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Extension Education in Harrison County

Making a Difference 2010

*Improving Lives.
Improving Texas.*

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service has been dedicated to serving Texans

for nearly a century. The agency was established in 1915 under the Smith-Lever Act to deliver university knowledge and agricultural research findings directly to the people. Extension programs have continued ever since to address the emerging issues of the day, serving diverse rural and urban populations across the state.

Through a well-organized network of professional educators and more than 100,000 trained volunteers, Extension delivers practical research-based knowledge to Texans in all 254 counties. Our 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 the hundreds of thousands of young people who benefit annually from Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

Texans turn to Extension for solutions. Its agents and specialists respond not only with answers, but also with resources and services that result in a significant return on investment to boost the Texas economy. The agency custom-designs its programs to each region of the state, relying on residents for input and for help with program delivery. Here are just a few highlights of Extension's impacts on this county and its people:

Harrison County – Summary of Educational Contacts

- ☞ Total Educational Sessions Conducted - 157
- ☞ Total Participants - 5,183
- ☞ Individual Contacts - 170,396
- ☞ Total Educational Contacts by Volunteers - 1,319
- ☞ Total Newsletter/Email Contacts - 8,828
- ☞ Web Contacts - 3,331

Improving Landscape & Adult Volunteer Management Skills in Harrison County

Harrison County Master Gardener Program

Relevance

Six issues are addressed with this outcome plan:

- ✍ Landscape irrigation in Texas accounts for up to 40-60% of total residential water use during peak summer months. Water conservation is a critical issue to millions of urban and rural residents throughout Texas.
- ✍ Improper landscape fertilization increases the risk of surface and groundwater contamination from nitrogen and phosphorus. This threatens the preservation and protection of Texas natural resources;
- ✍ The improper use of chemical and organic pesticides in the landscape increases the risk of these materials damaging the environment. This issue is critical to the long-term health and safety of Texas citizens.
- ✍ Grass clippings and other landscape wastes are a significant source of materials entering landfills. This issue impacts the longevity of landfills and future needs to build new ones.
- ✍ Volunteer development continues to also be another key issue that will be developed and targeted by this plan through community volunteer involvement from Master Gardener participants.
- ✍ Measure Knowledge Level of Earth Kind Practices by county Master Gardeners and the public is the first step toward conserving and protecting natural resources through the use of environmentally-friendly landscape management practices.



Response

In Harrison County, two major program series were implemented to impact landscape management and improve adult volunteer development skills.

Master Gardener Course is an in-depth training program which provides 50 plus hours of in-depth instruction to an adult audience on various horticultural topics to prepare them to lead and instruct others in future programming efforts in horticulture related topics. Topics included in this in-depth training program included; Soils & Soil Structures, Basic Plant Fertility, Soil Testing, Insect Identification & Control, Plant Disease, Turfgrass Issues, Plant Propagation, Home Vegetable Production, Proper Use of Plant Materials, Composting, Basic Landscape Tree Care & Management and tours of the SFA Arboretum, Native Plant Center and commercial greenhouse operations in East Texas.



Community Workshop Series is an eight lesson series of workshop programs that were held once a month during the 2010 program year. The workshop series was totally led and taught exclusively by Harrison County Master Gardener Association members. The programs were held on the third Thursday of each month and featured the following topics; Working With Bulbs in The Landscape, Landscape Bed Preparations, Summer Vegetable Production, Use Of Perennials in The Landscape, Use of Annuals in The Landscape, Earth Kind Roses, Fall Gardening and Winter Bulb Planting.

Results

Master Gardener Course impact for the 2010 year was determined through a pre and post test that was conducted on the first day of the Master Gardener training class in January and the same test (post), was implemented on the last day of class in March to find out what the participants learned as a result of the training program. Eleven out of sixteen participants completed the evaluation survey tool. There were also evaluation surveys completed at the end of some of the individual training sessions through-out the training program.

- Based on the pre and post test, there was a 42.2% increase in knowledge gained.
- 96% believe that the skills learned in the program will enable them to lead and teach future programs.
- 94% believe that the topics presented during the training program were relevant to their own landscape and gardening situations.

- 65% of participants know the recommended landscape trees for East Texas.
- 62.7% of participants learned how to properly plant a tree.
- 61% of participants have a better understanding on plant growth requirements.
- 53% of participants have a better understanding of proper plant placement.

