

April 2021

Extension Newsletter for County Commissioners Court

Disaster
Assessment
Recovery

2020-2021



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COVID-19 RESPONSE



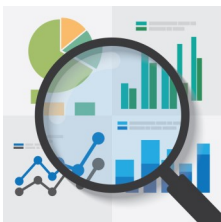
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and
Economic Security (CARES)
Act

- ⇒ 490 county agents trained county judges, commissioners, municipal and school district officials
- ⇒ 2,970 enrollments
- ⇒ More than 600 local-jurisdiction inquiries answered



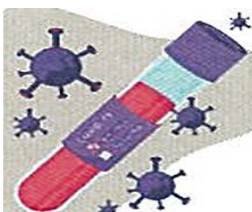
PPE (Personal Protective
Equipment)
(general, child care providers, polling locations)

- ⇒ 7,605 deliveries
- ⇒ 17,708 pallets
- ⇒ 7,646 child care providers reached
- ⇒ 8,079 polling locations to support 56,840 workers



Contact Tracing/Data Entry

- ⇒ 190 employees
- ⇒ Up to 20 hours/week
- ⇒ Contact tracing helps prevent further virus transmission by quickly identifying and informing people who may be infected and contagious so they can take steps not to infect others.



Medical

- ⇒ 1,007 testing sites
- ⇒ 231 counties
- ⇒ 430,803 tests
- ⇒ 230 ventilators
- ⇒ 157 hospitals in 45 counties received remdesivir (A Texas hospital had one vial of remdesivir left when the new supply was delivered.)



Workforce

(or reengaging the economy)

- ⇒ 276,229 enrollments in four online child care trainings that were developed at the request of the Texas Frontline Child Care Task Force
- ⇒ 494 enrollments in the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)



Regional Teams

- ⇒ Extension Agent-Disaster Assessment Recovery Locations
- ⇒ Regional Disaster Assessment Response teams help local communities prepare, respond and recover from COVID-19. These teams also deliver PPE and medical supplies to health care facilities, support mobile test collection and provide education statewide.

Agriculture and Natural Resources:

- In-person *Private Pesticide Applicator* training programs are held quarterly and by special arrangement. Specialized certification supplied on Auxin and Picolinic Herbicides provided on demand.
- Tri-County *Cow-Calf Workshop* was held April 15, 2021. Topics included market updates, sire selection, pasture management, bull testing demonstration, and the environmental impact of cattle industry.
- *Virtual Pond Program* on March 17, 2021. Topics included early season development and management of pond weeds and algae. (16 attendees).
- *Sorghum Symposium* was held online and covered topics such as marketing, weed control, and pest/disease management. (10 attendees).
- The *Blackland Income Growth Conference* was held online on January 5. The Grains Session covered a market update, weed control, and updates for corn and sorghum. (18 attended).
- *D8 Farm and Ranch Seminar*: This all-day District 8-CEU event held on December 10, 2020. Topics included Pesticide Laws and Regulations; Pasture pests; Weeds and Brush management; Vector Management—Ticks and Diseases; Herbicide Updates; Pesticide handling and application. (44 attendees).
- *Master Naturalists*: The *Goodwater Branch* has 143 active members who logged 10,397 volunteer hours in 2020.
- Small Landowners Lunchtime Learnings slated to begin in June to address fencing, brush control, property evaluations, and small scale livestock production.

4-H and Youth Development:

- Youth enrollment 496; Adult Volunteers 102; 16 Clubs;
- Hatching in the Classroom: This curriculum focuses on the study of embryology by observing chicken eggs from the time the egg is laid until it hatches a live chick. Several teachers and parents assisted the program by offering virtual experiences to students as schools were closed due to COVID 19. Participants included: 582 youth, 26 adults and 12 schools.
- The Williamson County Shootings Sports Club continued to meet and practice during the COVID-19 pandemic. There are currently 181 youth and 40 registered adult members.
- 126 students participated in livestock projects. A 4-H member exhibited the Reserve Champion Market Goat at Rodeo Austin and the San Angelo Livestock Show. Students also participated in livestock judging and skill-a-thon contests.
- 4-H started a new program aimed at encouraging families to spend time outdoors. It offers canoeing, fishing, camping, and hiking. We will showcase these new skills at Berry Springs Park on May 22-23.

Williamson County Youth Fair: 625 youth fair entries.

Williamson County Livestock Show: 116 Exhibitors with 379 entries.

4-H Youth Leadership & Personal Development:

- 67 County Council Members
- 4 Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassadors
- 3 Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors
- 3 Texas 4-H Healthy Youth Ambassadors
- 2 Texas Fashion & Interior Design Ambassadors

Family & Consumer Sciences:

- *Better Living for Texans (BLT)*: As of March 2021 there were 11,070 SNAP recipients and 26,331 SNAP-eligible residents in Williamson County. The BLT Program provides free nutrition education classes for adult and youth SNAP-eligible audiences. Educational events held in late 2020 and early 2021 resulted in over 100 youth and adult participants.
- *Walk N Talk* was delivered virtually to 25 students in the Boys and Girls Club in Taylor.
- *A Fresh Start to a Healthier You* is an on-going virtually series with Opportunities for Burnet and Williamson County parents.
- 19 City of Round Rock employees participated in *Step Up and Scale Down*.
- *Virtual Mental Health Conference* for professionals and community members. (166 attended). *Stress Less with Mindfulness* was delivered virtually to 23 participants.
- *Childcare Conference*: Worked with a task force of local stakeholders to implement a virtual conference for early childcare educators. (184 educators attended)
- Two *Food Handler's*, *Cottage Food* and *Canning workshops* were offered. (35 attended)
- Four new *Master Wellness Volunteers* were trained with 34 other active volunteers. TEEA awarded one \$1,500 scholarship to a 4-H member.

Horticulture:

- Two *Pecan Field Days* were held in September 2020 and April 2021 for local pecan producers. (44 attended)
- *Let's Talk Turf* is a four-part series about home lawn care in April 2021. (22 attending)
- *Seed to Savor: Microgreens* is a three-part series with FCHS Agent and includes a kit for participants to grow their own microgreens and learn how to incorporate them in a healthy diet. (11 participants)
- *Freeze Damage and Recovery Webinar* was held on March 2, 2021. (388 attended)
- Senior University is a six-week lawn and garden program for senior adults in Georgetown. (35 participated)
- The *Horticulture Session of the BIG Conference* was held virtually on January 5. (22 attended)
- *Green Thumbs Up* went virtual! Monthly gardening videos are posted on YouTube and shared with local partners (200+ views)
- *Master Gardener Monthly Meetings*. (600 attended)
- The Williamson County Horticulture newsletter is emailed monthly to 1,290+ subscribers. Williamson County Sun Newspaper publishes a bi-weekly news column with more than 7,000 subscribers.

Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to update you on the Extension educational programming in Williamson County and the efforts being made by your county Extension agents Gary, Andrea, Paige, Kate, Leanne and Shelley. They continue to provide programming which is in tune with our mission to provide quality, relevant outreach and continuing educational programs and services to the people of Texas. If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 254-968-4144 ext.204 or e-mail at donald.kelm@ag.tamu.edu.



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