

# 2025 Annual Report



Williamson County

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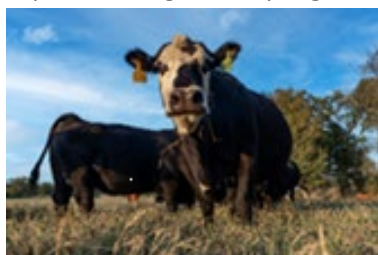


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## AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

AgriLife Extension educates agricultural producers to adopt best management practices based on the latest scientific research. These efforts help increase production, enhance sustainability, and conserve natural resources. By educating the public about agriculture and food production, AgriLife Extension builds partnerships with Texans to improve food safety and security, reduce food insecurity, and promote better nutrition statewide. Safeguarding natural resources and maintaining a clean, healthy environment remain top priorities. AgriLife Extension promotes sustainable production practices and technologies, conducts conservation programs that reduce drought impacts, improve and preserve water quality, minimize wildfire risks, and maximize water supplies through efficient irrigation and conservation. The program also supports the safe and reduced use of pesticides through pesticide-use training and integrated pest management programs.



## Program Accomplishments

### Beef Cattle & Ranching

- 33,374 total contacts with livestock producers
- 105 educational programs conducted across 21 counties
- Wildlife education remains a significant Extension effort
- Wild pigs continue to be a major pest in District 8
- District response included 101 events reaching 13,697 contacts

### District 8

#### Top Ranked Commodities by Economic Impact of Agricultural Production and Related items, 2024

Commodity	Estimated Value* (\$1000's)	Percent of District Value	Economic Impact ** (\$1000's)
Other Beef	\$1,075,341.44	40.02%	\$2,171,530.52
Milk	\$457,502.04	17.03%	\$824,916.44
Feed Corn	\$247,132.21	9.20%	\$469,499.80
Hay	\$163,577.68	4.00%	\$226,606.94
Broilers	\$107,408.50	6.09%	\$205,134.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,050,961.87</b>	<b>76.33%</b>	<b>\$3,897,688.47</b>

## HORTICULTURE AND PUBLIC / AG INTERFACE

Horticulture services remain in strong demand among District 8 clientele. Extension maintains a robust response through multiple efforts, including 15 Master Gardener chapters with 700+ members who contributed 50,000+ volunteer hours to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Total horticulture contacts in 2025 reached 23,577. Agricultural literacy was identified as a major priority. Extension provided outreach in partnership with various commodity and health-related groups, delivering unbiased, research-based information highlighting the vital role agriculture plays in daily life. These efforts reached 48,000 youth and adults. Although District 8 does not include major metropolitan areas, the region continues to see an influx of new residents seeking a rural lifestyle. Extension addressed this need through 62 New Landowner Series events, reaching 1,149 contacts. District 8 continues to demonstrate strong agricultural impact in Texas. Beef cattle production leads the way, with other commodities contributing to an estimated \$21 million annual economic impact.



### Crops, Forages, Water & Applicator Training

- 532 field-crop educational programs conducted
- 21,235 total participants reached
- Water quality and conservation remain major issues
- 21 counties conducted home, landscape, and production agriculture events involving more than 1,173 individuals
- 10,638 licensed applicators maintained certification, representing an estimated \$93,987,728 wage base

## Agriculture and Natural Resources:

**Master Naturalists:** The Good Water Chapter has **239 active members** who logged **18,917** hours of service to Williamson County! Top three projects are: Adopt A Loop, Youth Education and Texas Nature Trackers. 3rd Annual Balconies to Backyards program reached 178 individuals, focused on native plants and private landowner conservation practices. **Cow-Calf Clinic** in January is the largest livestock trade show and educational session within the Tri-County Region. Topics: Economics, Laws and Regulations, and Pasture Weed Control (102 attendees). **The Winter Grains, Carinata and Forages Field Day** at Stiles Farm in March on new wheat and oat varieties, winter Carinata, winter forages, (5 attendees). **Pesticide Application Technology Program Stiles Farm Field Day** (Thrall). Demonstrations of the sprayer technology (Vortex AG Drones, and the John Deere See-N-Spray Sprayer) were displayed and demonstrated at Stiles Farm. (50 attendees). **TDA Laws and Regulations CEU Training Program (October)**. Thrall. TDA/Agent Sponsored CEU Activity for Commercial Pesticide Applicators (38 attendees). **Annual D8 Blackland Income Growth Conference** held in January, 3 CEU Training Session including Chemical Industry Update, Mandatory Auxin Herbicide Training, Crop Economics Update (27 attendees). **D8 Farm and Ranch Seminar** (December) Taylor Expo Center. Annual **8 CEU Pesticide Program** included Laws and Regulations; Stock-pond Health; Tree Health; Pasture pests; Feral Hog Management. (50 attended).

## Family & Consumer Sciences:

**Better you days the Mediterranean Way (Jan)**- educates participants about an eating and lifestyle approach that can reduce the risk of diet-related chronic diseases. One workshop in Georgetown (7 attendees). **Food Preservation Program** - One pressure canning workshop in Georgetown (6 attendees). **Food Handlers Certification (March)** - program accredited by the Texas Department of State Health Services. One workshop at Thrall High School (15 attendees). **All You Knead to Know (March)**. This hands-on workshop will teach participants about the science behind wheat and the basics of bread making, including quick, yeast, and sourdough breads. One workshop in Georgetown (25 attendees). **Homesteading Workshop (March)**. This was a workshop (50 attendees) was provided at the extension office and focused teaching attendees basics on growing their own food, beekeeping, small scale livestock and food preservation. **Step Up Scale Down (March)**. The 12-week program focuses on setting goals, balanced nutrition and diet, physical activity, and sustainable long-term healthy lifestyles. Offered to City of Georgetown employees (21 participants). **TEEA Craft Day (Oct)** The Williamson County Chapter of the Texas Extension Education Association offered a craft workshop with demonstrations and hands-on activities that challenged dexterity. The event also aimed to improve mental health by gathering individuals together for fun and conversation (35 attendees). **Walk Through Texas History (Nov)** 4-week virtual walking series was offered to American YouthWorks in Taylor (9 participants). **Food Handlers Certification (Dec)** This program is accredited by the Texas Department of State Health Services. One workshop delivered to American YouthWorks (6 attendees).

