Extension Education in Ward County

Making a Difference 2010
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:

### Ward County – Summary of Educational Contact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contacts Summary</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
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<td>Office Visits</td>
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<td>Total Contacts</td>
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Rangeland and Wildlife Management Program
OVERVIEW: This program consisted of a bi-monthly newsletter (“Range Steward”); 2 educational programs: Pesticide Applicator Information, Quail Appreciation meeting. There was 1 result demonstration on controlling African Rue. Continued Rangeland Monitoring and taking pictures; and individual ranch visits. Directed by the Agriculture Committee via 2 meetings.
IMPACT: Ward County producers continue to learn more knowledge and skills relating to pastures, range, brush control, beef cattle and wildlife. Producers continue to adopt best management practices for mesquite and brush control. Major issues learned this year include: Stocking to reduce grass fuel loads to decrease wild fires; the importance of not overstocking; and understand more about herbicides, rates, timing, use of surfactants, etc.

Horticulture and Landscape Management Program
OVERVIEW: This program consisted of a bi-monthly newsletter (“Ag/Hort”); Educational programs: canceled Green Thumb Show, Lawn and grass Workshop, County Pecan Show; Rainwater Harvesting, Xeriscaping; and many individual home visits. Directed by Horticulture Committee via 2 meetings.
IMPACT: Home owners are more aware of landscaping ideas, incorporating different plant species and conserving water. Agent conducted home horticulture visits throughout the year assisting on lawns, trees, watering, weeds, insects, diseases, etc. All participants interviewed expressed an increase in knowledge gained in the area of horticulture and commented on the overall usefulness and relevance of the program.

Forage Crop/Livestock Production Program
OVERVIEW: Consisted of 4 educational meetings (some joint with Pecos and Reeves county) and 1 result demonstration. Livestock and cattle management, forages, alfalfa, and Coyanosa Crops Tour. Many visits with producers during year discussing protein, supplements, minerals, forage, wild fires, fencing, etc.
IMPACT: 106 people total attended the 4 educational programs. Producers continue to adopt best management practices and producers expressed an increase in knowledge and a desire for continued programs.

Contacts Summary
Phone......................................................... .............478
Office Visits................................................. ..........106
Site Visits................................................... ............798
Email/Mail.................................................... .....2,978
News Articles................................................. .........23
Total Contacts................................................ 15,227
Abigail Pritchard, CEA-FCS

Output Program Summary – 2010

Better Living for Texans - Nutrition programming for food stamp eligible recipients. Two 4 lesson series on MyPyramid was taught to 150 students at Cullendar Kindergarten & 25 students at Brandenburg Elementary in Grandfalls during National Nutrition Month (March).

Monthly nutrition programming at Ward County Senior Center reached over 750 clients with 11 monthly sessions including lessons on making healthy food choices and increasing physical activity, as well as specific nutrition and health topics.

Food Safety Education-“Food Safety: It’s Our Business” is the food manager certification training course designed to prepare foodservice managers to pass the certification examination. Course and exam was offered 3 times during the year, reaching 16 clients.

Passenger Safety- Renewed certification as child safety seat technician. Worked with 13 parents and 26 preschool and infant children to choose and correctly install a child safety seat, and provided educational material. Hosted a child safety seat checkup event at Weststar Autoplex during National Child Passenger Safety Month. Participated in 2 area child safety seat checkup events.

General FCS- West Texas Conference on Aging, a one day regional conference providing continuing education hours for nurses and social workers in the field of elder care. 146 registered participants. Guest speakers and breakout sessions provided up to date information on issues related to aging.

Salute to Seniors was an event celebrating National Family Caregiver Month on November 11, 2010, at the Ward County Convention Center. Honored more than 50 veterans and caregivers

Interagency Committee/Community Resource Coordination Group
TEEA/Sandhills Quilting Cutups

Contacts Summary
Phone.................................................................................263
Office Visits........................................................................34
Site Visits/Contacts.............................................................57
Email/Mail....................................................................1,306
Total Contacts....................................................................1,660
4-H and Youth Development

Abigail Pritchard, CEA-FCS
Arlan Gentry, CEA-Ag/NR

**OVERVIEW:** The purpose of the 4H and youth development program is to educate youth in leadership and life-skills through hands-on learning. The program consists of various projects, activities, meetings, fund raisers, community service events, etc.

**IMPACTS:**
- **Enrollment:** 126 members and 43 leaders were enrolled in 2010.
- **Outreach/Recruitment:** Agents strive to continue to reach all audiences.