Community Workshop Series program participants completed a pre and post test for 50% of the workshops that were presented. Attendance at the workshops ranged from a low of twelve, to as many as forty three. The results are as follows;

- 94% stated that overall, the programs were very educational.
- 91% stated that the program topics were timely for their situation.
- 89% stated that they understood the principals and importance of crop rotation.
- 87% of participants understand why you stagger plantings of vegetables.
- 83% of participants understand the importance of vegetable variety selection.

Future Program Efforts

The Master Gardener training programs will continue for years to come, the local association is incorporating the Junior Master Gardener program into their activities, reaching out to various local school districts across the county. The association will also continue to hold programs and workshops on the local level for Harrison County clientele as well in some form or fashion. The Master Gardener Specialist Training programs that are available across the state continue to be popular, we will have four participants attend the National Junior Master Gardener Specialist Training Conference in College Station, Texas this next spring.

Other Educational Programs in Agriculture/Natural Resource Areas;

Beef & Forage Production

Relevance

Beef Quality Assurance and the Texas Beef Quality Assurance program continue to be an important issue in Harrison County. To date, a small amount or number of producers are certified. BQA will be one of the driving forces in continued quality beef production and our producers need to realize this especially as if effect marketing issues.



Beef and forage production is still a major factor and contributor to the total agricultural income in Harrison County, accounting for over 25% of the total agricultural income that is reported each year. The Beef Quality Assurance issue, as it deals with proper beef cattle health management and food Safety have come about in a big way since 2000. More than ever, beef consumers are aware of the issues that effect food safety and providing a wholesome, safe product for their families and beef producers need to be more aware of this issue as it relates to their product, beef cattle. Harrison County beef producers, under the direction of the Harrison County Cattlemen's Association, which provides input into the program planning, implementation and evaluation of educational programs and activities to address beef quality assurance issues, as well as general beef cattle management as a whole. the programs planned will effect not only beef cattle management, but forage production practices as well.

Response

The Annual Cattlemen's Crawfish Boil is the major fund raiser for the Harrison county Cattlemen's Association. Funds raised with this event go toward the Annual Cattlemen's Association Scholarship program that awards a \$1000.00 scholarship to a well deserving Harrison County youth to attend college and further his/her educational needs.



The 2010 Cow-Calf Clinic was held in April and featured one of our local veterinarians and Cattlemen's Association Board Member, Dr. Bud Boyd, who discussed controlling internal parasites in beef cattle. Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, discussed controlling the breeding season and high input cost in a cow-calf operation.

The 2010 Harrison County Herd Sire Selection Field Day was held in September at a local ranch in the Waskom area of the county. Topics presented included; Using & Understanding EPD's, Importance of Quality Genetics In The Herd, Trichomoniasis Regulation Update In Texas, Cost of Bull Ownership, as well as a Update on Winter Pasture Use and Management. Speakers for the field day included; Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist, Dr. Greg Clary, Extension Economist, Dr. Bud Boyd, local Verterinarian and Dr. Vanessa Corriher, Extension Forage Specialist.



The Multi-County Beef & Forage Conference that was sponsored by Gregg & Harrison Counties, was also held in September. The conference focused on livestock and Grain Market Updates, as well as Planning & Management of Winter Pasture Programs. The conference was held in Longview, Texas at the Gregg County AgriLife Extension office and featured speakers Dr. David Anderson, Professor & Extension Economist from College Station, Texas. Dr. Monte Rouquette, Texas A&M Regents Fellow and Professor of Forage Physiology with the Texas AgriLife Research Center in Overton, Texas.

The Annual Harrison County Forage Testing Program is held on an annual basis with the local Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District sponsoring the cost of the testing fee for forage producers in the county that want to participate to get up to two samples analyzed free of charge. This gives producers a chance to help plan their winter feeding program.



The 2010 Annual Cattlemen's Association Meeting was held in November with Larry Hand, Special Ranger with the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raiser's Association as the featured speaker for the evening. Farm & Ranch safety was discussed, as well as the presentation of the Bill Davis Award, which is presented each year to the outstanding cattle producer for the current year. The evening meal was sponsored by the Harrison County Cattlemen's Association.



Natural Resource Programs

Relevance

Will provide educational activities, as well as educational programs to Harrison County residents, based on recommendations of the Harrison County Natural Resource Committee. Subject areas will include forestry, farm pond management and wildlife. The goal To reach wildlife managers, as well as producers who manage their own lands for natural resource purposes.

