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AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



Extension Education in Harrison County

Making a Difference

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

*Improving Lives.
Improving Texas.*

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has been dedicated to serving Texans

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.

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.

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:

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,

Harrison County – Summary of Educational Contacts - 2012

- ☞ Total Educational Sessions Conducted - 208
- ☞ Total Contacts By Faculty & Volunteers - 9,197
- ☞ Total Educational Contacts by Volunteers - 47,345
- ☞ Total Contact Hours - 238,518
- ☞ Web Contacts - 3,120

Improving Landscape & Adult Volunteer Management Skills in Harrison County Through Gardening - Harrison County Master Gardener Program

Relevance

Five issues were addressed with this outcome plan:

- ✍ 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.
- ✍ 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.



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. In 2012, the Master Gardener Course was shared between Harrison and Gregg Counties with a total of 16 from both counties participating.

Community Workshops were presented in 2012. These programs were offered to the general public and featured the following topics; **Home Canning Workshop**, to prepare participants to choose and harvest fresh produce to be at their peak for canning, as well as the home canning process with demonstrations on this topic. **Growing Your Own Vegetables** was presented in early summer to participants who were interested in vegetable gardening. Harrison County Master Gardener volunteers presented a seminar to aid the backyard vegetable gardener. Volunteers address and fielded questions of concern to beginning gardeners. How big and where to locate a garden. Choose a design to fit your needs: containers, square foot gardening, raised beds, or row gardening. Tips to prepare the soil. Do's and don'ts learned from experience: tips and short-cuts. Plants to choose for Harrison County as well as preferred times to plant in this area. Maintain good growing conditions,

deal with insects, weed and water wisely. Enjoy eating what you grow! Gardening is good for physical and emotional health and can ease the strain on the pocketbook.

Holiday Decorating Workshop was also held in the fall of 2012, to allow participants a ‘hands-on’ type workshop showing decorating tips and ideas using natural, inexpensive plant materials around the home.

Results

Participants were given a pre and post test to measure the increase in knowledge on key topics needed to be successful in the role of Master Gardener. Twelve participants completed both the pre-test and post-test, with 100% of participants scoring higher on the post-test. **The average increase in score from pre to post was 58%.** Participants ranged from a low increase in score of **28%, to a high increase of 118%.** Of the 12 participants, all but 3 scored 70% correct or higher on the post-test, and no one scored below 60% correct. On the pre-test, no participant scored more than 58% correct. In essence, 100% of the participants received a failing grade on the pre-test, and 100% received a passing grade on the post-test.

The test consisted of 50 questions, including true/false, multiple choice, and short answer. There was an increase in correct responses from pre-test to post-test on 40 (80%) of those 50 items. The table below shows the test items that exhibited the most improvement in score from pre-test to post-test.

Statistics Based On Individual Questions:

Question	Pre-test Correct	Post-test Correct	Increase
Name the three components of the disease triangle	0%	100%	100%
The process by which soil is covered with plastic to sterilize is called:	0%	75%	75%
I.P.M. is an abbreviation for...	0%	75%	75%
Sulfur will make an alkaline soil...	25%	100%	75%
The process of adding excess water to remove salt from the soil is called:	25%	100%	75%
The key additive to improve a soil that already has good, basic fertility is:	8%	83%	73%
On a bag of fertilizer, what elements do N, P and K stand for?	33%	100%	67%
What causes a cucumber to be small and misshapen?	17%	75%	58%
List, in the order they appear, the three nutrients found in numeric form on all bags of fertilizer:	42%	100%	58%
Blossom-end rot in tomatoes is caused by:	8%	58%	50%
The web address for the Texas A&M Horticulture Department is:	42%	92%	50%
Two good small trees for Northeast Texas are:	42%	92%	50%
Mulching the soil help with:	58%	100%	42%
Which of the following trees are NOT recommended for Northeast Texas?	17%	58%	41%
The number of chill hours for Northeast Texas is:	8%	42%	34%

