



## Extension Education in Atascosa County

# Making a Difference

## EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Providing Solutions*

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has 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 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.

## **Atascosa County – Summary of 2016 Educational Contacts**

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- Total Educational Programs/ Meetings Conducted 10,233
  - Total Contacts 19,944
  - 4-H Membership 275
  - 4-H Clubs 7
  - 4-H Volunteers 131 Adults 60 Youth
  - Curriculum Enrichment 2769
  - Office Contacts/ Site Visits 3283
  - Newsletters 4-H 3070 Ag 554
  - Radio Announcements 48
  - News Releases 45
  - Atascosa County Ag Fair 712 youth attended 103 Volunteers assisting
  - Continuing Education Hours offered for Applicators 35

## 2016 Multi-Discipline Atascosa County Country Living Series Educational Plan

**Developed By: Dale Rankin, Atascosa County Extension Agent-Ag/Nr  
Dru Benavides, Atascosa County Extension Agent FCS**

### Relevance

Over the past several decades, there has been an increase in new/small landowners into the county of Atascosa. This clientele group seeks educational resources because they do not have a background related to land stewardship and/or agricultural production or knowledge of living in the rural countryside. The past Texas Community Futures Forum identified this as an important need and the current extension staff agent Rankin and Benavides worked with the leadership of the Atascosa County Leadership Advisory Board to address this issue.

### Target Audience

This educational program series targeted clientele that are new/small landowners that own over ten acres in the rural community. The County Extension agent worked with their local county appraisal district chief appraiser to determine the number of new small landowners in the county. The appraisal district was asked to query their database for new land ownership of ten acres or more occurring in the last year. An invitation letter and program brochure was sent to all of the clientele in the county that met the search criteria. Clientele responded to this letter and registered to participate in the program over the course of the program.

### Response

The County Extension Agents Rankin and Benavides worked with the Leadership Advisory Board to develop a series of educational programs for new/small landowners to provide them with information on a variety of topics. The dates and topics of these programs are outlined below:

◇ **April 29** Wildlife Management, Ag Tax Appraisal, Small Flock Production, Horse Care and Management, Estate Planning and Ag Laws

◇ **November 18** Game Processing and Storage Safety, Horticulture and Vegetable gardening , Forage/ Weed and Brush Control, Livestock Management, Fence Equipment Demo and Safety precautions and First Aid, Snakes of South Texas

### Results

A retrospective post questionnaire was used at all the educational sessions to evaluate educational results.

**Table 1: LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING – Percent Change**

	Mean Before	Mean After	Percent Change
Wildlife Management Practices	2.14	3.57	47.7%
Estate Planning	1.60	3.40	60.0%
Atascosa County Agriculture Tax Appraisal	2.29	3.57	42.7%
Managing Your Horse	1.71	3.14	47.7%
Fruit and Vegetables for Atascosa County	1.62	3.15	51.0%
How Important Variety Selection is	2.08	3.31	41.0%
Nutrient Management of fruit and Vegetables	2.00	3.31	43.7%
Things to Consider when	2.31	3.54	41.0%

processing your own game			
Basal Treatment of brush for Fall and Winter applications	2.00	3.31	43.7%

**Summary:**

Results indicate that the Atascosa County Country Living Series met its objectives for increasing knowledge to new/ small landowners living in the Country.

**Special Thanks:**

The Atascosa County Farm Bureau for collaborating with the Atascosa County Extension office and a special thanks to Pete Pawelek president and Shirley Stephens Board Member.

**Guest Speakers:**

The following speakers helped with the educational presentations Michelle Cardenas Atascosa County Chief Appraiser, Dr. Larry Stein Extension Horticulture Specialist, Matt Reidy, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Dr. Craig Coufal Texas AgriLife Extension Poultry Specialist, Dr. Bob Lyons Extension Range Specialist, Matt Grothues San Antonio Steel Company, and Abel Casas Atascosa County Business Owner, Blaine Eaton Devine Reptile Rescue

**Future Program Actions:**

Future program actions are to continue working with the Leadership Advisory Board on Landowner education but utilize a Multi County Approach to engage more clients into the educational activities.

