

Extension Education - Making a Difference in Brazos County

2024 Executive Summary



EXTENSION



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CEA - Ag & Natural Resources
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CEA - Better Living for Texans
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AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Livestock, forage, and horse production continue to be three of the largest agricultural commodities in Brazos County. The following educational programs targeted agricultural producers:

Small Ruminant (Sheep & Goat) Education - This volunteer led committee contributed to the planning and facilitation for the annual Maroon and White Sale that exceeded 100 Buyers and \$73,000 in sales. The committee also helped with the Aggeland Lamb and Goat Camps which hosted over 250 youth and their families.

Equine Education - The Brazos Extension Horse Committee hosted 10 programs including Aggie Super Circuit with 191 entries, Equine Evening at the Brazos County Expo Hybrid program with 100 participants, and a 3-day adult horsemanship class and 2-day youth horsemanship class with 40+ participants. They also contributed \$15,595 in Scholarships and other donations. Total contributions of 726 volunteer hours and over 700 youth & adult contacts.

Forage and Livestock Production - Several volunteer led committees organized and facilitated 14 educational programs leading to 1,221 participants, 96 volunteers, \$16,382 in volunteer hours, and \$14,300 in support funds.

Master Naturalist Program - Ten chapter trainings were held for members and the public. Master Naturalists conducted 7 educational field days, 5 pond/stream clean ups, and had over 1,300 youth and adults contacts.

HORTICULTURE

Our Brazos County horticulture program benefits area residents, the commercial horticulture industry, city departments (parks, planning, water), and local organizations through:

- Enhanced home property values
- Community beautification
- Landscape water conservation
- Youth ag & life science education
- Home food production
- Plant/pest/disease diagnostic services

In 2024, we provided research-based horticulture education through:

- 36 face-to-face programs
- 5 television segments
- 2,715 one-on-one contacts
- 51 radio shows
- 16 gardening webinars

Texas Master Gardener Volunteers continue to expand our scope and multiply our outreach contacts:

- 100 Master Gardener volunteers
- 3,526 hours of service to community (valued at \$118,086)
- 17 new volunteers certified
- 1,800 youth gardening bags distributed

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH (FCH)

We provide solutions to help Texans better their lives through science-based educational programs designed to improve the overall health and wellness of individuals, families, and communities.

- Master Wellness Volunteers—2 re-certified; 3 trainees
- Car seat inspections/hands-on training from July-August-19 seats
- Dinner Tonight Healthy Cooking Schools—109 employees
- Health talks-2,340 reached; topics: healthy meals, sun safety, passenger safety, food preservation, food security, healthy lifestyle choices, etiquette, stress management, memory strategies
- Parenting Connections *Parenting Class*-11 parents; 44 clock hours
- Preserving the Harvest Food Preservation Classes—117 participants; 702 clock hours
- Walk Across Texas! (WAT) 8-week physical activity program—1,977 individuals; 319 teams; 394,959.66 miles; 74% completion rate
- Certified food managers' *one-day courses*—15 food service employees; 105 training hours
- Do Well Be Well with Diabetes *five-part series*—10 Participants living with diabetes or pre-diabetes
- Step Up Scale *12-week weight management series*; 11 Texas A&M AgriLife Employees

BETTER LIVING FOR TEXANS (BLT)

Better Living for Texans is funded by the USDA's SNAP-ed and FNS, and targets the SNAP-eligible residents of Brazos County. The 5 pillars of BLT programming include nutrition, food safety, food resource management, physical activity and food access through gardening.

