



Helping Texans *Better Their Lives*

Extension Education in Wharton County 2019

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and its partners have long been dedicated to educating Texans. Extension education evolved nationwide under the 1914 federal Smith-Lever Act, which sought to extend university knowledge and agricultural research findings directly to the people. Ever since, Extension programs have addressed the emerging issues of the day, reaching diverse rural and urban populations.

In Texas, all 254 counties are served by a well-organized network of professional Extension educators and some 100,000 trained volunteers. Extension expertise and educational outreach pertain to the food and fiber industry, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, nutrition and health, and community economic development. Among

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Providing Solutions*

those served are hundreds of thousands of young people who benefit annually from Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

Texans turn to Extension education for solutions. Extension agents and specialists respond not only with answers, but also with resources and services that result in significant returns on the public's investment. Extension programs are custom-designed for each region of the state, with residents providing input and help with program delivery. Here are just a few highlights of Extension impacts on this county and its people.

Wharton County – Summary of 2019 Educational Contacts

WHARTON COUNTY 4-H CONTACTS

4-H Members	345
4-H Volunteers	110
4-H Clubs	18
Curriculum Enrichment Participants	617
4-H Special Interest Clubs	1
4-H County Clubs	2

CONTACTS AT EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Total Contacts	73,618
Educational Events	15,203
Other Contacts	58,415

OTHER CONTACTS

All Contacts	58,415
Individual Contacts – Direct	3,536
Individual Contacts – Indirect	14,131
Newsletters	30,223
Educational Resources	1,629
Individual Contacts – Volunteer	7,554

MEDIA CONTACTS

25 News Releases with a distribution reaching 39,813 contacts
200 Social Media Posts with 9,873 Followers

VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

Total Volunteers	470
Hours Contributed	196

Agriculture and Natural Resources

2019 Commodity Marketing, Technology and Industrial Hemp Education

Developed by:

Corrie Bowen
County Extension Agent – Ag/NR
Wharton County

Relevance

Cotton, grain Sorghum, soybean, corn, and rice production continue to be a major economic force in Wharton County. USDA reports **236,282** total acres planted in 2019 in these five major crops for Wharton County. The 2015 and 2019 Texas Community Futures Forum identified that crop producers will need to keep abreast of marketing opportunities, precision agriculture practices, variety/seed technology developments, and alternative crops (e.g. Industrial Hemp) to remain competitive in the industry.

Wharton County ranks 22nd in the State in total agricultural receipts and 2nd in the State in total value of crops, including nursery and greenhouse production. The 2017 Census of Agriculture for Wharton County reports \$208,540,000 in total agricultural receipts, which is down 44% from the \$373,637,000 reported in the 2012 Census of Agriculture. As costs of production continue to increase and farm income declines, applied research and marketing education is needed to maintain a crop producers' economic sustainability in the years to come.

Response

The Wharton County Row Crops Committee was instrumental in developing, delivering, and evaluating educational programs in 2019 that addressed new crop system technology, commodity marketing, and informed producers of a new and emerging industrial hemp industry. The following educational conferences and seminars were conducted in 2019:

- Upper Gulf Coast Feed Grain and Cotton Conference – January 24, 2019. This event is organized as a multi-county program in Wharton, Texas (Wharton County) – Wharton, Matagorda, and Colorado County cooperating. Selection of grain and cotton production topics and presenters is directed by Row Crops Committee members in each of the three counties.
- Wharton County Soybean and Cotton Turn Row Meeting – July 10, 2019. A two-part turn row meeting on one day. 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 next stop was to the Cotton RACE trial in Crescent at the Michael Beard Farm.
- Cotton and Grain Risk Management and Marketing Workshop – October 17, 2019. This workshop addressed several current topics in the grain markets: Budgeting Decision Tools, Mr. Mac Young; Cotton Outlook, Dr. John Robinson; Grain Outlook, Dr. Mark Welch; Marketing Strategies and 'What if' Scenarios, Dr. Mark Welch and Dr. John Robinson.
- Industrial Hemp Seminar – December 10, 2019 – This program was planned and conducted in cooperation between the Wharton Row Crops Committee and the City of Wharton Economic Development Corporation. Calvin Trostle, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension agronomist, Lubbock provided an introduction to the hemp industry, discussing hemp products and processing as well as the differences in growing seeds and transplants, growing for CBD oil or fiber, and agronomic

considerations for growing industrial hemp. Dr. George Knapek, Texas A&M AgriLife Agriculture and Food Policy Specialist presented Economic Considerations for Industrial Hemp in Texas.

Results

Upper Gulf Coast Feed Grain and Cotton Conference

To determine the programmatic results of the Feed Grain and Cotton Conference a retrospective-post evaluation instrument was administered the day of the conference. 61 of 128 (47.65%) completed evaluations. 72.5% of respondents indicated that they intend to adopt measuring sustained wind speeds for two minutes, recorded at boom height; 75.7% intend to adopt bollworm management strategies. Participants reported 73,737 acres managed, and a total anticipated economic benefit to their operations of \$415,424 or \$5.63 per acre.

Cotton and Grain Risk Management and Marketing Workshop

A retrospective-post evaluation instrument was administered the day of the workshop. 23 of 32 (71.8%) completed evaluations. Participants reported 16,656 acres managed, and a total anticipated economic benefit to their operations of \$316,464, or \$19 average per acre. 95.66% of the participants were Mostly or Completely Satisfied with the program.

Client Change Level of Understanding: Cotton and Grain Risk Management and Marketing Workshop

TOPICS	Mean Value BEFORE	Mean Value AFTER	Percent Increase
How to use risk management tools	2.13	3.26	53.05%
Tools available to manage risk and alternative marketing strategies	2.22	3.35	50.90%
Ability to communicate with partners in my operation about risk management topics and concerns	2.17	3.17	46.08%

Industrial Hemp Seminar

Fifty-seven (57) prospective producers attended the Industrial Hemp Seminar. 36 of 57 (63%) completed evaluations. The seminar introduced producers to preliminary agronomic practices, economic considerations, and current industry concerns while the Texas Department of Agriculture awaits USDA approval of our State production rules. A retrospective-post evaluation instrument measured client change and their level of understanding of industrial hemp production.

Client Change Level of Understanding: Industrial Hemp Seminar

Program Content	Mean Before	Mean After	Percent Change
Cannabidiol (CBD) is not an oil, rather a lipid (fat) extracted from floral structures	1.75	3.31	52%
Current economic consideration for industrial hemp	1.75	3.11	45.33%
Preliminary agronomic considerations for producing industrial hemp	1.60	2.96	45.33%
Current industry concerns related to poor seed quality and poor seed germination	1.73	3.29	52%

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

2019 Pesticide Applicator Programming in Wharton County

Developed by:

Corrie Bowen
County Extension Agent – Ag/NR
Wharton County

Relevance

For the year 2019 Wharton County, Texas has **586** (compared to 592 in 2018) pesticide applicators licensed with the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Private Pesticide Applicators are required to obtain fifteen (15) CEUs (continued education credits) every five years in order to renew their license. Commercial and Non-Commercial Applicators are required to obtain 5 CEUs every year in order to renew their license. There is a substantial audience and a need for Extension to provide the educational opportunities for these applicators to obtain their CEU credits. In addition, new applicators seek opportunities throughout the year to take the certification course at the Wharton County Extension Office to obtain their license. The Wharton County Row Crops Committee and Western Rice Belt Production Conference Committee identify Continued Education Units (CEUs) as a priority of program planning for Wharton County.