Response

The 2010 Harrison County Forestry Field Day was held in May in the Karnack area of the county, the field day focused on site preparation, herbicide use, controlled burning and planting of pine timber. The program was co-sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension, Texas Forest Service, Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District and Snider Industries.

A Beaver Trapping Field Day was held in May also, with local two local trappers from Harrison county covering Proper Trap Setting, Discuss Potential Damage on Local Pond Dams and When To Call A Professional as the main topics. The main high light was the demonstration of blowing up a beaver lodge with explosives. The Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District also sponsored the Noon meal.



The Oil & Gas Lease Seminar was held in October with local Oil & Gas Attorney Phillip Baldwin serving as the featured speaker to give county landowners a chance to hear and learn about the importance of the legal matters dealing with lease paperwork, their rights as a mineral and non-mineral holder, royalty payments and much more.

Pesticide Safety Programs

Relevance

Most agricultural producers in the county and the East Texas area have a TDA pesticide license in order to use restrictive use pesticides in their operation. Producers are required by Texas law to earn at least fifteen credit hours of CEU's every five years in order to keep the license current. The goal of educational effort is to offer agricultural producers viable, useful and up-to-date pesticide safety information, as well as product up-dates on newer products that are available for their use.

Response

The 2010 Multi-County Pesticide Credit Hour Program was held in January, offering pesticide license holders a chance to earn 6.5 credit hours toward their pesticide license re-certification requirements. The program was held in Marshall at the Harrison County AgriLife Extension office and several speakers participated in presenting relevant information.

The Private Applicators License Training Programs were held twice, once in the spring in Longview and in the fall in Marshall, to allow for producers to earn and receive their private applicators pesticide license to enable them to purchase and use restricted use pesticides in their operation.

Other Programs Presented...

The Estate Planning Seminar was presented in February and was sponsored by the Harrison County Leadership Advisory Board. Ms. Nicole Guthrie, Estate Planning Specialist with the Texas Farm Bureau, in Waco, Texas was the featured speaker for this one-night seminar that focused on many of the changes that have or will be taking place. The 2010 Estate Planning Seminar was co-sponsored by The Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Harrison County Farm Bureau and the Harrison County Extension Leadership Advisory Board.

Improving Health & Wellness in Harrison County 2010

Relevance

Physical inactivity is associated with an increased risk of a number of chronic health conditions including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, some cancers, high blood pressure, as well as overweight and obesity. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2005, there were 3,196 people diagnosed with diabetes (9.8%) in Harrison County.

Response

The Harrison County Family and Consumer Sciences Committee identified childhood obesity and diabetes education as a major need. **Walk Across Texas, Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes** and **Cooking Well with Diabetes** programs were offered in Harrison County. **Walk Across Texas** is an 8 week on-line program which encourages youth and adults to adopt a regular physical fitness routine. **Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes** is a Type 2 diabetes educational program designed to help individuals learn how to manage their diabetes successfully. The program consists of five nutrition lessons and four self-care management lessons. **Cooking Well with Diabetes** is a four lesson series where Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes graduates learn how to prepare nutritious, diabetes meals snacks. A coalition was formed to help teach classes, assist with marketing, registration, data collection, food preparation and gathering resources.

Results

Walk Across Texas

72 Good Shepard Marshall Hospital employees, 48 Harrison County employees, 40 Panola Harrison Electric Cooperative employees, 120 Marshall High School students participated and logged 30296.63 miles. State Representative Bryan Hughes donated bottles of water to the high school students for their Mid-Way event. His District Coordinator, Courtney Smith, attended the event, distributed bottles of water and walked a few miles around the high school track with the students. "I have lost 25 pounds and I feel better." "The weekly newsletter kept me encouraged to continue walking." If participants continue walking as they did during Walk Across Texas, they have the potential to save a collective \$1,225,026 in future healthcare costs by avoiding Type 2 diabetes and reducing health care costs.



Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes

25 adults have completed the five week series course. Three graduates purchased a diabetes bracelet. 60% had a hemoglobin A1c test and it was below 7. 56% checked their blood sugar before meals. 50% rated their ability to control their diabetes as good. "I realize that I need to stop smoking to control my diabetes. After I smoke my last 5 ½ cigarettes, and I promise Ms. McDonald I will not smoke again." "One of my classmates and I plan to walk in the mall for 30 minutes about 2 to 3 times a week." "I will start reading food labels to help me select healthier foods." Participants have the potential to save \$1,237,049 in future health care costs for their remaining years of life if they continue to do as well as they were doing at the end of the series.