2012 Master Gardener Program Notes...

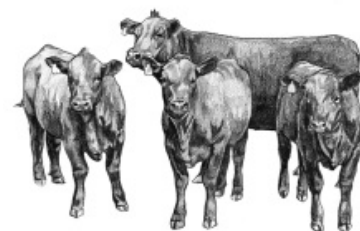
- Number of individuals that participated in the Gregg-Harrison County 2012 Class Training - **17**
- Total number of Master Gardener Volunteers (Harrison County) - **48**
- Estimated Total Number of volunteer hours provided by Master Gardeners & Interns in 2012 - **1900**, which is worth an estimated **\$40,000** to local government's in man hours volunteered.
- Number of people reached through Master Gardener programs - **5703**

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 it effects 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. 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, 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

2011 Drought Tax Implications For Beef & Forage Producers was a program that was co-sponsored as an emerging issue due to the drought toll that was taken on Harrison County are surrounding counties in the East Texas area. The program featured a local CPA that presented information and tax management steps that local beef and forage producers could utilize at tax filing time. The program was well attended and well received as a timely topic during the tough times that the 2011 drought presented to area producers.



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 2012 Harrison County Beef & Forage Field Day was held in April at the Howell Ranch East of Marshall in the Karnack area. Topics for the day included; Forage Pasture Grass Recovery From A Drought, Basis Weed Control Updates and Forage Quality & Forage Testing. The field day was followed up with a live demonstration on how to calibrate a pasture sprayer and a noon meal sponsored by the Harrison County Soil & Water Conservation District.



The 2012 Forage, Range & Pasture Insurance Program was presented, again as an emerging need based program due to the devastating effects 2011 drought. The program was presented via Centra and was held over the internet in the Harrison County Extension office. The program was presented by Dr. Robert Hogan, Assistant Professor and Extension Economist in Ft Stockton, Texas. The main topic of the program was on Rainfall Index Insurance and how this can play a part in the day to day management of the producers operation.

The 2012 Multi-County Beef & Forage Conference was sponsored by Gregg & Harrison Counties and also held in September. The conference focused on two main topics, How To Avoid Deep Discounts When Marketing Cattle and How to Lower Forage Cost Inputs Into A Producers Operation. The program was presented by Dr. Monte Rouquette, Professor of Forage Physiology with the Texas A&M AgriLife Research Center in Overton and Mr. Brian Cummins, Retired County Extension Agent in Van Zandt County and cattle buyer. Beef Quality Assurance credits were also made available for this program.



The 2012 Annual Cattlemen's Association Meeting was held in November with Doug McKinney serving as this years program speaker. Doug discussed Value-Added approaches to management of the beef cattle operation. Doug is a past County Extension Agent in Panola County and also served as a Beef Cattle Specialist in Oklahoma and specialized in value-added beef cattle management. The Harrison County Cattleman's Association co-sponsors this event with The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and is held on an annual basis. The annual meeting also features 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 was to reach wildlife managers, as well as producers who manage their own lands for natural resource purposes.

Response

The 2012 Maintaining Health & Vigor of Shade Trees & Small Forestry Tracts was held in January as an emerging need type educational program planned by the Harrison County Extension Natural Resource Committee. With the drought of 2011, ill effects were being felt in the counties home landscapes, as well as with the forest landowners operations.

The 2012 Harrison County Reforestation Seminar was held in February with Dr. Eric Taylor, Extension Forestry Specialist and Matt Wright, District Forester with The Texas A&M Forestry Service here in Marshall. Topics included the following; Pine Stand Establishment Strategies For East Texas (Site Selection, Regeneration Pest, Stock Type, Planting Season & Planting Density and Weather & Climatic Variables) and Cost Share Opportunities Available. The seminar was followed up with a question and answer session.

The 2012 Oil & Gas Lease Seminar was sponsored by the Harrison County Extension Natural Resource Committee and enabled landowners to hear the latest information on oil and gas lease news and activity in the county. Many landowners in the county and surrounding area have leases that are expiring or are about to and needed the latest information available. The speaker for the evening was local attorney Phillip Baldwin Jr. and has twenty eight years of experience in this field, specializing in oil & gas lease legal matters.

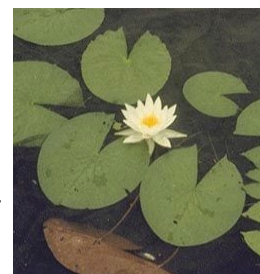


The Annual Multi-County Wildlife Informational Seminar was held in September with Harrison and Panola Counties participating. The program focused on deer herd management and nutritional needs. Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Professor and Extension Wildlife from Overton & Fisheries Specialist was the featured program speaker and the program was held in Carthage this year. The evening meal was sponsored by the Harrison & Panola County Soil & Water Conservation Districts.



