

Nick

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



## 4-H & Youth Development in Brown County

# Making a Difference

Improving Lives.  
Improving Texas.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service has been dedicated to educating Texans for nearly a century. In 1915, the agency was established under the federal Smith-Lever Act to deliver university knowledge and agricultural research findings directly to the people. Ever since, AgriLife Extension programs have addressed the emerging issues

of the day, serving diverse populations across the state.

Through a well-organized network of professional educators and some 100,000 trained volunteers, Extension delivers practical research-based knowledge to Texans in all 254 counties. Our expertise and educational outreach pertain to the food and fiber industry, natural resources, family and consumer sciences, nutrition and health, and community economic development. Among those served are the hundreds of thousands of young people who benefit annually from Extension's 4-H and youth development programs.

Texans turn to Extension for solutions. Its agents and specialists respond not only with answers, but also with resources and services that result in significant returns on investment to boost the Texas economy. The agency custom-designs its programs to each region of the state, relying on residents for input and for help with program delivery. Here are just a few highlights of Extension's impacts on this county and its people:

December 8, 2014 (Exhibit #8)

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

**Programs**

- **Egg to Chick Hatching in the Classroom** - Agriculture program that educates youth on the development stages of chickens by allowing classrooms to incubate their own eggs. The Goal is to increase knowledge of elementary students and teachers; therefore they will show increased awareness about an agriculture product.
  - Bangs ISD, Early ISD, Brownwood ISD, Brookesmith ISD, Blanket ISD, May ISD, Victory Life  
Grades range from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Number of students participated: 540
  
- **Livestock Judging** - Program designed to educate 4-Hers on the importance of selecting quality livestock and being able to defend their decision.
  - Brown County 4-Hers
  - 8 to 17 years of age
  - Number of 4-H participants: 10
  
- **District 7 Hunters Safety Camp** - Three day District 7 Hunters Safety Camp. This taught 4-Hers about proper hunting etiquette, gun safety, hunting regulation, and they receive their hunter's safety certificate.
  - District 7 4-Hers
  - 12 to 17 years of age
  - Number of 4-H participants: 34
  - Number of volunteers: 20
  
- **Livestock Shows** – The junior livestock program is a unique opportunity to use live animals to develop the youth. The main objectives of the program deal with the young person, not the animal. Youth do learn something about agriculture and livestock production and develop an appreciation for the livestock industry, but the main objectives are to teach life skills and help youth become productive citizens of our society. The experience of youth owning and working with animals, being responsible for their care, health, and growth, and exhibiting them in a competitive environment is a tremendous character building process.
  - Brown County Youth Fair: 131 youth
  - National Western Stock Show: 2 youth
  - Fort Worth: 27 youth
  - San Antonio: 15 youth
  - San Angelo: 21 youth
  - Houston: 16 youth
  - Austin: 11 youth
  - State Fair: 2 youth
  - West TX Fair: 9 youth

## 4-H and Youth Development

- **Livestock Mentor** - The purpose of the Texas 4-H Livestock Mentor Program is to provide training for 4-H livestock project leaders, equipping them with a valuable set of resources and tools from which to build and support families enrolled in a meat goat project.
  - Mentor Training: 2 participants
  - Goat Showmanship Clinic: 26 participants
  - Brown County 4-H Practice Show
  
- **4-H Food & Nutrition Quiz Bowl, 4-H Food Challenge, 4-H Food Show** - Participants understanding of the following will have increased: understanding of MyPlate, knowledge of food nutrients and their functions, the importance of food safety, understanding of kitchen safety, knowledge of the purpose of different cooking methods, understanding of how to plan and prepare a recipe, knowledge level of how to alter a recipe according to dietary needs.
  - Brown County 4-Hers
  - 9 to 17 years of age
  - **Food Challenge:** 21 participants
  - **Food Show:** 5 participants
  
- **4-H Fashion Show** – The Fashion Show is an annual event that provides 4-H members the opportunity to demonstrate a variety of skills related to clothing, textiles, consumer buying, public speaking, and others. Participants can choose between constructing their own garments or purchasing them, while expressing their knowledge about fabrics, construction, care, and fashion.
  - Brown County 4-Hers
  - 8 to 17 years of age
  - Number of 4-H participants: 6
  
- **Brown County 4-H Photography Workshop** - The photography project encourages self-expression and teaches proper use of photographic equipment and developing processes. Photography provides opportunities for career exploration and promoting 4-H.
  - Brown County 4-Hers
  - 8 to 17 years of age
  - Number of 4-H participants: 8
  
