

Agriculture and Natural Resources

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Cameron County

Urban Horticulture



Small Acreage Production

Over 189 beginning and small acreage farmers attended the 6 workshop series

Master Gardeners

Master Gardener's volunteers contributed 2,911.55 service hours equating to \$ 61,515.16 savings to the county in volunteer service. A total of 20 new Master Gardeners were trained

Learn, Grow, Eat & Go!

In 2017, 26 educators were trained in LGEG and 1400 students participated in the program.



Earth-Kind

Over 10 Earth-Kind presentations were provided for Cameron County homeowners. Earth-Kind topics included: Citrus Greening, Vegetable Gardening, Composting, Rainwater Harvesting, Landscaping and Palm Care

Growing & Nourishing Healthy Communities

157 Cameron County adults completed the GNHC program. More than 3858 pounds were produced in 11 community gardens.



Agriculture

Forage Production for Agriculture Producers:

Agriculture Production Committee hosted a Forage Management program series. Participants in the program series participated in pre-post-test with 90% considering making operational changes.



Rio Grande 706 Beef: Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy County:

Participants reported owning 5,864 head of cattle with 3.36 fold increase in knowledge, increase in 7 different best management practice which equates to \$131, 940 economic impact in four county participation

Agriculture and Production/Nutrient Management:

This year, a total of 352 soil samples representing 2261 acres of agriculture production fields in Cameron County were submitted to the soil testing laboratory in College Station for analysis. Fertilizer recommendation resulted in an average cost savings of \$25 per acre, depending on crop and management history. Soil Campaign translates of \$136,258.00 economic impact reduction of fertilizer for 2017 year in those acreages that participated in the Soil Campaign.



Pesticide Safety:

621 individuals attended 33 group sessions with 1900 hours of instruction. The economic value of the Continuing Education Units earned is estimated to be over \$49,000. A total of 63 persons attended the five-hour course which is required by TDA.

Coastal & Marine

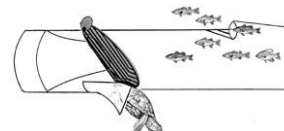


Texas Master Naturalists

The Rio Grande Valley Chapter and South Texas Border Chapter combined volunteer force of 213 naturalists contributed 26,461 hours of volunteer time providing education, outreach, and service dedicated toward the beneficial management of natural areas and resources in Cameron County and the Rio Grande Valley. The total value of this volunteer time is \$638,769 for our community. Over 200 acres were restored as natural areas by the chapters this year.

Turtle Excluder Device (TED) Project

The TED project was successful this quarter with 223 shrimp vessel crewmen aboard 66 vessels educated in TED compliance resulting in increased in sea turtle survival.



Texas Coastal Naturalists

Texas Coastal Naturalists were involved in rescuing over 60 sea turtles in the Lower Laguna Madre in December and were actively assisting in saving downed pelicans at the Bahia Grande during hard northers. Texas dodged red tide this year and we now have a new tool for our Red Tide Rangers, the HABscope to monitor concentrations should we experience blooms in the future.

Cameron County Family & Community Health 2017



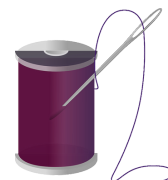
During 2017, 362 Cameron County adults completed the BLT A Fresh Start to a Healthier You! Series. Of those 342 participants, completed the 30-day follow-up survey which allows us to assess the extent that targeted behaviors were adopted

Conducted multiple parent education workshop series' in Cameron County utilizing the Parenting Connections curriculum. Two hundred and forty-eight (248) single session parenting evaluations were completed by participants. Eighty-five (86) parents and/or other relatives completed the 4-week program



Family & Community Health agent and partnership with Specialists and San Benito CISD hosted When Sean Speaks with 4302 students on April 25, 26,27,2017. Other partners San Benito Police Department.

17 individuals enrolled in the 4 week sewing class and successfully completed the program. Two master clothing volunteer taught the classes. Topics included Parts of Sewing Machine and their functions, working with different fabrics, Basic Clothing Construction, sewing kitchen pot holders, and blanket



CEP agent held the 6 week nutrition program "Choose Health: Food, Fun & Fitness". Over 40 youth participants attended and graduated from the program where they learned lessons such as how to read a nutrition label to make healthier food choices, the benefit of drinking less sugary drinks.

Throughout the 2017 year, over 240 parent and student participants from the Harlingen Consolidated School District and the San Benito School District attended presentations from the Strengthening Families curriculum wherein they learned tips on how to communicate better with one another in order to strengthen the family unit.





4-H & Youth Development

By: Marco Ponce, CEA 4H & Youth Development

Educational Lessons on Synthetic Drug & Alcohol Prevention



- Synthetic Drug Use & Prevention
- Dangers of Drug & Alcohol Use
- The effects of drug use on the body

San Benito High School

Pre-Program Survey



50% of questions answered wrong

34 Students

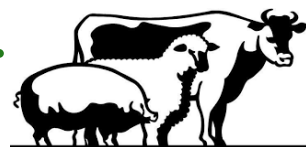


Post-Program Survey



51% answered all questions correctly

Livestock Judging Training



25 4-H members competed in at least two livestock judging contests during the year. Several 4-H members received team and high point awards at livestock judging contests throughout the year.