Response

The Wharton County Row Crops Committee provided for one (1) individual course in 2019 that offered five (5) CEUs. The committee planned, promoted, and conducted this event based on client need and evaluation results from the 2018 Conference. This 5-CEU Pesticide Recertification Conference is scheduled each year at the Wharton County Youth Fairgrounds in Crescent, TX. CEUs were also awarded at the following seminars and workshops scheduled throughout the year: January 16, 2019 Western Rice Belt Conference; January 17, 2019 Grain Handlers Conference; January 24, 2019 Upper Gulf Coast Feed Grain and Cotton Conference ;February 5, 2019 5-CEU Conference; February/March 2019 Auxin Specific Applicator Training; April 16, 2018 Ag Symposium; April 17, 2019 Wheat Field Day; July 10, 2019 Wharton County Cotton/Soybean Turn Row Meeting; and at seed meetings and/or field days for: BASF®, Pioneer Seed®/Kresta Farms, and Krenek Seed Company. CEU credits are also made available to pesticide applicators by viewing a series of Last Chance CEU videos at the Wharton County Extension Office.

The mandatory Certification Training for potential pesticide applicators to obtain their pesticide applicator license was provided by the Wharton County Extension Office throughout the year on an as-needed basis or when requested. Agent Bowen accommodated a group of seven (7) employees of Cal-Maine Poultry farm in Lane City, TX for an on-site Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Training, July 25, 2019

Ag Science Teachers located throughout Texas is another audience of licensed pesticide applicators that County Extension Agent, Corrie Bowen educates. Since 2005 Agent Bowen has facilitated a Pesticide Applicator Certification Workshop and a Pesticide Applicator Recertification Workshop at the Vocational Ag Teachers Association of Texas (VATAT) annual conference. Ag Science teachers must also acquire their required recertification credits, but they often have difficulty attending the recertification course while they are teaching in the classroom. Offering CEUs at their annual conference helps teachers acquire their needed recertification credits. 2019 marked Agent Bowen's 15th consecutive year cooperating with the VATAT Board of Directors, providing and facilitating their annual pesticide workshops.

Results

Twenty-four (**24**) new applicators attended the Private Pesticide Applicator training and testing sessions offered at the Wharton County Extension Office in the year 2019.

For year 2019 Wharton County awarded a total of **30.0 CEUs** at group meetings to a total of **939** individuals. In addition to CEUs obtained at group meetings, a total of five (**5**) licensed Pesticide Applicators obtained a total of **20** hours of CEU credits by viewing our Last Chance CEU videos at the Wharton County Extension Office.

February 5, 2019 5-CEU Pesticide Recertification Conference

A retrospective-post evaluation instrument was conducted on the day of the 5-CEU Pesticide Recertification Conference. **66 of 104 (63.4%)** completed the evaluation instrument. Participants reported 72,569 acres managed, and a total anticipated economic benefit to their operations of **\$299,420** or **\$4.13** per acre.

Client Change Level of Understanding: February 1, 2018 5-CEU Pesticide Recertification Conference

TOPICS	Mean Value BEFORE	Mean Value AFTER	Percent Increase
Inversions likely occur when winds are less than 3 mph, clear skies overnight, sunset to sunrise	2.38	3.47	36.3%
The direct supervision affidavit required between licensed and unlicensed pesticide applicators	2.16	3.49	44.3%
Laws that apply to the movement of feral hogs in TX.	2.26	3.60	44.7%
Right-of-way vegetation management along Texas roadways	1.87	3.53	55.3%
Regulations applicable to the movement and transportation of farm equipment and chemicals in TX	2.08	3.66	52.7%

July 29, 2019 VATAT Pesticide Workshops at Corpus Christi, Texas

Thirty (30) Ag Science Teachers attended the TDA Pesticide Applicator Certification Workshop in Corpus Christi, Texas. These 30 Ag Teachers left the workshop prepared to take their Private Pesticide Applicator Exam. Another thirty-four (34) Ag Science Teachers attended the TDA Pesticide Recertification Workshop in Corpus Christi, Texas, which focused on greenhouse pest control. Ag Teachers reflected in their 2018 surveys a need for more education on greenhouse pest control. **21 of 34 (61.8%)** completed evaluations for the Pesticide Recertification Workshop. Participants reported a total anticipated economic benefit to their operations of **\$43,285**.

Client Change Intentions to Adopt: July 29, 2019 VATAT Pesticide Workshops

Practice or Technology that Could Be Adopted	Number Who Probably Will Adopt	Number Who Could Adopt	Percent
Rotating group numbers of insecticides by mode of action to avoid building insecticide resistance.	16	20	80%

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Agriculture and Natural Resources

2019 Upper Gulf Coast Rice Production Education Summary

Developed by:

Corrie Bowen, County Extension Agent – Agriculture & Natural Resources, Wharton County
Aaron Sumrall, County Extension Agent – Agriculture & Natural Resources, Matagorda County
Laramie, Naumann, County Extension Agent – Agriculture & Natural Resources, Colorado County
Michael Hiller, County Extension Agent – Agriculture and Natural Resources, Jackson County

Relevance

Rice has been a mainstay of the Colorado, Matagorda, Jackson, and Wharton County's economies since the early 1900's. 53% of Texas' 154,052 acre rice industry in 2019 is found in this four-county area. Rice acreage in Texas continues to decline, dropping 18%, from 187,684 acres in 2018. The decline in rice acreage and a 42% reduction in farm income (as identified in the 2017 Census of Agriculture) is placing financial stress on both the infrastructure and the farming community. The 2015 and 2019 Texas Community Futures Forum identified that crop producers will need to keep abreast of marketing opportunities, precision agriculture practices, and variety/seed technology developments to remain competitive in the industry. Additionally, producers will seek income from all available USDA programs to sustain the challenges brought about by trade negotiations with foreign trade partners. To achieve and maintain the economic viability of rice producers, we must provide business profitability and risk management-based programs in response to the educational needs of those in the region. The Western Rice Belt program area committee for Matagorda, Wharton, Jackson and Colorado Counties reflects this educational need.

Response

County Extension Agents with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Wharton, Matagorda, Jackson, and Colorado come together each year to provide the Western Rice Belt Conference. The conference is comprised of a Producers Seminar, along with a Consumers Seminar, held each year on the third Wednesday of January. All stages of the event from planning to evaluation are directed by two, multi-county Western Rice Belt Conference planning committees – one for the producers' section and one for the consumer section. Committees are made up of County Extension Agents, equipment dealers, rice warehouse managers, rice producers, U.S. Rice Producers Association, USA Rice, Inc., wives of rice farmers, and Extension Education Association (EEA) members. The committee builds the agenda each year to address current production and consumer issues in the rice industry with guest speakers from USA Rice, U.S. Rice Producers, Texas A&M AgriLife Agriculture and Food Policy Center, Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, and more.

