Care of Each Other** (Social Services)
- Entrepreneurship (Youth and Adult), Small Business Development, Youth Outreach, Youth Services, Farmers Markets, Family Support, Parenting, Financial Education, Innovation, *Elder Care, Food Access, Food Deserts, Food Shortages, Financial Assistance, Home Repair, Housing Affordability, Youth Justice Centers*
- Importance factor: Ranked 7th/8th (tie), 18 votes (6%) – Success factor: Ranked 4th, 22 votes (8.8%)
- B Betterment through Horticulture** (Horticulture)
- Horticulture Education, Gardening, Home Food Production, Community Gardens, Beautification, Habitats, Outdoor Education, Native Landscapes, Landscaping, *Parks Use, Park Availability*
- Importance factor: Ranked 11th, 12 votes (4%) – Success factor: Ranked 5th, 21 votes (8.4%)
- E Environmental Impacts** (Environmental Impacts)
- Litter Prevention, Recycling, *Climate Change, Pollution*
- Importance factor: Ranked 6th, 19 votes (6.3%) – Success factor: Ranked 13th/14th (tie), 4 votes (1.6%)
- N Nutrition, Health, and Wellness** (Health Community)
- Health, Health Education, Family Health, Mental Health, Social and Emotional Development, Gun Education, Gun Safety, Disability Services, Special Needs Inclusion, Physical Activity, Wellness, Path to the Plate (where food comes from), Nutrition, *Health Access, Access to Medical Facilities, Health Care, Vaping, Vaccination Education, Drug Use Prevention, Lifestyle Choices*
- Importance factor: Ranked 7th/8th (tie), 18 votes (6%) – Success factor: Ranked 8th/9th (tie), 18 votes (7.2%)
- D Danger Mitigation** (Safety)
- Basic Safety, Bicycling Safety, Home Safety, *Public Services, Fires, Burn Bans*
- Importance factor: Ranked 12th, 8 votes (2.6%) – Success factor: Ranked 6th/7th (tie), 20 votes (8%)

- C Community Enhancement** (Community Amenities)
- Volunteer Support, Volunteerism, Community Pride, Community Service Opportunities, Community Involvement, *Community-wide Communication Source, Community Amenities, Community Centers, Bowling Alley, Learning Facilities, Maker Spaces, Community Outdoor Spaces*

Importance factor: Ranked 10th, 15 votes (5%) – Success factor: Ranked 8th/9th (tie), 18 votes (7.2%)

- O Opportunities for Civic Support and Engagement** (Civic)
- *Redistricting, Inflation, Economic Development Grants, Taxes and Overspending, Law Enforcement, Crime Prevention*

Importance factor: Ranked 4th, 24 votes (8%) – Success factor: Ranked 6th/7th (tie), 20 votes (8%)

- U Underserved Youth** (Homeschool Education Support)
- Homeschool Support, Micro-School Support, Non-traditional Livestock Shows, Youth Activity Opportunities, Afterschool & Out-of-School Opportunities, Outside-of-Sports Opportunities, Education Opportunities (Formal and Informal), STEM Education

Importance factor: Ranked 2nd, 46 votes (15.3%) – Success factor: Ranked 11th, 13 votes (5.2%)

- N Natural Resources Conservation** (Natural Resources Conservation)
- Tree Selection, Preservation, Restoration, Water Conservation, Clean Water, Land Preservation, Land Stewardship, Natural Resources Education, Conservation

Importance factor: Ranked 5th, 23 votes (7.6%) – Success factor: Ranked 2nd, 31 votes (12.5%)

- T Transportation Challenges** (Transportation)
- *Transportation, Public Transportation, Mobility, Traffic, Driving*

Importance factor: Ranked 14th, 5 votes (1.6%) – Success factor: Ranked 12th, 6 votes (2.4%)

- Y Youth Development Support in School Settings** (Education)
- School Support, In-School Programming, Teacher Support, *Bus Travel Time for Kids*

Importance factor: Ranked 13th, 7 votes (2.3%) – Success factor: Ranked 13th/14th (tie), 4 votes (1.6%)

Around 120 issues using various terms were identified initially. During the focus forum, participants combined seemingly similar ideas. Organically, 14 overarching/umbrella topics were created. A nominal voting method indicated perceived importance and likelihood of success. Issues that Extension is not equipped to address will be passed on. Issues within Extension’s scope will influence programming priorities beginning in FY 2025. As a goal, most issues will be addressed in some way by 2030.

The combination of issues was determined based on the inclinations of the participants on April 23, many of whom were familiar with Extension. Interestingly, “awareness of Extension” was a top priority indicating we have a lot of work to do in letting people know who we are and what we do. Fortunately, the results also indicate a high likelihood for success.

Because the issues are stated simply, they are subject to interpretation alone and within the umbrella categorization. Different configurations would be reasonable. These issues and categories cross Extension program discipline lines allowing for various combinations of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Family & Community Health, 4-H & Youth Development, and/or Community & Economic Development.

Implementation of issue-driven programming will align with Extension’s Strategic Pillars to create synergistic impact and to meet Fort Bend County Extension’s Performance Measures of Accountability.

# Texas Community Futures Forum *Fort Bend County - Report*

On April 23, 2024, focus forum participants considered the issues that came from the in-person meetings and online survey. Issues were grouped together according to participants' directions. Working titles were assigned to each grouping. Then, votes were cast using dots to indicate importance and likeliness for success. Square stickers marked areas related to Extension work.



## Issue-driven programming in 2025-2030 will align with Extension's Strategic Pillars and Fort Bend County Extension's Performance Measures for Accountability:

### Resource Stewardship

Prioritize research-based educational programming and interdisciplinary collaboration to promote the responsible stewardship and sustainable practices of Fort Bend County's natural resources for both new and established landowners, and across various sectors and industry partnerships.

### Youth Development

Enhance the programming and resources available to schools and families both of which are necessary to broaden concepts in agriculture, natural sciences, human nutrition, and community health for the next generation of Fort Bend County citizens and leaders.

### Community Sustainability

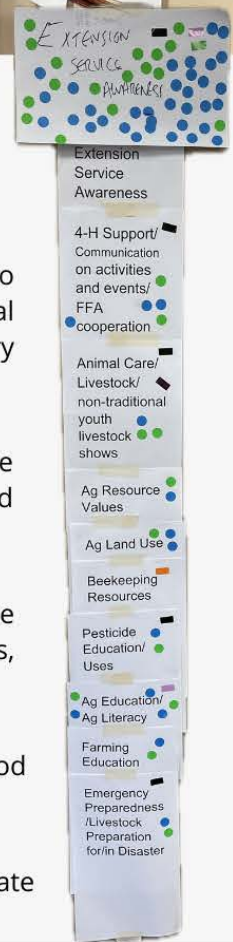
Encourage innovation, deliver science-based preventive health programming, and provide the operational support necessary to sustain an environment of readiness, preparedness, opportunity, protection, and resiliency in Fort Bend County cities and communities.

### Economic Strength

Enhance the efficiency, profitability, and resiliency of agriculture, natural resources, food systems, and local economies in Fort Bend County, the state of Texas, and around the world.

### Healthy Living

Provide innovative service and educational programming to apply, coordinate, and integrate scientific evidence at the intersection of nutrition, human health, and agriculture.



**Fort Bend County Extension**

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Texas Community Futures Forum - Fort Bend County for 2025-2030

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