Result Demonstration Work In Natural Resource Area:

Result demonstrations are an active part of any viable Extension based program. In the natural resource area, two demonstrations were completed in the area of aquatic weed management, to view these demonstrations, they are located on the Harrison County Extension web site at;
<http://harrison-agrilife-org.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/files/2011/06/citrine.pdf>
<http://harrison-agrilife-org.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/files/2011/06/Water-Lily-Control-Demonstration1.pdf>



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 2012 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 Longview at the Gregg County AgriLife Extension office and several speakers participated in presenting relevant information.

The Private Applicators License Training Programs are held twice each year, 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.

Improving Health & Wellness in Harrison County 2012

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.

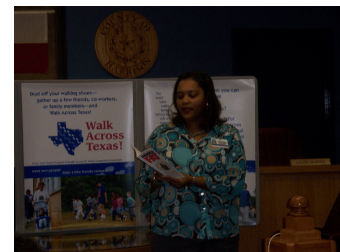
Response

The Harrison Family and Consumer Sciences Committee identified 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 learns how to prepare nutritious, diabetes meals and snacks. The Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes Task Force assisted the Harrison Family and Consumer Sciences Committee with teaching classes, marketing, registration, data collection, food preparation and gathering resources.

Results

Walk Across Texas

Fifty-six Harrison County employees participated which were divided into 7 teams and logged 20056.38 miles. One participant stated, "The weekly newsletter kept me encouraged to continue walking." Another participant stated, "Thanks to my teammates, walking has become apart of my daily routine." If participants continue walking as they did during Walk Across Texas, they have the potential to save a collective \$552,462 in future healthcare costs by avoiding Type 2 diabetes and reducing health care costs. Also, this means an average of ten individuals can possibly avoid or delay the onset of developing diabetes.



Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes

Eight adults completed the five week series course. As a result of the course, 100% reported they learned that a person with diabetes cannot eat all the sugar free foods he desires, 88% reported they learned that a person who takes insulin and shows signs of low blood sugar should drink a half can of regular soda to raise his blood sugar level to a normal range; 63% reported they are currently managing their diabetes with diabetic pills and their A1c is 7 or lower. Participants have the potential to save \$338,691 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

Four adults completed the four lesson series. Participants had an opportunity to prepare meals that were low in fat, sugar and sodium. A local chef volunteered his



time valued at \$1,500 and demonstrated how to prepare tasty diabetic dishes. 100% learned one way to make food taste sweet is to add vanilla and 100% learned that dried vegetables can be added to dish to increase flavor without increasing the sodium content.

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 health and wellness programs in 2013.

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.



Results

Harrison County goal was to reach 60 participants in 15 one shot programs in 315 hours. The goal was exceeded. Post surveys were utilized to evaluate participants knowledge after a few programs. Results indicated that 67% have a better understanding of the MyPlate and 55% agreed to start reading food labels.

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 twenty-three members. These individuals have donated

a total of 1800 volunteer hours in programs and community activities. The following are programs that members implemented:

Think Pink “Friend to Friend – Living Healthy Together”-participants learn to:

- Assess the risks and opportunities available for early detection of breast and cervical cancer.
- Understand why women in rural areas are at great risk of getting cancer.
- Gain insight into why early detection of breast and cervical cancer is the best means of cancer prevention.
- Identify steps on how to impact rural communities by working with local Extension agents and local cancer resources to host the “Friend to Friend” experience to provide better access to cancer screenings.

Hunger: The New Face in Town-individuals learn to:

- Learn details about who is affected by hunger in Texas – put a face on hunger.
- Identify ways each TEEA club can contribute to reducing hunger in their own community.
- Identify sources of help for newly affected families.
- Identify ways that ordinary people can help

Wind Energy-participants will:

- Learn how wind is being harnessed to produce energy.
- Learn the practical uses of a home wind turbine.
- Learn ways to engage youth in career opportunities.
- Learn how wind energy affects our state economy.

We’ve Got the Power-Individuals will:

- Learn how to lower utility costs by using low cost or no cost tips and ideas for using energy wisely.
- Identify phantom energy loss in the home.
- Commit to changes that will lower utility costs.