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## **2016 Frio/Atascosa Counties Peanut Profitability Plan**

### **Plan Summary Report**

**Date of Summary: December 15, 2016**

#### **Relevance:**

Peanut production in Frio County is the largest field crop produced in the county with over 14,500 acres in production on an annual basis. In order to increase profitability, it is important to educate our peanut producers about current practices, varieties, and technologies associated with peanut production. The South Texas Peanut Growers Association, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, and Texas A&M AgriLife Research scientists identified issues that needed to be addressed in educating peanut producers in Frio and Atascosa counties to help increase peanut profitability.

#### **Response:**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Frio and Atascosa County developed the following activities to address this relevant issue:

- \*Peanut Progress Newsletter (June – October 2016)
- \*South Texas Peanut Growers Annual Meeting (April 2016)
- \*Peanut Breeding Plots (June 2016)
- \*Peanut Result Demonstrations (June 2016)
- \*Peanut Variety Trials (June 2016)
- \*South Texas Peanut Tour (September 2016)

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Frio and Atascosa Counties partnered with South Texas Peanut Growers Association, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialists, Texas A&M AgriLife research Scientists and Texas Peanut Producers Board to implement this plan. These educational programs were designed to address the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Peanut Breeding program, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Peanut Variety Program, Peanut Herbicide Control, Peanut Fungicide Control, Peanut economics and peanut industry trends. Topics discussed include: Peanut Breeding Results, Weed Control and resistance issues, Irrigation Management, Soil Fertility Program, etc.

#### **Results:**

A Participation Survey (retrospective post) was utilized to measure programmatic impact. A total of 19 of 26 returned the survey for a 73 % survey response rate.

**Table 1: LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING – Percent Change**

	Mean Before	Mean After	Percent Change
Peanut Disease	2.58	3.00	4%
Peanut Varieties	2.47	3.32	4.8%
Peanut Fungicides	2.26	2.68	8.3%
Peanut Herbicides	2.47	3.21	5.7%

**Table 2: Overall Satisfaction**

Overall Satisfaction	100%
Satisfaction of Accuracy of Information	100%
Satisfaction w/ information easy to understand	89%
Satisfaction w/ timeliness for information	95%
Satisfaction w/ helpfulness of information	94%
Satisfaction w/ relevance of examples used	95%
Satisfaction of instructors knowledge	100%

Summary of Results:

Results indicate that the Frio/Atascosa Counties Peanut Profitability Plan met its objectives to increase knowledge and behavioral changes in the peanut producers that participated. 26% of the participants indicated that they had intentions to adopt the management practices. 68% anticipated economic benefit per crop/acre equaled to \$11.87/acre.

Acknowledgements:

Special thanks to the following experts for presenting at these activities: Dr. Jason Woodward, James Grichar, Shelly Nutt and Michael Barring. Additional thanks are due to the following Frio County Cooperators: Tech Farms, Bennett Partnership, Wilmeth Farms and Gary Boyd Farms.

Future Program Actions:

As a result of our program evaluations, participants have asked for us to continue working on peanut diseases, varieties, fungicides and herbicides. They have also requested that we address peanut markets and commodity prices and peanut government programs in upcoming programs. Working with the South Texas Peanut Growers Association, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas Peanut Producers Board will continue to offer educational programs that target peanut producers in Frio and Atascosa Counties to help them improve their bottom line.

# **2016 Frio/Atascosa/Dimmit/Zavala/LaSalle/ McMullen Co. Water Quality Program**

## **Plan Summary**

**Developed By: Jaime Lopez, Frio County Extension Agent-Ag  
Dale Rankin, Atascosa County Extension Agent-Ag  
Richard Griffin, Dimmit County Extension Agent-Ag  
Marcel Valdez, Zavala County Extension Agent-Ag  
Isaac Cavazos, McMullen County Extension Agent- Ag**

**Date of Summary: December 15, 2016**

### **Relevance:**

Water well owners are independently responsible for monitoring the quality of their wells and are at a greater risk for exposure to compromised water quality in Frio, Atascosa, Dimmit, Zavala, LaSalle and McMullen Counties. The risks in these counties are further compromised by fracking of oil reserves and related oil well drilling activities on privately owned land.