- **Consumer Decision Making** - Program is designed to teach 4-Hers to observe, compare and make consumer based decisions based on facts. 4-Hers will use their consumer knowledge to rank similarly based products to fit a given scenario. 4-Hers learn to organize their thoughts and to defend their decisions.
  - Brown County 4-Hers
  - 9 to 17 years of age
  - Number of 4-H participants: 8

## 4-H and Youth Development

- **Horse Quiz Bowl** - Horse Quiz Bowl is an exciting, fast paced opportunity for youth to display their knowledge of the equine industry and the science surrounding equine. The bowl is played as a double elimination tournament with teams of three to four players going head to head for top honors.
  - Brown County 4-Hers
  - 8 to 17 years of age
  - Number of 4-H participants: 10
- **Central Texas 4-H Club** – This is a new 4-H club in Brown County which will provide leadership, life skills, and mentoring to youth in the Ron Jackson SJCC (state school). Partnering with Barbara Arteaga, community relations coordinator, and Edda Ratliff, volunteer, we decided that a 4-H club would benefit the youth at the facilities. We will first incorporate various programs that will educate them on basic life skills: food challenge, educational presentations, leaders 4 life, photography, duds to dazzle, share-the-fun, and the junior master gardeners program.
- 4-H Volunteers in Brown County total 67 with adult volunteers at 41 and youth volunteers at 26.
- Program volunteers include Hatching in the Classroom (32), Kids & Kows & More (22), and totaling 54 volunteers.
- Volunteers are recruited through 4-H clubs and various activities put on by Brown County 4-H. Training is conducted by Extension Agent/Agents and other volunteers that have experience in a specific area.
- The estimated dollar value of volunteer time is \$22.14 per hour. For the 2014 year Brown County 4-H volunteers donated over **6,500** hours of their time. This comes out to **\$143,910** donation to the program.



## Texas 4-H Roundup

4-Hers participated in Texas 4-H Roundup (June 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>), held annually on the campus of Texas A&M University. Roundup is the highlight of the 4-H year for many members. It is basically the state championship for 4-H contest, with the chance to participate at the national level. It includes approximately 50 different contests and workshops that test 4-H members from across Texas on decision making, public speaking, organization, and working with others. These contests include such things as Food Show, quiz bowls, an assortment of judging contests, talent show and educational presentations to name a few.

All the teams and individuals from Brown County did exceptionally well in their competition, which had at least 35 teams participating in each contest. The county agents are very proud of all 4-Hers who participated and it was a pleasure to work with everyone. Each team/individual put in months of hard work, dedication, and practice; therefore it showed during Roundup.

Results are below:

- \$18,000 Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Scholarship Recipients
  - Laurel Edmondson
  - Sierra Goforth
  - Kyle Locke
  
- 7<sup>th</sup> - Horse Quiz Bowl
  - Shyan Seamans, Taylor Stephens, Sierra Gordon, Jessie Harris
  
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Nutrition Quiz Bowl
  - Sierra Goforth, Teadora Goforth, Heidi Goforth
  
- 1<sup>st</sup> - Food Challenge (Qualified for National Contest)
  - Sierra Goforth, Teadora Goforth, Heidi Goforth, Sierra Gordon, Shannon Dennis
  
- Share the Fun (Talent Show)
  - Kyle Locke – was 1 of 5 4-H members in the state to qualify for 4-H Has Talent
  - Laurel Edmondson
  
- Invitational Livestock Judging
  - 11<sup>th</sup> - Sr. Team: Colby Breeding, Hunter Mares, Kenzie Tidwell
  - 6<sup>th</sup> - Intermediate Team: Madellyne Adams, Lauryn Carroll, Luke Carroll, Cody Goforth
  - Madellyne Adams: 7<sup>th</sup> in Beef, 5<sup>th</sup> in Swine, 4<sup>th</sup> High Individual Overall
  
- Public Speaking
  - Sierra Gordon
  
- Food Show
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - Cheyenne Gordon

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# Making a Difference

## 2014 Kids & Kows & More in Brown County

### Relevance:

As today's youth are further removed from farming, many do not understand the importance of agriculture and how it impacts their daily lives. Blackburn (1999) documented that youth have the idea that food they consume comes from the store and do not understand where the product originated. This is a very common problem with youth today because most families reside in urban and suburban cities and communities.

