

# Extension At A Glance - Lubbock County

Texas AgriLife Extension Service-Lubbock County • (806) 775-1680 • Fax (806) 775-1658 • <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu>  
 Physical Address: 916 Main, Suite 201 • Lubbock, TX 79401 • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 10536 • Lubbock TX 79408

Agriculture & Natural Resources / Community Development / Family and Consumer Sciences / 4-H and Youth Development

## MISSION

**Improving the lives of people, businesses, and communities across Texas and beyond through high-quality, relevant education.**

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Articles are categorized according to critical issues identified in Lubbock County's Texas Community Futures Forum on May 10, 2007.

### *Urban and Agricultural Water Conservation and Quality*

**Integrated Pest Management Field Scouting Program**  
 Brant Baugh, Extension Agent – Integrated Pest Management

#### Relevance

Lubbock County producers plant on average 260,000 acres of cotton per year. Each year the costs associated with producing this cotton increases. Seed, fertilizer, electricity and fuel have increased as much as 20 percent in the last five years and irrigation costs have increased 27 percent during this same time period. Cotton producers are looking for best management practices to decrease input costs while still maintaining lint quality and yield and overall net profit.



This editions featured photograph was taken by Caleb Dansby, Eagle 4-H Club member. He is the 10 year son of John and Michelle Dansby of Lubbock.

#### Response

The Lubbock County Integrated Pest Management Program is an educational program designed to teach producers integrated pest management techniques to control weeds, diseases and insects, and to teach agronomic management practices such as varietal selection, irrigation and fertility management. In 2008, I

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in Extension sponsored meetings are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at 775-1680 to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

*Educational program of the Texas 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*

enrolled 22 producers for a total 3,400 acres. Each time the fields are monitored, the producer will receive a field scouting report form that tells them crop phenology, pest pressure and irrigation needs. In addition, the producer receives a consultation with me each time his field is monitored. The Lubbock County Integrated Pest Management Field Scouting Program operates in cooperation with the Texas Pest Management Association (TPMA), whose membership is made up of producer and commodity organizations across Texas. Each member organization solicits funds from participating producers to pay salaries and travel expenses of field scouts and technicians who are hired, trained and supervised by the Extension Agent-IPM.

Key components that compliment the field scouting program are the, the applied research projects, the educational events sponsored by or in collaboration with the IPM program, radio programs and the Hub of the Plains Pest Management Newsletter. The IMP newsletter is written weekly during the growing season with an average of 147 non extension clientele on the mailing and or electronic list. The newsletter contains information on current crop conditions, pest identification, monitoring and control, irrigation scheduling and other pertinent agronomic information. A local steering committee consisting of producers enrolled in the program provide guidance and direction.

2007 Educational activities included

- Seven applied research projects which investigated cotton aphid, cotton fleahopper and lygus bug control, cotton bollworm and beet armyworm control, and control of sorghum whorl worms.
- Twice per week field scouting that generated 846 field visits to date and the corresponding field scouting reports that generated the individual pest management plans.
- Group meetings and newsletters were used to further distribute the educational information generated from this program to area producers.

**Results**

The results of this program will be evaluated after the harvest season.



**Texas SmartScape Flower Beds At South Plains Fair**



The need for water conservation continues to be a priority for the City of Lubbock. For the second year, the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce Water Conservation Council demonstrated “SmartScape” flower beds at the Panhandle South Plains Fair. These flowerbeds were viewed by fair-goers all week long. These low-maintenance beds provided a real “show” of fall color, and handouts were available regarding the Texas SmartScape website. “SmartScape” utilizes xeriscape principles, but goes beyond the basics by providing design, care, and plant search tools that are “smart” for West Texas. For more details, visit:

[www.txsmartscape.com](http://www.txsmartscape.com).

**Lubbock Master Gardeners Xeric Garden Tour**



**Relevance**

Average water use in Lubbock is approximately 190 gallons per person per day. During the summer months, approximately 50% of the water demand is used for irrigation of residential and commercial landscapes. Currently, Lake Meredith (the primary drinking water source for Lubbock and 10 other cities) is at less than 12% of storage capacity. The need for enhanced water conservation efforts is a priority for city leaders.

