

# Shaping the Future of Lubbock County 2008 Program Accomplishments

## Our Commitment

The strengths of Extension efforts to provide meaningful programs comes from the involvement of community leaders and volunteers. The issues are often complex. Addressing these issues requires teamwork, interdisciplinary programming, and the development of community partnerships and coalitions. The local people, their needs and concerns, will remain vital to the Extension long-range program planning process as the critical issues that impact Lubbock County families continue to change. Through the utilization of identified priority issues, we can ensure that Extension programming addresses the issues of greatest local concern while remaining relevant to the mission of Texas AgriLife Extension.

## MISSION STATEMENT

To improve the lives of people, businesses, and communities across Texas and beyond through high quality, relevant education.

## Texas AgriLife Extension Service - Operating Indicators October 2007 through September 2008

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Number of Educational Group Meetings Conducted  | 718      |
| Total Attendance at Group Meetings              | 28,411   |
| Contact Hours                                   | 101,530  |
| Educational Contacts by Newsletters             | 1,658    |
| <b>Individual Contacts</b>                      |          |
| Educational Contacts by Websites                | 83,137   |
| Individual Office Contacts                      | 1,208    |
| Individual Site Contacts                        | 19,032   |
| Individual Phone Contacts                       | 3,176    |
| Contacts by Mail/E-Mail                         | 12,375   |
| Individual Contacts by Volunteers               | 117,190  |
| <b>4-H</b>                                      |          |
| Enrollment                                      | 4,482    |
| Number of Traditional 4-H Club Members          | 282      |
| Number of 4-H Special Interest Groups           | 2,955    |
| Number Involved in School Curriculum Enrichment | 1,245    |
| <b>Staff Resources</b>                          |          |
| Agent Time Equivalent                           | 100%     |
| # Secretaries (40 hr appointments)              | 2.5      |
| 4-H Program Assistant                           | .5 (33%) |
| BLT Program Assistant                           | 1 (.13%) |

Source: TExAS Reporting System

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.

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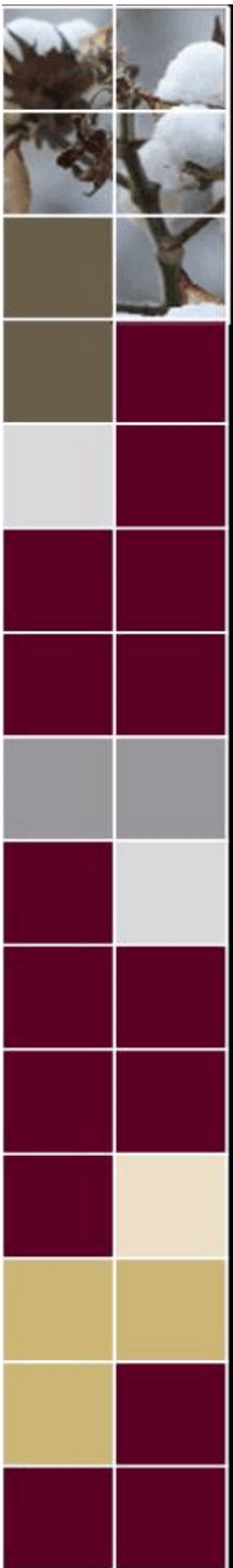
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**Ranking of Critical Issues Identified by  
Texas Community Futures Forum Process May 10, 2007**

| <b>Rank</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|-------------|--|
| 23          | Our community needs to increase awareness and provide training on financial management (credit to debt).   |
| 21          | Water Conservation, urban issues, rural issues, water quality and future resources   |
| 20          | High risk teen behavior - sexually related life complications, pregnancy, STD's, self esteem; drug and alcohol - responsible choices; driving safety.  |
| 19          | Child abuse prevention and education - seeking help before abuse occurs, recognizing signs of child abuse, and stopping the cycle of abuse. Drug and alcohol prevention/awareness.                               |
| 16          | Agriculture - awareness and economic impact, development and commodity marketing and environmental impact.   |
| 16          | Economics and other issues with alternative energy.  |
| 14          | General parenting information and living skills. Drug and alcohol awareness.   |
| 14          | Farm family business continuity; young farmer programs.  |
| 14          | Farm safety for producers, farm workers and small acreage landowners.  |
| 8           | Awareness of affordable, quality childcare.  |
| 7           | Addressing the needs of teen single parents - child behavior management and child development, health management, life management; parenting, work, social needs, and drug and alcohol awareness.                |
| 6           | Teenage pregnancy - increase awareness of and prevention programs at all age levels, concerning all aspects of teen pregnancy.   |
| 5           | Our community needs to provide neighborhood leadership activities in lower income neighborhoods to encourage development of business and recreation.   |
| 2           | Our community needs to find ways to address the problem of childhood obesity to prevent the high cost of medical care secondary to chronic conditions due to obesity. Childhood and adolescent health education. |
| 1           | Our community needs to have available better access to affordable healthcare and medication/supplies   |
| 0           | Living wage vs. minimum wage - jobs, more jobs, job creation, unemployment and retention.  |

# State Goal Environmental Stewardship and Natural Resources





## 2008 Lubbock County Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency and System Maintenance

C. Mark Brown, County Extension Agent - Agriculture and Natural Resources, Lubbock County

### Relevance

Water Conservation was ranked as the highest priority issue for Lubbock County in the 2004 Texas Community Futures Forum process, and is still ranked as the # 2 priority issue, based on the May 10, 2007 Texas Community Futures Forum Issues update conducted by the Lubbock County Leadership Advisory Board. Also, dramatic increases in pumping costs were experienced since 2005, thus impacting net profits from irrigation applications. Center pivot and drip irrigation system operators and their agricultural consultants need knowledge of best management practices in order to maximize irrigation efficiency, maximize net returns, and extend the life of the Ogallala aquifer. In August of 2007, the Lubbock County Ag Committee also felt that it was important to provide Lubbock County irrigators with information regarding system maintenance and trouble-shooting in order for them to avoid costly service charges and operate their systems more efficiently.

### Target Audience

This program was targeted at South Plains center-pivot and sub-surface drip irrigators, particularly in Lubbock County; as well as area crop consultants.

### Response

The Lubbock County Extension Staff, in cooperation with the Lubbock County Agriculture Committee planned and conducted the following events from January to August, 2008:

- Regional Irrigation Workshop at SW Farm & Ranch Classic Farm Show in Lubbock (Feb 1; 43 participants).
- Cotton Production Workshop that included Irrigation Efficiency Best Management Practices ( Feb. 20; 25 participants).
- “After the Storm” Producer Meeting at Idalou to discuss alternatives after the June 19<sup>th</sup> hail storm that destroyed 30,000 acres and impacted 60,000 acres. Discussion included irrigation scheduling for cotton and sorghum as well as irrigation pumping costs and returns per acre inch. (June 25; 12 attending).
- 2 Lubbock County Field Days at TTU Quaker Research Farm (Aug 8) and Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center (Aug 27) (23 participants total).
- Irrigation Efficiency News Article Series
  - KRFE Ag Today Program on pre-plant irrigation, soil moisture holding capacity, and soil temperatures for optimum planting conditions. - April 30 ( 5,000 listening audience).
  - Irrigation e-notes to 26 producers / consultants – July 3 regarding in-season irrigation initiation decisions.
  - KJTV 34 Ag Talk Radio Program regarding South Plains ET Network and water use curves for cotton and sorghum – Jul 18 (55,000 listening audience).
  - KRFE Ag Today program and Avalanche Journal on Late-Season Management and Lubbock County Field Day – August.
  - “Hub of the Plains Pest Management Report” newsletter article – Aug 27 regarding end-of-season irrigation decisions.
  - Irrigation e-notes to 26 producers/ consultants - Dec 2 regarding Extension Irrigation publications and “Maintaining Subsurface Drip Irrigation Systems”. (Reply requested for evaluation purposes).
- 25 Individual Contacts regarding Irrigation Efficiency.

This outcome program reached a total of 136 group contacts (464 contact hours), 1 office, 10 site, 14 telephone, 103 direct e-mail contacts, and mass media contacts estimated at 349,122.

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**Results**

In order to capture results from this programming effort, formal evaluation for group meetings included retrospective post survey instruments distributed to all participants at the morning session and the separate afternoon session of the February 1 Irrigation Workshop. Also, a reply was requested of “irrigation e-notes” recipients regarding effectiveness of the information.

A total of 43 participants attended the morning session, and 35 participants attended the afternoon session. As a result of the meeting, the participants responding to an evaluation (21% response) indicated that 100% of them considered the information useful for the 2008 crop year, and 100% indicated that they intended to implement changes in their irrigation practices based on the program. Participants indicated that they increased their knowledge of crop water requirements; soil moisture management; irrigation efficiency and economics; and information resources available.

Respondents indicated that the average acreage they managed was 2,468 acres. If this number were applied to all workshop participants, the total acreage managed by all conference participants exceeded an estimated 110,000 acres.

**2008 SW Farm & Ranch Classic: Making the Most of Irrigation – Feb 1 General Session (morning).**

For each of the items listed below, please circle the number that best reflects your level of understanding BEFORE the program (middle column) and the number that best reflects your level of understanding AFTER the program (right column).

**LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING**

|   |   | Poor<br>1          | Fair<br>2 | Good<br>3         | Excellent<br>4 |
|---|---|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------|
| What is your level of understanding of each of the following items? |   | Before the program |           | After the program | % Change       |
| Crop water requirements   | Water requirements by growth stage (such as crop Evapotranspiration)                  | 2.56 (9)           |           | 3.22 (9)          | 25.78          |
|   | Peak water use  | 2.56 (9)           |           | 3.11 (9)          | 21.48          |
|   | Drought sensitivity by growth stage   | 2.44 (9)           |           | 3.0 (9)           | 22.95          |
|   | Seasonal water use by crop  | 2.44 (9)           |           | 3.11 (9)          | 27.46          |
|   | Irrigation Scheduling Using ET Network  | 2.44 (9)           |           | 3.56 (9)          | 45.90          |
| Soil moisture management  | Soil moisture storage capacity by soil type   | 2.44 (9)           |           | 3.67 (9)          | 50.41          |
|   | Estimating soil moisture (soil moisture measurement or monitoring)                    | 2.11 (9)           |           | 3.22 (9)          | 52.61          |
|   | Root zone (depth by crop, limiting factors, etc.)                                     | 2.33 (9)           |           | 3.56 (9)          | 52.79          |
| Irrigation efficiency and economics                                 | 2008 Irrigation Economics Decisions   | 2.0 (9)            |           | 3.11 (9)          | 55.5           |
|   | Available Cost-Share Programs   | 2.0 (9)            |           | 3.33 (9)          | 66.5           |
|   | Legislative Issues regarding water  | 1.89 (9)           |           | 3.11 (9)          | 64.55          |
|   | Water Use Efficiency (yield per water input)  | 2.63 (8)           |           | 3.13 (8)          | 19.01          |
|   | Irrigation Economics: Value of irrigation (\$ return/ac-in or \$ return/pumping cost) | 2.63 (8)           |           | 3.125 (8)         | 18.82          |
| Overview of Information Resources                                   | ET Network and Growers Guide  | 2.25 (8)           |           | 3.63 (8)          | 49.33          |
|   | 2007 Cotton Resource DVD and Publications   | 2.0 (8)            |           | 3.5 (8)           | 75.00          |
|   | eXtension web site  | 1.89 (8)           |           | 3.5 (8)           | 85.19          |

· 9 evaluations returned from 43 participants (21% overall response).

Will the information provided in this program be helpful in your 2008 irrigation decisions?

YES 9 (100%) NO

Based on today’s program, do you plan to implement any changes in your irrigation practices?

YES 9 (100%) NO

What was the most significant or helpful topic addressed in this program?

- “Having more info to use.”
- “Very good session. Much was a review, but reviews are good. Resource material is superb. Thanks.”
- “Equipment.”
- “Budget for crop systems”.

## 2008 SW Farm & Ranch Classic: Making the Most of Irrigation – Feb 1. Afternoon Concurrent Sessions.

Please take a few minutes respond to the following survey indicating your intentions to adopt the following technologies and practices discussed at the program, or indicate whether you have already adopted them.

| Technology or practice  |  | Definitely will not adopt | Probably will not adopt | Undecided | Probably will adopt | Definitely will adopt | Adopted already |
|---|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Applications of center pivot irrigation technologies  | Low energy precision application (LEPA)  | 1 (16.7%)                 |                         |           |                     |                       | 2 (33.3%)       |
|   | Low elevation spray application (LESA)   | 1 (16.7%)                 |                         |           |                     |                       | 2 (33.3%)       |
|   | Low pressure in-canopy (LPIC)  | 1 (16.7%)                 |                         |           |                     |                       | 2 (33.3%)       |
|   | New Developments   |                           |                         |           | 1 (16.7%)           |                       | 2 (33.3%)       |
| Application of Microirrigation  | Subsurface drip irrigation (SDI)   |                           |                         |           |                     | 4 (66.7%)             | 2 (33.3%)       |
|   | New Developments   |                           |                         |           |                     | 3 (50%)               | 2 (33.3%)       |
| Equipment maintenance or diagnostics to ensure a high level of irrigation system performance and efficiency | Trouble-shooting   |                           |                         |           | 1 (16.7%)           | 3 (50%)               | 2 (33.3%)       |
|   | Scheduled Maintenance  |                           |                         |           | 1 (16.7%)           | 3 (50%)               | 2 (33.3%)       |
|   | Flow meters/ Pressure gauges   |                           |                         | 1 (16.7%) | 1 (16.7%)           | 3 (50%)               | 1 (16.7%)       |
|   | Monitoring fuel/energy usage   |                           |                         | 2 (33.3%) |                     | 3 (50%)               |                 |
|   | Distribution uniformity test   |                           |                         | 1 (16.7%) |                     | 4 (66.7%)             |                 |
| Best Management Practices (BMPs) to improve irrigation efficiency   | Irrigation Scheduling (using evapotranspiration, soil moisture indicators, or plant indicators.) |                           |                         | 1 (16.7%) |                     | 4 (66.7%)             | 1 (16.7%)       |
|   | Furrow diking  |                           |                         | 2 (33.3%) |                     | 2 (33.3%)             | 2 (33.3%)       |
|   | Drought tolerant crops/varieties, etc  |                           |                         | 1 (16.7%) | 1 (16.7%)           | 3 (50%)               | 1 (16.7%)       |
|   | Conservation tillage, etc.   |                           |                         |           | 2 (33.3%)           | 2 (33.3%)             | 2 (33.3%)       |
|   | Water-efficient cropping practices   |                           |                         |           |                     | 4 (66.7%)             | 2 (33.3%)       |

\* 6 responses from 35 participants (17% overall response).

Approximately how many irrigated acres do you manage? \_\_\_\_\_

5 responses. Total acres=12,340; Average per response=2,468 acres.

### Acknowledgments, Partnerships, and Collaborators

Other Texas AgriLife Extension Service Staff that helped conduct this educational series included: Dana Porter, Randy Boman, Jay Yates, Calvin Trostle, David Kerns, Jason Woodward, Peter Dotray, Brant Baugh, Greg Cronholm, Michael Clawson, J.D. Ragland, Kyle Kight, and Steve Davis. External resource persons included: Randy Underwood, NRCS; Jim Conkwright, HPUWCD; Edwin Smith, Farris Hightower, and Jerry Funck of TAIA. We also appreciate the collaboration of SW Farm & Ranch Classic, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Agricultural Irrigation Association (TAIA), High Plains Underground Water Conservation District (HPUWCD), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Texas Water Resources Institute, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Plains Cotton Growers, KRFE, and KJTV in advertising and conducting these educational programs.

**2008 Lubbock County Integrated Pest Management  
Field Scouting Program**  
Brant Baugh, Extension Agent – Integrated Pest Management

**Relevance**

Lubbock County producers planted approximately 200,000 acres of cotton and 60,000 acres of grain sorghum in 2008. Profit margins for cotton and grain sorghum production continue to decrease while inputs continue to increase. 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. Producers are looking for best management practices such as integrated pest management to decrease input costs while still maintaining yield and overall net profit.

**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 enrolled 16 producers for a total 2,700 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 IPM newsletter is written weekly during the growing season with an average of 153 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.



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### **2008 replicated applied research projects:**

- Efficacy of insecticides targeting cotton aphids and impact on key aphid predators
- Efficacy of insecticides targeting lygus bugs on cotton
- Efficacy of insecticides targeting bollworm control in cotton
- Efficacy of insecticides targeting beet armyworms in cotton
- Evaluation of nectariless cotton on plant bugs
- Efficacy of insecticides targeting whorl feeding Fall armyworms in grain sorghum



### **Results**

Due to the timing of this report, the 2008 results will not be completed until the 2008 crops are harvested. A retrospective post survey will be used to evaluate the producers who enrolled in the program. The results of the 2007 IPM field scouting program are as follows: Twelve of 14 producers completed the survey. Seventy five percent of the respondents indicated that the IPM program maintained or increased yields at an average value of \$98.75 per acre and 25 percent were not sure that the IPM program maintained or increased net profits. When asked to provide a value per acre of the IPM program, the average value was \$44.30 or \$94,182.00 towards the 2,126 acres that was enrolled in the 2007 program. The Lubbock County Integrated Pest Management Program succeeded in reducing the amount of pesticides used in the cotton production system while maintaining yields and net profit.

### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank Plains Cotton Growers for funding of the cotton applied research projects. Thanks is extended to Dustin Patman, 2008 Lubbock IPM intern for assistance in collection of data for the scouting program and applied research projects.

## 2008 Lubbock Master Gardener Association Water Conservation Educational Activities

Brant Baugh  
Extension Agent – Integrated Pest Management

**Relevance:**

From 1998 to 2004 the average water use in Lubbock was 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. Therefore, the goal of this program is for the Lubbock County Master Gardener Association to instruct community residents to conserve and protect natural resources through the use of environmentally friendly landscape management practices.

**Response and Results:**

The Lubbock Master Gardener Association planned and instigated three major activities for 2008. In March, the association in conjunction with the City of Lubbock Water Education Team manned a booth that highlighted xeric garden plants, different types of mulch and educated people on the use of the Texas SmartScape plant selection web site. Over 800 people toured the booth and were greeted and had their questions answered by Master Gardeners.



In July, 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 rainwater harvesting, the use of native and adapted perennials and the use of different landscaping techniques that limited the amount of turf in the landscape.



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Four hundred and twenty seven area residents participated in the tour. Clientele testimonials were as follows: Very attractive, The use of ponds, fountains, and garden designs were very useful; The handouts were unexpected and very useful, everyone very friendly, innovative ideas that I can implement; Very good flower composition; I would like to know more about Lubbock Master Gardeners; I would be interested in the water bill of consumption for three months on the residences; Need to do more to implement water-conservation practices in my landscape. One hundred and thirty five participants completed a survey and the results are as follows: 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.



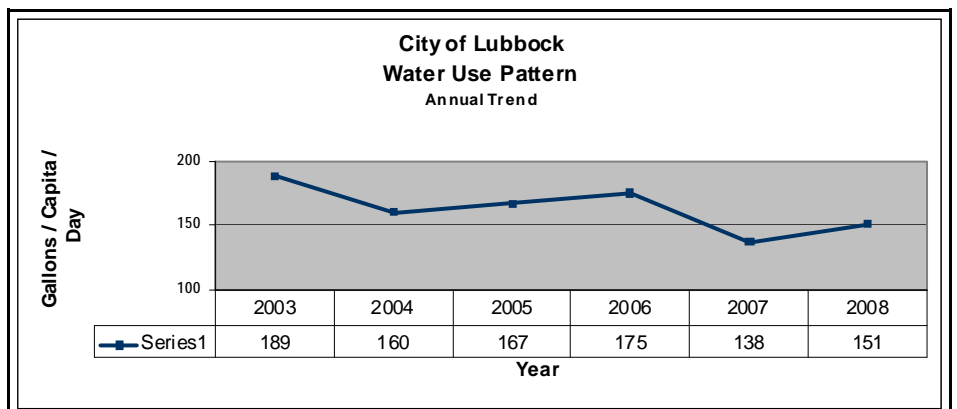
In September, the master gardeners conducted the flower show at the South Plains Fair. Master Gardeners were present to answer questions and distributed water wise plant lists to people viewing the flower exhibits. Approximately 500 people were reached at this event.