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 at a local restaurant. Tonya Colle, RN was the guest speaker and she discussed how heart disease effects women.



Cornbread and Bean Luncheon Fundraiser-The 36th Annual Cornbread and Bean Luncheon Fundraiser raised over \$1,803.75 after expenses. Over 300 tickets holders at \$7 each attended the event. The money each year is used for educational programs, conventions, training meetings and scholarships.

Community Service Contributions-Collected and donated food items to the local food bank. Visit the sick and shut-in senior citizens. Financial contributions were made to the Harrison County Literacy Fund, Boys & Girls Club of Big Pines and the 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 a lost art. Several female adults requested to start a quilt study group in 2004. In 2011, the membership of the quilt study group began to decline.

Response

Due to low enrollment, quilt study group members and the Harrison Family and Consumer Sciences Committee decided to have a four week beginners' quilt class in 2011.



Results

After much success, the beginners' quilt class was held again 2012. Participants met twice a week during the month of June. The course was a success once again. Five individuals from the course are currently participating in the quilt study group. One of the beginner quilters' entered her first quilt at the Jefferson Quilt Show and won second place. The Quilt Study Group met each first and third Tuesday of each 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 15 baby quilts to Court Appointed Special Advocates for children (CASA).



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 Foundation members suggested they partner with the Harrison County Extension Office and offer a one day Heart Healthy Cooking Seminar.

Results

Approximately 23 adults attend the Heart Healthy Cooking Seminar. Participants learn how to prepare a "Heart Healthy Meals...in a Minute!". Cookbooks were created and distributed to attendees. The hospital dietician discussed additional heart healthy food selections.



Improving Academic & Life Skills of Harrison County Youth - Harrison County Junior Master Gardener Program

Relevance

The following four goals are being addressed with this outcome plan are:

Understanding of Natural Sciences, Life Sciences, Interest and Academic Achievement in Science

Texas schools are under many demands to perform well on the standardized TAKS test. Since the introduction of the test, students have been tested at various grade levels for achievement of skills in math, language arts, and writing. As a result of Senate Bill 103 and the introduction of Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), students are now tested on their ability to demonstrate their knowledge in physical sciences, and earth sciences.

School districts are anxious to find science curriculum that will help students master the knowledge and skills required by the state mandated standards.



Environmental Stewardship

Landscape irrigation in Texas accounts for up to 40-60% of the total residential water use during peak summer months. Water conservation is a critically important issue for residents throughout the state of Texas. Moreover, proper use of fertilizers and chemicals wastes is important to the long term health and safety of residents in the county. Finally, programs that promote reduction of landscape wastes and recycling will assist in maintaining land fill availability. This issue is critically important in preserving and protecting our valuable natural resources.

Healthy and Active Lifestyles Through Improved Diet and Physical Activity

Experts continue to promote healthy diets and life styles including exercise, reduced fat diets, and increased consumption of fruits and vegetables as an important factor in maintaining long-term human health. Unfortunately, research studies indicate that a high percentage of youths do not eat healthy diets or exercise regularly, which has resulted in increased childhood obesity and poor

nutritional eating habits. This issue is critically important to improving the health and well being of the children of Texas.

Leadership Development and Community Service

Detrimental youth activities including drug/alcohol abuse and bullying, coupled with poor youth self esteem have been manifested in an increase of youth violence and crimes. A comprehensive prevention strategy that will engage youth in positive, worthwhile activities at an early age that foster leadership development, positive success and reinforcement, positive peer and adult role models, and engage youth in service learning projects are critical to improving youth quality in local communities..

Response

In Harrison County, particularly within the Marshall Independent School District, a five million dollar federal grant through TEA was developed by the Boys & Girls Club of Harrison County for an aggressive after school program and was kicked off with the Marshall ISD. Program plans are to reach out to other school districts in the county over the next year or two, but is being piloted here in Marshall. The Harrison County Extension office, as well as the Harrison County Master Gardener Association was contacted by the school district and the Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club to assist in the curriculum and to provide in-service training opportunities to local teachers and school administrators on the Junior Master Gardener Program. The following programs and activities were held this year;

Junior Master Gardener In-Service Training was held in February 4, 2012 at one of the local elementary schools here in Marshall, Carver Elementary. Twenty-five teachers and program aides attended the teacher workshop. The in-service training was a day long program and was presented and taught by Harrison County Master Gardener Association members who had attended the National JMG Training that was held in College Station on the Texas A&M Campus.