In October 2019, at a planning committee meeting, the Western Rice Belt committee sought to gain more information on conservation programs for working lands available for rice producers. Members of the Western Rice Belt Production Conference Committee advised that these USDA programs available are underutilized in our region of the Texas Rice Belt. On November 19, 2019 the Western Rice Belt Conference Committee hosted a round table discussion, inviting representatives from several organizations and agencies to discuss conservation programs for working ag lands for rice producers. The committee's goal of the Roundtable meeting was to use the outcome of the November 19, 2019 Roundtable to develop a session at the 2020 Western Rice Belt Conference, with the intent of educating rice producers on the conservation programs available for their working rice lands.

Results

15th Annual Western Rice Belt Conference, El Campo, Texas – January 16, 2019

Two Hundred Sixty-two (262) rice producers and 85 rice consumers attended the conference. To determine the programmatic results of the Western Rice Belt Producers Seminar a retrospective post evaluation instrument was administered the day of the conference. 145 of 262 (55.8%) completed evaluations. 73% of those completing evaluations intend to apply their knowledge of Herbicide group selection to combat herbicide resistant barnyard grass. Rice producers report a total anticipated economic benefit for their farm operations of \$1,322,880 or an economic benefit of \$4.62 per acre.

Client Change Level of Understanding: 2018 Western Rice Belt Conference

TOPICS	Mean Value BEFORE	Mean Value AFTER	Percent Increase
Understanding of herbicide groups	2.38	3.30	30.7%
Using multiple effective modes of action is a priority to combat herbicide resistant barnyard grass	2.60	3.37	25.7%
Current export market status and the 2019 market and trade outlook for u.s. rice	2.31	3.06	25.0%

2019 Conservation and Working Lands Round Table Discussion

Eighteen (18) representatives from the local Rice Industry, Ducks Unlimited, USDA-NRCS, and AgriLife Extension came together for a round table meeting to discuss conservation programs for working ag lands for rice producers. The committee developed four questions by which to direct discussion and seek input:

Question 1	What are the conservation programs available to rice farmers?
<i>Response</i>	<i>NRCS Program Liaison, Sonny Vela, said NRCS programs fall into 2 categories; Financial and Easement programs. Financial - EQUIP helps with cost share on things like land leveling, drop pipes, multiple inlets and underground pipelines and is probably the most utilized. CSP programs pay for management changes. The priority resource concerns include insufficient water, soil erosion, soil quality, and water quality. NRCS also partners with groups to offer value-added contributions. Applications for Conservation Security Programs (CSP) have been cumbersome and restrictive under previous Farm Bills but new rules are being written.</i>
Question 2	Which conservation programs are active in your district/county, and what are some success stories of those programs?
<i>Response</i>	<i>Programs being utilized in the area include EQUIP, RCPP. NRCS receives input from Working Groups to see how funds are best utilized in an area. Getting people to attend Working Groups and offer input is hard. Need to make more producers aware of Working Groups and their function. More Local Working Group sessions need to be scheduled throughout the coming year.</i>
Question 3	How can we educate rice producers on utilization of available conservation funds at a 1 hour presentation at the January 15, 2020 Rice Conference in El Campo, Texas?
<i>Response</i>	<i>Q & A afterward would provide the best education of programs available. Areas outside the main conference area would also be made available for producers to discuss their individual needs and concerns Panel would consist of Sonny Vela, Dennis Neuman, Kirby Brown, Raul Villarreal and Brian Koch.</i>
Question 4	Who could present this topic in a one-hour-long presentation at the Western Rice Belt Conference?
<i>Response</i>	<i>The Panel would consist of Sonny Vela, USDA-NRCS; Dennis Neuman, Kirby Brown, and Raul Villarreal – Ducks Unlimited; and Brian Koch – Texas Soil and Water Conservation Board.</i>

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4-H and Youth Development

2019 Prestige Leadership Conference

LAURA REYNA

**County Extension Agent – 4-H & Youth Development
 Wharton County**

RELEVANCE

Council officers in Austin, Bastrop, Burleson, Colorado, Fayette, Karnes, Victoria, Wharton, and Washington counties are taught leadership skills in a variety of ways but they all share a common goal to develop a successful county council leadership program that works effectively.

Among the nine counties, we elect approximately 70 council officers who lead over 3,000 4-H members. These council officers provide county-wide leadership to our 4-H programs. Their success as council

officers relies on the training and skills that Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Agents provide. Over the years, we have noticed that as the times have changed and new technologies have been introduced, the level of leadership skills in our youth have regressed. Some of the issues to be addressed include public speaking, methods of communication, identifying learning styles, recognizing strengths and weaknesses, and more specifically, learning parliamentary procedures and effective leadership techniques.



RESPONSE

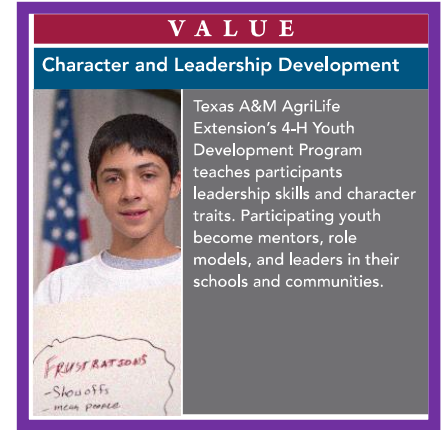
In response to the observations mentioned above, participating counties and the Adult Leaders Association in each county were engaged in the program development process. Prestige Leadership Conference (PLC) is a multi-county effort that was offered to the 2019-2020 County Council Officers of each participating county. The goals of the program were: 1) to prepare the council officers for the leadership positions that they have been elected to; 2) to enhance the participants' knowledge of their officer responsibilities and parliamentary procedures; 3) to introduce the participants to participants from other counties in an effort to promote networking, partnerships, and to enhance their social skills; 4) to broaden participants knowledge of project areas offered through the 4-H program; 5) to provide career exploration; and 6) offer a reward for our council officers. PLC was a two-day camp that was held on the Campus of Tarleton State University, Texas and the University served as a major sponsor of the event.

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4-H and Youth Development

Prestige Leadership Conference activities included:

- Lessons on leadership, communication, teamwork, and decision making
- An overview of duties and responsibilities of officers
- Planning the 4-H year
- Organizing and conducting meetings and writing and handling motions
- Mock Meeting
- Tour of Tarleton State University
- Career Exploration in Animal/Dairy Science, Ag Mechanics, Wellness and Motor Behavior, and Aquaponics
- Hands on learning experiences



RESULTS

Participants age ranged from 10 to 17 years old. Total of 57 county council officers participated in the survey.