### **Response:**

Now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year the Frio/Atascosa/Dimmit/Zavala/LaSalle and McMullen Water Quality plan is an education program that gives well owners the opportunity to have their well water samples to be screened for common contaminants including fecal coliform bacteria, nitrates, and high salinity. Private Well Water screenings are conducted twice a year once in the fall and once in the spring. Private well water owners are informed about upcoming water well screening opportunities, methods of collecting good water samples, cost and dates, times and water sample collection sites through the use of local news media outlets, landowner newsletters and social media. A follow-up meeting to explain screening results were held following each well water screening event.

### **Results:**

Over the course of the three years of this program over 360 private well water samples have been screened by this multi-county effort. Of these 30 samples required further testing at a certified water testing laboratory. The remaining 330 samples screened did not screen positive to any of the parameters used in the screening process thus resulting in NO FURTHER ACTION(NFA) being required by the well water owner(s) saving them over \$29,700.00

### **Acknowledgements:**

Special thanks to Mr. Drew M. Gholson, John Smith, Diane Boellstroff, Ryan Gerlich and the Texas Water Well Owner Network Program for providing the expertise on screening the water samples and helping with the program. We would also like to thank the San Antonio River Authority and the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District for being part of the program. Additional thanks are also due to Dr. Monty Dozier and Mr. Todd Swift for their guidance with the Multi-County Water Plan and to the agents from Dimmit, La Salle, Frio, Atascosa, McMullen and Zavala Counties.

## Future Plans:

As a result of the value of this program and the recommendation by John W. Smith, AgriLife Extension program specialist, College Station, who recommends that private water wells should be tested annually for common contaminants this program is being planned for implementation in these counties in 2017.

## Outreach Program Summary

### Atascosa Cattleman's Outreach Summary

The Atascosa Cattleman's Annual meeting was held on May 10, 2016 at the Atascosa County Extension office Auditorium. Multi- County Beef Cattle Symposium was held on May 10, 2016 at the Atascosa County Extension Office

Auditorium. A retrospective post evaluation was administered to participant's a total land acreage represented by participant's in the audience was 69,345 acres.

### Percent Change in the Beef Cattle Audience

	Program Content	Mean Before	Mean After	Percent Change
1	<i>Vfds and their importance</i>	2.08	3.44	45.3%
2	<i>Keys to a successful grazing lease and estray laws</i>	2.13	3.52	46.3%
3	<i>Recommended chemical applications for control of invasive/noxious weed and brush species</i>	2.48	3.48	33.3%
4	<i>Common pasture insects, damage and their control</i>	2.21	3.54	44.3%
5	<i>How to manage pastures to mitigate the impact of drought</i>	2.38	3.62	41.7%
6	<i>Alternative fertilizers or nutrient sources and application techniques</i>	2.30	3.39	36.3%
7	<i>Replacement cow and heifer options</i>	2.90	3.60	23.3%
8	<i>Strategies to build flexibility into your operation</i>	2.53	3.53	33.3%

### Atascosa County Wildlife Management Outreach Summary

The Atascosa Wildlife and Fisheries and Atascosa Wildlife Coop met in February, August and September to make plans for upcoming educational events in the area of Wildlife Management and Natural Resources. Educational events that were planned include:

The Multi County Wildlife Symposium was held in May 2016 at the Atascosa County Extension office Auditorium.