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

Cooperative Extension Program

CEP 4-H & Youth Development

By: Guadalupe Castro, CEP 4H & Youth Development

Heroe's 4-Health

The Prairie View (PVAMU) 4-H and FCS Cooperation Extension Program implemented the Heroes 4-Health in Cameron County targeting underserved youth and their families.

Curriculum:

CHOSE HEALTH:
FOOD, FUN, & FITNESS



CHOSE HEALTH:
YOGA 4 KIDS



3
YOUTH camps
Harlingen
3
summer camps
Brownsville

Travel Opportunities



Ottawa, Canada



Washington, D.C.

4-H Stem

4-H Science is a means to inspire individual discovery and scientific inquiry by 4-H youth. It combines a non-formal education process, hands-on, and inquiry-based learning in a youth development context to increase literacy and engage youth in improving their knowledge, skills and abilities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

In response to improving human capacity and workforce ability in the STEM field CEP 4-H Youth and Development program in Cameron County implemented the 4-H Robotics program.

various careers in:



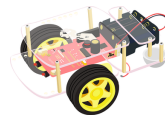
Engineering
Programming
Coding

BY USING SKILLS IN:

- Math
- Technology
- Science



6 session series



EV3 LEGO ROBOTICS KIT

- 85% reported increase knowledge of how a robot works
- 80% reported an increased knowledge of how to work as a team

340
Heroes
for Health
Participants



Surveyed on increased knowledge learned in Healthy living, adopting behavioral change, & youth exercising leadership

12
Ambassadors

- 96.1% learned importance of a healthier diet
- 95% learned importance of drinking more water
- 100% learned importance of healthier food choices
- 100% learned leadership skills





Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

Making a Difference in Texas

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

In 2017, Cameron County
EFNEP reached a total of
2,107 participants and over
9,073 families

25%

of adults increased their
daily physical activity



50%

of adults improved in
food safety practices



80%

of adults improved food
resource management practices



EFNEP saved families
more than **\$29** a month on
food costs

90%

of adults improved
nutrition practices



94%

of adults made a positive change
in one or more food groups



Adults improved their daily
consumption of fruits, vegetables,
and dairy by at least **1/2 cup**

In 2017, Cameron County reached
4,565 youth ranging from
Kindergarten to 12th grade

80% improved ability to choose healthy
foods

50% improved safe food handling practices

40% improved physical activity

53% improved ability to prepare simple,
nutritious, affordable food

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.



HEALTHY SOUTH TEXAS

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 62 percent of adults American were overweight in 2000. In addition, physical activity is associated with an increased risk of number of chronic health conditions including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, some cancers, High blood pressure as well as overweight and obesity. Fortunately, Cameron County AgriLife Extension agents have the knowledge and expertise to provide resources that will help encourage a healthier lifestyle and behavior change.

HEALTHY SOUTH TEXAS COALITION MEMBERS, MASTER WELLNESS AND VOLUNTEERS

The coalition members **(8)**, Master Wellness **(3)** and volunteers **(10)** and Youth Ambassadors **(6)** helped and supported the implementation of Dinner Tonight and Walk Across Texas.



121 participants walked **23,334 miles** and **308** student participants walked **31,821 miles**. It is estimated that **16** adults who completed the WAT! Program could avoid or delay the onset of diabetes through increased physical activity. The potential economic impact for Cameron County WAT! Participants is approximately **\$1,275,890**



DINNER TONIGHT/NUTRITION EDUCATION

Healthy eating begins at home and with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services Dinner Tonight! program, we make it easier for people to plan and cook healthy meals. Recognizing the challenges of busy families, this program uses face-to-face cooking schools and an all-access website to teach cooking tips and techniques, provide reliable nutrition information, address food safety concerns, and give guidance on food preparation.

- Cameron County hosted a Dinner Tonight Healthy Cooking School with **169** participants on July 27, and Santa Rosa School District with **100** participants on September 25, 2017.
- **Partners:** City of Harlingen, Cameron County DHHS, Frankie Flav'z and Rio Grande Grill
- **Other Sponsors:** Auto Group Bert Ogden, Neighbors Emergency Center, Charlie Clark Nissan and Valley Baptist.



HEALTH EDUCATION

12 individuals enrolled in **Food Handler** Class certification and successfully completed pre-and post-test questionnaire. Multi County Cameron, Brooks and Hidalgo **Child Care Conference**. Conducted a child care provider training conference for **75** child care providers and directors in Cameron County and Hidalgo County, who provide care for **1,159** children enrolled in **17** child care centers.

Audiences at Dinner Tonight enjoyed Chefs from Frankie Flav'z and Rio Grande Grill showcasing easy and nutritious meal ideas