Level of Understanding	Increase Understanding
My knowledge level of different communication strategies	75%
My knowledge of the purpose and principles of parliamentary procedures	74%
My understanding of the roles and duties of all 4-H officers	69%
My knowledge of how to build an agenda.	78%
Behavior Change	Yes
I am more confident in serving in a leadership role	89%
I know how to be an effective communicator and good listener.	86%
I have developed and improved my teamwork skills.	86%
I can effectively participate in a business meeting using correct parliamentary procedure.	89%
Do you believe that what you learned has given you the ability to make better leadership decisions?	98%

4-H and Youth Development

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the County Extension Agents who coordinated PLC, Tarleton State University for sponsoring the event and providing professors, presenters, shirts, supplies, Purple Poo, Ambassadors, and the facilities. We would also like to express our thanks to Dr. Brant Poe for his support and leadership.

Comments

- This camp has given me better communication skills and not to yell at my teammates but be considering of their ideas.
- I learned that in order to be a leader, you have to have the confident, strive, and passion in order to become a well-respected leader.
- I know how to keep everybody a part of the meetings and how everybody's opinion matters.
- I was not sure on parliamentary procedures but now I know a lot more.
- Learned how to work better as a team to lead appropriately.

Goals for 2020

- to increase participation
- to provide a more interactive learning experience
- train and utilize officers during Northern 4-H Academy (Volunteer and Club Officer Training)
- rotate PLC to various Universities

4-H and Youth Development

2019 Wharton County 4-H Program

Developed by Laura Reyna County Extension Agent 4-H Youth Development, Wharton County

Relevance

4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential by promoting positive youth development through participation in animal projects, community service projects, family and consumer science projects and leadership projects just to name a few. In Wharton County we have individuals that are involved in every different aspect of the 4-H program. By involving these youth in the many different projects and activities they are able to experience positive youth development that helps to prepare them for their futures.

Target Audience

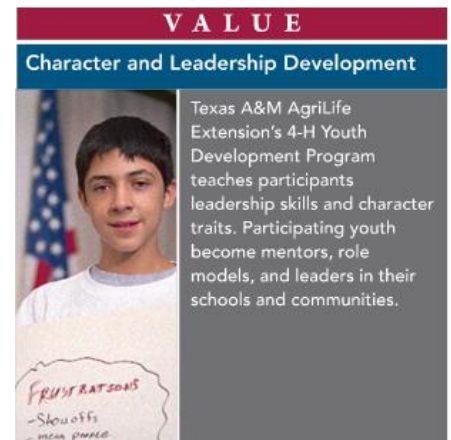
4-H Youth participants, ages 8-18, in Wharton County who strive to help the community and prepare for the future.

Response

As a former Wharton County 4-H member improving the program in all aspects has become a top priority as I roundout a full year serving as the Wharton County 4-H agent. I have been able to accomplish one of the largest hurdles, rebuilding relationships with 4-H members, their families, and those who support the program in order to build trust in the program. By doing so we were able to increase enrollment and participation. It is also important to provide quality contest and programs that our members enjoy participating in. By providing adequate training for our adult volunteers this allows us to empower them to help us lead our youth. A training was held for club managers and volunteers, they were able to learn the different aspects of the 4-H program and given the tools needed to run a successful 4-H club. We also hosted a scholarship training, recordbook training for members, and photography workshop. Setting our 4-H members up for success is another way that we can continue to retain members.

A big part of 4-H is working with and helping the community, One Day 4-H has given our 4-H clubs an outlet to do this during National 4-H week. We held a county wide community service project where our 4-H members provided Bingo prizes and played bingo with residents at two nursing homes in our county. We also host a community service project each month during the County Council Meetings, our youth truly see the impact that they can have by helping others in numerous ways. Youth participants have learned that through their community service efforts they are directly helping our community, in turn this helps promote their positive youth development.

Participation in all projects has been very successful and individuals have learned responsibility, record keeping, leadership, consumer life skills, and interview skills preparing them for the future.



4-H and Youth Development

Results

- 331 members enrolled in Wharton County 4-H
- 54 Adult volunteers enrolled on 4-H Connect
- 17 Community Clubs, 1 project club, 1 county club and 1 Parent Adult Leaders Association
- 92 youth exhibitors participated in Ft. Worth, San Antonio, San Angelo, Houston, and Austin Major Livestock Shows
- 7 youth attended 4-H Day at the Capital
- 172 youth participated in the Wharton County Youth Fair Livestock Exposition
- 36 youth participated in Wharton County Fair Creative Arts Show
- 27 youth participated in the County Photography Contest, submitting 182 pictures
- 10 youth participated in the County Fashion Show
- 7 youth participated in the County Fashion Story Board Contest
- 26 youth/7 teams participated in the Duds to Dazzle Contest
- 56 youth participated in the County Round-up
- 37 youth participated in District 11 Spring Spectacular (Roundup, Fashion Show, and Story Board)
- 10 youth participated in District Photography Contest
- 6 youth participated in State Photography Contest
- 26 youth participated in the County Recordbook Contest
- 6 youth and 6 Adults participated in State 4-H Roundup
- 13 youth participated in Kids in the Kitchen Camp
- 9 youth participated in the Kids in the Sewing Room Camp
- 1 Texas 4-H Junior Master Photographer
- 1 Texas 4-H Fashion & Interior Design Ambassador
- 1 District 11 4-H Council Officer
- 3 senior 4-H members received Texas 4-H opportunity scholarships, for a total amount of \$27,500.
- 4 youth and 1 adult attended District 11 Leadership Lab
- 20 youth participated in the District Recordbook Contest
- 200 Youth and adults in attendance at the annual awards banquet
- 2 youth participated in the State Recordbook Contest
- 1 State Recordbook 2nd place winner
- 150 youth and 32 Adults participated in One Day 4-H efforts across the county
- 29 youth participated in the County Food Show
- 54 youth/15 teams participated in County Food Challenge
- 10 youth and 2 adults participated in District 11 4-H Crossroads

Summary

Results indicate that the 4-H program is greatly appreciated and very important to the Youth and Community of Wharton County. Plans are to continue working with volunteers, youth and the community to make the Best Better!

4-H and Youth Development



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2019 All Babies and Children Child Care Conference

Developed by:

Lori Schindler

County Extension Agent – Family & Community Health
Wharton County

Relevance

Over 60 percent of children from birth through age 6 (not yet in kindergarten) receive some form of child-care on a regular basis from persons other than their parents. The Texas Workforce Commission estimates that there are over 100,000 child-care providers caring for more than 760,000 children under the age of 13 in licensed or regulated child-care facilities in the state of Texas. Additionally, child-care is the 16th largest industry in the state, generating over 145,000 jobs and \$2.3 billion in wages for Texans.

Findings from longitudinal research have clearly established the fact that quality does matter when it comes to child-care. Children who receive high-quality care (e.g., warm sensitive caregiving, well-educated child-care staff, low child-to-adult ratios, small group size) develop better language, math and social skills; exhibit fewer behavior problems; and tend to be better prepared for entrance into school. Having a well-trained child-care workforce is essential to providing the high-quality child-care that children need to develop physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively.