Wildlife Coop Meeting September 2016

Atascosa Wildlife Appraiser Workshop December 2016

### Percent Change in the Wildlife Audience

	Program Content	Mean Before	Mean After	Percent Change
1	<i>Landowner liability related to lease agreements</i>	2.57	3.43	28.7%
2	<i>Techniques for improving wildlife habitat</i>	2.29	3.29	33.3%
3	<i>Pond ecology, weed identification and control</i>	2.14	3.43	43.0%



<b>4</b>	<i>Type and extent of feral hog damage and legal control options</i>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.43</b>	<b>14.3%</b>
<b>5</b>	<i>Application and use of game cameras</i>	<b>2.29</b>	<b>3.57</b>	<b>42.7%</b>
<b>6</b>	<i>How habitat impacts of wildlife species and populations</i>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>3.43</b>	<b>24.0%</b>
<b>7</b>	<i>Predator/prey relationships and impact on the ...</i>	<b>2.17</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>27.7%</b>
<b>8</b>	<i>Cwd in texas</i>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>3.40</b>	<b>33.3%</b>



## 2016 Atascosa County Diabetes Education Druann Benavides-Family and Consumer Sciences

*Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes* is a five-class series covering nutrition and self-care management topics. The program helps people with diabetes learn the skills needed to manage their disease successfully.

### Relevance

The number of Americans diagnosed with diabetes is 29 million. An estimated 86 million Americans have pre-diabetes. Health-care costs average \$13,700 per person with diabetes, for an annual total cost of \$254 billion in the U.S. – \$176 billion (72%) for health care and \$69 billion (28%) in lost productivity.

Almost \$1 of every \$5 spent on health care is for people with diabetes. Poor diabetes management leads to increased health-care costs. People with diabetes who maintain their blood glucose, blood pressure, and cholesterol numbers within recommended ranges can keep their costs, health risks, quality of life, and productivity very close to those without the disease. Currently, however, only 7% of people with diabetes are at the recommended levels.

Diabetes is not curable, but it is manageable. While the skills needed to effectively manage diabetes are well documented, diabetes education is not readily available. The burdens of diabetes mismanagement are disproportionately borne by those with little or no insurance coverage, lower literacy, poor or no English skills, lower educational and income levels, and poor access to transportation.

The annual cost of diabetes in Texas is estimated at \$18.5 billion. An estimated 10.6% or 2.8 million of Texans 18 years old or older are diagnosed with diabetes; another 440,468 have diabetes but do not know it. Almost one in four adult Texans aged 65 and older have been diagnosed with diabetes. Texas is projected to have a greater incidence rate and increased costs in the future due to the growing population of people over 65 years of age and Hispanics/ Latinos, who are at a greater risk for the disease.

### Response

Extension health professionals developed *Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes*, a low-cost class series covering self-care and nutrition topics delivered in five sessions. The program was pilot tested in 2002 in 12 counties. Class materials include a curriculum consistent with the American Diabetes Association Standards of Care along with PowerPoint® presentations, videos, marketing materials, and an evaluation program. County agents are trained to organize local health professionals to help plan, market, and provide the class series. The program's primary goal is to improve blood glucose management.

### Results

- Three coalition members supported implementation of *Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes*; Atascosa County Methodist Health Care Ministries Wesley Nurse, Pleasanton and Poteet, Texas Department of State Health Services nurse and The Atascosa Health Care Center Inc. The MHM nurses taught classes and DSHS and AHC assisted the Extension agent with marketing, registration, data collection, food preparation demonstrations, procurement of medical supplies such as glucometers for participants, and AHC provided the location for the classes.
- 6 people with diabetes participated in 2016.
- The average age of participants with diabetes was 54
- 2 Hispanic/Latino, 2 Polish, and 2 Caucasian.
- 4 out of the 6 participants reported having no previous diabetes classes, indicating a critical need for diabetes education.

**Success Stories**

- Four of the participants stated at the beginning of the classes they felt as if the doctor had given them a death sentence and by the end of the series they felt as if they could get a handle on the disease and even come off medications. .
- One individual started walking more to help with blood sugar levels.
- All of the participants wanted to know when the next class would be held.

**Economic Impact Atascosa County**

The potential health-care cost savings for these participants, resulting from improved management of diabetes, is estimated to be \$82,200.

**Evaluation-** Diabetes education is a need in Atascosa County. The Health task force for MHM and I have made it a priority to continue free classes for the community.