Cooking Well with Diabetes

Six adults completed the four lesson series. Participants had an opportunity to prepare meals that were low in fat, sugar and sodium. 100% learned one way to make food taste sweet is to add vanilla. 80% learned they can increase the fiber in their diet by eating more fruits and vegetables. "Thank you for introducing me to tasty diabetic



foods.” “I plan to prepare a few of the recipes we tested in class.” “I did not think I would enjoy the glazed carrots.”

Future Plans

In an effort to continue to improve the health and wellness in Harrison County the Harrison County Family and Consumer Sciences committee and Harrison County Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes Coalition plan to continue to implement the same programs in 2011.

Better Living for Texans

Relevance

In Harrison County, an estimated 20,737 have incomes that are 185% of poverty or below; 11% receive food stamp benefits. Research has shown that individuals who live in poverty have dietary intakes that are not congruent with current recommendations (i.e. Dietary Guidelines or MyPyramid). This audience, like many, may not recognize their risk for foodborne illness. Stretching resources so food is available throughout the month is also a challenge.



Response

The Better Living for Texans (BLT) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP-Ed) is offered through the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and funded via the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), and the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) of USDA. A component of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), BLT provides educational programs to food stamp recipients, applicants, and other approved audiences to help improve their ability to plan and prepare nutritious meals, stretch food dollars, and prepare and store food safely. BLT is delivered through a variety of teaching methods that reflect audience needs. Teaching methods include, lesson series, single education events, one to one consultations, demonstrations, and tours. The Harrison Family and Consumer Sciences Committee assisted with marketing and implementation of this program. During 2010, more than 25 Harrison County adults participated in the BLT *Eat Better to Live Better* series. This program focuses on meal planning, stretching food dollars, and adopting selected behaviors that can reduce the risk of foodborne illness.



Results

Harrison County goal was to reach 60 participants in 15 one shot programs in 315 hours. This goal was exceeded. Evaluation of the Harrison County BLT series program with 24 adults was conducted via the use of pre and post surveys. As a result of this program, 54% will always wash cutting boards, knives and counter tops after cutting up raw meat or poultry, 50% will always compare prices during grocery shopping, and 33% will occasionally use unit pricing when purchasing food items.



Harrison Extension Education Association

Relevance

The Texas Extension Education Association was organized in 1926 as a way to strengthen and enrich families through educational programs, leadership development and community service by volunteer members of the

Association, in coordination with Texas AgriLife Extension TEEA functions exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes as a 501c3 organization.

Response

The Harrison Extension Education Association consists of three clubs: Leigh-Lotta Latex Club, Town and County EEA Club, and Sabine EEA Club. There are approximately thirty members. These individuals have donated a total of 2,000 volunteer hours in programs and community activities. The following are programs that members implemented:

Talking with Your Doctor-individuals learn how to establish a working relationship with their doctors. One of the Extension Education Association members suggested to the Leadership Advisory Board to use this program as their educational program. The Leadership Advisory Board agreed. Over 35 adults attend the event.

Cooking with Herbs-participants learn how to grow different herbs, how to cook with how to make herb seasoning.

Connecting Generations-members learn how to communicate and develop relationships with youth.

Protecting Our Natural Resources: Water Smart Landscapes; "Making a Difference"-individuals learn how to use water effectively in landscapes.

Women and Heart Disease Red Dress Luncheon-February is National Heart Disease Month. The Harrison Extension Education Association members held their Annual Women and Heart Disease Program and Red Dress Luncheon. Faye Gaskin, MT (ASCP) was the guest speaker she showed how doctors know when too much cholesterol has accumulated in the blood.



Cultural Arts-Cultural Arts featured Show & Tell, craft demonstrations and hands-on demonstrations. The Spring Cultural Arts theme was centered on the African American culture. Marshall Historian Gail Beil was the featured guest speaker. She discussed the influence of African Americans in Harrison County. All attendees brought a homemade African American dish. Members participated in the County Cultural Arts Contest. The winners advanced to the District competition.

Cornbread and Bean Luncheon Fundraiser-The 34th Annual Cornbread and Bean Luncheon Fundraiser raised over \$2,086 after expenses. Over 400 tickets holders at \$7 each attended the event. Carry out orders were also completed. The money each year is used for educational programs, conventions, training meetings and scholarships. This year members visited the Old Jonesville Country Store in Jonesville, TX.