Response

Due to a date change that we implemented in 2018 which was going to move the date back to early 2019, all planning in 2018 was for the February 2019 date. Unfortunately, we failed to make it clear when we sent out registration information that there would not be a summer date to attend and we failed to have enough participants register to pay for the cost of having the event and WCJC pushed to cancel the event rather than go into a negative balance with the account. We have also decided to go back to the summer-time date and we are now planning for late summer or early fall of 2020. We are including directors of some of the day care facilities from across the county to have input as to what they feel is most needed training for their facilities and employees.

Results

Since we did not actually hold the event in 2019 we do not have any results at this time.

Wharton County Food Safety Education 2019 In-Depth Program

Lori Schindler, County Extension Agent – Family and Community Health, Wharton County

Relevance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 1 in 6 individuals will become sick from a foodborne illness each year. More than half of all foodborne diseases is attributed to improper food handling in restaurants. Because nearly half of all food dollars are spent on food prepared outside the home, food safety is a top concern among consumers. Therefore, food safety education is a critical prevention component for reducing the risk of foodborne diseases. The Wharton County FCH Committee has identified this as a major concern in Wharton County due to the fact, that adequate training is not provided within the county by any other means. This program targeted the Food Service Industry in Wharton County.

Response

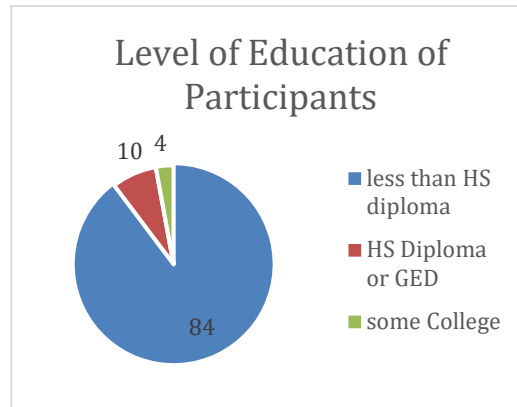
The Food Handler's Safety Program was presented to Food Service Employees and Culinary Arts Students in Wharton County in an attempt, to increase the number of Food Service Employees in Wharton County who have received their Food Handler's Safety Certification. Texas State Department of Health and Human Services requires that food service employees receive food safety handler's certification every 2 years and every food service employee is required to have this certification within 60 days of employment with a food establishment. Food Handler's Safety Certification classes are held every other month, or an establishment may call and set up a date for me to come into their establishment and teach the course to all employees.

The Food Protection Manager's Program was presented to Food Service Employees to certify the Managers who would then be responsible for Food Safety training of employees in their establishments. By Texas State Department of Health and Human services regulations, it is required that every food service establishment have at least one certified Food Protection Manager employed by the establishment. The Food Protection Manager's Certification is good for 5 years. The Food Protection Manager's Course is a two-day course taught on an as needed basis. Recent changes with the Texas Education Agency have made it a requirement that vocational high school classes have the opportunity to graduate with certifications relevant to their vocational education. I have been in two Wharton County schools to provide this training to their Culinary Arts Students.

Results

The Food Handler's Safety and Food Protection Manager's programs were presented to 218 participants, including 168 Culinary Arts students

84% of participants in these training had less than a High School degree and 10% had a High School Diploma or GED. Only 4% had any College training. Of those attending these trainings only 29% have worked in the food industry prior to this training and 71% have never worked in the food industry. Only 46% of participants had ever had prior food safety training despite the fact, that training is required for re-certification every 2 years for food handler's safety and every 5 years for Food Protection Manager's. Better training of our food service employees will lead to a work force that is more confident and knowledgeable in their job, increased job satisfaction, less employee turn-over, and a safer food service industry.



Percentage of participants that worked in the food industry prior to training	29%
Percentage of participants who did not work in the food industry prior to training	71%
Percentage of participants who have never had food safety training	46%

The mean pre-test score was 73 and the mean post-test score was 79. There was a 9% increase in food safety knowledge from the pre-test to the post-test. This shows an increase in the participants food safety knowledge.

Prior to training, only 47% of participants could identify the foods that could potentially make you sick. After training the number of participants who answered this question correctly was 66%. Prior to training, only 64% of participants were able to explain the difference between cleaning and sanitizing. After training, 73% were able to explain the difference between cleaning and sanitizing. Prior to training, only 68% understood that a foodborne outbreak involves 2 or more people. After training, 82% were able to identify what makes a foodborne outbreak.

Question	Pre-Test	Post-Test
Which of the following foods would not be considered potentially hazardous	47%	66%
A person working with food should immediately tell their supervisor if they have...	55%	64%
Generally speaking, a foodborne illness involves how many people	68%	82%

- **168 Participants have received their Food Handler's Certification**
- **The program over the past 2 years has shown a great close in the gap between what students know before the course vs what they learn in the course. This shows that the program is increasing the knowledge of food safety employees in Wharton County**

Wharton County BLT

2019 In-Depth Program

Lori Schindler, County Extension Agent – Family and Community Health, Wharton County

Relevance

6,600 households in Wharton county receive benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (source: <http://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/records-statistics/data-statistics/supplemental-nutritional-assistance-program-snap-statistics>)

Research suggests that SNAP recipients and other limited resource audiences consume diets that are not in agreement with current dietary recommendations, potentially increasing their risk for the development of chronic disease. Food insecurity, obesity, and lack of access to healthy foods are other issues that impact this particular audience and have strong potential to negatively impact health.

Response

Overall goals are to help participants improve food security status, diet quality, and reduce risk for chronic disease by teaching my plate, Cooking Well With Diabetes and other health and nutrition programs to SNAP recipients and their children, enabling them to make healthier and more informed choices regarding their health and nutritional needs.

Results

I partnered with the Wharton County Library Louise and El Campo branches to provide Health and Nutrition Summer classes. This was a 6-week program in which we met in El Campo two days a week and in Louise once a week. We presented classes on healthy salads, Participants were offered opportunities to try foods they have never eaten before and they did a great job trying the new foods. The total participation in this program was 541 kids. I have also been meeting with the Wharton West End Initiative Group, and we are in the middle of planning some summer programs for the students who were victims of flooding during Hurricane Harvey. These students are still recovering emotionally and financially from this event. Laura Reyna is working with this group to assist with mental health and I am working with this group to assist with healthier eating habits on a budget. I will be conducting some cooking demonstrations for these kids that will allow them to cook low cost healthy meals and snacks.

Family and Consumer Sciences

2019 Wharton Childhood Obesity 4-H Hero's 4 Health Grant

Kashara Bell- Family and Consumer Science Agent- Cooperative Extension Program

Relevance

Obesity is a condition that is associated with having an excess of body fat. The adult obesity rate of Wharton County, TX was 31.30% in 2015 (<https://www.opendatanetwork.com>). Obesity is classified as having a BMI (body mass index) of 30 or greater. Obesity related conditions include heart disease, stroke, and certain types of cancers. These are some of the leading causes of preventable death. The estimated annual health care cost of obesity related illness is \$190.2 billion in the United States. The United States is the eighth fattest country in the world. 31.8% percent of the population being overweight. Even though childhood obesity is our focus area, we must still educate and inform their parents as well. The commonness of obesity in Texas was notably higher among African Americans and Hispanic compared to Caucasians and other races.