- **Livestock Projects:** Include steers, pigs, goats, lambs, rabbits and broilers. 114 4H youth validated 241 head of livestock to exhibit in 2010. Several 4H’ers attended and exhibited at major stock shows in San Antonio, San Angelo, Odessa, Houston, and Dallas in 2010.
- **Beef Quiz Bowl:** 8 youth participated at District and State Roundup.
- **Shooting Sports:** Continues to teach 4-H’ers more about firearm safety in the following disciplines: Rifle, Air Rifle, Pistol, Air Pistol, Shotgun, and Archery. Members and leaders attend contests at District, Brownwood and at State. Certified Coaches and Adult Leaders teach.
- **Barn Tours/Ag. In the Classroom:** County Agent coordinated with Cullender Kindergarten, Head Start and Edwards Elementary to conduct Barn Tours and Ag. In the Classroom in which Senior age 4H youth lead tours and presented on different livestock breeds, species, uses, etc. Total youth involved was 441.

- **Food and Nutrition, Clothing & Textiles** - Fourteen 4-H youth completed lessons in MyPyramid, Dietary Guidelines, shopping strategies, food safety practices, and careers in the food industry and the county Food Show. Four advanced to the District 6 Food Show in Ft. Stockton. Five 4-H’ers participated in this project. Youth had opportunity to learn about fabrics, sewing skills, laundry skills, as well as organizing and completing a project. Three youth advanced to the District 6 Fashion Show & Textiles Show.

- **Family and Career Management** - Eight students have been assigned to the Life skills class at Monahans Education Center. Course content includes nutrition education, NEFE financial literacy, workforce skills, and other topics. Four have completed the course this year.

- **Youth Water Education - State Youth Water Camp!** Again this 5 day camp on all things water hosted by Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Ward County and Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ward County, was a rousing success. The 14 youth that participated in this year’s camp brought a diversity to camp concerning water use, water conservation, water availability, and numerous other topics. More than 35 adults from numerous agencies, organizations, and private citizens provided hands-on experiences, speakers, and field trips to illustrate how our water resources are being used by industry, agriculture, and municipalities.
“H2O for You!” Youth Water Fair Coordinated with Sudderth Elementary fourth grade teachers to offer Investigating Water curriculum to youth. Provided 7 learning experiences to 142 youth on water conservation and increased knowledge of water resources and water conservation; included hands-on demonstrations. Responses indicate a heightened awareness about water issues and the importance water plays in their lives.

Contacts Summary
- Phone: 1,269
- Office Visits: 348
- Site Visits/Contacts: 3,784
- Email/Mail: 8,832
- Total Contacts: 14,233

Media Summary
- News Releases/Articles: 20
- Monthly 4-H Newsletters/4-H in a Flash: 12
- TV Interviews: 2
Community Economic Development

Arlan Gentry, CEA-Ag/NR
Abigail Pritchard, CEA-FCS

Community Development/Emergency Preparedness Program

OVERVIEW: These topics are important to Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the county office works to support the many efforts within the county that improve community development and address emergency prep.

IMPACT: Programs had economic and educational impact, including County Computer Workshops, Annual Green Thumb and Pecan Shows, Chamber and Main Street events such as Taste of Monahans, Civic Club programs, and 4-H community service projects. Additionally, county agents continue to teach Emergency Preparedness to clientele including: individual consultation for emergency preparedness, office training, Animal Issues Committee to amend to county plan to include animal issues and general emergency preparedness programs.

EarthKind Landscape Project at Courthouse Annex
Development of the landscaping demonstration at the Courthouse Annex continued in 2010. The site is available for the general public to view and get ideas to use in their landscapes. Citizens are able to see native and adaptive plants in an attractive landscape setting. Agents maintain and update this area. We added a layer of shredded wood mulch to the peninsula at the south end of the building and the north parking strip.

Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration at the 4-H Shooting Range
Received and installed two water tanks at the Bentley Center to beautify the shooting range and to plant trees. Plans are to complete this project in 2011 by completing the duct work and a drip hose to the trees.

Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration at the Million Barrel Museum
A metal cistern is installed at the Million Barrel Museum to collect rainwater to use in watering the landscape. This is a highly visible location in Monahans that will be seen by locals as well as folks traveling through visiting the Museum. The metal cistern fits the circa 1890’s home. We are searching for metal guttering to keep with the period look.
Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Ward County

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