

Making a Difference

Brown County Family & Consumer Sciences

2015 Program Highlights

Child Care Provider's Conference:

On August 1, 2015, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Brown County conducted a child care provider training conference in Brownwood for **59** child care providers and directors who provide care for 775 children enrolled in 21 child care centers or family day homes. Fifty-nine participants completed a written evaluation of the conference. A total of **354** clock hours of training were provided to child care professionals seeking to meet state mandated training requirements established by the state of Texas.

This was a collaborative effort with the Brown County Family & Consumer Sciences Committee, Family Services Center and the Family & Consumer Sciences programs in Coleman, McCulloch and San Saba Counties. Other collaborators/partners that made this event possible were Texas Department of Family Protective Services, Baylor Scott & White Memorial Hospital, Child Protective Services, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension FDRM Department, Heartland Special Education Cooperative, Education Service Center Region 15, Texas 4-H Conference Center and Brownwood Regional Medical Center.

According to evaluation results, child care providers found the training to be very beneficial. **100%** percent of participants acquired new information from the conference, considered the training to be very relevant to the work they do, plan to utilize the information gained at the conference to improve their programs, and consider themselves better equipped to work with the children in their care. Moreover, **83%** of providers rated the training "Better" or "Much Better" compared to other trainings they have attended that were not conducted by Extension.

Food Protection Management:

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 1 in 6 individuals will become ill from a food borne illness each year. Populations most vulnerable to food borne disease include pregnant women, the elderly, the very young, people with a compromised immune system, and those with chronic disease. More than half of all food borne illnesses is attributed to improper food handling in restaurants. Since nearly half of all food dollars are spent on food prepared outside the home, food safety is a top concern among consumers.

In 2015, the Brown County Family & Consumer Sciences Committee and County Extension Agent collaborated with news media outlets, City of Brownwood Health Department, local restaurants and other food service establishments to implement two 2-day Food Protection Management courses to provide individuals the opportunity to receive their Certified Food Manager credentials. A total of **13** individuals took the course with **9** passing the ServSafe exam. **100%** of the participants indicated that they were mostly or completely satisfied with the course and the instructors. In addition, **100%** of the participants state they would very likely be able to practice the knowledge and skills learned in the course at their current job.

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

December 7, 2015
(Exhibit #5)

General FCS Programming Efforts

FCS agent serves as Wellness Coordinator for Brown County and coordinates all Healthy County activities as part of the Texas Association of Counties. In 2015, Brown County had **13** county employees complete a Health Risk Assessment and **3** county employees completed the 10 week Sonic Boom Fitness Challenge. For these activities, the Texas Association of Counties awards either \$30 or \$35 to both the participant and the county. This resulted in a \$400 donation to Brown County to be used for health & nutrition education efforts.

Weekly Family & Consumer Sciences news articles are written and published in Brownwood Bulletin newspaper and on Brownwood News Online. In addition, general health and nutrition programs have been conducted for Early ISD ACE, Head Start, Howard Payne University Faculty & Staff, Texas Department of Transportation and Brown County Farmer's Market.

Texas Extension Education Association

Brown County has **3** very active Extension Education Clubs with **46** total members. Club meetings are held twice a month and County Association meeting is conducted once a month. I am responsible for coordinating association meetings as well as writing and distributing a monthly EE newsletter. I presented club programs in May and October 2015. Programs were "God Bless Texas" and "Fabulous Fall".

The annual EE Spud Sale was a huge success and made over \$2000 for 4-H Scholarships. Scholarships totaling \$1200 were awarded to three graduating 4-H members.

New members were recruited in all 3 EE clubs and marketing efforts included articles in the Brownwood Bulletin newspaper, radio advertisements and promotional flyers at the Hobby and Craft Fair and Teach and Learn event.

According to the Brown County Annual Report for 2014-2015, Brown County TEEA members volunteered a total of 6,388 hours. The value of time is calculated at \$22.55 per hour. Therefore, Brown County TEEA members donated a total value of \$144,049.40 in 2014-2015. Total value donated to include volunteer hours, dollars, mileage, materials etc. for 2014-2015 was \$158,485.24.

Better Living for Texans

The Better Living for Texans program is designed to educate limited resource families on Food Resource Management, Basic Nutrition and Food Safety. This federally funded program is a cooperative endeavor among Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas Health and Human Services Commission and the Food and Nutrition Services of USDA. This funding is based on county statistics which show that 14.19% of the Brown County population receives SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). This is 2,586 households. This funding has provided for many resource materials, curricula, and a part time program assistant position in Brown County. Brown County currently operates on the Silver level with a program assistant, which requires a minimum of 624 hours per year targeted toward the BLT program.

During the 2015 Fiscal year, over **125** BLT programs and/or marketing events were conducted with various audiences to include Christian Women's Job Corps, Family Services Center Parenting Groups, The Ark Domestic Abuse Shelter, Early ISD ACE After School program, Carrousel Day Care, Step by Step Day Care, Brownwood Apartments, Brownwood Retirement Village, Brownwood Regional Medical Center Senior Circle Group, May Senior Citizen Center, 4-H Foods & Nutrition Project Participants, Center for Life Resources, CARE Nursing & Rehabilitation, Howard Payne University students and Head Start Parents. Approximately **1,000** youth and adults have benefitted from these programs. A total of **74** adults completed a 3 part series and graduated from the Brown County Better Living for Texans program in 2015.

EXTENDING KNOWLEDGE
Providing Solutions