



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WHARTON COUNTY

JUNE - AUGUST 2019

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

The Wharton County Row Crops Committee Hosted a **Cotton/Soybean Turn Row Meeting** on one day, July 10, 2019. The first stop was to the A&M Crop Testing Program's Soybean Variety Trial at the Howard and Dolly Wittig Farm in Lane City, Texas. The soybean trial located in Lane City, TX evaluated forty-seven (47) soybean varieties. 20 adults attended. Dr. Ron Schnell, Assistant Professor and Extension Cropping Systems discussed soybean variety selection for the Texas Upper Gulf Coast. Dr. Tom Isakeit, Extension Plant Pathologist gave an overview of the soybean diseases currently found and to be looking for in the 2019 soybean crop. The next stop was the Replicated Agronomic Cotton Evaluation (RACE) trial in Crescent at the Michael Beard Farm. 23 adults attended. Dale Mott, Extension Program Specialist II – Cotton reported on the progress of the cotton crop from the Valley to the Panhandle. Dr. Tom Isakeit educated cotton producers on a new emerging cotton disease, “cotton blue disease”, which is caused by the cotton leaf roll dwarf virus. Cotton producers had to opportunity to evaluate all soybean and cotton varieties demonstrated in these two replicated research trials.



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FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH

Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension Program. The Heroes 4 Health Walmart Foundation Grant goal is to empower youth to positively impact their community through educational programs. Which will raise awareness of everyday healthy living practices in nutrition and physical activity. It's important for the youth to participate in Hero's for Health, because it teaches them how to cook and how to be overall safe. Every participant learned about nutrition, cooked a healthy dish, and left with an incentive. We also incorporated internet safety and drug awareness education this year. The kids were talking about it so much that their parents asked us to teach a class just for them. Wharton County Police Department & El Campo Police Department both came and did drug awareness presentations and brought their K-9 dog to do a demonstration. They also donated folders, pins, and key-chains so that drug awareness could be visible. We also partnered with Texas A&M Agrilife Extension agent Lori Schindler to host a food safety/hand-washing workshop. The Programs was implemented at The El Campo Wharton County Library, Louise County Library, and Faith Christian Academy. There were 273 participants, 24 education programs, 10 volunteers, \$325.00 in kind donations, and \$800.00 of grant funding.



Agent Lori Schindler spent the time assisting with the Wharton County Library Louise and El Campo branches summer reading programs by presenting healthy eating tips through multiple programs. Agent Schindler also attended the Texas State Round-up to assist with judging the many contests that our 4-H youth participate in. Much of August was spent participating in several professional development opportunities and ended with presenting the Food Handler's Safety certification program to 81 El Campo ISD Culinary Arts Students. This certification allows students to be certified prior to seeking jobs in the food industry and is required training for their culinary arts classes.

4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

This years Kids in the Kitchen was a great success. We decided to go with food concepts that would be new and different for our 4-H members. Our Ag Agent Corrie Bowen assisted with the grilling portion, where the kids grilled flatiron steak and lamb chops. To our surprise the kids LOVED the lamb. The kids also learned about the 4-H Food and Nutrition Project and how they could take what they learned at camp and implement in those projects. We are looking forward to implementing new ideas next year. At the Wharton County 4-H Annual Awards Banquet there were 182 youth recognized for their achievements in county, district, and state events with a Fiesta themed banquet! Our annual awards banquet is an honor, allowing us recognize all of the achievements from the year. This year we had representative Phil Stephenson attend our banquet as well as Commisioners Zahn and Goetsch.



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