Response

Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program will implement the Heroes 4- Health program in ten counties in Texas targeting 5,000 undeserved youth and their families. The Wharton County Heroes '4 Health program is a youth service-learning program dedicated to developing youth advocacy and contribution in their communities around nutrition and physical health. The Wharton County Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, will engage community partners, 4-H youth and adult volunteers in evidence-based healthy living programs. Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension plan to inspire schools, families, and communities to engage in a healthier lifestyle. Our goal is to improve diets, increase physical activity, and maintain body weight to avoid excess weight gain. Making healthier decisions will help prevent chronic illness and other health risk factors. Incorporating MyPlate and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) modules will provide a hands-on educational approach. The plan for 2020 will be to conduct programs that are geared towards childhood obesity prevention and family engagement which will help reach the National Institution of Food and Agriculture goals.

- Reaching **270** youth and adults
- **25** Presentations



Education Efforts:

Hero's 4 Health Grant - The Heroes 4 Health goal is to empower youth to positively impact their community through educational programs that raise awareness of everyday healthy living practices in nutrition and physical activity. The parents were concerned with their children not being active, spending too much time on video games, and eating junk food during the summer. During the summer most older children are left alone at home with their siblings while their parents work. Our county is very small and there aren't many activities for the youth to participate in. Having summer programming like so gave our youth a chance

*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*

Family and Consumer Sciences

to learn life and cooking skills. One of the challenges that we faced was the space we were using. We ended up moving to a different area of the library so that we could have enough room for cooking!

-**273** participants

- Offered at 4 locations- Faith Christian Academy, The Extension office, El Campo Library, Louise Library, Boys and Girls Club, and Just Do It Now

- May 2018-July 2018

-**Faith Christian Academy**- purchased a house where we would have a kitchen for their home economics classes. We cover nutrition, life skills and financial management.

-**Funded through the Hero's 4 Health Grant Walmart Foundation**

-**9** Volunteers and **34** total hours



MyPlate Series- MyPlate is a reminder to find your healthy eating style and build it throughout your lifetime. Everything you eat and drink matters. The right mix can help you be healthier now and in the future. This means: Focus on variety, amount, and nutrition. Choose foods and beverages with less saturated fat, sodium, and added sugars. Start with small changes to build healthier eating styles. Support healthy eating for everyone. Eating healthy is a journey shaped by many factors, including our stage of life, situations, preferences, access to food, culture, traditions, and the personal decisions we make over time. Topics include replacing sweetened drinks with low-fat milk and water, eating more vegetables, fruits, and whole grains, eating fewer high-fat and high-sugar foods, and playing actively 60 minutes a day.

-Implemented at Faith Christian Academy

-**35** students

-**8** presentations

-**\$261.00** in food donations for program supplies

-**2** volunteer and **24** total hours

Results

At 4-H, did you learn about healthy food choices?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	No	133	50.0	51.2	51.2
	Sort of	55	20.7	21.2	72.3
	Yes	72	27.1	27.7	100.0
	Total	260	97.7	100.0	
Missing	System	6	2.3		
Total		266	100.0		

Family and Consumer Sciences

2019 Wharton County Financial Responsibility (outreach) Kashara Bell- Family and Community Health Agent- Cooperative Extension Program

Relevance

The goal of this project is to intertwine financial literacy education in the classroom and community with a capstone experience. As a country, we've seen where a lack of personal finance education can lead. Millions of Americans struggle every day with their money, living paycheck to paycheck and relying on credit cards for necessities, only to wind up deep in debt and short on hope.

Wharton County Criminal Justice Community Plan Solutions 2016-2017

- Secure basic resources and emergency services for families
- Reinforce and expand after school programming
- Provide educational, vocational, and economic services to families to encourage emotional maturity and financial independence.

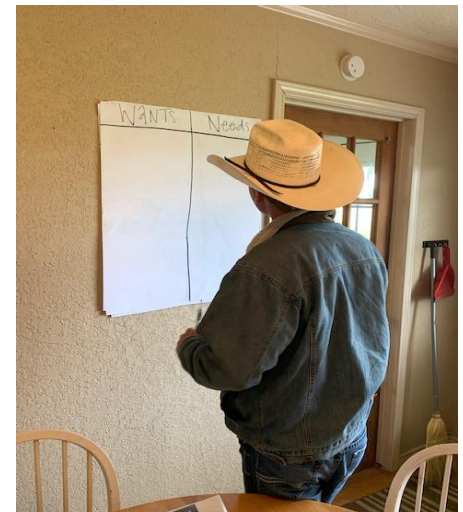
Response

Conducting programs on variety topics will help the communities of Wharton County take control of their personal finances. Curriculum's (Welcome to the Real World and Money Smart) on saving, couponing, budgeting, investing, identity theft, unemployment, and taxes will help our local families make wiser financial decisions.

- Reaching **279** adults and youth
- **15** Presentations

Education Efforts:

Welcome to the Real World- 5 session course of classes that provides parents with helpful tips and strategies on dealing with common parenting challenges. This course covers a range of parenting topics including: parenting styles, child development, communication, positive discipline and stress management.



Family and Consumer Sciences

Vision Board Workshop- A vision board is a collage that uses the law of attraction to draw more of what you want into your life. Vision boards can focus on something specific like career, finances, dreams, goals, family aspirations, or fitness for the upcoming year. To make a vision board that will help you achieve your goals, you cut out pictures and phrases out of magazines that represent your desires and goals. Why should someone attend a vision board workshop? Because it motivates you to set aside the time needed to create a vision board to draw positive things into your life. The workshop was a great way to come together and share different ideas and mindsets as a community.

- Program implemented **Upbring Daycare** and **Myatt Elementary**
- Wharton County Library** in Wharton and El Campo donated magazines and glue sticks to Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program
- 52** participants and **4** workshops



Program Comments

-Welcome to the Real World-

-I don't need a sports car because I can't afford the care note or insurance

-Today, I'm going home and thanking my parents for feeding me every day. From the look of my habits, I wouldn't be able to afford anything but noodles.

-I'm changing my career choice because of the lifestyle I want to live

-They made a mistake on our bill! Nobody ordered gratuity.

(This was from a recipe we asked a student to bring from a restaurant)

-If I learned this in high school I would be further along In life and debt free.

-Vision Board Workshop –

- I feel like a can achieve my goals when I see them on my vision board!

- This workshop has urged me to work on my credit so that I can become a homeowner.

-From now on, I will do a vision board every year!

Family and Consumer Sciences

2019 Food Safety (outreach)

Kashara Bell- Family and Community Health Agent- Cooperative Extension Program

Relevance

The goal of our Food Safety outreach programming is to positively impact limited resource families' health and wellbeing by providing relevant information to develop basic sanitation practices. This program provides research based educational information to limited resource families and individuals to help them understand the importance of food safety. Additionally, it heightens awareness of the relationship between basic sanitation practices when handling food, reduces waste, conserve nutrients and prevent food-borne illness. Food quality and safety involves purchasing, preparing, and storing food using procedures that prevent the spread of bacteria and reduce the risk of foodborne illness. Every year more than 76 million people get sick from food poisoning. 56,000 people are hospitalized, and 1,351 people die. Billions of dollars are lost due to medical expenses and loss of productivity. Providing clients with necessary skills to handle food properly teaching the importance of good personal hygiene, preparing and storing foods properly will allow clients to prevent food contamination resulting in food borne illness.

