



## 2016 Extension Education in Dimmit County

# Making a Difference

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

## EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE *Providing Solutions*

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.

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

---

### **2015 In-depth Summaries:**

#### Agriculture & Natural Resources

- 2016 Multi-County Water Screening
- 2016 Quail Plan

#### Agriculture & Natural Recourse Outreach Summaries

2016 ANR Base Plan

### **Total Contacts 780**

#### 4-H & Youth Development

- Take a Stand - *Against Bullying*
- Brigades Plan
- Youth Livestock Clinics Plan

#### Youth Outreach Plans

4-H Grows Plan

4-H and Youth ANR Plan

### **Total Contacts 8461**

**2016 Frio/Atascosa/Dimmit/Zavala/LaSalle/ McMullen Cos.  
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

## Agriculture and Natural Resources

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.

### **Relevance:**

Over 700,000 acres of rangeland are managed in Dimmit County for wildlife and livestock. Of these acreages, over 600,000 are used for recreational and commercial hunting. The need to assist landowners with questions on habitat management, and other wildlife questions is needed.

### **Results**

As a result of this plan, this agent assisted landowners by answering questions via telephone, in the office, and made numerous site visits whereas this agent assisted landowners by assessing parcels of land and giving input on to what changes needed to be made. Landowners had the opportunity to inquire about brush control methods, plant identification, and general questions about food plots and wildlife. Agent meet with Dimmit County Range and Wildlife committee in order to gain input on what type of programming efforts needed to be conducted in the county. As a result, Dimmit County offered programs in water quality and quantity as well as programs in quail management. Agent also gained professional development by attending TCAAA State Meeting, South Regional Program Planning Conference whereas agent was able to brush up on Plant ID Skills, Regional TCAAA Retreat where as agent was able to interact with wildlife biologist ( both private and state employed) on habitat management techniques along with zoological disease awareness and identifications .

### **Future Plans**

Agent will continue to meet with Range and Wildlife Committee to gain input on future programming efforts. 2017 will focus on providing a series of Myth Busting Programs geared to debunk common misconceptions in

## Agriculture and Natural Resources

wildlife that are said to be fact in this area. Programs will be conducted in order to assist landowners with the ever changing challenges that they face in their operations.

### 2016 Quail Plan Developed By, Richard Griffin CEA Dimmit County

**Relevance:** Over 700,000 acres of rangeland are managed in Dimmit County for wildlife and livestock. Of these acreages, over 600,000 are used for recreational and commercial hunting. The need to assist landowners with questions on brush management, and other wildlife questions is a key concern in the county, and was addressed through Dimmit County TCFE issues in 2015

**Response:** Dimmit County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension meet with local planning committee in order to develop an approach to assisting landowners in not only understanding Quail management, but also looking at means that are attributing to the Demise of Quail Populations Nationally. Through the efforts of the Quail Index Program and Educational programs, landowners will be able to gather valuable information to assist them in habitat and ranch management decisions.

**Results:** As a result of this plan, Dimmit County Extension provide several learning opportunities for individuals in the region. A Quail Appreciation luncheon was held on : At the Quail Appreciation Day held at the Chaparral Wildlife Management Area on October 26<sup>nd</sup>, the group focused on providing education to the clientele about Quail Population status, Mechanical and Chemical brush management treatment, the importance of Native bunchgrasses in quail nesting and utilizing herbicides for better habitat management. 4 individuals were present at the event including 4 Anglo, with 1 female. Agent was unable to follow through with the quail index portion of this plan due to medical issues, but will complete the result demonstration in 2017.

**Future Plans:** Agent will continue working with wildlife committee in order to develop programs that are relevant to the producers of the area, along with continuing efforts to evaluate quail decline through the Texas Quail Index Program. 2017 offers landowners a opportunity to learn through a series of Myth Buster programs, one of which will focus on quail, "What's Killing Our Quail".

## Agriculture and Natural Resources

**Acknowledgements:** A special thank you to Dr. Maureen Frank for taking time to assist with the quail lunch and learn program, as well as give insight and direction into upcoming program topic ideas with committee members for 2017.

### 2016 ANR BASE PLAN

#### 2016 ANR Base Plan Summary For Dimmit County

**2016 Dimmit County Base ANR Plan:** Conducted to assist landowners with questions and programs on how to manipulate and manage rangelands to further their profitability.

**Relevance:** Over 700,000 acres of rangeland are managed in Dimmit County for wildlife and livestock. Of these acreages, over 600,000 are used for recreational and commercial hunting. The need to assist landowners with questions on brush management, and other wildlife questions is needed.