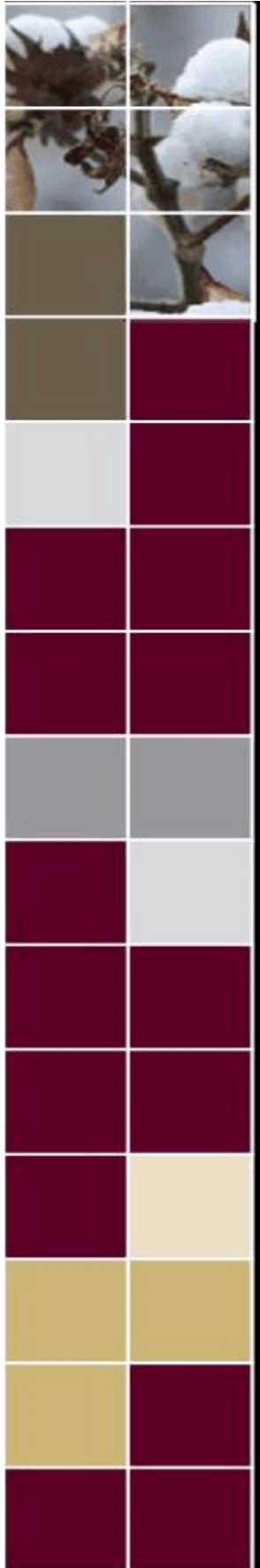
In addition to the above educational activities the Lubbock Master Gardeners conducted the following programs:

- Average 7,000 people per month visiting the Lubbock Master Gardeners web page
- Weekly newsletter published on web page
- 12 seminars on water wise gardening
- 11 radio programs on water wise gardening
- 266 home and business visits

Through these efforts the Lubbock Master Gardeners have reached 292,567 area residents.

In 2003, Lubbock citizens were using 189 gallons per person per day. At this usage rate and an increasing population coupled with a decreasing water supply, the City of Lubbock had to take action. In 2004 stage 1 drought restrictions were adopted and are still in effect today. In 2004 and 2005 the city of Lubbock received record rainfall. During the growing season of 2008, the city received very little rainfall and yet we are projected to use less water with more people compared to 2004 and 2005. This continued trend of decreasing water usage can be attributed to the educational efforts of the Lubbock Master Gardener Association, City of Lubbock Water Education team and the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce Water Conservation Council.





## 2008 Precision Agriculture and New Technology

C. Mark Brown, CEA- Agriculture, Lubbock County  
 Brant A. Baugh, EA-IPM, Lubbock County

### Relevance

"Precision Agriculture" is a catch phrase that widely defines a variety of technology-assisted crop management systems. The technology is currently far in front of the knowledge base. Currently, only a few (< 1% estimated) Lubbock County producers are utilizing precision agriculture. Most of those are utilizing guidance systems, while a few are utilizing yield monitors and/ or remote sensing.

Although limited information is currently available through Texas AgriLife Extension Service regarding precision agriculture, the goal of this output program was to increase the knowledge levels of crop consultants and crop producers in Lubbock County so that they can determine whether Precision Agriculture is applicable to their operations. The objectives were to increase knowledge regarding: yield monitoring, variable-rate application, Veris soil sampling, auto-steer guidance systems, and remote sensing.

### Response

- Seminar at SW Farm & Ranch Classic entitled: "Precision Ag.....Will It Work For You?" (January 31).
  - \* "Putting the Pencil to Precision Ag" - Jay Yates, Extension Risk Management Specialist at Lubbock.
  - \* Integration of Precision Ag Systems - Gabe Moudy, South Plains Precision Ag, Plainview, TX.
  - \* Guidance Systems - Jay Hurst, Hurst Farm Supply, Lorenzo, TX
  - \* "What Precision Ag does for me on my farm". Glenn & Steven Brosch, Slaton, TX.; Eddie Griffis, New Deal, TX.
- Seminar at SW Farm & Ranch Classic entitled: "To Pick or To Strip and On- Board Moduling Systems" (January 31).
  - \* "Economic Comparison of Strippers vs. Pickers" - Jay Yates, Extension Risk Management Specialist at Lubbock.
  - \* Industry Perspectives: On-Board Moduling Systems. John Deere and Case IH were both represented, and given equal time.



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- On Farm field demonstrations with 4 Lubbock County Producers regarding deep sampling of soil nitrate fertility levels in conjunction with in-season crop monitoring utilizing “Crop Circle” sensors. (The objective of this study was to determine whether “Crop Circle” sensors can detect low fertility levels by reflectance from the crop canopy for variable rate in-season fertilizer applications.



## **Results**

A total of 95 participants attended the two seminars. Based on an evaluation of the Precision Ag Seminar, 41% of participants responding indicated that they were considering one or more of the precision ag tools presented, and 17% were undecided. Surprisingly, 31 % indicated that they had already adopted one or more of the precision agriculture tools discussed at the meeting. Only 10 % of the participants indicated that they had no intention of adopting the technology.

These programming efforts reached a total of 146 direct (group and individual) contacts in 2008. The survey tool indicated that participants increased their knowledge of: the economics and integration of precision ag systems, guidance systems and yield monitors, variable rate application, and practical applications of precision agriculture.

## **Acknowledgements**

Other Texas AgriLife Extension Service personnel that helped conduct this educational programming effort included: Jay Yates, Extension Risk Management Specialist at Lubbock. - Brant Baugh, EA-IPM, and Dr. Kevin Bronson, AgriLife Research Soil Chemist at Lubbock. Industry personnel and producers that volunteered their time and expertise included: Gabe Moudy, South Plains Precision Ag, Plainview, Jay Hurst, Hurst Farm Supply, Glenn & Steven Brosch, Slaton, and Eddie Griffis, New Deal.

## 2008 Lubbock County Small Acreage Landowner Issues

Robert Scott, County Extension Agent - Agricultural and Natural Resources

### Relevance

The small farm owner is a growing segment in Texas agriculture. Per Ag Census statistics, 33% of all farms and ranches in Texas are ranked under 50 acres in size. The small scale farm or ranch owner may have purchased the operations for many reasons - retirement, a source of alternate income, or to impart a life-style change. Small scale farmers/ranchers many times have arrived in the enterprise with the need for education concerning enterprise choices, basic production guidelines, as well as advice on marketing strategies and agricultural legalities.

### Response

Texas AgriLife Extension in Lubbock developed the following activities to address the Small Acreage Landowner Issue.

- **Small Acreage Landowner Newsletter-** Small scale farmers/ranchers have hurried schedules but are considered very technically astute. With this in mind an electronic Small Acreage Landowner bi-monthly newsletter was developed. The purpose of this newsletter is to assist and educate small acreage landowners to make the best decision for their production needs and keep them updated on educational opportunities.
- **Small Acreage Land Owner Symposium-** The Southwest Farm and Ranch Classic hosted a Small Acreage Landowner Symposium conducted by Lubbock County AgriLife Extension Service on February 2. The agenda addressed West Texas Soils and Soil Fertility, Forage Selection and Grazing Principles on Small Acreage, Managing Weeds and Insects, Livestock Production Cost, Coping with Feral Hogs and Integrated Playa Management with Farming and Ranching.
- **Basic Horse Management 101-** Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Tech University conducted a "Basic Horse Management 101" on May 21. The purpose of this workshop was to get new horse owners off to the right start in a number of areas of horse husbandry. The agenda addressed Basic Safety, Pasture and Hay Selection, Basic Horse Nutrition, Basic Horse Reproduction, General Health Care Dentistry, Body Condition Scoring and Basic Hoof Care.
- **Goat Management Workshop-** a meat goat management workshop was held Aug. 18. Lubbock has about 2,000 head of breeding-age meat goat does, and the numbers are growing. Those goats generated approximately \$150,000 last year. Lubbock County has a lot of small-acreage landowners who have 10 to 50 head. Topics included health, nutrition and management, reproduction, marketing and selection while evaluating live animals.

### Results

In order to determine programmatic results of the Lubbock County Small Acreage Landowner Programs evaluations were given for each activity.

For more information contact:

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*Improving Lives. Improving Texas.*

- **Small Acreage Landowner Newsletter**

To date I have 61 electronic subscribers. Based on responses from subscribers: the average size ranch is approximately 25 acres. They are interested in horses, goats, cattle, weed control and grazing.

The topics in the bi-monthly newsletter are determined by questions received from Small Acreage Landowners between issues. The newsletter is also posted on the county web-site.

- **Small Acreage Land Owner Symposium**

9 Participants attending

| Level Of Knowledge                       |                          | 1 Poor                  | 2 Fair | 3 Good | 4 Excellent |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Topics                                   | Knowledge before Program | Knowledge after Program |        |        |             |
| Soils and Soil Fertility                 | Average 2.75             | Average 3.75            |        |        |             |
| Forage Production and Grazing Principals | Average 2.2              | Average 3.4             |        |        |             |
| Managing Weeds and Insects               | Average 2                | Average 3.3             |        |        |             |
| Livestock Production and Costs           | Average 1.8              | Average 3.2             |        |        |             |
| Coping with Feral Hogs                   | Average 1.6              | Average 3.4             |        |        |             |

- **Basic Horse Management 101**

35 Participants attended representing 875 horses

100% felt the program would save them time

89% felt the program would save them money

100% plan on changing their feeding program

78% plan on changing their current management practices

75% plan on adopting new practices

88% plan on stopping some of their current management practices

- **Goat Management Workshop**

8 Participants attended representing 992 breeding females

| Topics  | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly Agree |
|---|-------------------|----------|-------|----------------|
| I have a better understanding of goat health and nutrition. |                   |          | 1     | 5              |
| I have a better understanding of goat herd management.      |                   |          | 1     | 5              |
| I understand the basic principles of goat selection.        |                   |          | 1     | 5              |
| I understand the basic principals of goat reproduction.     |                   |          | 1     | 5              |
| I plan on implementing today's information in my operation  |                   |          |       | 6              |

## Future Implications

Educational programs for 2009 have been developed from suggestions provided by the Small Acreage Landowner Task force, feedback from those receiving the Small Acreage Landowner Newsletter and emerging issues from producers. Some of these educational programs include: Southwest Farm and Ranch Classic, South Plains Agriculture, Wind, and Wildlife Conference, Small Acreage Management Newsletter, Texas Beef Quality Program Level 1 + 2 Workshop, Weed Control Result Demonstrations, Alfalfa Result Demonstration and possible Vineyard Result Demonstration.

