

This informational review of programs contains current educational information supported by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, which aims to improve the quality of life in Cameron County communities. The topics included are: Agriculture/Natural Resources, Family Consumer Sciences, 4-H & Youth Development, Coastal Marine Science, Urban Horticulture, Expanded Food & Nutrition Education, and the Healthy South Texas Initiative. There is a wide variety of extension educational publications available upon request from our office, or by visiting the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension website at <http://agrilifebookstore.org>.

## Agriculture

By: Dr. Enrique Perez, CEA Agriculture



### Pesticide Safety Training

Agriculture producers with restricted state license for use of pesticides in agriculture participate in a Pesticide Safety Training for re certification/renewal of Texas Department of Agriculture requirements. Texas AgriLife Extension provides the educational training.

## Bull and Heifer Development Program for Beef Cattle Producers

Beef cattle producers had the opportunity to participate.

More than 80 head of cattle entered their livestock in a 120 day feeding program. All cattle were preconditioned and were on feed at the Rio Beef Feedyard. At the end of the feeding program cattle were evaluated as to their average Daily gain and body score conditioning for today livestock market.



## Coastal & Marine Resources

By: Tony Reisinger, CEA Coastal & Marine



Our Rio Grande Valley and South Texas Border Texas Master Naturalist chapters comprised of 249 members, held 20 training classes and field trips for 37 and 28 interns respectively. Graduations will be held in April and in the same month the Rio Grande Valley Chapter will celebrate its 15th anniversary.

Our turtle excluder device (TED) project trained 91 shrimp fishermen aboard 32 shrimp vessels this quarter. Preliminary production figures from 2016 for the Brownsville-Port Isabel shrimp fleet indicate landings of 12 million pounds valued at \$53 million (NOAA-NMFS). Production is down and the price is up. A looming challenge to the industry this year is the loss of crews through the H2B worker program.



The Texas Coastal Naturalist program co-sponsored a Fishing Seminar in Harlingen on February 20 with 301 attendees, a sea turtle & oil workshop in Brownsville in March with over 100 attending.

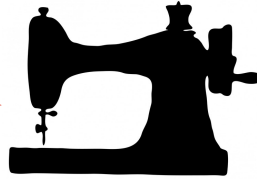
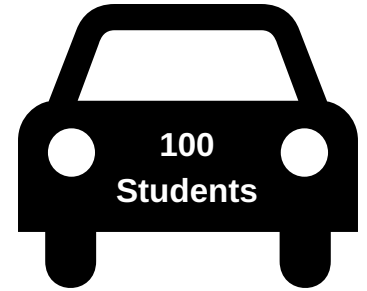


# Family & Consumer Science

By: Lilian Mezquida, CEA - Family & Consumer Science



Watch Ur Bac's Simulator is used to demonstrate the effect of alcohol and other drugs on driving skills. Fatal Vision goggles, which distort vision, are worn by the driver during the simulation experience to further duplicate the effect of alcohol or other drugs on one's vision.

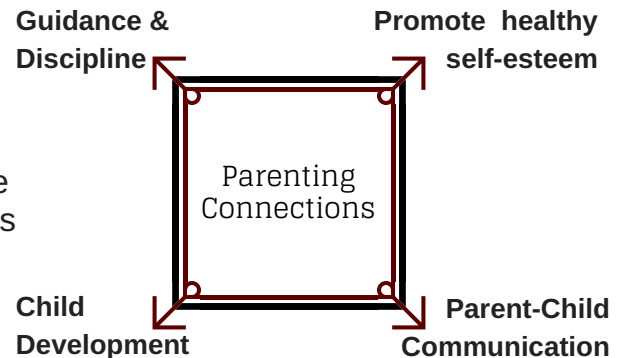


We have 2 Master Clothing Volunteers that will be teaching Basic sewing class in Cameron County. The purpose is to expand the resources of the county Extension Agent through the use of highly trained and experience volunteers who can respond to the requests for clothing construction information for low-income Hispanic women, and to increase the job readiness skills among participants involved and help them become aware of their increased employ-ability potential for part- r full-time sewing-related work.

**20**  
participants  
1st class in  
Brownsville, TX



Participants were evaluated after completing the parent education series using a retrospective evaluation tool. All participants are referred by Department of Families and protective services, Adult Probation and other agencies.



The Better Living for Texas (BLT) Program is a cooperative endeavor among Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), and the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) of USDA.