**Results:** As a result of this plan, this agent assisted landowners by answering questions via telephone, in the office, and made numerous site visits where as this agent assisted landowners by assessing parcels of land and giving input on to what changes needed to be made. Landowners had the opportunity to inquire about brush control methods, plant identification, and general questions about food plots and wildlife. Agent meet with Dimmit County Range and Wildlife committee in order to gain input on what type of programming efforts needed to be conducted in the county. As a result, Dimmit County offered a series of programs in water quality and quantity, and dealing with the petroleum industry. Agent also gained professional development by State TCAA and Regional TCAA Retreats and Regional Program Planning Conference. At these professional development opportunities, agent was able to learn about commercial hunting operation management techniques along with marketing, plant identification, along with Zoological disease awareness.

**Future Plans:** Agent will continue to meet with Range and Wildlife Committee to gain input on future programming efforts. Programs will be conducted in order to assist landowners with the ever changing challenges that they face in their operations.

**Future Plans:** Agent will continue to meet with Range and Wildlife Committee to gain input on future programming efforts. Programs will be conducted in order to assist landowners with the ever changing challenges that they face in their operations. Quail Index program will continue to be conducted next year.

**2016 Dimmit County Take A Stand, *Against Bullying*  
Dimmit County**

Developed by Richie Griffin, Dimmit County Extension Agent

**Relevance**

Conflicts among youth and bullying have been increasing. School districts have been mandated by the Texas Legislature through two bills (House Bill 212 and 283) to adopt and implement a dating violence policy and a discipline management policy. Both bills require training for teachers/staff as well as training/curriculum for youth to address these issues. Currently, there is no standard curriculum being utilized by school districts.

**Response**

Texas 4-H has developed, partnered with the Texas Rural Mediation Services, and created a curriculum called Take A Stand. The curriculum is available for elementary, junior high and high school grade levels. The curriculum objectives are for students to increase knowledge and skills necessary to solve conflict peacefully, for teachers to observe students using skills to work out conflict, for schools to experience a decline in discipline referrals and an overall decline in bullying. During the 2016 Fall semester, the Take A Stand curriculum was implemented with all 4th graders at Carrizo Springs ISD Intermediate School. The curriculum content consists of 5 lessons addressing the following topics: conflict management/bullying, communication, etiquette, teamwork & cultural awareness.

**Results**

Pretest and Post Test were given in order to measure knowledge gained. The test focused on questions that delta with; identifying anger, actions used to show respect, methods of working as a team, understanding different perspectives, and cultural awareness.

**GROUP**

Male	Female	Anglo	Hispanic	Asian	African American
94	91	10	172	2	1

**Youth had a significant increase in the following fields:**

- \* Knowledge gained on the opposite of anger 42% increase in knowledge
- \* Knowledge gained in the fact that a Tradition is a ritual that a family has to celebrate a holiday or custom 30% increase in knowledge
- \* Knowledge gained on who on a team should be involved in making team decisions 31% increase in knowledge
- \* Knowledge gained on an agreement is known as a Deal 20% increase in knowledge

**Future Plans:**

Agent will continue to work with local committees in order to plan relevant information to deliver to Carrizo Springs ISD, in order to provide education in this area of education.

**Acknowledgements:** A Special thank you to Carrizo Springs ISD, Dimmit County Administrative Staff, and Councilor Mrs. Sosa for making this year's program a success.

## 2016 Dimmit County Livestock Projects

---

### Relevance

Dimmit County has long been known for being immersed in traditional 4-H Projects, with Livestock Projects garnering the largest interest. With numerous youth participating not only in local shows, but major shows including San Antonio, Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, San Angelo, and Rio Grade Valley Livestock Shows, livestock education to the youth of Dimmit County has been a main concern. Educating youth on livestock ethics, proper feeding techniques, showmanship, and selection has always been emphasized but never evaluated until this year.

### Response

## 4-H and Youth Development

This year, the response to educating the youth was approached differently than years past. On August 13, 2016 Dimmit County Conducted its first Mega Clinic ( All Species Clinic). Knowing that all Steers had been on feed for a month, but the majority of livestock projects were in the process of being purchased, and or selected form youth's personal heard, this was a great time to address several key components for youth livestock exhibitors: Selection, Feeding, Fitting, and Drug Residue testing as it relates to livestock not only being exhibited at major shows, but entering the Food Chain, were the topics that were taught to the youth this year. The Conference commenced with a general session, whereas youth were given a presentation on reading vaccination and medical labels, understanding withdraw times, along covering off label and labeled uses. Upon completion on the general session, youth split up into the species that they were interested in learning more about. Presenters covered Cattle, Sheep and Goat, Swine, Rabbits, and Poultry. In the breakout sessions youth were able to gain valuable information form presenters regarding feeding and nutrition, Exercising, General animal herd health, fitting ( Cattle conducted a clipping session). Dimmit County Parent leaders, along with Dimmit County Livestock Coalition Strongly supported the program, along with marketing the program. This program was conducted along with showmanship clinics and project clinic following validations of each species. Youth had multiple opportunities to receive training on species specific materials, Veterinarian Feed Directives, and showmanship.