# State Goal Economic Competitiveness, Viability and Stability







## 2008 Lubbock County Agricultural Awareness For Youth In Lubbock And Surrounding Counties

C. Mark Brown, County Extension Agent - Agriculture and Natural Resources, Lubbock County  
 Robert Scott, County Extension Agent - Agriculture and Natural Resources, Lubbock County  
 Ronda Alexander, County Extension Agent - 4-H, Lubbock County  
 E. Kay Davis, County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Lubbock County  
 Susan Breitling, County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Lubbock County  
 Brant Baugh, Extension Agent - Integrated Pest Management, Lubbock County

### Relevance

All Texas and U.S. residents rely upon the U.S. Agricultural System for a safe and abundant food supply. A total of 98% of Texas residents are now 3 to 4 generations removed from the farm, and are not knowledgeable about the importance of Agriculture to our everyday lives and to the Texas and Lubbock / South Plains economies. It is also important to recognize that Youth will have future involvement in the Democratic process that will impact Agricultural policies.

### Response

- Children's 4-H Barnyard At South Plains Fair  
 Texas Cooperative Extension - Lubbock County Staff and Lubbock County 4-H Clubs operate the Children's 4-H Barnyard each year at the South Plains Fair to exhibit farm animals (as well as exotic animals) to South Plains residents. The 2008 exhibit included the Texas Farm Bureau "Planet Agriculture" trailer exhibit with learning modules displayed on cotton, corn, wheat, swine, beef cattle, and dairy products.



The 2008 Children's 4-H Barnyard attracted an estimated 140,000 participants. Two Hundred Twenty-six (226) Lubbock County 4-H'ers and leaders donated 704 volunteer hours to staff the 4-H Barnyard.

In addition to the Texas Farm Bureau exhibit, the Mobile Dairy Classroom was utilized at the 2008 Children's 4-H Barnyard at the Panhandle South Plains Fair. Area youth and adults alike

received information regarding the dairy industry and dairy products through this



collaborative display by Southwest Dairy Producers and Texas Cooperative Extension. As a result, a total of 1,928 youth and adults were reached. These participants now have a better understanding of the economic importance and relevance of the Dairy Industry that is moving into the South Plains.



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- “Bringing Ag to Youth”

In May of 2008, Lubbock County Staff conducted “Bringing Ag to Youth” Ag Awareness program for 450 elementary school students and teachers at Wolffarth and Bowie Elementary Schools. Sessions included Water Conservation, Texas Agriculture, Entomology, Food Guide Pyramid, Cotton, and Sheep.

- “Ag In The Bag” Youth Ag Awareness Fair

The “Ag In the Bag” Youth Agricultural Awareness Fair is a collaborative effort conducted by the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce Ag Committee in cooperation with Texas Tech University, Texas Cooperative Extension, regional commodity associations, Natural Resources Conservation Services, and other partners that targets 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in Lubbock and the surrounding communities.

2008 marked the 8th annual Ag In the Bag Agricultural Awareness Fair, held on October 14-16. Presentations included information on: beef, sheep and goats, food science, cotton, sorghum, water conservation, soil conservation, peanuts, corn, and dairy. Total attendance for the event included 1,471 participants. The Lubbock County staff helped with preparation and distribution of lunches, and secured some agricultural equipment for the display area, and also provided a list of "Agricultural Facts" for 100 teacher packets. The Ag In the Bag Committee coordinated the event, advertised to area schools, secured financial sponsorships for lunches and other supplies, and conducted follow-up activities. Participants saw inter-active presentations; and then enjoyed sack lunches, milk, and ice cream (all containing ingredients from the various commodities discussed).

### Results

Youth Agricultural Awareness programs conducted by Lubbock County staff members of Texas Cooperative Extension during 2008 reached a total of 3,849 direct contacts and an estimated 140,000 indirect contacts. Participants increased their knowledge and understanding of the importance of Texas Agriculture, as well as their knowledge of agricultural commodities produced in the Lubbock area. This information will allow youth participants to better relate to Agriculture and issues regarding agriculture and natural resources both now and in the future.



## Financial Management - Wi\$eUp

Susie Breitling, County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences

### Relevance

During the TCFE validation process, in May, 2007, Lubbock County citizens identified Personal Financial Management as the number one issue facing Lubbock County. Specifically, the issue of credit to debit ratio was mentioned. **The role of AgriLife Extension in the area of personal financial management is paramount due to the limited number of educational opportunities which offer unbiased information for the average consumer.** As a result of this information, when the Lubbock County Family and Consumer Sciences Advisory Board met in September to begin 2008 program planning, the committee immediately identified this area as the number one programming effort for Family and Consumer Sciences.

### Response

Two members of the board volunteered to serve on a subcommittee to investigate and select curriculum and a target audience to whom to market the program. After studying a variety of curriculum, the subcommittee selected Wi\$eUp, a curriculum targeted to Generation X women. According to the Texas Society of CPA's, employees with money problems may have more frequent absenteeism, spend office hours on the telephone trying to resolve financial matters and be more easily distracted than other employees. For this reason, the committee investigated possible work sites where the program would be offered. I approached the Lubbock County Human Resources Director who was very receptive to the concept. The program was targeted to Lubbock County employees for an eight week lesson series conducted in the Lubbock County auditorium during February and Lubbock County was selected as a pilot county by Dr. Nancy Granovsky to conduct this program during 2008 March. Lessons included the following:

- Money for Life
- Money Math
- Money Basics
- Credit in a Money World
- Savings Basics
- Insurance and Risk Management
- Becoming an Investor
- Achieving Financial Security

Collaborative relationships included the Lubbock County Human Resources Department, City Bank and PAC member, Anthony Viglicky.

### Results

Lubbock County employees were an excellent audience. The worksite concept was very effective because of the similarity benefits, payroll, etc. It was extraordinarily helpful for employees responsible for insurance, payroll to discuss risk management and savings. All guest speakers were outstanding and provided a wide variety of information and perspective for the class. A three month evaluation (May and June) was conducted with a 63% return rate. (Incentive items were provided for returning the three month instrument.) Although those were mailed directly to College Station and are not available at this time immediate results were outstanding. The chart below illustrates behavioral changes which occurred as a result of this outcome program.

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|   | <b>Lesson</b>                | <b>Behavior Change</b>   | <b>% Change</b>                                 |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | Money for Life               | Improve recordkeeping/Develop a financial plan   | 26 of 33 (80%)                                  |
| 2 | Money Math                   | Increase financial tools to improve daily money management.                                    | 20 of 26 (77%)                                  |
| 3 | Money Basics                 | Identify ways to cut spending and ask effective money questions.                               | 13 of 33 (40%)                                  |
| 4 | Credit                       | Calculate debt:income ratio  | 14 of 21 (66%)                                  |
| 5 | Savings                      | Utilize payroll deductions<br>Increase savings \$25 - \$20/month                               | 19 of 19 (100%)<br>8 of 19 (42%)                |
| 6 | Risk Management              | Maximize employee insurance benefit<br>Take out renter's insurance                             | 17 of 18 (94%)<br>2 of 8 (25%)                  |
| 7 | Becoming an Investor         | Start a traditional or Roth IRA<br>Utilize SEC online calculator<br>Increase savings to invest | 9 of 18 (50%)<br>4 of 18 (22%)<br>5 of 18 (28%) |
| 8 | Achieving Financial Security | Increase financial security<br>Update will/estate plan<br>Pursue professional development      | 8 of 12 (67%)<br>7 of 12 (58%)<br>5 of 12 (42%) |

**Future Plans** for the Wi\$eUp program include offering for a second year to Lubbock County employees. Due to a somewhat high attrition rate, participants will be given options regarding the length of classes and topics. In conclusion, this effort has increased the financial security of those Lubbock County employees who participated. **Appreciation** is expressed to Mandi Mantooh, Tom Albert, Amicus Financial Advisor's Joe Toombs, Westmark Realtor Howard Halford, and Lubbock County FCS Program Area committee member Anthony Viglicky. Each of these individuals served as presenters for the class.

**2008 Opening Doors Project - Lubbock County Leadership Advisory Board**

C. Mark Brown, County Extension Agent - Agriculture and Natural Resources, Lubbock County

Ronda Alexander, County Extension Agent - 4-H, Lubbock County

E. Kay Davis, County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences, Lubbock County

Brant Baugh, Extension Agent - Integrated Pest Management, Lubbock County

Susie Breitling, M.Ed. - County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences

Robert Scott, County Extension Agent - Agriculture and Natural Resources, Lubbock County

**Relevance**

The goal in 2008 for Community Resource Development was for the Lubbock County Leadership Advisory Board to visit community leaders in each of the outlying communities in Lubbock County. The purpose of the visit was twofold 1) to learn more about the communities (both highlights and challenges) and 2) to explain educational resources available to communities through Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

**Response**

In order to implement this goal the plan was for one staff member and one committee member to visit leaders in each of the outlying communities. Teams learned about the happenings in each community and their goals for the future and current projects. Additionally, community development resources available through Texas AgriLife Extension were shared through a pamphlet as well as each program explained. Each leader was extended an invitation to participate in a panel discussion on July 14<sup>th</sup> during a noon meeting at the First Ag Credit Building.

