

EXTENSION

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Educational programs for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

- CEA Scott validated **225 4-H and FFA steer projects** in June, as well as conducting State Fair of Texas validation for 4- H lambs, goats, heifers and swine projects.
- CEA Scott held the **Outdoor Education Youth Fishing Tournament** for **34 District 2 4-H'ers** in June at the Buddy Holly Recreational Area in Lubbock.
- The **Lubbock Master Gardener Association** hosted several free youth public education events at the **Groves Public Library, the Idalou Public Library and the Wolfforth Public Library** throughout the summer, with 52 youth and 28 adults in attendance.
- Aaron Chaloupka was awarded a **\$2,000 scholarship** from the **Lubbock Master Gardener Association**.
- The **Lubbock Master Gardener Association** hosted its annual **Hub City Garden Tour** with **345 guests** attending and 888 free seed packets being distributed to participants.
- According to CEA Baugh, the area **cotton crop** in most places has gotten off to a good start. With frequent rains, area producers were able to keep up with irrigation demand. Lubbock County did see its fair share of weather damage in May and early June. Lubbock County lost the RACE Variety trial, the Row Spacing and Plant Population trial and the soil amendment trial. Accordingly, the Southern High Plains crop could still see close to **4 million bales of cotton ginned**.
- CEA Baugh has recently conducted **result demonstration** work involving a **nematode survey** across the High Plains. The Plant Pathology group requested Agent Baugh to sample 8 vegetable fields: 3 tomato fields, 2 watermelon fields, 1 cantaloupe field and 1 pumpkin field.
- **Recent pests** that have been detected in Lubbock County include: **guava nematode** on tomato plant transplants; **corn leafhopper** with minimal damage; **cotton Jassid leafhopper**, a pest from India that has been found in the San Angelo area, brought in on Hibiscus transplants from Florida. The Lubbock search did not find any of these leafhoppers, but our nurseries quit carrying these plants in early August.

Family & Community Health

- CEA Edwards, a certified Alzheimer's Association Community Educator, presented three free sessions: "**10 Early Signs of Alzheimer's**," "**Healthy Living for Brain and Body**," and "**Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia**" at the Slaton Senior Center, Lubbock Dream Center, Foster Grandparents, Goodwill Resource Center, and Raider Ranch. These sessions provided participants with tools to recognize warning signs and take next steps.
- EA Walser conducted **Walk N' Talk** at Mae Simmons Senior Center and Maggie Trejo Senior Center with a total of **23 graduates**. This program teaches new ways to enhance participants' water consumption by adding fruits and vegetables and the importance of physical activity.
- This summer, CEA's Alexander, Bozeman, Edwards, Reid, Walser and four interns hosted **Cultivate, Cook and Create** at the South Plains Food Bank GRUB Farm for YWCA and Guadalupe/Parkway Community Center participants. Each Wednesday during the summer, youth rotated through four interactive sessions: classroom lessons, hands-on cooking in the kitchen, garden activities and a GO session on the patio—helping them connect gardening, nutrition, physical activity and team-building skills. There were **30 graduates** from this series.
- EA Walser hosted an outreach table at the **Veterans Women's Conference** where she distributed information about healthy living and tasty, nutritious recipes to **90 conference attendees**. CEA Edwards presented "**Canning Basics: Water Bath and Pressure Canning**" to 25 participants during a session at the conference. Participants learned about safe home food preservation techniques, including proper equipment use, food safety guidelines, and step-by-step instructions for both water bath and pressure canning.

4-H & Youth Development

- In June, CEA Bozeman began **Root to Rise**, engaging **23 participants** in a growth mindset program implemented in partnership with the **South Plains Food Bank GRUB Farm**, designed to help youth develop resilience, confidence, and a deeper understanding of personal growth.
- CEA Bozeman started the **FRED (Families Reading Every Day)** program in August at **Idalou Elementary** successfully engaging **414 participants** and encouraging families to read together for **20 minutes each night**.
- This summer Lubbock County hosted **two AgriLife Extension Interns** and **two Texas Tech University Food and Nutrition** student interns. Interns were involved in educational programs with faculty to learn about their career possibilities as County Extension Agents.
- At the Annual **Lubbock County 4-H Achievement Banquet**, 9 adult volunteers and community supporters were recognized for their support of the Lubbock County 4-H program. Ten 4-H'ers were recognized as meeting the first annual **4-H Community Service Challenge** and over 100 recognitions were also awarded to Lubbock County 4-H'ers for their 2024-25 4-H work.
- The annual **4-H Veterinary Science Summer** series was held in July, focusing on helping youth to develop their skills in the Veterinary Skill-A-Thon competition; 15 youth participated in the two day, **hands-on workshops**.