Community Service Contributions-Visit the sick and shut-in senior citizens Financial contribution the Harrison County Literacy Fund and Boys & Girls Club of Big Pines Harrison County 4-H scholarship fund. Donated auction items and money to the district and state for 4-H scholarships. Donated funds to the Coins for Friendship to help support the state 4-H Center in Brownwood.

Quilt Study Group

Relevance

Quilting is becoming an lost art. Several female adults requested to start a quilt study group.

Response

The Quilt Study Group meets each first and third Tuesday in the month to learn quilting techniques, fabric selection and different quilting patterns. They show their finished projects at Quilt Shows and in their study group. This year members made and donated lap quilts to seniors in nursing homes.



Women and Heart Disease

Relevance

Women are dying of heart disease at an alarming rate. Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of women regardless of race. Adopting a healthy eating lifestyle can help a women reduce her chances of developing heart disease.

Response

Good Shepherd Medical Center-Marshall suggested they partner with the Harrison County Extension Office and offer a Heart Healthy Cooking Seminar. The Seminar was implemented two consecutive weeks. Participants learn how to prepare heart healthy snacks and meals. Hospital Foundation members were also presenters. During the third week, the hospital conducted an Annual Red Dress Luncheon.



Relevance

Youth leadership is a fundamental component of every county 4-H program. Youth need to learn how to serve through leadership to develop valuable knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviors. By providing learning opportunities as well as application opportunities supports the continued development of these valuable skills in youth and help to lead the 4-H program at the local and county level.



Response

The 4-H Leadership and Life Skills outcome plan was implemented in 2010. Three 4-Hers participated in the District 5 Leadership Lab conference. They learn how to become better leaders. Also as a result of this plan, 4-H council members and other 4-H members served in leadership roles at the Annual 4-H Achievement Banquet by assist with selecting the banquet theme, serves as the host/hostess and decorating the banquet room. Harrison County 4-H reached 605 youth through school curriculum enrichment programs, special interest programs and traditional 4-H clubs. 4-H members participated in hands-on learning experiences, projects and activities promoting individuals growth, teamwork, leadership and responsibility.



Relevance

Oversee 4-H and youth development program including management of 4-H clubs/groups, Club Managers, volunteer leaders and work with partners to ensure effective functioning of the 4-H and youth development program. Also oversee the effective use of projects and activities while developing participating youth into contributing members of society.

Response

Club officers were trained on officer responsibilities, parliamentary procedures and communication. Judges for contests such as Food Show, Consumer Decision Making, Photography were recruited and trained. The 4-H program was interpreted during National 4-H week to Commissioners' Court, key leaders and stakeholders. A monthly 4-H newsletter was prepared and distributed to over 145 4-H families. Each 4-H club meet monthly and provided the agent with a report. Two Senior 4-Hers presented a pirate theme workshop for children in Marshall at the County Extension Office. The children pretended that they were pirates on the lookout for treasure. They participated in many fun activities such as Cannon-Ball Pop, Talk-like-a-Pirate, and Hook the Treasure. The children learned about the food groups found on the pyramid and now know to choose healthier foods. They even got a surprise visit from a walking, talking banana. Twenty-six kids attended the workshop and all had fun as pirates on their adventure. This is the second summer workshop held at the Harrison County Extension Office with more to come in the following years.



Relevance

One day 4-H is a grass roots community service effort for 4-H youth to identify, plan, and implement a community service project that serves the needs of their particular community and/or county. One day 4-H teaches 4-H members the importance of giving back to their communities based on issues they see are affecting the lifestyles of the citizens. Throughout this process, youth have the opportunity to develop a partnership with adult volunteers as they plan and implement their service project. One day 4-H helps develop the core life skills of communication, responsible citizenship, contribution to group effort, teamwork, self-motivation, problem solving, service learning, planning/organizing, and social skills.

Response

Harrison County 4-H members participated in the state wide one day 4-H event on Saturday, October 9th. They implemented three one day 4-H projects which consisted of can food drive, market the 4-H program, and conduct a game booth for youth at the Annual Fire Ant Festival. Total of fifty-five youth and adults assisted in making this event a success. Over 15,000 individuals learned about the 4-H program. Approximately 618 canned goods and \$405 dollars were collected and donated to the local food pantry. The local food pantry supervisor stated, "Thank you so much for these canned goods, they are an answer to prayers."