All of the training materials, including a three-ring binder was prepared for all of the participating teachers and administrators that attended. As stated before, the in-service training was taught by JMG certified Master Gardener Association members. The level one JMG activity books were also purchased by the Master Gardener Association, to act like seed money until the grant funds were made available later in the school year. It might also be noted that some schools in the district will be

following the traditional Junior Master Gardener program and will be incorporating the curriculum in the classroom and not an after school program.

Results

The results for the Junior Master Gardener program are in the early stages, as this program was not started until August of 2011 and ES-237 numbers will not be reported until summer of 2012. At the conclusion of the in-service training, an evaluation tool was distributed to all of the participants that participated in the in-service training program that was held in August.

Evaluation Ratings (15 received); Options range from 5 (Completely) to 1 (not at all).

☞ The objectives of the training were met - **20 out of 20 said completely (5).**

☞ This training benefitted me as a teacher - **19 out of 20 said completely (5).**

☞ The sessions were well organized. - **20 out of 20 said completely (5).**

☞ Would recommend this training to others? - **18 out of 20 said completely (5).**

☞ Do you feel more confident participating in the Junior Master Gardener program as a result of this training? - **15 out of 20 said completely (5).**

4 out of 20 said yes (4).

1 out of 20 said average (3).

Comments made by teachers as noted from the evaluation survey;

✓ “The presentation was very interesting! I am sure that the children will enjoy the activities!”

✓ “The activities will be extremely beneficial to our students at Carver Elementary!”

Contacts made in the After-School Program for the 2011-2012 school year are as follows;

Total Contacts - 4,020

Total Face to Face Contacts - 3,390

Total Contact Hours By Volunteers - 44,338.50 Hours

A post survey was completed at the conclusion of the “After-School” program that was conducted at Carver elementary School in Marshall in May of 2012. This survey was geared toward the youth participants and the reaction to their experiences in the after-school program and was administered to one session at the end of the 2011-12 school year in May. The survey was completed by the para-professional that was in charge of the program in an interview type setting.

32 out of 32 stated that they enjoyed the program.

32 out of 32 stated that they would like to participate in the program next school year.

It might also be noted that due to the federal grant program that Marshall ISD worked with in conjunction with the Boys & Girls Club in Marshall, Carver Elementary School has acquired a greenhouse and will be working with youth in the greenhouse project area. Thirty-four youth were also reached through the Summer Junior Master Gardener program that was held at the Boys & Girls Club of the Big Pines in Marshall in the month of July.

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 assisting with selection of the banquet theme, serving as the host/hostess and decorating the banquet room. Harrison County 4-H reached 1036 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 individual growth, teamwork, leadership and responsibility. Rachel Cole, Harrison 4-H Homeschool

4-H and Youth Development



Club President is currently serving on the District 5 Council and as a Representative on the State 4-H Council.

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 125 4-H families.

Results

The Harrison 4-H FCS Coalition created a survey which asked club members their interest in an effort to implement more interesting workshops and activities. Measurable results were not able to be obtained. Coalition members decided to implement a 4-H Hunger Games Scavenger Hunt. The activity was designed to promote recreation skills and geography skills.



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. They implemented a can food drive.

Results

Harrison 4-H members collected approximately 200 canned food items and \$30. The supplies were donated to the local food pantry. One local citizen stated, "I am so glad that you are doing this for our community."

Relevance

As today's youth are further removed from farming, many do not understand the importance of agriculture and how it impacts their daily lives.

Response

Harrison Leadership Advisory Board decided to implement the Harrison Youth Ag Day program. Other program area committees assisted with locating and securing speakers and guiding the youth to the various stations.

Results

Eighty 4th graders from Karnack and Elysian Fields participated in the event. A pre-test and post-test was distributed to the youth. The following are the results of the survey:

55 out of 80 (71.4%) reported they learned agriculture touches my life every day.

51 out of 80 (66.2%) reported they learned Texas farmers and ranchers work hard to provide a safe, affordable food supply.

47 out of 80 (61.0%) reported that if the farmers did not raise farm animals or grow crops, I would not be able to eat foods such as pizza and hamburgers.

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 tries to manage fire ants 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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