

# Williamson County AgriLife Extension



## Upcoming Programs

Extending Knowledge | Providing Solutions



### Top issues in Williamson County and relevant programs planned

These issues were identified through the Texas Community Futures Forum in Williamson County as top issues to be addressed by AgriLife Extension education programs:

#### Agriculture

- Issue - Urban encroachment into rural communities, strain on resources
- Program - *New Pesticide Application Technology*: Precision application of Agricultural Pesticides using the latest Drones Technology. Addresses spray drift concerns whilst maintaining sprayer accuracy and improved efficacy using low water volumes.

#### Health

- Issue - Weight management and physical activity
- Programs - *Step up and Scale Down*: a 12-week weight management class, *Walk Across Texas*: an 8-week team-based physical activity program
- BLT Issue - Healthy cooking and grocery shopping on a budget
- BLT Program: - *Fresh Start to a Healthier You*: focusing on healthy food, physical activity, and food resource management skills. Better Living for Texans programs are provided to SNAP-eligible clientele.

#### Natural Resources

- Issue - Water quality and conservation
- Program - *Balconies to Backyards*: water conservation techniques such as native plants, rain gardens, and rainwater collection systems

#### Youth

- Issue - Agricultural Literacy, understanding where your food comes from
- Program - *Ag in the Classroom*: hands-on demonstrations about agriculture and how food gets from the farm to your table, *Hatching in the Classroom*: live experience of the life cycle of a chick as they are incubated and hatched

#### Horticulture

- Issue - Water conservation and availability
- Program - *Green Thumbs Up* and *Master Gardener Monthly Meetings*: program topics on water harvesting and Earth-Kind landscaping

### About the Texas Community Futures Forum

To ensure the relevance of our educational programs to our communities, every 3 years each county hosts a forum to invite feedback from the public to identify important issues. Attendees brainstorm a variety of issues that affect the community in our program areas: agriculture, health, natural resources, youth, and horticulture. These issues are then ranked in order of importance, and used by County Extension Agents to tailor our programs to meet these needs.

### Williamson County AgriLife Extension Agents

Brittany Allen  
CEA 4-H & Youth Development

Shelley Franklin  
CEA Natural Resources

Gary Pastushok  
CEA Agriculture

Jennifer Powell  
Extension Agent, Better Living for Texans

Katie Sindac  
CEA Family & Community Health

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# Williamson County AgriLife Extension



## Award Winning Programs

Making an impact, where it counts.



*Williamson County Extension Agents received awards and recognition for the following in the 2023-2024 year*

### National Awards

Katie Sindac - 2nd place in the Southern Region of the National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences for Communications: Newsletter, for the "Rooted in Wellness" monthly newsletter

### State Awards

Brittany Allen

- 1st place, Texas Association of 4-H Youth Development Professionals, Communicator Award: Promotional Package
- 1st place, Texas Association of 4-H Youth Development Professionals, Team Specialty Award: Excellence in Shooting Sports Programming

Shelley Franklin

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Superior Service Award
- Texas Association of 4-H Youth Development Professionals, Achievement in Service Award
- 1st place, Texas Association of 4-H Youth Development Professionals, Team Specialty Award: Excellence in Shooting Sports Programming

Gary Pastushok

- Special Achievement Award for Extension Faculty, Department of Soil and Crop Sciences

Katie Sindac

- 2nd place, National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences, Communications: Newsletter, "Rooted in Wellness" Monthly Newsletter
- 2nd place, National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences, Family Health and Wellness Award, "All You Knead to Know: A Bread Making Workshop"
- 4th place, National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences, Innovative Programming Award, "All You Knead to Know: A Bread Making Workshop"

### District Awards

Brittany Allen

- Largest 4-H Enrollment in District 8
- Over 100% 4-H Enrollment

Shelley Franklin

- Excellence in Natural Resources programming

Gary Pastushok

- Innovative Programming Award, "All You Knead to Know: A Bread Making Workshop"
- Outstanding Crop Reporting for the National Agricultural Statistics Survey

Katie Sindac

- Innovative Programming Award, "All You Knead to Know: A Bread Making Workshop"