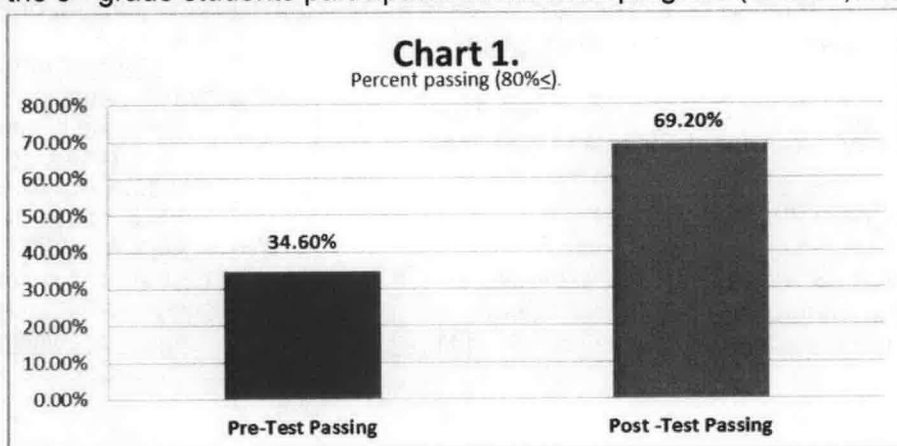
Many misconceptions existing about farms, plants, animals, and other aspects of agriculture can be amended when youth are taught about agriculture (Swan and Donaldson, 1970). Teachers today find it difficult to introduce agriculture in their curriculum because of assessment of academic skills test that students are required to take (Blackburn, 1999). Therefore, a science of agriculture program, Kids & Kows & More, was introduced to 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade elementary students in Brown County to provide educational components that increase knowledge of agriculture products such as dairy, cotton, vegetables, and beef.

### Response:

Science of agriculture programs have been successful vehicles to educate youth on the importance of agriculture. Boleman and Burrell (2003) concluded that agriculture education programs have had a positive effect on youth knowledge. After discussing the issue with Brown County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Leadership Advisory Board and 4-H Youth Board the Extension staff implemented Kids & Kows & More (KKM) program to assist with educating youth. KKM lets youth experience the world of agriculture up close. The events are designed to give youth knowledge of all types of agriculture in Brown County. The success of the program will be measured through student pre- and post-test, teacher evaluations, and testimonials found in student thank you notes to presenters and donors.

### Results:

A total of 367 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade students participated in the one day KKM program. Of all the students 364 submitted a valid pretest and 358 submitted a valid post-test. When comparing passing grades (80%≤) between the pretest (34.6% youth passing) and post-test (69.2% youth passing) results, there was a significant increase in passing grades (96.8%) after the 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade students participated in the KKM program (Chart 1). Furthermore, the



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students revealed an increase in knowledge for the multiple-choice questions when comparing the number of youth that answered the question correct for the pre and post-test (Table 1).

**Table 1.**

Percent Changes of Correct Answers for Participants Based Pre-Test (n=364) and Post-Test (n=358) Responses

Statement With Answers*	Rate of Correct Responses		
	Pre-Test	Post-Test	Percent Change
Shoes, food, baseballs, and many other things come from <b>Beef Cattle</b> .	112	233	108.00%
In order for us to grow properly and build strong bones and teeth we need 3 to 4 servings of <b>Dairy Products</b> every day.	175	283	61.70%
Milk is produced in what part of the cow's body? <b>Udder</b>	232	303	30.60%
Milk is pasteurized for <b>Safety</b> .	128	140	9.38%
Vegetables are produced from the <b>Ground</b> .	299	305	2.00%
To build strong muscles you need <b>Protein</b> from beef.	308	310	0.64%

\*The pre-test was administered 10 days before Kids & Kows & More program.

In conclusion, the agriculture topics that were taught showed an increase in knowledge gained by the Brown County 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade students; however, the increase was not as significant from past programs. This can be contributed to teachers implementing the curriculum into their classes. Another important factor to document is that youth whom participated in past programs are educating their family (younger siblings) about agriculture. Further data must be obtained to examine the validity of this factor.

**Recommendation:**

Because of the importance of educating youth about agriculture and knowledge gained from Kids & Kows & More, the program should be implemented in the coming year and expanded to cover different subject matters. Additionally, a survey needs to be implemented to examine if youth are educating their household after they participate in the program.

**Acknowledgments:**

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