Teams were as follows:

- Abernathy - Susie Breitling, Kay Taylor
- Idalou - Brant Baugh, Dr. Brian Yearwood
- Lake Ransom Canyon - Robert Scott, Dr. Brian Yearwood
- New Deal - Ronda Alexander, Denise Thetford
- Shallowater - Mark Brown, Tanya Bishop
- Slaton - Susie Breitling, Bryan Studer
- Wolfforth - Kay Davis, Waylon Carroll, Connie Jackson

The visits were made through May and June. Each team followed an interview guide in order to obtain consistent information. Results of the interviews are on the back of this sheet.

On July 14, an excellent panel discussion was conducted where either mayors, city managers or both, spoke to the group. The discussion was led by Chairman, Bryan Studer and produced excellent information.

**Results**

As a result of this effort, as of November, 2008, only one of the communities (Abernathy) has indicated an interest in any of the educational strategies recommended by the Lubbock County Leadership Advisory Board and AgriLife Extension Staff. Looking ahead, the Abernathy Chamber of Commerce has indicated intentions of offering the Building Connections curriculum in the spring of 2009. This curriculum will be offered collaboratively with the Lubbock County Staff, Hale County staff and members of the Abernathy Chamber. Through this curriculum series, this community will gain more knowledge about how pieces within the community are tied together and more effective ways to move forward with community goals.



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|                           | City Structure                                   | Community Highlights  | Where does city go for help/support   | Goals Community has embraced to work toward  | What will your community need to address in next 5 years   | Nominee for Lubbock Co Leadership Advisory Board | Major Employer                                   |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Abernathy</b>          | City Manager/<br>City Council                    | Over 3 million in grants in past 4 years<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Downtown revitalization</li> <li>● 6 blocks of pavement in NE section of town</li> <li>● 5 new homes in '08</li> <li>● Expansion of Hurst Farm Supply</li> <li>● Abernathy High school named by Texas Monthly as one of two South Plains High Schools in top 100 High Schools</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Depends on area</li> <li>● Texas Municipal League</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Safe Routes to School (ISD), police, students, city, sidewalks, etc.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Water</li> <li>● Infrastructure</li> <li>● Cleanup</li> <li>● beautification</li> <li>● Code/ordinance enforcement</li> </ul> | Steve Qualls, Home Builder                       | Abernathy ISD<br>Wolfe Irrigation<br>Global Pump |
| <b>Idalou</b>             | City Manager/<br>City Council                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Downtown project (TDA Grant?)</li> <li>● Codes Enforcement - Clean up neighborhoods</li> <li>● ¼ cent tax - Economic Development &amp; Beautification</li> </ul>   | TDA Grant   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Long Term water planning</li> <li>● Upgrade Infrastructure</li> <li>● Wants to grow on their own terms</li> </ul>   |  | Bob Cosby, President of City Bank                |  |
| <b>Lake Ransom Canyon</b> | City Council/<br>City Secretary                  | No Report   | Do not qualify for most grants  | Incorporate Zoning to prepare in case of annexation.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Securing water rights</li> <li>● Securing infrastructure</li> <li>● Zoning</li> </ul>   | Murvant Musa, City Secretary                     |  |
| <b>New Deal</b>           | City Council/<br>City Secretary                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Annexed land North and West of city</li> <li>● Alliance/ Horizons specialized medical treatment facility for elderly</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SPAG</li> <li>● Grant Works - has received previous grant through Grant Works for sewer</li> </ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Housing - talked with developer</li> <li>● Economic development - development of infrastructure</li> <li>● Search for alternative water sources</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Housing Development</li> <li>● Economic Development</li> <li>● Water</li> </ul>   |  | New Deal ISD<br>Sorghum partners<br>Seed Company |
| <b>Shallowater</b>        | City Council/<br>City Secretary                  | Water/sewer infrastructure<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cemetary</li> <li>● Website-student worker</li> <li>● 50/50 pipeline Bailey County Well field</li> <li>● Shallowater ISD Wind generator</li> <li>● Emphasis on "School Activities"</li> <li>● 185 acres recently annexed for development</li> </ul>  |   | Water/Sewer<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Infrastructure to meet growth</li> <li>● City cemetary</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Water/Sewer</li> <li>● Recycling program</li> </ul>   |  | Shallowater ISD                                  |
| <b>Slaton</b>             | City Manager/<br>City Council                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Assisted Living Center</li> <li>● Harvey House B&amp;B</li> <li>● Zoning ordinance for downtown historical district</li> <li>● 5<sup>th</sup> Friday Art Exhibit</li> <li>● New city Hall</li> <li>● Art in the Square</li> <li>● Good medical facility</li> <li>● Most streets paved</li> <li>● Recognized / Exemplary ISD</li> </ul> | Texas Municipal League  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 5.6 mil Capital Improvement plan - Expand police department</li> <li>● Keep Slaton Beautiful</li> <li>● Spruce-up downtown</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Absentee landowners</li> <li>● Population changes</li> <li>● Enforcing cleanup/ordinances</li> </ul>                          | Lynn Buxkemper                                   | Slaton ISD<br>City of Slaton                     |
| <b>Wolfforth</b>          | City Manager/<br>City Council/<br>City Secretary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase in Commercial Development</li> <li>● New park at Frenship Mesa</li> <li>● Fire Dept. got ISO rating down to a "2"</li> <li>● Will be more commercial buildings on Donald Preston Drive</li> <li>● Hotels &amp; shopping off 82<sup>nd</sup></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have applied but have not qualified for any grants</li> <li>● Work through TX Water Development Board</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Acceptable water supply &amp; quality</li> <li>● Need a full time Economic Development Manager</li> <li>● Still working on baseball Park and on housing issues.</li> <li>● Town hall meeting ID'd need for grocery store</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Infrastructure - water and sewer services, in process of installing a sewer lift station on 62/82 and 179</li> </ul>          | Possibility-<br>Mike Wright                      | Frenship ISD<br>Outerwear USA                    |



## **Lubbock County 2008 District 2 4-H and FFA Quality Counts Training**

*Robert Scott, County Extension Agent - Agriculture and Natural Resources, Lubbock County*

### Relevance

Texas has the largest number of 4-H and FFA livestock projects in the nation. Texas 4H and FFA exhibitors validated a total of 46,644 steers, lambs, goats and barrows. District 2 4H and FFA exhibitors represent 7,501 of those animals or 16% of the entire state validation program. District 2 consists of 20 counties. Lubbock County alone validated 125 Steers, 164 Lambs, 168 Goats and 900 Swine. There are many new and experienced 4-H and FFA exhibitors who are in need of education in livestock management as it relates to facility maintenance, selection, nutrition, animal health, handling, showmanship and transportation.

### Response

Quality Counts is a program for 4-H and FFA youth across Texas who exhibit livestock projects. The program includes cattle, sheep, swine, and goats both market and breeding projects. The purpose of Quality Counts is to provide an opportunity for youth to learn personal character attributes and acceptable livestock management practices associated with these projects. This unique combination of subject matter should result in the exhibition of the highest quality livestock projects by youth with unsurpassed character and ethics. On December 13, 2008 a Quality Counts Program was offered to all District 2 4-H and FFA exhibitors. The program was intended to provide an educational opportunity for new or experienced families participating in a beef, lamb, goat & swine livestock projects. The program taught the basic principles of livestock management as it relates to facility maintenance, selection, nutrition, animal health, handling, showmanship and transportation. "Quality Assurance" programs were also discussed to insure the safe and legal use of drugs or medications to facilitate the ethical care, development and exhibition of livestock. Parents and leaders were encouraged to remember that livestock projects (regardless of specie) are to be used as tools in the process of youth development.

### Objectives

- Explain the importance of stock show rules and guidelines.
- Identify the six pillars of character and apply them to livestock projects.
- Explain why quality assurance is important in livestock production.
- Describe facilities and equipment, selection, nutrition, health, management and feeding, fitting and showmanship for various species.
- Identify and describe 4-H livestock project opportunities.
- Identify resources

### Results

In order to determine programmatic results of the District 2 4H and FFA Quality Counts Program evaluations were given to the morning program and again at each individual specie

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clinics in the afternoon. A followup evaluation will be mailed to the participants at the completion of the 2009 major show season

For each of the questions listed below, participants were instructed to rate their knowledge on a scale from **1 to 5** that best reflected their knowledge before and after attending the District 2 4-H and FFA Quality Counts Training.

**Morning Session:**

**Knowledge Scale 1 2 3 4 5**

| Questions:<br>Rate your knowledge of:                | Before<br>Average Rating | After<br>Average Rating | Change in<br>Knowledge |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Of the 8 core concepts of Quality Counts             | 2.2                      | 4.5                     | + 2.3                  |
| The "Texas Trails" website                           | 1.4                      | 4.1                     | + 2.7                  |
| Utilizing the internet to access livestock resources | 2.7                      | 4.2                     | + 1.5                  |
| Other livestock opportunities besides showing        | 3.4                      | 4.6                     | + 1.2                  |
| Human health risks from drug residues                | 2.5                      | 4.7                     | + 2.2                  |
| The elimination of drugs                             | 2.2                      | 4.7                     | + 2.5                  |
| The definition a drug                                | 2.7                      | 4.7                     | + 2                    |
| The proper usage of drugs                            | 2.7                      | 4.7                     | + 2                    |
| The withdrawal time of a drug                        | 2.8                      | 4.6                     | + 1.8                  |
| All Questions combined                               | 2.5                      | 4.52                    | + 2.02                 |

Do you plan on adopting new practices based on what you learned today? **97.5% Yes .025 % No**

