



OFFICE OF  
WHARTON COUNTY

315 E. Milam, Ste 112  
Wharton, TX 77488  
979-532-3310  
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

**KATE CRUMLEY**

Integrated Pest Management  
Wharton, Jackson, &  
Matagorda Counties  
kate.crumley@ag.tamu.edu

**KASHARA BELL**

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

**BRAXTON MITCHELL**

Prairie View A&M CEP  
Ag & Natural Resources  
Wharton & Austin Counties  
bjmitchell@pvamu.edu

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**AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Cotton and Soybean Turn Row Meetings – Agent Corrie Bowen**

Twenty-two (22) soybean producers and industry professionals attended the June 30, 2021 Soybean Turn Row Meeting on the Howard and Dolly Wittig Farm in Lane City, Texas. 32% (7 of 22) completed evaluations. 71% of the respondents report that they will adopt the practice of monitoring their soybean crop for red banded stink bugs past the R7 soybean growth stage. Participants increased their knowledge of insecticide selection based on growth stage and economic thresholds for various stink bugs by 50%. Participants report 24,770 acres managed and an estimated total economic value of \$216,737.50, or \$8.75 per acre.

Thirty (30) cotton producers and industry professionals attended the June 30, 2021 Cotton Turn Row Meeting on the Michael Beard Farm in Crescent, Texas. 71% (5 of 7) cotton farmers in attendance completed evaluations. Participants increased their knowledge of managing cotton during periods of heavy rainfall by 46%. 80% of the cotton farmers in attendance report that they already utilize AgriLife Extension insect and disease pest action thresholds. Participants report 15,939 acres managed and an estimated total economic value of \$18,107.99, or \$7.41 per acre.

**2021 Ag Entrepreneurship Series – Agent Braxton Mitchell**

One Hundred Six (106) existing and aspiring ag entrepreneurs attended the three-part Ag Entrepreneurship Series, held on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> at the Wharton County Youth Fair in Wharton, Texas. Of those 106 attendees, 55 of them completed evaluations. 45 (82%) of those respondents strongly agree that their knowledge was increased after attending the program. 39 (71%) of those respondents strongly agree that their participation in more federal, state, and local programs will increase. Attendees agree that the potential estimated cost saving from using the information from this program totals over \$82,400.

**INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT**

**IPM Scouting Program – Agent Kate Crumley**

The Wharton, Jackson, and Matagorda county IPM Scouting Program this year was made up of 18 fields with a total of 1,833 acres. Our scouting started April 16, and my field scouts and I checked them weekly until August 13. The results of our field scouting can be found online at uppercoastipm.blogspot.com. Throughout the summer we also monitored corn and cotton for invasive species with traps for old world bollworm, tobacco cutworm, false codling moth, and in field sampling for cotton seed bug. None of these invasive species were found. In September I conducted two research tests, a fall armyworm insecticide test in a bermudagrass hay field, and a cotton harvest aid trial.

**FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH**

**Vision Board Workshop & Library Summer Programming – Agent Kashara Bell**

Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program and Communities In Schools, Brazoria County collaborated by hosting a school wide vision board workshop at the Wharton Junior High School. Families were able to learn about goal setting and the power of creating a visualization of your goals and desires. In addition to gaining education, attendees were able to win multiple giveaways, including HEB gift cards, grilling stone, and electric skillet. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the event was held outdoors to ensure safety and social distancing requirements. There were 53 attendees at the event. Thankfully, the Wharton County Junior High was gracious enough to provide us with a tent, tables, chairs, and ice. We want to thank the following businesses and organizations for their collaboration and donations given to support this event: HEB, Wharton County Culinary Program, and The Wharton County Library System.

Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension of Wharton County collaborated with the Walmart Foundation and Wharton County library system. Throughout the summer both agencies worked together to continue their annual tradition of summer programming. Patrons were able to follow along with the virtual classes on YouTube and Facebook. The librarians of the Wharton County Library served as volunteers for each program. We stepped out the box and had a Christmas in July program for the youth. Since vaping and smoking is an ongoing issue within our youth, Officer Biscop did a great presentation about the dangers of vaping. The parents gave great feedback about this topic. All in all, we were able to educate 235 youths in Wharton County.

**4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

**Summer Programming & Youth Recognition—Agent Laura Reyna**

This summer Wharton County 4-H hit the ground running with 4-H members competing in numerous District and State events as well as attending Leadership Camps. Some of the highlights include: Top placing members Kasey Burns and Erica George in the Fashion Show; Leslie Zahn and Riley Wallis in Share-the-Fun; and Riley, Kasey, and Emily Glaze in Duds to Dazzle who walked the stage at Texas 4-H Roundup. Taylor Watz received a \$20,000 Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Myla Mahalitic was elected to serve as the District 11 4-H Council Public Relations officer for the upcoming year. Harleigh Strack, Myla, and Emily were selected to serve as Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassadors. We also had a very successful County Kids in the Kitchen and Kids in the Sewing Room Camp. To wrap up our summer we held our Annual Awards Banquet on July 27<sup>th</sup>, recognizing 70 4-H members for all of their hard work and accomplishments throughout the year. We also took the time to install our 2021-2022 County Council Officers. In August we prepare for the new 4-H year ahead and look forward to all that it has in store.