**Response**

The Lubbock Master Gardeners initiated the first annual xeric garden tour in Lubbock Texas. The Master Gardeners located five landscapes which highlighted the use of a rainwater harvesting system, the use of native and adapted perennials and the use of different landscaping techniques that limited the amount of turf in the landscape. In addition to the tour stops, Master Gardeners utilized educational displays that explained the Ogallala aquifer, different mulches and a home made rainwater collection system.

**Results**

427 people attended the tour and 37 people were surveyed. 100 percent of the participants found the landscaped attractive; When asked what was the most interesting part of the tour, 43 percent liked the landscapes, 33% enjoyed the native and adapted plant selections; 7 percent enjoyed the different mulches and 20% liked the rainwater harvesting. When asked about their plan to implement any of the water conserving practices based on the tour, 36% had already implemented one or more of the practices, 60% indicated that they were going to implement one or more practices and 4% indicated that they would not implement a practice.



developing job skills related to: career awareness, resume development and job application preparation, money management, goal-setting and employability traits. Program participants were youth age thirteen to eighteen. The six-part series was presented in the following format: Session 1: pre-test and individual career exploration and assessment; Session 2: participants played the “Game of Life,” a hands-on activity allowing youth to experience budgeting, costs of living, and exploration of possible career choices; Session 3: presentation on work ethics and employability skills; Session 4: completing job applications and developing individual resumes; Session 5: interviewing skills and participation in mock-interviews; and Session 6: review of job skills covered, individual participation in job skills quiz bowl and post-test. As a result of their interest, Agent Alexander developed the “Game of Life,” to assist the participants in understanding money management as well as the importance of having a plan in order for them to be financially independent and responsible adults. The “Game of Life” has become the participants most requested program and something that they look forward to because of the real life exposure that it provides for them. Evaluation results of the program indicated: 100% have an average and above understanding of the steps involved in the job application process; 100% have an average and above understanding of how to effectively interview for a job; 100% have an average and above understanding of interviewing strategies; 100% have an average and above understanding of building and developing a resume; 71% have an average and above understanding of how to dress for an interview; and 43% have an average and above understanding of basic employability skills.

***Agricultural Awareness and Profitability***

**Agricultural Losses from Sept 11<sup>th</sup> Storms**

From Sept 10-12, Lubbock County received record rainfall amounts for a 24-hour period from Tropical Storm Lowell. Rainfall varied from 2 to 10 + inches across the county, causing water erosion in many fields, and flooding of low-lying areas. Also, more than 100 road closings occurred due to street flooding. Both the City of Lubbock and Lubbock County Leaders declared a state of emergency due to flooding conditions, and potential for continued rainfall. After the storm, the Lubbock County Extension Staff were called upon by news media, as well as by Lubbock County Emergency Operations Staff to provide estimates of damage losses.

***High Risk Teen Behavior***

**Youth Learn Skills For Living**

Helping youth to develop basic career skills has been the goal of the “Skills for Living” program conducted during the past year. The program targeted youth participants with the South Plains Food Bank - Growing Recruits for Urban Business program. The GRUB program is a youth entrepreneurial program which works with at-risk youth, teaching them valuable job skills, providing them with actual hands-on skills, and employing many of the participants as summer workers for the Food Bank Farm. The Skills for Living program assisted the youth in

This storm affected an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 acres of cotton, as well as grazing land, grain sorghum, and seedling winter wheat. The low ends of many fields remained underwater for more than 72 hours. Cotton losses in conjunction with lost or damaged seedling wheat stands, grain sorghum, and grazing land brought total damage estimates between \$ 2 million and \$ 3 million. This information was provided to the Lubbock County emergency management center for inclusion in their



reports to FEMA.

**Two Agricultural Tours Hosted In 2008**

During August, the Lubbock County Extension Staff were involved in two separate agricultural Field Days. The first tour, hosted by the Texas Tech Department of Plant & Soil Sciences, was held at the Texas Tech Agricultural Research Farm on North Quaker Avenue. This Field Day reached a total attendance of more than 120. Texas AgriLife Extension - Lubbock County hosted a tour stop regarding their field demonstration plots located at the farm.