## Better Living For Texans:

**A Fresh Start to a Healthier You (Feb-Mar)** A 4-lesson series on increased fruit and vegetable intake, nutritious meals and snacks, food safety, food resource management, and daily physical activity. Delivered 3 series to Whitestone Apartments in Cedar Park, Hayley's Grains & American YouthWorks, both in Taylor (24 participants). **Healthy Carbohydrates (Oct)** 5-lesson series on a healthy eating patterns to prevent or delay diet-related chronic diseases. Delivered to Whitestone Apartments in Cedar Park (5 adults, 2 youth). **Be Well. Live Well (Jan)** A 5-lesson series that encourages healthy aging for adults over 50 by addressing ways to remain independent through dietary choices and physical activity. Delivered to Trinity Place Apartments (8 participants). **Get a Taste for Reducing Food Waste (Feb-Apr)** 4-lesson series on reducing food waste via meal planning, proper food storage, and composting. Delivered 2 series to Neighbors Serving Neighbors in Bartlett and AmeriCorps Volunteer Grandparents (38 participants). **Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities (Oct-Dec)** Six-session series engaging participants as they learn how to garden and grow fruits and vegetables, delivered to Trinity Place Apartments (10 participants). Partnered with Master Gardeners and Volunteer Coordinator to provide lessons. **Learn, Grow, Eat, and Go (Oct '24-May 25)** Ten-week multi-session series for elementary-aged youth. Includes gardening and other activities reinforcing healthy lifestyle choices, increasing fruit and vegetable intake, and daily physical activity. Delivered to Xenia Voigt Elementary School (60 youth). **Walk N Talk Series (Mar-July)**. 8-part series providing nutritional information on fruits and vegetables as well as physical activities to participants. Delivered 4 series to Whitestone Apartments in Cedar Park, American YouthWorks in Taylor, Neighbors Serving Neighbors in Bartlett, and Juvenile Detention Center in Georgetown (57 participants).

## 4-H and Youth Development:

4-H Youth Enrollment – 748; Adult volunteers – 122; 13 Clubs  
Our top 4-H youth programs include: **Public Speaking, Leadership, and Citizenship** – 333 youth; **Shooting Sports** – 270 youth; **Livestock** - 260 youth; **Food and Nutrition** – 96 youth; and **Photography** – 87 youth. 395 youth competed in 4-H Contests at the county, district, and state level. **4-H Youth Leadership and Personal Development:** 7 County Council Officers, and 39 County Council members, 5 Texas 4-H Water Ambassadors, 7 Texas 4-H Healthy Youth Ambassadors, 4 Texas 4-H Photography Ambassadors, 4 Texas 4-H STEM Ambassadors. **Curriculum enrichment** is a large part of the youth development program, providing lessons on horticulture, STEM, water conservation, healthy living, and agriculture. Throughout the year we reached 2,268 youth in public schools, private schools, homeschools, and after school organizations. **Williamson County Livestock Show and Williamson County Youth Fair** are held annually in December, and provide opportunities for youth to show livestock projects as well as crafted items and art. Livestock Show highlights include 106 exhibitors with 387 entries, and 8 Champions and 12 Reserve Champions. Youth Fair highlights include 118 youth with 432 entries, 15 Best in Show, 26 Grand Champion, and 30 Reserve Champions. At the **Texas Major Shows**, Williamson County was represented by 106 youth with 401 entries in livestock projects, judging contests, and agriculture mechanics projects. We had 26 youth make the auction at the major shows. Williamson County 4-H Seniors received over \$50,000 in scholarships, including 2 recipients of Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarships for \$20,000 and \$10,000.

## Horticulture:

Green Thumbs Up: monthly Master Gardeners Programming provides educational events about lawn and garden topics, while partnering with the facilities and advertising at the Public Libraries in Round Rock, Jarrell, Cedar Park, and Hutto. Master Gardeners taught over 35 programs. (433 participants).  
Hands on in the Garden: A monthly program to teach hands-on lawn and garden topics held weekends at the Master Gardener demonstration garden. Taught by Master Gardeners covering seasonal topics 8 times through the year. (404 participants).  
The Master Gardener Monthly Meeting is a monthly program taught by area experts and Extension Specialists and is available to the public both in-person in Georgetown and virtually. (790 participants).  
Junior Master Gardener Program: Master Gardeners and Teaching MGs taught youth through JMG, LGEG clubs, booths at science and STEM fairs, various festivals (559 youth participants). **Master Gardener Speaker's Bureau** representatives educated at 36 civic and community organization meetings. (966 participants). **Master Gardener Help Desk** provided answers to drop-in clients, emails and telephone queries. A total of 514 documented queries were answered by our trained volunteer staff to the public.

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 Shelley Franklin, Brittany Allen, Gary Pastushok and Jennifer Powell. They continue to provide programming which is in tune with our mission which is 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 or e-mail at Jay.Kingston@ag.tamu.edu



Jay Kingston