



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WHARTON COUNTY

SEPTEMBER—NOVEMBER 2019

OFFICE OF WHARTON COUNTY

315 E. Milam, Ste 112
Wharton, TX 77488
O: 979-532-3310
F: 979-532-8863
wharton.agrilife.org

EXTENSION STAFF

CORRIE BOWEN

Ag & Natural Resources
cbowen@ag.tamu.edu

LORI SCHINDLER

Family & Community Health
lori.schindler@ag.tamu.edu

LAURA REYNA

4-H & Youth Development
lereyna@ag.tamu.edu

KASHARA BELL

Prairie View A&M CEP
Family & Community Health
kashara.bell@ag.tamu.edu

KATE HARRELL

Integrated Pest Management
kate.harrell@ag.tamu.edu

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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension - Wharton County hosted a Cotton and Grain Risk Management Workshop on October 17, 2019 at the Wharton County Fairgrounds in Wharton Texas. Thirty-two (32) grain and cotton producers attended.

The agenda covered the following topics and presenters:

- Budgeting and Decision Tools, Mac Young.
- Cotton Outlook, Dr. John Robinson, AgriLife Extension Cotton Marketing Economist.
- Grain Outlook, Dr. Mark Welch, Extension Economist – Grain Marketing.
- Marketing Strategies, Robinson and Welch.
- 'What If' Scenarios, Discussion and Questions, Robinson and Welch.

23 of 32 (72%) completed a retrospective-post evaluation instruments. Surveys indicate that:

- Average increase of understanding or knowledge – 50.01%.
- Adoption of practice or technology – on average 34.77% probably or definitely will adopt each practice; on average 21.74% already adopted one or more practice.
- Overall satisfaction with program – 95.66% mostly or completely.
- Overall satisfaction of presentations – 95.66% to 100% mostly and completely.

Of the people reporting, 16,656 acres were represented. The estimated direct economic benefit averaged \$19/acre or a total impact of \$316,464.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH

Tuesday 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!

Agent Lori Schindler attended the State TEEA Conference in San Marcos. Schindler was excited to host her first TEA-FCH District 11 Association Meeting in Wharton. The District 11 Agents were treated to an amazing meal at Greek Bros. and an incredible Cotton Gin tour in Danevang led by Jimmy Ropollo. All the agents really enjoyed the tour and found it to be very educational as many had never seen the process before. Schindler spent quite a bit of time this quarter working with the El Campo High School and Wharton High School Culinary Arts students. She trained 69 Wharton High School students in Food Handler's Safety and they now have their card. She has also taught three Food Protection Manager's courses to 51 Wharton High School and El Campo High School Students. These students were then able to take their National ServSafe Certification exam. Those that pass will be able to enter the food service industry as a Food Protection Manager and will be in charge of training employees on Food Safety practices.

4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Wharton County 4-H members have been very busy over the past few months. October Kicked Off with National 4-H week where our kids promoted the 4-H program across the county over the week. One Day 4-H ended the week and our members completed a county wide community service projects. Members from across the county played bingo and provided prizes with the residents of the Garden Villa Nursing Home in El Campo and the Wharton Nursing and Rehab Center. The residents were grateful to have our 4-H members there spending time with them. We held our County Food Show and Food Challenge contests in mid-October where 25 kids participated in the Food Show and 54 kids participate in the Food Challenge! Our 4-H members ended October by participating in the El Campo Police Department's Annual Trunk-Or-Treat where we passed out candy to over 1,100 children. Our group also took home 1st place in the booth decorating competition! In November we had nine 4-Hers attend District 11 4-H Crossroads on the campus of Texas A&M Kingsville. The kids thoroughly enjoyed learning about the College and participating in the "Real World" experience.