**A FRESH START**  
to a  
**Healthier You!**



- Improving Vegetable & Fruit intake
- Meal Planning
- Increasing Physical Activity
- Adopting behaviors to reduce the risk of food borne illnesses



# Cameron County Healthy South Texas

By: Lilian Mezquida, CEA - Family & Consumer Science,  
Elyssa Davis - Extension Program Specialist



HEALTHY SOUTH TEXAS



Walk Across Texas Kick-Off at Rio Hondo.  
A FREE, 8 week program designed to help Texans establish the habit of regular physical activity. Texas A&M AgriLife partners with schools, clubs, community groups, work sites, and cities incentives, support, and events to celebrate the beginning and end of the 8 week journey.



Goal

830 Miles

8 weeks

17 teams participated

20,969 miles walked

7 classroom teams

17,872 miles walked

Economic Impact

\$947,803

## Urban Horticulture

By: Jennifer Herrera, CEA - Horticulture



### Small Acreage

A series of educational programs were conducted for beginning farmers, local growers and residents interested in starting a business. The programs consisted of a Soil Management for Local Growers, Aquaponics, Organic Gardening, RGV Grape Growing, RGV Vineyard and Home Winemaking Workshop.

### Growing & Nourishing Healthy Communities

### Master Gardeners

The Cameron County Master Gardeners have hosted four Rainwater Harvesting classes, a Home Composting Workshop, and three Earth-Kind Landscaping for Cameron County families. The Rainwater Harvesting programs will continue monthly.

Cameron County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension began its fourth year with the "Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities (GNHC)" project. The goal of this grant is to increase Cameron County residents' access to fresh produce by teaching basic gardening skills that allow and promote the development of backyard and community gardens. A series of six educational sessions were administered at each garden location to families participating in the GNHC program. There are now 11 community gardens through the GNHC program.

# Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program

By: Oscar Zamora, Expanded Food & Nutrition



Supporting Texas Families  
with greatest need

Since 1969

October

4 Nutrition  
Education Assistants

January

2 Nutrition Education  
Associates

974 Adults  
enrolled

140  
Graduated EFNEP  
Program

23 groups  
enrolled

1,211  
Youth throughout  
Cameron County

- EFNEP partners with the WIC program in providing nutrition education to their WIC participants. In the months of October through January, 490 of the 974 adults enrolled in the EFNEP program were WIC participants.

- In 2016, (January 24th -February 24th) UTRGV senior dietetic student Jessica Vega who is currently enrolled in a 2 year coordinated dietetics program has been assigned to our office to complete 100 hours of her community rotation. The Coordinated Dietetics Program is designed to develop a competent entry-level dietitian in all areas - food service, clinical, and community. The program also combines both the academic and supervised practical training required by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.



29  
Volunteers

324 Hours of work  
to EFNEP in  
Cameron County

Texas Rate of \$25.11/Hours  
=  
\$8,136

Volunteers make a

# difference





# 4-H & Youth Development

By: Marco Ponce, CEA - 4-H & Youth Development

Cameron County 4-H members have been extremely active in a wide array of contests, educational activities, and community service projects.

47 - Cameron County 4H'ers

## Sale of Champions

\$144,974

Several other 4-H members won breed and overall championships in the various breeding divisions. Cameron County 4-H clubs had well over 550 entries and were well represented in each of the shows divisions. We also had the first place Intermediate Livestock Judging Team and three High Point Individuals.



12,000 Youth

4-H Membership

Special Interest/Short-term Program

School Enrichment Programs

Musical & Instrumental Performances

# Round UP

Public Speaking Presentations

Solo/Band Division

4-H



**PRAIRIE VIEW  
A&M UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

# CEP 4-H & Youth Development

By: Guadalupe Castro, CEP - 4-H & Youth Development

Cooperative Extension Program

## HEROES 4-Health

*Ambassadors*



The Heroes 4-Health Ambassadors attended the Texas State Healthy Living Summit in New Braunfels Texas on March 10-12, 2017. Samantha Clavo 16, Perla Sanchez 18, and Kayla Saucedo 15 represented Cameron County CEP 4-H as Teen Health Ambassadors at the Summit. They attended several sessions on leadership and healthy living, and were given the opportunity to present on the programs that they do in Cameron County to Teen Health Ambassadors from all over the state.



Healthy South Texas Specialist Elyssa Davis with student

## Sewing Basics 101



## 20 4-H Students

3 parent volunteers were able to help students with their projects



How to design & build a functional robot  
How to program robot to go through an obstacle course

**Future Leaders  
of Brownsville**

18 students participated