Response

Prairie View A&M University took an interactive approach to show the importance of disease, spreading germs, and food safety. Allowing the parenting and children see the germs and food demonstrations opened the door for better understanding. We used Glo germ and other techniques for those kinetics learners. Which let them experience these projects hands on. The goal of our Food Safety plan helped provide relevant information to develop basic sanitation practices, improve personal hygiene, and prepare and store foods properly.

- Reaching **242** youth and adults
- **13** Presentations



Pictured: October 22nd, 2019 Wharton County Library Pumpkin Decorating Winners

Family and Consumer Sciences

Educations Efforts

Glo Germ Handwashing Station- This interactive experiment was a great way to show the community how easy and fast it can be to attract germs! The adults were just as shocked as the children! Glo Germ is a product which safely and graphically demonstrates to students and adults alike how germs are spread. In the past, this was implemented during the Wharton County Youth Fair, but I wasn't able to attend the fair due to the delivery of my baby boy. So, I did this program at Sivells Elementary during their Physical Education classes. They were very enthused by the artificial "germs"!

Let's Tackle Hygiene -The ages in this class ranged from 14-22. Witnessing the special needs students striving to understand and participate touches the hearts of many. We covered different topics about personal hygiene, food safety, and handwashing. Working with the **El Campo High School Transition/Life Skills** class was an honor. The students were so respectful and always had a lot of energy. This program was also implemented at Faith Christian Academy Home Economics class.

Fall Safety Event- On October 22, 2019 Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program and The Wharton County Library had a community wide fall safety event. We were able to host over 210 individuals with the help of our volunteers! There was plenty entertainment and education like a trick or treating safety talk, arts and crafts, bug petting zoo, face painting, fashion show, pumpkin decorating contest, story time, musical chairs, and games. Every child left with goody bag and a smile! During this event we educated parents on how to inspect their children candy before allowing them to eat it. We also had a pumpkin decorating contest and the community and stakeholders voted all week long! **Kate Harrell (Agrilife Wharton County IPM agent)** brought the bug petting

- \$225.00** donation from Wharton County Library
- 210** participants
- Partnered with Wharton County Library System
- 18** community volunteers **4** total hours

Family and Consumer Sciences

2019 Wharton County Fostering Strong Families Kashara Bell- Family and Community Health Agent- Cooperative Extension Program

Relevance

What happens in your life can set the foundation of a lifetime. It's key that families have the tools and resources that they need to provide a stable and nurturing environment for their families. In order to reach that goal Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension Program must partner with communities in Wharton County to strengthen families and empower families to upgrade their life skills! We all have a shared responsibility for making our communities strong. According to the Wharton County Family plan the solution to prevent poverty and low resources is to offer educational programming.

Response

Knowing how to solve family issues and conflict management is important for family resilience. Being educated on how to be resourceful and creative will expose possibilities when overcoming adversity. To strengthen families we must: 1) engage youth and their families in an educational pilot program that promotes learning and behavior change in the areas of prevention, nutrition, and physical activity, 2) implement healthy living programs, 3) develop and begin implementing curriculums.

- Reaching **93** adults
- **23** Presentations

Education Efforts:

Parenting 101- 5 session course of classes that provides parents with helpful tips and strategies on dealing with common parenting challenges. This course covers a range of parenting topics including: parenting styles, child development, communication, positive discipline and stress management.

- Parenting class were held at the **Wharton County Extension Office**
- Child Protective Services** highly recommend this program for their cases
- 18** participants and **15** graduates

Marriage Survival Series- The Marriage Survival educational curriculum includes a series of lessons that are taught in an interactive way to help couples strengthen their relationships. To make the topics fun we incorporated a game night for a little friendly competition and trendy subjects that were relevant to the lessons. The games helped with communication, feelings, commitment, self-awareness, decision making, teamwork, and values.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Marriage Survival Lessons

- **Lesson 1** – Committing to Your Relationship
- **Lesson 2** – Building Strong Communications
- **Lesson 3** – Strengthening Your Relationship
- **Lesson 4** – Your Money Relationships
- **Lesson 5** – Building Safe and Happy Relationships
- **Lesson 6** – Blending Families



-Program implemented at the **Wharton Extension office and Upbring**

-Partnered with Utah State University

-**24** participants signed up and **22** finished the series

-Collaborated with the **Starbucks, El Campo Showplace 3 Cinema**

- As a reward for the winners of the game night received a date night in a bag. Which included 2 movie tickets and concessions at the local movie theatre in El Campo Texas.

<i>Marriage Survival post test questions</i>	% Answered Yes	% Answered No
Did the class content meet your relationship needs?	99.23%	4.77%
Were the activities interesting and helpful?	76.23%	22.77%
Did you gain a better understanding of your spouse?	58.94%	41.06%
Would you recommend this class?	100%	0%

Results

-Parenting 101- 15 out of **18** participants were able to finish the 5 session course. Prairie View A&M University also collaborated with Target to receive baby welcome bags. In the bags there are items like bottles, pacifiers, formula samples, wipes, travel soaps & lotions, 2 samples of diaper brands, and a baby on board car sticker.

Marriage Survival Series- Couples were able to communicate and be more open when it comes to issues. They were also able to create a relationship with other local couples. 13 participants finished the series which shows that they were committed and interested.

Family and Consumer Sciences

2019 Wharton County Health and Wellness Kashara Bell- Family and Community Health Agent- Cooperative Extension Program

Relevance

Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program strives to address the health and wellness needs of Wharton County by offering programs that help prevent chronic illnesses (diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer, and heart disease), eliminate of health disparities, poor dieting, and unhealthy lifestyle habits. Wharton County profile states that 19% of the population is impacted by diabetes or cancer. Chronic health conditions have serious consequences for disease, premature death, and health care costs.

Response

The goal of our programming is to positively impact participant's health and wellbeing through improvements in self-efficacy, self-care behaviors, nutrition and physical activity. Wharton County Cooperative Extension Program strive to improve the health and quality of life for individuals, families, and communities by moving the nation from a focus on sickness and disease to one based on prevention and wellness.

- 105 participants
- 7 education presentations

Education efforts:

Cooking for a Lifetime Cancer Prevention Cooking School- is an interactive class where participants learn how to choose and prepare food to reduce cancer risk along with discussing the screenings recommended for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer.

- Grant funded (\$350.00 each class) by University of Georgia Cooperative Extension
- Every participant received a cook book, meal, and entry to win a free Fitbit (Which was a giveaway incentive for each class).

Results

Cooking For a Lifetime Cancer Prevention School follow up program utilized 27 post paper evaluations tool to show behavior change and knowledge gained.