**Atascosa County Better Living for Texans, Bronze 2016**

**Relevance**

According to the Food Environment Statistics for Atascosa County the number of low-income residents receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance are 7,840 (according to October 2016 results). Just as important, the Women's Infant and Children (WIC) program has an estimated total of 12,000 participants, according to the local WIC office out of Pleasanton. The Better Living for Texans program aims to teach healthy living while helping you to save money. By teaching healthy living practices it can reduce the amount of health concerns lowering the cost of health care issues.

**Target Audience**

The Better Living for Texans program is targeted for low in-come families, SNAP and WIC qualifying individuals.

**Response**

As a response to number of families receiving SNAP funding and WIC assistance the need for healthy living on a budget was addressed with Better Living for Texans support. Also addressed was the need to increase fruit and vegetable intake along with the need for physical activity. Classes were held at government housing units around the county addressing better health habits. Students from third to sixth grade were also introduced to the food groups with lessons being taught on each one.

**Results**

Weekly classes for exercise were held at Jourdanton Square Apartments and/or First United Methodist Church in Pleasanton. During these meetings nutrition was discussed. As the classes went on through the year they got longer. The participant was seeing the benefit of the program and was able to do more and walk farther without getting as winded. He even added weights to his routine. Since, while exercising, nutrition was being discussed it was noted that vegetables were being added to his diet. Being on a budget he was buying and even eating them. The MHM Wesley nurse out of Pleasanton was a great help in the implementation of the exercise class. Although never a big class a big change was made.

The MyPlate series was presented to a kid's camp at Costal Bend College. About 30 participants learned the importance of making their plate nutritious. Recipes from the BLT site were used. Cool Veggie Pizza and Homemade Ice cream were the favorites. With the cool veggie pizza we used squash, zucchini and carrots cut in spiral noodles and half the kids came back for seconds. They had never eaten them like that and enjoyed.

In addition to these programs, one shot were offered. The senior housing unit in Jourdanton hosted a few of these wanting the focus to be on nutrition as a whole. Adding more vegetables to your plate and the importance of eating healthy were among some of the topics.

The Poteet MHM Wesley nurse tried to help families with a starter garden of tomatoes, squash yellow and green, and bell peppers. Support was with nutritional information and how to grow and keep each of the products alive. Fifty seven families from the Poteet area were able to benefit from this program.

**Summary:**

Results indicated that the classes were a success. When you have small changes they promote big changes. Atascosa is taking small steps, but the results will be life changing. Classes will continue to promote not only healthy eating, but physical activity. More classes will take place around the county as a result of this success.

**Special Thanks:**

Methodist Healthcare Ministries (Wesley Nurses),

Linda Harper, RN; Pleasanton

Wendy Hilburn, RN; Poteet

## **Atascosa County Car Safety 2016**

### **Relevance**

Motor vehicle accidents are the number one killer of children ages 3-14 in Texas and nationwide. Proper use of a child safety seat reduces ones risk of injury (or death) in the case of a crash by 58%. However non-use and miss-use of child safety seats remain issues. According to Children's Safety Network, 2005, Child Safety Seat Checks cost approximately \$80 and has a return value of \$6,000 in medical expenses, future earnings, quality of life, and other resources cost. Public Health Region 8, which Atascosa is a part of, has a high strain of child hospitalizations and fatalities due to motor vehicle accidents. (Based on provisional data)

Child Heatstroke deaths have also been on the rise since 1998 with the total of deaths rising from 24 in 2015 to 39 as of October 31, 2016. Seven of the deaths in 2016 were located in Texas.

### **Target Audience**

The Child Seat Safety Usage checks and education on child heat strokes are geared towards Atascosa County families with children ages newborn to 14 years of age.

### **Response**

As a result of the 2014 and 2015 car safety seat usage checks success and the response to the increased traffic around Atascosa County the car seat coalition sought out new partners and supporters. The mission of the coalition is to inform and educate the residents of the county on the importance of proper car seat use. Two child safety seat usage checks were held in conjunction with education and resources on proper car seat practices. Individual appointments were also made throughout the year to support this cause.