Vision 20/20 Project With The Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce

The Harrison County office of The Texas AgriLife Extension Service was contacted coordinate the Marshall Vision 20/20 Project, which is a long-term planning project for the community as a whole. Randy Reeves was asked to chair the Agri-Business section or committee, the following are the results that came from a series of planning meetings. This task was started in late 2009 and completed in 2010.

Vision 20/20

Results of Committee Meeting(s)

The Agri-Business Committee of the Vision 20/20 Program, through the Marshall Chamber of Commerce met on June 2, 2010 in the Harrison County Extension office to decide and discuss issues and goals for the group. A light meal was provided, courtesy of Marshall Feed Company of Marshall. The following issues were identified and set, as well as a time frame and responsibility, these are in no particular order;

☛ Timber Theft of County Timberlands

Timber theft in the county is still a major problem, especially for absentee landowners who own timberland in Harrison county. The goal is to be able to fund or assist in funding the hiring of two additional sheriff deputies with the Harrison County Sheriff's Department who would investigate and document the marketing and hauling of merchantable timber on county roads in the county.

The hiring of additional sheriff's deputies would come from grant money from a variety of sources, including the local Forest Landowner's Association. One possibility would be an assessment of \$100.00 per timber landowner to help off-set the expense.

Responsible Party - Local Forest Landowners Association, Harrison County Commissioner's Court, Harrison County Sheriff's Department, as well as various law enforcement grant funds as identified by Harrison County Sheriff and Commissioner's Court members.

Time Frame - 3 to 5 years

☛ Explore Bio-Fuels Industry For Marshall and Harrison County

The interest was expressed as an added industry for our area that would complement the timber industry as a whole. As new methods and as new technologies in the bio-fuels industry evolve this idea needs to be explored. The committee also felt that this would give us unlimited "spin-off" industries and other business in the process as well.

The committee also felt like MEDCO would be a good first step in investigating the possibilities of a bio-fuels project. This is considered a "green" industry and the committee felt like grant money might be available, plus our abundance of "green" materials used in the process.

Responsible Parties - MEDCO (Marshall Economic Development Corporation), to investigate the possibilities in this area.

Time Frame - 3 to 5 years for investigations

Harrison County Farmer's Market Facility Improvements

The Harrison County Farmer's Market sale facility has found a permanent home on land owned by the county. With additions to the counties record storage systems, (buildings), being constructed, the sale facility has been shortened in length and stalls have been lost to make room for additional storage space. The facilities are adequate for today, but will not be in years to come if more active sellers are attracted to the market.

The facility needs to have a variety of improvements made to the roof, which leaks, as well as a more attractive sign in the front. Possible funding would come from Downtown improvement grants as well as grants from The Texas Department of Agriculture.

Responsible Parties - City of Marshall (writing of grant applications), Texas Agri-Life Extension Service-Harrison County office and Harrison County Commissioner's Court.

Time Frame - 3 to 5 years

Marshall City Arena Improvements

The committee felt like the Marshall City Arena needs to have improvements made to attract more events and activities that are more conducive help attract these events and activities to the Marshall area.

More seating is needed, especially on the West-side of the arena, where the permanent horse stalls are located. More tables and chairs are needed in the meeting room for special events that might be held at the facility. At the present time the tables that are in the room are broken and in need of replacement. Cooling in the arena is also needed. It was suggested that "Big Ass" fans (that is a brand name) could be placed in the arena if space permitted and the roof is high enough.

The committee also felt that some educational efforts need to be made and presented as to the amount of tax revenue is generated by folks that do attended and come to Marshall for events that are held at the City Arena.

Responsible Party - City of Marshall

Time Frame - 5 to 10 years

1st Annual Fried Green Tomato Contest

Harrison County Extension Office partnered with the Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce and Harrison County Farmers' Market to implement the 1st Annual Fried Green Tomato Contest. The event was held at the Harrison County Farmers' Market in an effort to encourage citizens to visit the farmers' market. The contest was open to youth and adults. The entry fee was five dollars plus two canned food items. Approximately \$125 and 50 canned goods were collected and donated to the local food pantry.

Fire Ant Festival

Fire Ant Festival is one of the primary festivals held in Marshall Annually. The purpose of the event is to celebrate how Harrison County try to terminate the insects and boost the economy. Each year the Extension Office assist with one of the contest while marketing the Extension program.

Wonderland of Lights

Wonderland of Lights is another major festival held in Marshall Annually. People from across the country come to Marshall, TX to view the Christmas lights. Visitors can also enjoy an outdoor skating rink and tour immaculate homes with Christmas decor.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Harrison County

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