On August 27<sup>th</sup>, a Late-Season Management Meeting was planned by the Lubbock County Staff, and held at the Texas AgriLife Research & Extension Center near New Deal. After the production meeting, various field research plots at the center were viewed. One of the topics presented at this meeting that was of particular concern to attendees was management of Verticillium Wilt in cotton. This soil-borne fungal disease was particularly troubling to Lubbock County producers during the 2008 growing season.



**Parenting Skills**

**Building Strong Families: Tools for Success Conference November 6, 2008**

The Building Strong Families Board meets monthly to plan the November 2008 conference. The speakers committee has been working to identify and confirm speakers and make contacts.



**Upcoming Event** Mark your Calendars! The Building Strong Families Conference will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2008 at the First Church of the Nazarene beginning at 8:00 a.m. Cost will be \$10.00 and includes a Continental breakfast and BBQ lunch. The brochure and registration form are available at <http://lubbock-tx.tamu.edu> . Call the Lubbock County Extension Office at 775-1680 for more information. Registration deadline is October 31 !

**Other Activities**

**Better Living for Texans**

Better Living for Texans qualified senior citizen centers are receiving a modified Eat Smart Series in 2008. Two Head Start parenting classes are receiving the Evaluation Series of Healthy Eating, Shopping Strategies and Label Reading, and Food Safety and You lessons in addition to lessons on adding fruits and vegetables to the diet, Getting Moving/Getting Fit, and adding more dairy to the diet. Lessons are being taught at My Father's House for the clients in the



Christian Women’s Job Corp for the September through November quarter. Three lessons will be evaluated as a Better Living for Texans series. Currently, My Father’s House is receiving four of these lessons for this 3-month CWJC session participants. Nutrition lessons were taught twice monthly this past summer for the summer Youth Food Service Camp programs.

Results of evaluation summaries will be compiled by the Fall Quarter.

**Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes™**

Diabetes occurs when the body does not make enough insulin, or the insulin it makes does not work properly. While diabetes is not curable, it is manageable. Skills are needed to effectively manage diabetes, but education is not always available.



Through the use of Do Well, Be Well and Cooking Well with Diabetes, program participants will improve their blood glucose management, thereby reducing their risks for complications and to attain their highest possible level of wellness. The Cooking Well with Diabetes program provides the practical application of the knowledge and skills gained in the Do Well, Be Well With Diabetes.

A combined Do Well, Be Well/Cooking Well With Diabetes is planned for Tuesdays in October 2008 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm at Lubbock Senior Center.

**Texas Extension Education Association**

This association works with Texas AgriLife Extension Service to strengthen and enrich families through educational programs, leadership development and community service. The objectives include: strengthen, develop, coordinate, and extend adult researched-based education, to improve the quality of life for families and communities in cooperation with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service; promote family strengths and leadership development, serve as a medium for the expression of charitable and education interests, and award 4-H and TEEA adult scholarships on a nondiscriminatory basis to worthy applicants; offer a means by which members in cooperation with Texas AgriLife Extension Service may interpret and provide programs of local, county, district, regional, state, national and international importance in preservation of the American home and the promotion of better international understanding; function exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes.



**Upcoming Event**

Programs for 2008-2009 include: “Personality Traits of Leaders,” “Medication Management,” and “Designing Outdoor Spaces...From Dreams to Reality.” Tours will be determined throughout the year. Members received the bi-monthly Family Network Newsletter in efforts to advertise programs. The next meeting will be a tour to the Slaton Harvey House, October 14<sup>th</sup>. For more information call the County Extension Office at 775-1680.

**Food Protection Management**

Texas AgriLife Extension Service continues to be a team player in the area of Food Safety.



September was Food Safety Awareness month. Texas AgriLife Extension teamed up with United Supermarkets, Texas Tech International Center for Food Industry Excellence, Texas Department of Agriculture and Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center to offer demonstrations on Safe Food Handling on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at each of the United Market Streets. Demonstration and handouts focused on safe handling of fruits and vegetables.

Information was also distributed during the South Plains Fair both in the Merchants Building and with produce entries in the Children’s Barnyard.