Family and Consumer Sciences

Participants Cancer Screening Intention

Following program attendance, the majority reported they were “Definitely going to do it” or “May do it” regarding receiving their required cancer screenings appropriate to age and sex (Table 4). Of those females who were age eligible (21 – 64 y) for GA BCCP PAP screening services and responded to whether or not they were likely to get a PAP after the Cancer Cooking School (n = 12), 91.7% said they “May” or were “Definitely going to do it.” Of those females who were age eligible (40 y and older) for mammogram screening services and responded to whether or not they were likely to get a mammogram after the Cancer Cooking School (n = 8), 87.5% said they were “Definitely going to do it.” Of those who were age eligible (50 y and older) for FOBT/FIT and colonoscopy screening services and responded to whether or not they were likely to get these tests after the Cancer Cooking School (FOBT/FIT: n = 6, Colonoscopy: n = 6), 66.7% said they were “Definitely going to” get an FOBT/FIT test; and 66.7% said they “May” or were “Definitely going to” get a colonoscopy. *This program is motivating men and women in Wharton County to consider getting cancer screenings. Earlier detection through screening can contribute to reduced health care costs as well as improved survival from these cancers.*

Table 4. Intention of Age and Gender Eligible Individuals to Participate in Cancer Screening Behaviors After Attending the Workshop

Test	n	Not at all	May do it	Definitely going to do it
Pap	12	8.3%	41.7%	50.0%
Mammogram	8	12.5%	-	87.5%
Fecal Occult Blood Test	6	33.3%	-	66.7%
Colonoscopy	6	33.3%	16.7%	50.0%

Table 11. What did you like most about the program? (Open-ended response)

Great smoothies.
The presenter and her energy!
Very fun and I learned a lot
The food
The games

CEA Annual Achievement Report (2019)
Kate Harrell, Extension Agent- IPM, Wharton, Jackson and Matagorda County

In-Depth Program Planning

Wharton, Jackson and Matagorda IPM Row Crop Plan

- Held a meeting with a group of producers serving on the IPM committee to select participants for the field scouting program and gather ideas for field trials, and kept in contact with growers throughout the season
- Assembled a set of 18 producers to participate in the summer field scouting program
 - Checked a total of 1,472 acres, each field was between 30 and 150 acres in size
- Gathered \$20,137.44 from local gins and agricultural businesses to fund the summer field scouting program
- Received an \$8,000 grant from Cotton Inc for cotton bollworm trials
- Planted and maintained 2 company field trials
- Planted and maintained 2 A&M research field trials
- Monitored and assisted in maintaining 5 county research trials

In-Depth Program Implementation

Wharton, Jackson and Matagorda IPM Row Crop Plan

- Summer Field Scouting Program
- Wharton County CEU Workshop
- Harvest Retrospective
- Field Trials
- Seed Meetings
- Several field meetings
- *H. zea* moth and larvae collections
- *H. zea* moth pyrethroid tests
- Upper Coast IPM Blog- 20 issues

In-Depth Program Evaluation

- Requested responses evaluating the scouting program and field trials at the end of year IPM Committee meeting (meeting had to be rescheduled for January)

Outreach Program Summary

- Adult Educational Presentations
 - Master Gardener IPM
 - Grain Handlers Meeting
 - Jackson County Field Day
 - Wharton County Field Day
 - Bollworm Scouting Tutorial Turnrow Meeting
 - Bollworm Scouting Tutorial Video
 - Feed Grain and Cotton Conference
 - Krenek Seed Meeting
 - LAB Luncheon
- Youth Educational Presentations
 - Insect Petting Zoo
 - Library Bugs Presentation
 - Jackson County Youth Ag Day
- Planning Committees
 - Gulf Coast Rice Belt Conference
 - Upper Gulf Coast Grain Handlers Conference
 - Wharton County 5 CEU event
 - Jackson County Youth Ag Day
 - Jackson County Field Day
 - Jackson County Row Crop Committee
 - Wharton County Row Crop Committee
 - Matagorda County Row Crop Committee
 - IPM Committee

Accountability and Interpretation

- Monthly Texas Data Reports submitted
- Making a Difference Document for LAB Committee
- 12 monthly mileage reports sent in to Minnie Russell
- Finances for Texas A&M Account managed through the Entomology department at Texas A&M and Peggy Lundstrom
- Finances for grant accounts managed and reviewed by Kaylyn Clements with Sponsored Research Services
- Cotton Inc grant use reviewed by Ryan Kurtz
- Finances for TPMA accounts managed through Melissa Wade at TPMA
- TPMA accounts reviewed by IPM committee members
- IPM Scouting Program reviewed by the IPM Committee
- Field trial recommendations and program changes made by the IPM Committee
- Annual review with David Kerns

Volunteer Management and Engagement

- 2 Leadership Advisory Board Meetings
- 1 IPM Committee Meeting
 - IPM Committee members spoke to business owners in the community to fund the summer scouting program

Other Human Resources

- Hired Duane Schroedter as a field scout
- Hired David Otradovsky as a field technician

Material Resource Development

- Gathered \$20,137.44 for the IPM scouting program
- Made \$5,000.00 in test plot support for research

Internal Relationships

- 6 office conferences within the Wharton county extension office
- Mentored by Stephen Biles

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

- Work effectively with agents Corrie Bowen, Mike Hiller, Aaron Sumrall, Stephen Biles, Laramie Naumann, Kevin Gibbs, Boone Holliday, and Haylee Wolfford
- And Specialists Dr. Tom Isakeit, Dr. David Kerns, Dr. Gaylon Morgan, Dale Mott, Dr. Ronnie Schnell, Dr. Daniel Hathcoat, Dr. Josh McGinty, Rudy Alaniz, and Clint Livingston

External Relationships

- Contact with local crop consultants for field updates and emerging issues
- Working relationships with agricultural company representatives
- Multiple photos used by Southwest Farm Press and AgFax
- 1 photo used by the Texas Cotton facebook page
- 6 AgFax interviews for in season field conditions
- Aided in starting a Texas Agriwomen Gulf Coast Chapter, elected Secretary for 2020
- Gave vaccinations with Wharton County Stray Pet Outreach Team

Other Teamwork Examples

- Worked with multiple company representatives planting trials
- Gathered materials to spray cotton bollworm trial
- Maintained and updated Spider Sprayer for field use with help from an equipment company
- Gathered materials for cotton fleahopper trial
- Gathered materials to maintain farmer relationships for field trials

Professional Development

- Attended the Cotton Physiology Meeting
- Attended the Texas Pest Management Association Meeting
- Conference Call for Texas State Support Committee
- Attended the IPM Professional Development training
- Attended the Plant Protection Conference

Professionalism

- Strive to provide accurate and research oriented information regarding pest control in all settings
- Handled three cases of unknown insect infestations

Extension Education in Wharton County

Personnel

Corrie Bowen
County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Kate Crumley
Extension Agent
Integrated Pest Management

Laura Reyna
County Extension Agent
4-H and Youth Development

Lori Schindler
County Extension Agent
Family & Community Health

Kashara Bell
Extension Agent
Cooperative Extension Program
Family & Community Health

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