### Results

During the Event 50 individuals attended the program, with 48 completed the Survey. Youth, leaders, and parents were given a post evaluation along with customer feedback to assist us in evaluating the results of the program. Significate findings are as Follows: 42% Increase in Knowledge on how to prevent diseases that might affect livestock show Projects; 40.3% increase in knowledge in drug residues caused by using medications on my livestock projects; 39.7% increase in Knowledge of the rules and laws related to using medication on livestock show projects. 37% increase in knowledge on recognizing diseases that may affect livestock projects; and a 33.3% increase in knowledge on what physical traits to look for when selecting and or purchasing a show project.

### Future Plans

Dimmit County Parent Leaders along with Youth Livestock Coalition would like to continue offering these opportunities to not only the Youth of Dimmit County, but the surrounding areas as well. We will be conducting a Mega Clinic 202, a slightly more advanced program geared for those whom attended the training in 2016 looking to gain more information on their show species. We will be incorporating major show updates, and quality counts into the program along with fitting demonstration for weather dams and weather does.

### Acknowledgements

A special thank you to the following individuals for assisting with the program: RPL Todd Swift Drug Testing and Residues, Bryan Davis and Sammy Yanyez Beef Selection/Fitting/ New classification system; Pascual Hernandez Sheep and Goat, Travis Frankie Swine, Jeff Hanselka Poultry, and Charlie Cardenas Rabbit.

## 2016 South Texas Buckskin Brigade

### Relevance

More than ever, today's youth are the future of tomorrow and need to develop an understanding, appreciation, and a true desire to conserve our renewable natural resources. The world only has so many acres of land for which we, as humans, can live on; hence conservation of these natural resources is of greatest of importance. We must be Stewards of our natural resources and protect them for use for future generations. By empowering youth to become advocates for the cause, in training them in these management practices, as well as assisting them in delivering programs not only to their contemporaries, but adults as well, is an effective means of accomplishing this goal.

### Response

The Texas Brigade's mission is to empower high school youth with the necessary skills and knowledge in wildlife, fisheries, and habitat conservation, land stewardship, team-building, communication, and leadership to become ambassadors for conservation in order to ensure a sustained wildlife and fisheries legacy for future generations. The Brigades were formed as a dream by Dr. Dale Rollins. Several county extension agents, and wildlife enthusiasts provide a week long summer education experience to promote wildlife conservation in Texas. The South Texas Buckskin Brigade is a camp that has survived the test of time and endures as one of the five most prestigious, state-recognized, natural resource youth camps in Texas. The South Texas Brigades Committee has planned, implemented and evaluated the South Texas Buckskin Brigade Camp for fifteen years. Two meetings were held in Pearsall Texas to review the camp schedule, plan for fundraising, coordinate responsibilities from speakers, housing, recruit selection, food and meal preparation, site preparation, room inspections, travel, emergency management, herd leader selection, scholarship selection and the camp dedication.

### Results

## 4-H and Youth Development

This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the South Texas Buckskin Brigade Camp. During this year's camp agent responsibilities included program presentations, site preparations, presenting special presentations/mock educational programs, presentations on the jaw bone, plant identification, and range conservation. Agents from Atascosa, Frio, Dimmit, Zavala and Guadalupe Counties provided Leadership to the camps, each of these counties also recruited and or had youth participants from there counties attend a brigades camp. Several youth also participated in one of the other brigades camps offered last year. A pre-test and post- test were given to each youth attending (30) ,camps each year.

A sample of the questions on the test include

- 1.Which of the following does not represent a "stomach or chamber" of the ruminant digestive system? a. Omasum b. abomasum c. ileum d. rumen e. reticulum
- 2.What is the most critical nutrient necessary for deer to survive?  
a. Protein b. energy c. minerals d. water
- 3.The highest population of white-tailed deer in North America occurred during which of the following years:  
a.1500 b.1800 c. 1900 d. 2000 e. 2010
- 4.A decreasing level in the blood of which hormone causes a deer to shed its antlers?  
a. Melatonin b. growth hormone c. xanthophyll d. testosterone
- 5.How many teeth does an adult deer normally have?