Face-to-face educational program series:

- Nutrition: 25 sessions, 113 participants
- Physical Activity: 6 sessions, 23 participants
- Gardening: 20 sessions, 63 participants

Single Education Sessions: 5 sessions, 65 participants

Outreach & Health Fairs: 335 contacts



Matt Pfeifer

CEA - 4-H & Youth Development
M.S. Ag. Leadership, Education,
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Ashleigh Sugg

Program Assistant
4-H & Youth Development
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4-H AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

189 adult volunteers work to support the 18 4-H Clubs, serving 724 4-H members in Brazos County

- Assuming each registered volunteer contributes 50 hours, the total value offered by the adult volunteer base in Brazos County is **\$316,480.50**
- Over \$140,000 in college scholarships awarded through 4-H involvement
- Brazos 4-H Adult Leaders raised over **\$49,473.50** in support of Brazos County 4-H members
- School Curriculum Enrichment and Outreach in ag awareness
 - **Pizza Ranch**—10 agricultural businesses/organizations; contributed **\$8,177** in sponsorships and donations; **591 4th grade students** attended from **9 schools** in Brazos and surrounding counties
- **4-H Member Recruitment**—Hosted Annual Club Fair/Membership Drive; over **380 adults and youth attended**; Brazos County 4-H also hosted a day camp in which **65 participants** attended to learn about agriculture, S.T.E.M., and F.C.H.
- **4-H Projects — Non livestock projects:** Citizenship, Consumer Education, Dog Care/Training, Fashion & Interior Design, Food & Nutrition, Healthy Lifestyles, Horticulture, Leadership, Outdoor Education, Photography, Public Speaking, Robotics, Shooting Sports, and Theater and Performing Arts.
- **Livestock Project Highlights:**
 - **More than 1,000 livestock projects** (steers, heifers, lambs, goats, swine, broilers, turkey, rabbits) validated for shows this year.
 - **360 entries** into fall and spring major livestock shows

Brazos County 4-H has member representation and accolades:

Brazos County 4-H livestock judging and food challenge teams placed first at the State 4-H contest and will compete in national contests.

- 2 District 9 4-H Council Officers
- 1 Texas 4-H Council Member
- 10 Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassadors
- 1 Texas 4-H Shooting Sport Ambassador
- 25 Brazos County Food and Nutrition Ambassadors
- 1 Texas 4-H Photography Ambassador
- 1 Texas 4-H Water Ambassador
- 4 Texas 4-H Healthy Texas Youth Ambassadors
- 5 State qualifying 4-H record books
- 23 Brazos County Fashion and Interior Design Ambassadors

Brazos County 4-H Contest Highlights:

- **County Roundup**— 21 youth entries, 8 volunteers assisted, 19 participants
- **County Photography Contest**— 145 entries, 8 volunteers assisted, 21 participants
- **County Award Interviews**— 58 youth interviewed, 8 volunteers assisted, 9 awards presented
- **District 9 Archery Contest**— 39 entries total
- **District 9 Roundup**— 101 entries total
- **District Livestock judging**— 19 entries
- **District Horse Show**— 17 entries
- **State 4-H Roundup**— 40 entries
- **State Dog Show**— 12 entries
- **State Horse Show**— 31 entries
- **State Shooting Sports Games**— 40 entries

Major Brazos County 4-H Trainings:

- Club Officer/ Club Manager Trainings— 70 youth and adults in attendance
- New 4-H Member Orientation— 59 youth and adults in attendance
- Recordbook Workshop— 22 youth and adults in attendance
- Food & Nutrition Ambassador and Fashion & Interior Design Ambassador training and planning retreats— 45 youth and adults

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Parks & Greenspace Beautification - Brazos Extension serves local municipalities through horticultural consultations on parks, street medians, and other greenspace development. Diagnostic services help city and county greenspace maintenance departments identify and manage threats to trees and other plants.

Brazos County Exposition Complex - Brazos County Extension Committees and Groups utilize the Brazos County Expo Complex for numerous activities that bring in visitors from across the state.

Texas 4-H Horse Show - Over 350 4-H equine youth and their families from across Texas met in Brazos County to compete at the State 4-H Horse Show at the Expo. The Texas State 4-H Horse Show is the pinnacle of the 4-H horse project and offers opportunities to youth including up to 40 classes of competition, educational programs, scholarships, and college preparation opportunities.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Emily Besser
Janice Anderson
Kellie Montoya
Leslie Reyes