



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN WHARTON COUNTY

DECEMBER 2019 - FEBRUARY 2020

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 CRUMLEY

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

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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

The 27th annual Upper Gulf Coast Grain Handlers Conference was held on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at the El Campo Civic Center. 112 adults from the grain handling industry attended this annual program, receiving education on grain handling safety and pest control. The Western Rice Belt Conference was held on January 15, 2020 and was attended by 215 rice producers and sponsors, combined. The Upper Gulf Coast Feed Grain and Cotton Conference was held on January 23, 2020, attracting 190 cotton and grain producers for this annual educational seminar. Producers came from five counties to attend the 2020 Feed Grain and Cotton Conference, of which the annual auxin specific applicator training was included. The Wharton County Office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension held their annual 5-CEU program on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at the Wharton County Fairgrounds – Crescent Hall in Crescent, TX. A total of 115 pesticide applicators attended this annual, educational event. Topics and presenters included: TDA Pesticide Laws and Regulations – Melissa Barton; Livestock Diseases, Insects, and Parasite – Dr. Tom Hairgrove; Weed and Brush Control – Corrie Bowen; Wildlife Damage Control – Dr. Aaron Sumrall; Minimizing Drift and Avoiding Temperature Inversions – Greg Baker.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH

Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension Program held an interpretation chat and chew with the Wharton County Library System staff. We discussed the summer results, participation, and future ideas for our annual summer programs. During this quarter, we have been focusing on our childhood obesity, fostering strong families and financial management in-depth programming. During the new year, Upbring Headstart PTA hosted a Goal Setting series. Parents were able to come together and brainstorm new ideas. 52 Participants made a vision board, took home a budget notebook (that was donated from Upbring Headstart), learned how to set and execute goals, and win prizes. We have also collaborated with the Wharton County Junior College to come up with some healthy activities and food alternatives for their senior citizens programs. Our goal is to create innovative programs that will get our elderly not only up and moving, but having fun as well. Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension Program has home economic classes every Friday at Faith Christian Academy. 21 middle school and high school classes are learning Welcome to the Real World (with a spin). The lessons are the same but we have tailored it to their interest and county needs. They have learned how to write a check, balance a check book, create a budget, and cook an easy “self-cook” meals. Prairie View A&M Cooperative Extension Program is in the midst of creating an entrepreneur curriculum that will involve students testing out their ideas. The students also participated in a “One Pot Wonder” cooking contest. Each student was challenged to use one pot to cook a healthy meal. There was judges from the school, police department, and Wharton County extension office. The participants and judges really enjoyed this contest!

In December, Agent Lori Schindler attended the TEEA Winter Conference in Brenham with the wonderful TEEA ladies who do so much for Wharton County and its programs. She also attended the TEA-FCS professional retreat for some incredible fellowship and educational opportunities with the amazing District 11 FCH agents. In January we held our Rice Consumer’s Conference in El Campo and had a wonderful turnout with some amazing rice dishes being demonstrated as well as some demonstrations of the new insta-pot. Agent Schindler held a Food Protection Manager’s class at the Wharton County Extension Office with the agent from Jackson County assisting. The next FPM class will be held in Jackson County. In February, Agent Schindler assisted with County 4-H Roundup, took a group of 4-H students to San Antonio so they could attend the school tours for scholarships, judged photographs for Jackson County and assisted in judging Wharton County

4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Wharton County 4-H members had a busy quarter, in January 296 photos were turned in for our county photography contest. This number is up from last year and we were so excited to have such great participation. We also hosted our County Roundup where we had 48 youth participate in Educational Presentations, Public Speaking, Share-the-Fun, and Consumer Decision Making contests. All of our County Roundup participants were excited to advance to the district contest in May! This quarter also means the start of stock show season. We had 4-H members compete at both Ft. Worth and the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. Our members did an excellent job exhibiting their livestock projects and participating in numerous judging contest.