As a response of the increasing number of deaths as a result of children being left in the car the Atascosa Car Seat Coalition provided education and awareness to the community of Atascosa.

### **Results**

The proper use of child safety seats reduces the risk of injury and death, leading to reduced medical costs, avoidance of lost future earnings, and improved quality of life. These economic benefits are an estimated \$2,238 per child age 0 to 4 and \$2,663 per child age 4 to 7 for new seats distributed, and \$634 per child for seat misuse corrected with an assumed 75% continued use.

Based on this formula, the total economic impact for the two events are as follows:

March 2016 inspection event - 35 inspections which have a savings of \$48,914.

September 2016 inspection event – 11 inspections which have a savings of \$2,081.40

The two events alone with a savings of \$50,995.40

Additional saving by individual appointments and 6 booster seats provided by the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Research Grant totaled \$75,925.40. Giving the total saving for the county \$126,920.80

**Summary:**

Results indicated that the Car Seat Safety Usage Check met the mission of the coalition. The coalition is going to continue having Car Seat Safety Usage Checks and seek new partnerships and support. We will also continue to educate the citizens of Atascosa of the importance of proper child safety seat usage and seatbelt usage. Along with this education we will also promote the no distracted driving and drunk driving growing issues.

**Special Thanks:**

Methodist Healthcare Ministries (Wesley Nurses), Texas Department of State Health Services, Atascosa Health Center, BCFS, Atascosa Emergency Management, the Firefighters Association, Jourdanton Volunteer Fire department, Safe Kids, Ramey Insurance and Linda Ramey (LAB member and treasure).

A special thank you to all of our supporters including HEB and Wal-Mart for proving a public place to educate the citizens of Atascosa County and helping the community become a healthier, safer place to live.



**2016 Atascosa County Food Safety  
Dru Benavides-Family and Consumer Sciences**

**Relevance**

Statistics indicate that foodborne illness continues to be a health issue in the United States. Each year, 1 in 6 Americans will become sick, 128,000 will become hospitalized, and 3,000 will die due to a foodborne illness.

This program is designed to not only prepare foodservice managers to pass the certification examination; it will provide valuable education regarding the safe handling of food. Almost 50 cents of every dollar Americans spend on food is spent on meals prepared away from home. Therefore, careful attention to food safety will help keep customers safe and satisfied.

Foodborne illnesses are estimated to cost thousands of dollars in lost wages, insurance, and medical bills. With these statistics, knowledge of how to prevent foodborne illness is essential. The benefits of improved food safety include:

- Increased customer satisfaction
- Improved relationships with health officials
- Prevention of bad publicity and law suits due to foodborne illness

**Response**

Atascosa County offers Food Handler Food Safety: It's in Your Hands course which is a two hour class targeting frontline food service workers. Atascosa/Wilson county also offered certified food manager course which is a two day class targeting those who manage a retail food establishment we give the knowledge to be able to pass the Certified Food Manager exam.

By attending the course, foodservice managers will learn about:

- identifying potentially hazardous foods and common errors in food handling
- preventing contamination and cross-contamination of food
- teaching and encouraging personal hygiene for employees
- complying with government regulations
- maintaining clean utensils, equipment and surroundings
- controlling pests

**Results**

Atascosa County along with Wilson County had twenty food handler participants and three certified food manager participants.

Wilson/Atascosa	20 Food Handler	3 Certified food manager	23
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**Success Stories**

- **I have a better understanding of what I need to do in my restaurant.**
- **I knew hygiene was important, but now I am more aware of my actions.**
- **The importance of time and temperature for food handling.**

**Evaluation**

Food safety classes are needed in Atascosa County and will continue to hold as many as needed for the community to be able to utilize Texas AgriLife as a source of education.