**Combined Sessions: Beef, Lamb, Goat & Swine Session Results**

**Knowledge Scale 1 2 3 4 5**

| Questions:<br>Rate your knowledge of:        | Before<br>Average Rating | After<br>Average Rating | Change in<br>Knowledge |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Health (Parasites, ringworm, shots, etc.)    | 2.61                     | 4.61                    | + 2                    |
| Nutrition (Feed, water, minerals, additives) | 3.11                     | 4.71                    | +1.6                   |
| Management and Feeding                       | 3.11                     | 4.71                    | + 1.6                  |
| Selection (Structural correctness, muscle)   | 2.68                     | 4.71                    | + 2                    |
| Showmanship                                  | 3.11                     | 4.79                    | + 1.7                  |
| All Questions combined                       | 2.92                     | 4.71                    | + 1.79                 |

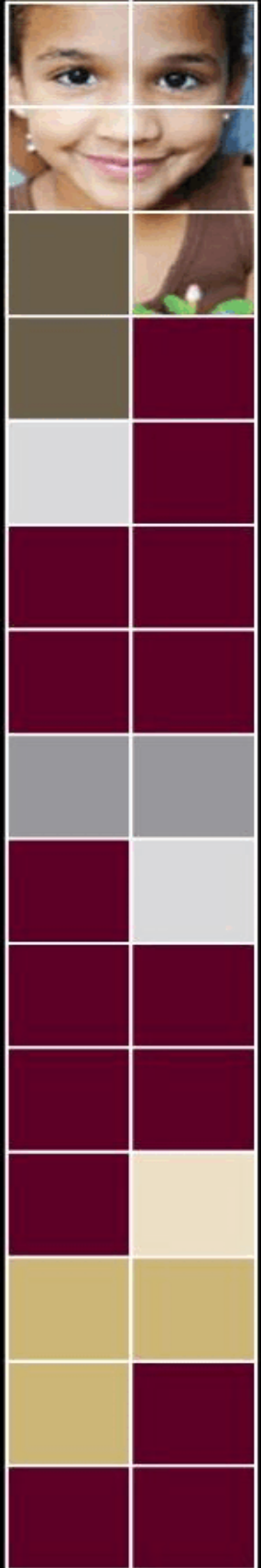
How many projects do you have on feed? **26 Steers, 10 Heifers, 34 Lambs, 19 Goats, 26 Swine**

Do you plan on adopting new practices based on what you learned today? **100% Yes 0% No**

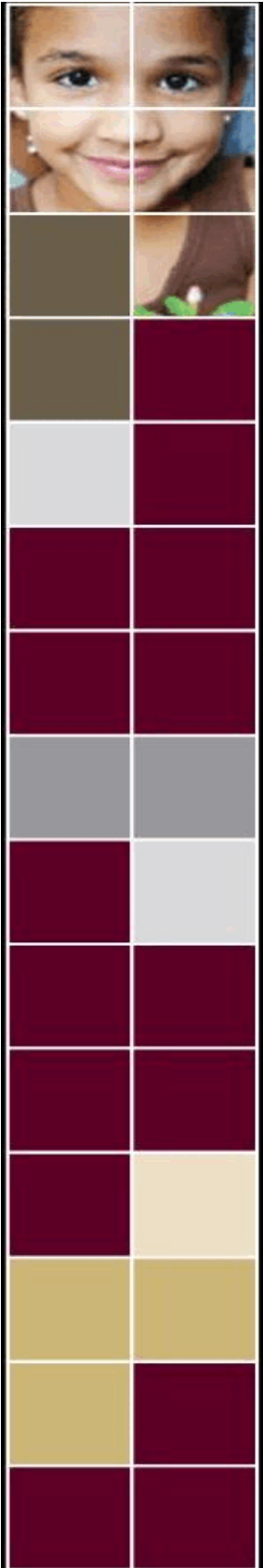
**Future Implications**

Ultimately, this program will be an integral part of the junior livestock program. This will eventually lead to a safer, more wholesome nutritious product that is fed by responsible youth of Texas who are dedicated to providing the best meat products for consumers. Youth animal projects are and will continue to be a huge part of the District 2 4-H and FFA programs. Because of this we will continue to direct our programming efforts towards educating youth using animal projects as the method of delivery. Plans for a 2009 Region One 4-H and FFA Quality Counts Program are currently in the planning stages.





# State Goal Life Skills and Leadership



**2008 Lubbock County Skills for Living**  
*Ronda Alexander, County Extension Agent - 4-H, Lubbock County*

**Relevance**

Adequate preparation and training are essential in maintaining a skilled workforce. According to “The Texas Kids Count Project, Center for Public Policy Priorities, Austin, Texas,” Lubbock County Schools were experiencing an 8.5% drop-out rate for 2006. This means that annually .5% (or 241) of the youth population will begin the downward spiral of having difficulty finding or maintaining employment. This will have a continual effect upon the current 4% unemployment rate and the **19.4%** of the population who live below the poverty level. Providing educational opportunities for youth in the area of basic job skills is important in helping them to obtain and maintain employment.

**Response**

The Lubbock County 4-H Youth and Adult Advisory Board identified job skills for youth as a topic that needed to be addressed by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. The “Skills for Living” program was developed by Agent Alexander and targeted to at-risk and economically disadvantaged youth participants age 13 to 18, participating in the South Plains Food Bank Growing Recruits for Urban Business (GRUB) program. “Skills for Living” was conducted in a five-part series, presented in the following format:

- Individual Career Exploration and Career Assessment (February 23, 2008)
- Employability Skills (March 1, 2008)
- Job Applications and Developing a Resume (March 8, 2008)
- Preparing for Interviews (April 17, 2008)
- The Game of Life (April 26, 2008)

In October, Agent Alexander prepared and manned an exhibit in conjunction with the Lubbock Youth Career Expo. The exhibit included information on developing a resume and completing a job application. Participants also played the Job Skills Quiz Bowl to determine their job skills knowledge. Approximately 3,000 area youth were in attendance at the Career Expo.



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## Results

“Skills for Living” program participants completed pre- and post- tests, in order to determine the programmatic impact. Approximately thirty-five youth participated in at least one of the five-part series; seven participants completed the entire series and completed the post- test to determine the following program results.

### Participant awareness of individual work habits and interpersonal skills.

- 7 out of 7 (100%) participants considered themselves to be dependable.
- 7 out of 7 (100%) participants considered themselves to be responsible.
- 7 out of 7 (100%) participants considered themselves able to work without supervision.
- 6 out of 7 (86%) participants considered themselves to be punctual.
- 6 out of 7 (86%) participants considered themselves able to get along with others.
- 6 out of 7 (86%) participants considered themselves to be productive workers, using time wisely.
- 6 out of 7 (86%) participants considered themselves to be have a positive attitude.
- 6 out of 7 (86%) participants considered themselves able to show initiative.

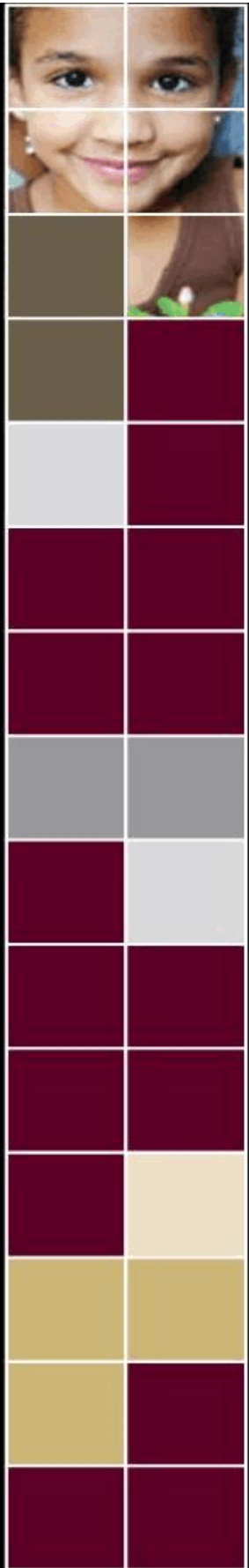
### Participant understanding of basic job skills.

- 6 out of 6 (100%) participants had an average or above understanding of the steps involved in the job application process.
- 6 out of 6 (100%) participants had an above average understanding of how to dress appropriate for a job interview.
- 6 out of 6 (100%) participants had an average or above understanding of the steps involved in developing a resume.
- 6 out of 6 (100%) participants had an average or above understanding of how to effectively interview for a job.
- 4 out of 6 (67%) participants had an average or above understanding of the basic skills involved in maintaining employment.

### Acknowledgments.

Special thanks is given to the South Plains Food Bank - GRUB program for their involvement with the “Skills for Living” program.

Results of the “Skills for Living” program indicate that participants have gained a wide variety of knowledge to assist them in obtaining and maintaining employment.



## 2008 Lubbock County 4-H

Ronda Alexander, County Extension Agent - 4-H

### Relevance

4-H is a youth development program that prepares youth to meet the challenges of childhood, adolescence and adulthood, through a coordinated, long-term, progressive series of educational experiences that enhance life skills and develop social, emotional, physical and cognitive competencies.

### Responses

4-H projects, contests and educational opportunities are conducted annually to provide youth with individual development opportunities. The learning experiences are conducted by County Extension Agents, 4-H leaders, Club Managers, Teen Leaders and Junior Leaders. Planning groups that plan, conduct, coordinate and evaluate these 4-H opportunities include: Parent Leaders Association, Teen Council, Awards and Recognition Committee, and the Textile, Nutrition and Consumer Committee.

### Results

For the 2007-2008 4-H year, there were ten 4-H clubs which met monthly to provide learning opportunities for approximately 282 youth involved in the traditional 4-H club program. These 4-H'ers have completed projects in a variety of areas including, but not limited to: shooting sports, food and nutrition, clothing and textiles, public speaking, leadership, community service, swine, horse, beef, sheep, goats and consumer education.

A total of 2,955 Lubbock County youth were reached through special interest programming which included Ag Awareness, Mobile Dairy Classroom and community nutrition education programs. School curriculum enrichment materials were utilized by area elementary schools to provide extended learning opportunities to 1,245 students in Lubbock County. Approximately 4,482 (12.2% of youth potential) total youth were reached through these programming efforts.