The Texas AgriLife Extension Agents and specialists providing leadership to the South Texas Buckskin and South Texas Bobwhite Brigades included Dale Rankin, Larry Perez, Marcel Valdez, Richie Griffin, Jeff Hanselka, Jaime Lopez, Larry Perez, and Bryan Davis

## 2016 Dimmit County Grows Plan

**Relevance:** The purpose of this plan in not only to maintain a strong, relevant, and active 4-H Program in the County. Through recruitment efforts, maintaining traditional strong programs, and offering new and innovated programs these goals may be achieved.

**Response:** Dimmit County offered it's full 1<sup>st</sup> year of the Archery program. Two Certified volunteers meet with youth, teaching sight alignment, and the fundamentals of archery. Youth had the opportunity to practice and participate not only in the postal league but also the District 12 4-H archery contest. Extension Also continues to provide educational opportunity for traditional 4-H programs, such as the Food and Nutrition

## 4-H and Youth Development

Program. Agent was able to work with leaders and conduct a 2 day summer camp, along with Sunday Fun day's every Sunday in October, in order to strengthen the knowledge taught to the youth.

**Results:** 15 youth took part in the Dimmit County 4-H Food Show. 24 youth participated at the District 12 archery contest. Recruitment efforts are being conducted through curriculum enrichment, whereas Agent Griffin discuss the benefits of 4-H to youth in the classroom. During the 2016 Ag in the classroom, a session was incorporated into the program allowing 4-H'ers to talk to ALL Dimmit County 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders about 4-H and what all it has to offer.

**Future Plans:** Agent will continue to work with Parent leaders Association, County Council, and Clubs to strengthen the Dimmit County 4-H Program. We will take a look at programs annually in order to determine if they need to be revitalized or marketed in a different manner in order to be more effective. 2017 brings about a new year of opportunity along with a \$1000 donation from NOBEL energy for recruitment and marketing.

**Acknowledgements:** A special Thank you to SM Energy for the monetary donations for equipment in order to purchase archery equipment, along with NOBEL Energy for the monetary donations in order to market and promote 4-H in Dimmit County in 2017. Thank you to Parent Leaders and Volunteers for their continues support and dedication to the program.

## 2016 Dimmit County ANR Youth Plan

**Relevance:** The purpose of this plan in to assist youth in programs related to Agriculture and Natural resource topics. By offering youth learning opportunities in this field, Agent Griffin can utilize his expertise in providing leadership, education, and motivation not only to Youth but to Parent/Leader/Volunteers as well.

**Response:** Agent Griffin marketed youth camps in ANR field to all Dimmit County 4-H'ers, whereas 1 youth took advantage and attend the South Texas Bob White Brigade. Agent assisted youth in major show sign up nights in order to assist youth in signing up for Major livestock shows. Project clinics were offered in all show species.

**Results:** As a Result 1 youth was able to go to South Texas Bob White Brigade where he was able to win a youth hunt, and harvest a deer. Over 30 Youth patriated at Major Livestock Shows and National Shows. Youth

## 4-H and Youth Development

Participated in Fort Worth, San Antonio, San Angelo, Houston, Rodeo Austin, Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show, as well as the National Beefmaster and Santa Geretrudis Livestock Show. Agent Griffin has mad every effort to support youth at the majority of these livestock shows, assisting in giving feeding advise, as well as showmanship and fitting assistance at the shows. Unable to be at all the shows due to conflicting commitments, this agent was able to attend and assist all the State Shows for the exception of San Angelo.

### **Future Plans:**

Dimmit County will continue to assist youth by providing project clinics, training opportunities for youth to learn about shooting sports and having opportunities to practice Rifle, archery, pistol, and eventually shotgun. Dimmit County's commitment to support of these programs is seen year in and year out with generous donations from the community to support these efforts.

**Acknowledgements:** A Special thank youth to SM Energy for providing monetary donations for equipment this year along with the Parent Leaders 064 for assisting in fundraising in order for youth in the area to have a project that is 100% funded in the form of equipment, entry fees, and volunteers. Youth have the opportunity to take part in the Shooting Sports Program that provides Firearms/Bows, ammo/arrows, and targets for the youth to utilize. Thank you To Dimmit County Commissioners Court for allowing youth the opportunity to utilize the County Rifle Range. And a huge thank you to the Volunteers whom give countless hours to the youth practicing and patriating at contests.

# Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

## Dimmit County

---

### Personnel



For More Information Contact  
Richie Griffin  
Dimmit County Agent - Ag  
539 Indus. Boul. Carrizo Springs TX, 78834  
830-876-4216 EXT 1