2016 Atascosa County 4-H Livestock In-depth Plan

**Developed By: Dale Rankin, Atascosa County Extension Agent-Ag/Nr and 4-H**

**Relevance**

Texas enjoys the largest youth livestock program in the nation and the Atascosa County Texas Community Futures Forum identified the support of the traditional 4-H Program in Atascosa County as being of the highest importance. Livestock Projects teach our youth many different things that include building character, creates discipline, teaches youth about agriculture, teaches sportsmanship and above all allows 4-H’ers the opportunity to gain confidence in themselves by caring for something that is 100% dependent on them

**Target Audience**

This educational program targeted the Atascosa County 4-H livestock Project Members across the county

**Response**

County Extension Agent Rankin developed the 4-H Livestock Project Coalition for Atascosa County and they worked to address the needs of our youth livestock project participants : The Coalition identified the needs for some resources to be developed to help youth understand the process of showing livestock. Working with recommendations from the 4-h Livestock coalition, Agent Rankin developed some helpful educational resources and also offered a number of educational programs to help increase the young person’s knowledge on livestock.

**Educational Resources Developed:**

Steps to Entering Stock Show , Atascosa County 4-H Livestock Project Information, Livestock Project Information Guide for Exhibitors in Atascosa County, Atascosa County Livestock Show Weights One Pager, Atascosa County 4-H Lamb and Goat Project Information, Atascosa County 4-H Swine Project Information guide

**Educational Programs:**

Sheep and Goat 101 Workshop, Swine 101 Workshop , Rabbit 101 Workshop , Poultry 101 Workshop  
 Beef Cattle Classification Workshop, Sheep and Goat Monthly Weigh Days and Showmanship Opportunity, Beef Weigh Day and Monthly Showmanship Opportunities , Rabbit Showmanship Workshop, 2 Beef Advanced Showmanship Workshops, Swine Showmanship Workshop, Lamb and Goat Advanced Showmanship Workshop

**Results**

A retrospective post questionnaire was used at all the educational sessions to evaluate educational results.

**Table 1: LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING – Percent Change**

	<b>Mean Before</b>	<b>Mean After</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Basics of ring manners and being courteous to other exhibitors and the judge	2.85	3.85	33.3%
How to display your animal for the judge to look at	3.08	3.77	23.0%
What a profile view is	3.67	3.67	33.3%

## 4-H and Youth Development

Knowing the view that your animal looks best at	2.75	3.50	25.0%
How important protein and fat is in developing your animal	3.50	4.00	16.7%
Importance of fresh clean water	3.83	4.00	5.7%
Culling your birds	3.50	3.83	11.0%

### Summary:

Results indicate that the Atascosa County 4-H Livestock In- depth Plan increased the knowledge of its youth livestock exhibitors.

### Special Thanks:

The Atascosa County Showbarn for use of the facility for educational workshops. Cattleman's Vet Supply for the donation of door prizes for educational events. Atascosa County Judge and Commissioners for their continued support of Extension Educational programs.

### Guest Speakers:

The following speakers helped with the educational presentations Joe Taylor Retired County Extension Agent, Adrian Arredondo San Patricio County Extension Agent 4-H and Youth Development, Rachel Bauer County Extension Agent Ag/Nr Bastrop County, Bryan Davis County Extension Agent Ag/Nr Wilson County, Derrick Drury County Extension Agent Ag/Nr Medina County, Travis Franke County Extension Agent Ag/Nr Guadalupe County

### Future Program Actions:

Future program actions are to continue working with the 4-H Livestock Project Coalition and develop educational programs to increase the knowledge level of our young folks and tie the 4-H livestock project back to production agriculture. .

### For More Information Contact:

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## **Community Economic Development**

### 2016 Atascosa Community resources and Economic Development

The Atascosa County Junior Livestock show raised \$760,325 dollars in 2016 and had over 1015 entries.

The Atascosa County Fair is held yearly and has 4-H and FFA members that it attracts from over a 14 County wide area.

The Atascosa County 4-H hold the South Texas Double Trouble Prospect show annually were over 16 Counties are represented for their annual fundraiser.

Agent Rankin Supports the Poteet Strawberry Festival by assisting the Rotary Club with the Berry Judging and the food show.

# **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Atascosa County**

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## **Personnel**

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