Six Lubbock County Seniors applied for and received scholarships in the amount of \$48,000 to assist them in obtaining their higher education goals. Recipients were: Matt Verkamp, Idalou 4-H; Christopher Dalton, Frenship 4-H; Rachael Dansby, Eagle 4-H; Sarah Johnson, Llano Estacado 4-H Courtney Paz, Frenship 4-H; and Nathan Pond, Frenship 4-H.



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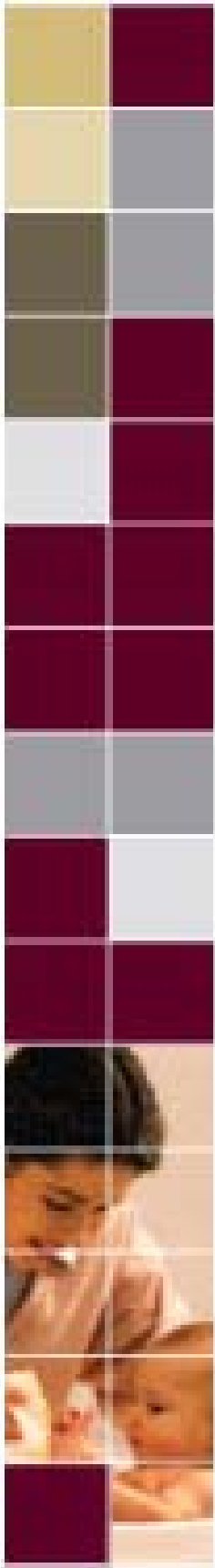


**2008 Lubbock County  
Building Strong Families: Tools for Success Conference/Parenting**

Kay Davis, CEA-Family and Consumer Sciences

**Relevance**

Despite changes in their structure, families remain the most basic unit of society. Today's families need support to build the resiliency necessary to meet life's challenges head-on. There is encouraging evidence that research and educational programs can contribute to the strength and resiliency of all families. According to the Commission on Children's national survey entitled *Speaking of Kids*, 86 percent of parents today are often uncertain about what is the right thing to do in raising their children. Fifty-three percent of respondents believed children are worse off today with respect to their moral and religious training than ten years ago. Additionally, 56 percent of respondents believe children receive less supervision and discipline than ten years ago. Children themselves wish that their parents were more diligent in setting and enforcing rules. Thirty-nine percent of children ages 10 to 17 said they sometimes wished their parents were stricter or kept a closer watch over them and their lives. Because of the rapid pace of change in our society and an increasing awareness of and respect for cultural and values diversity, parents will continue to be challenged to expand on traditional styles of child rearing. According to the 2000 U.S. Census 2.4 million grandparents had primary care-giving responsibility for their grandchildren. Child maltreatment is one of the most significant social problems facing America today. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2002) three million referrals concerning five million children were made to Child Protective Services (CPS) agencies in 2000. Of those reported cases, approximately 879,000 children were found to be the victims of child maltreatment, with the majority falling under the category of child neglect (63 percent). Unfortunately 84 percent of the above cases occurred at the hands of a parent or parents. Several social trends provide challenging parent-child relationships. Currently more than 30 percent of all households are single or non-family groups. While one-fourth of children are in a family with married couples and the other one-half are in blended families, with grandparents or foster care. Children of single parents are now the poorest age group in the United States. Single parents often are poor and isolated from extended family and community support. Families today are more mobile as parents relocate to pursue educational and employment opportunities. In Lubbock County, 23.2% of children live in poverty (2000 data in *The State of Texas Children 2007: Lubbock County*). This trend has placed an additional burden on families as they are separated from extended family members who have provided support and assistance. Parental employment places a strain on parent-child relationships. Today, approximately 10.9 million children under six have mothers in the paid labor force (National Commission on Children). About 95 percent of all fathers are employed. Parental challenges are considerable. Potential resources to support parents and their children often are underfunded resulting in children as casualties. The well-being of our children is clearly at risk. According to the National Commission on Children, one in four adolescents engages in social behaviors that can lead to serious long-term difficulty; and many more are vulnerable for future problems. The Family Risk Index derived from the Census Bureau March Current Population Survey (CPS) includes six separate indicators of risk to a child's well-being. The more factors children have in their lives, the higher the odds they will suffer one or more negative outcomes before reaching adulthood (such as dropping out of high school, getting arrested, or having a baby).



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Children living in families with four or more of the following characteristics are considered at high risk: Child is not living with two parents. Household head is high school dropout. Family income is below the poverty line. Child is living with parent(s) who do not have steady, full-time employment. Family is receiving welfare benefits. Child does not have health insurance. Currently in Texas, 15 percent of children are living in high risk families. (Source: Family Risk Index from Census Bureau's March Current Population Survey.) The State of Texas Children 2007: Lubbock County indicates that 19.9% of births were to teens and that there were 1,239 confirmed victims of child abuse in 2006 and 20 deaths to children and teens. In 2006, there were also 241 public school dropouts, an increase from 2000. The implication of not addressing this problem is the continual negative cycle it creates.

The BSF Conference was started by the Lubbock County Partners for Parenting Coalition, a Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Lubbock County advisory board/coalition to address these issues listed above. It is now an incorporated agency of its own and Extension serves as a standing committee member. Extension just rotated off the board of directors. I am responsible for: serving on the speakers committee; development and printing of the marketing brochure; assisting with its distribution to all schools in Region 17 Education Service Center area as well as to other agencies and locations in Lubbock County where clientele would have access to it; promoting it with other County Extension Agents; contacting media with news releases and giving interviews; sponsor donations (securing goodie bag items such as pens, pads, etc., as well as milk and ice cream for the meal from Southwest Dairy Farmers and Gandy's or other donations/sources as needed); assisting with the stuffing of participant goodie bags with agency brochures and donated items; set-up day; providing exhibits; providing equipment needed (easels, screens, projectors, computers); clean up; developing, distributing, and compiling results of a 30-day post conference survey; attending monthly meetings and reporting on committee or responsibility actions.

## **2008**

### **Response**

The Building Strong Families Board meets monthly to plan the November conference. Various committees work independently and report on activities at this monthly meeting. Speakers and topics for the conference are determined by the speaker's committee and approved by the board based on evaluations received from the preceeding years conference. Donor support and grants are applied for throughout the year. Grant writing is the main responsibility of the chairman and other donor support and volunteer support is sought by various committees/members.

### **Results** (preliminary)

**Total Lunch Tickets...584 turned in (some lunch tickets left blank & some were incomplete).**

**Gender Total: 516**.....Females: 455 Males: 61

**Residence total: 487**.....Rural: 210 City: 277

**Attending as Total: 469**.....Parent: 170 Professional/Para-Professional: 143 Both: 156

**Grades Child/Children Attend(s): Total 593**

Pre-School: 103 K-5th: 142 6-8<sup>th</sup>: 106 9-12: 104 Other: 65 N/A: 73

**Participant Ages: Total: 472** 14 or under :0 15-20: 16 21-40: 241 41-50: 134 60+: 81

**Ethnic Group: Total: 468** Asian: 2 African American: 42 Hispanic: 247 White: 170 Other: 7

**Salaries: Total: 562** \$25,000 or less: 251 \$25,000-\$40,000: 140 \$40,000-\$60,000: 90 \$60,000+:81

**Employer Allowed Time to Attend: Total 469** Yes: 322 No: 33 N/A: 114

The 30 day follow-up survey will be mailed out approximately December 5, 2008 with responses due to be returned in self-addressed and stamped envelopes by December 17, 2008. Results from it and other information from the evaluations taken on the day of the conference for each of the speaker's sessions will be compiled between mid-December, 2008 and January, 2009.

**Texas Extension Education Association**  
Kay Davis, CEA Family and Consumer Sciences

**Relevance**

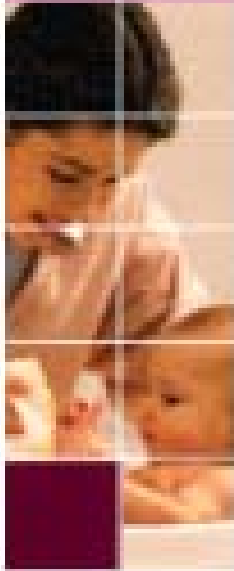
The Texas Extension Education Association was organized in 1926. This association works with Texas AgriLife Extension Service to strengthen and enrich families through educational programs, leadership development and community service. The objectives include: strengthen, develop, coordinate, and extend 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.

TEEA Clubs are an association of local groups that meet for informal education on home, family, and community issues. Their mission is to work with Texas Cooperative Extension to strengthen and enrich families through educational programs, leadership development and community service. Members receive hands-on experiences through workshops, tours, club meetings and community projects.

TEEA and its members value strong families as basic to the well being of Texas; educational programs that address critical needs impacting Texas families and communities; education as a life-long learning process; and opportunities for volunteer and leadership development. This agent was given responsibility for advising the Lubbock County TEEA. The agents have coordinated many different events to assist them in marketing the group and increasing membership.

**Response/Results**

Programs include: ‘Be the Master of Your Memory,’ ‘Patriotism Through Preparedness,’ ‘Quilts,’ ‘Nip Clutter in the Bud,’ ‘Low Calorie Desserts,’ and ‘Recycling Lamp Shades.’ Tours will be determined throughout the year. The group participated in the District 2 TEEA meeting in Plains in March. Members received the bi-monthly Family Network Newsletter in efforts to advertise programs. Three additional new members joined in March 2008. Lubbock County has one club with six members.