In addition to Food Safety Awareness month, seven food handlers became certified as a result of the Food Protection Management Class which was conducted in July by Susie Breitling, Lubbock County Extension Agent.

**Lubbock County 4-H Teen Council**

Youth leadership development is the goal of the Lubbock County 4-H Teen Council. Through their involvement, youth are able to develop skills that will allow them to become productive and responsible citizens. All Lubbock County youth ages thirteen and older are welcomed to participate in Teen Council activities. Yearly activities provide a variety of leadership and citizenship activities and opportunities. These yearly activities include: conducting nine monthly business meetings, participating in leadership and club officer trainings; operating the 4-H Barnyard at the South Plains Fair; conducting four fundraisers; and coordinating recreational activities including summer day camps and 4-H dances. Their community service activities have benefitted the Ronald

McDonald House, Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, and the Lubbock State School. A summer retreat is planned for 4-H'ers who meet a minimum criteria of: attending five monthly meetings/activities, participating in one community service, two fundraisers, competing in a District Roundup contest, and participating in two other 4-H activities. Members choose the location as well as activities to participate in during the trip. Summer retreat destinations have included: Alpine area, San Antonio area, Austin area, Dallas, and South Padre Island. Activities are both educational as well as recreational. Through their activities, they have learned how to work hard and while having fun at the same time. Strengths that they have identified in relation to Teen Council activities include: development of friendships and lasting-relationships; members involved in diverse project areas; meeting new people and opportunities to collaborate with others; providing new opportunities for youth to participate in.

### Join A 4-H Club Today

#### Upcoming Event

Lubbock County 4-H will be hosting a 4-H Project Fair at the Lubbock Science Spectrum on Saturday, October 11 from 1 pm until 4 pm. The project fair will provide interested youth and their parents with information and hands-on activities related to various 4-H projects as well as an opportunity to enroll in a Lubbock County 4-H Club. There is no cost to enroll and membership is open to youth ages 9-19, as of

August 31, or in the third grade; youth ages 5-8 may also participate in 4-H as a Clover.

### Lubbock County 4-H at Fourth On Broadway

Two Celebrations came together during July, 2008. Both Lubbock and Texas 4-H simultaneously celebrated their Centennials. In honor of these two celebrations, Lubbock County 4-H participated in the Fourth On Broadway Parade with a display float. Lubbock County 4-H members distributed candy and a small promotional handout to the crowds. The Fourth On Broadway Festival is advertised as the largest free outdoor venue in the state. The 4-H 4<sup>th</sup> On Broadway Float project proved to be a great way for the Lubbock County 4-H family to exhibit their pride for their club, their community, and their country.



### State FFA Convention In Lubbock

Lubbock was the host city for the 2008 Texas FFA convention in July. The FFA conducts a public speaking contest similar to our 4-H public speaking contests. The public speaking skills learned by youngsters participating in each of these organizations will provide life-long social and professional benefits. Lubbock County Extension Agents, Ronda Alexander and Mark Brown, had the opportunity to serve as judges for the State FFA public speaking contest finalists.

### July 31 Oak Wilt Article

Oak Wilt disease is one of the most destructive tree diseases in Texas. Although this disease has been present in isolated locations of Lubbock for many years, our sister Panhandle city of Amarillo had its first confirmed case of the disease in July. News of this event brought a renewed interest in this disease to Lubbock residents, and the Lubbock County Extension Staff were asked to respond. In addition to numerous telephone calls, a front-page article in the Lubbock Avalanche Journal (July 31, 2008) provided factual information regarding this disease to South Plains residents. One of the most important cultural practices in preventing this disease is to avoid pruning oaks during the growing season. For more information regarding this disease of red oaks and live oaks, visit:

<http://plantpathology.tamu.edu/Textlab/oakwilt.html>.

Lubbock County Extension Staff  
P.O. Box 10536, Lubbock, TX 79408  
916 Main, Suite 201, Lubbock TX 79401  
(806) 775-1680 Fax: (806) 775-1658

C. Mark Brown, CEA-Ag

Ronda D. Alexander, CEA-4-H  
E. Kay Davis, CEA-FCS  
Susie Breitling, CEA-FCS  
Robert Scott, CEA-Ag  
Brant A. Baugh, EA-IPM

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