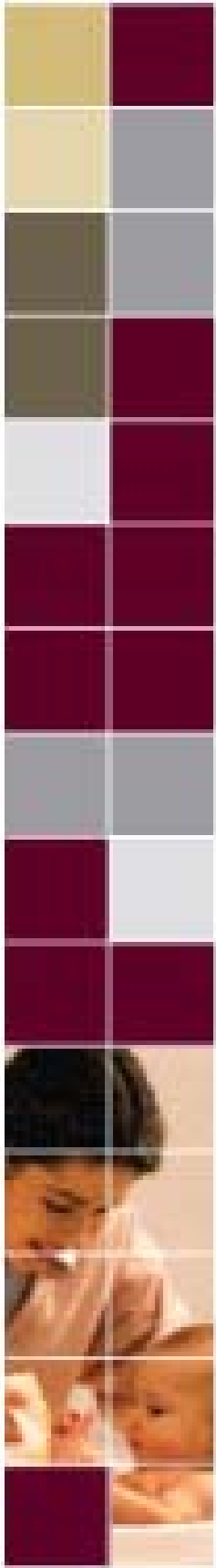


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# State Goal

## Health, Safety and Well-being





## 2008 Lubbock County Better Living for Texans

Kay Davis, County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences

### Relevance

10% of Lubbock County population are food stamp recipients and 87,313 county residents are potentially eligible at 185% or lower of the Federal Poverty Income Level (Source: Statistical Data Chart for BLT Reference, form CP:4 for 06-07). Research suggests that limited resource individuals consume diets that are not in agreement with current dietary recommendations (i.e. Dietary Guidelines and Food Guide), potentially increasing their risk for developing chronic disease. Additionally, limited resource audiences are at a higher risk for food insecurity and hunger, which also impacts health.

While the Lubbock unemployment rate in 2006 was reported to be from 3.3 % to 4.0% the Lubbock County Data for Economic (In)Security and Support in The State of Texas Children 2007: Lubbock County, shows that 17.8% (43,246) of the total population in Lubbock County live in poverty and that 24.5% (15,429) of children live in poverty. There were 1,506 (2.4%) children receiving TANF and 895 (14.5%) receiving Social Security. In 2005, children receiving Food Stamps numbered 15,776 (25.6%), while 7,226 (37.5%) were enrolled in the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program. In 2007, 24,050 (59%) children were receiving free or reduced-price lunches.

In 2001, indigent health care cost Lubbock County tax payers \$19,807,738.00. There were 10,381 indigent care visits averaging \$1,908.00 per visit (\$19,806,948.00). The majority of the visits resulted in outpatient care. Four hundred sixty-nine indigent patients were admitted to the hospital with an average cost of \$13,515.00 per patient (\$6,338,535.00). On average, Independent School Districts receive \$2,537.00 for the basic average daily attendance per child per school year. The Roosevelt ISD in Lubbock County reports an average absence rate of 4%. Though not all participants in Lubbock County BLT programs work outside the home, healthier lifestyles will ultimately result in less work absences and lost productivity as well as lower medical bills, which could have been paid by the county state, and federal tax dollars for indigent health care costs. When children are healthier, they are present at school, the school districts receive more in State funding, thereby extending the local tax dollars. Parents do not have to take time off from work resulting in more productivity in the work place.

The FCS Advisory Board, Lubbock County Partner's For Parenting Coalition and Leadership Advisory Board TCFE Validation process acknowledge the state requirement for BLT programming and confirmed nutrition education and food security as a need in Lubbock County in addition to other issues validating Lubbock County participating in Better Living for Texans at the Silver level (advancing to Gold for 2008-2009) with this agent coordinating the program and hiring/supervising an assistant and interns.

### Response

Participants of the Better Living for Texans (BLT) programs will acquire knowledge related to dietary quality, the importance of physical activity, food resource management, and food safety. Lubbock County participates in BLT at the silver level (with a program assistant). The county

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will contribute 416 hours of nutrition education for limited income families, 208 supervision hours, will have a minimum of 350 direct educational contacts and will graduate 25-50 adults from a 3-lesson series. On average, a half-time program assistant should conduct a minimum of twelve (12) educational programs per month and full-time assistants should conduct twice that many programs.

Better Living for Texans qualified senior citizen centers are receiving a modified Eat Smart Series in 2008. The 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. A twelve lesson series is being taught at My Father's House for the clients in the Christian Women's Job Corp for the February through April quarter. Three lessons will be evaluated as a Better Living for Texans series. Five Dietetic Interns from Texas Tech assisted in presentations for Community Nutrition Rotation credit as coordinated by Agent Kay Davis. My Father's House Summer and Fall Quarter participants also received the 3-4 lessons for the BLT series.

A new part-time Extension Assistant started September 1, 2008. In October, 2008, Lubbock County increased to the Gold level and this assistant became full time. Agents match time will also increase to approximately 850 hours. Texas Tech Dietetic Interns are also possibilities to assist with programs in October and April Evaluation Series. The BLT EA resigned October 17, 2008 and a new EA will be selected from applicants in December 2008 to start in January 2009.

## **Results**

Eat better to Live Better Evaluations: Thirty-Four participants completed pre-survey evaluations. When asked how often they planned meals in advance, 71% reported sometimes, 15% reported always, and 12% reported never. 38% reported using a grocery list, while 32% always used a list, and 21% never used a list. 47% compared prices sometimes, and 35% always did so, but only 26% used unit pricing sometimes and 65% never used it. 91% always washed cutting boards, utensils and counter tops after cutting up raw meat and 74% washed their hands for 20 seconds before and during cooking, and 58% left food sitting out less than 1 hour. Only 12% rated their ability to cook nutritious meals as "Very Good", while 41% rated themselves as "fair". Almost half of the participants indicated 4 things made it hard to cook nutritious meals. These included knowing how to cook meals, time it takes to cook meals, cost of nutritious foods, and "other" such as liking to do it. On average, participants spent about \$200.00 of their own money on groceries, not counting food stamps. Participants participated in: WIC (41%), Head Start (25%), Expanded Nutrition Program (3%), Food banks or pantries (18%), Food Stamps (35%) averaging \$450.00 per month, Free or reduced meals at school (44%) 91% were female; 59% Hispanic, 29% white, and 3% were African-American. They reported from 1 to 7 persons per household with 0 to 5 children. 35% were married, 26% were never married, 12% were divorced, and 18% were separated. 53% were high school graduates, 24% had some college, and 21% had less than a high school education. 71% had never participated in a Texas AgriLife Extension program before. After the series of lessons, 26 completed a post survey. 58% reported sometimes and 38% reported always planning meals in advance, 65% now report using a shopping list while 27% sometimes do so, 69% now always compare prices while 31% sometimes do so, 46% sometimes use the unit pricing information while 38% always do so, 96% now wash cutting board, utensils, and counter tops with hot soapy water after cutting up raw meats, and 96% now wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and water before and during cooking. 46% leave food out less than 1 hour, and 35% put it away immediately. 54% now rate their ability to prepare a nutritious meal as "good", while 35% rate themselves as "very good". 77% feel they do or will be able to spend less since participating in BLT.

One hundred eighty-five seniors per month at Copper Rawlings, Mae Simmons, Maggie Trejo, and Lubbock 19<sup>th</sup> St. Senior Citizens Centers received the 12 monthly Eat Smart series in response to a SPAG monthly nutrition education requirement. Five nutrition programs were conducted at each of two senior citizens/community centers and a church hosting the summer youth food service program activities. A summer intern assisted in planning, creating, and conducting the lessons from June through mid-August, 2008. This agent participated in "Bringing Ag to YOUth" at 2 elementary schools reaching 1000 youth with MyPyramid information and how the food in each group is grown, harvested, processed and available in stores, the nutrients available and what they do for the body. Five nutrition programs were also conducted at Lubbock Housing Authority. Programs in 2009 will continue at head starts, senior centers, My Father's House, Lubbock Housing Authority, and summer youth food service sites.



**Do Well, Be Well with diabetes™**  
Kay Davis, CEA Family and Consumer Sciences

**Relevance**

According to the American Diabetes Association, about 18.2 million people, or 6.3 percent of the population in the United States, have type 2 diabetes. An estimated 13 million have been diagnosed, while 5.2 million do not know they have it. In Texas, 8.1 percent (1/3 million) of the residents suffer from diabetes. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services (<http://www.dshs.stae.tx.us/diabetes/PDF/county.pdf>), in 2001, there were 182,417 people diagnosed with diabetes (6.7%) in Lubbock County. The number of Americans with diabetes is projected to increase 43 percent, growing from 12.1 million to 17.4 million by 2020. Health care costs now average \$13,243 per person with diabetes, for an annual total cost of \$132 billion in the U.S. – \$92 billion (70 %) for health care and \$40 billion (30%) in lost productivity. Men with diabetes miss an average of 11 work days each year, while women miss about 9 work days. Almost \$1 of every \$5 spent on health care is for people with diabetes. Currently, only 7% of people with diabetes are at recommended levels for blood glucose, blood pressure, and blood cholesterol. Poor diabetes management leads to increased health care costs. People with diabetes who maintain their blood glucose, blood pressure, and cholesterol numbers within recommended ranges can keep their costs, health risks, quality of life, and productivity very close to those without the disease. The annual cost of diabetes in Texas is estimated at \$9 billion. 7.7 percent of Texans 18 years old or older are diagnosed with diabetes; another 400,000 have diabetes but do not know it. Texas is projected to have a greater incidence rate and increased costs in the future due to the growing population of Hispanics/Latinos, who are at greater risk for the disease.

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. Burdens of diabetes mismanagement are disproportionately borne by those with little or no insurance coverage, lower literacy, poor or no English skills, lower educational and income levels, and poor access to transportation.

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.

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The FCS Advisory Board determined diabetes to be one of the priority issues to be addressed and allocated budget funds to help offset costs. Lubbock County has also provided a limited amount of demonstration funds for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. This agent will coordinate, market, arrange for speakers for some lessons and teach some of the lessons and demonstrations.

## **2008**

### **Response**

A combined Do Well, Be Well/Cooking Well With Diabetes format to be presented at Slaton's First Christian Church in April was cancelled due to Church conflicts. A series was marketed to senior citizens at senior centers in Lubbock County and conducted in October and November 2008 at the 19<sup>th</sup> St. Senior Citizens Center because of its central location and because a large number of senior center participants are either diagnosed with type II diabetes, at risk for developing it, or have a family member with diabetes. The Cooking Well lessons and recipes were combined with the related Do Well Be Well lessons.

### **Results**

Results will be compiled with final results available after follow-up surveys are conducted in 2009. The DWBW/CWWD combined programs were conducted in seven 2-1/2 hour classes instead of a total of nine to ten classes.