

Quarterly Report

January - March, 2010

Executive Summary

A total of 539 group educational program methods were reported this quarter, yielding 13,818 teaching exposures. A total of 9,410 individual educational contacts were reported through newsletters, office visits, field-based visits, phone calls, newsletters, mail and e-mails. Volunteers had a total of 12,260 educational contacts during the quarter. Total educational contacts for the quarter (group and individual contacts) were 34,815.

Programs and services for this quarter included the annual Pesticide Applicator Training, pesticide use safety and calibration classes, Landscape irrigation Management continuing education/certification, Better Living for Texas Nutrition classes, Community Child Care Providers classes; In-home water conservation, Childhood Obesity classes, Community garden set up at B. Moore Childrens Home, Rose pruning and spring gardening classes, turfgrass and lawn care classes; basic home vegetable gardening classes; Pecan, wheat and cotton conferences, Ag in the Classroom program; Junior Master Gardeners, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) for youth and adults, financial literacy and identity theft programs, Parenting classes, Environmental education at after-school programs at Ft. Bliss and Parks & Recreation sites, and Kids & Kows & More agriculture literacy event and educational exhibits at environmental and health fairs.

Mission Statement

To provide quality, relevant outreach and continuing educational programs and services to the people of El Paso County.

Department Description

Texas AgriLife Extension Service is a statewide educational agency and a member of The Texas A&M University System linked in a unique partnership with the nationwide United States Department of Agriculture Cooperative Extension System and the El Paso County Commissioners Court. Extension values and promotes principles of citizen and community involvement, scientifically-based education, lifelong learning and volunteerism. It provides access to citizens in all 254 Texas counties and works cooperatively with the 10 universities and 8 state agencies of The Texas A&M University System and other state and local agencies to bring the necessary resources to El Paso that will address local issues and solve local problems.

Highlights of Activities

Agriculture / Integrated Pest Management / Natural Resources

- AgriLife Extension along with TDA, The El Paso Pest Management Association (EPPMA), The Greater El Paso Pest Control Association, and the Ysleta Independent School District jointly conducted a “Pesticide Applicator Training”. Topics included update on pesticide use laws and regulations, Insect Biology for Pesticide Applicators, urban pest management, Termites and other wood-destroying organisms, Weed management and Herbicides, New Management Solutions for sap-feeding insects worker protection standards and Integrated Pest Management. A total of 260 participants in training earned 5 CEUs.
- Pecan Weevil monitoring and nut sampling of pecan farms in the El Paso valley with over 9,000 acres coverage.
- Present a pest report on the 2009 season at the West Texas Pecan Growers Association annual meeting
- Monitoring of athletic fields in city parks, county parks and ISD’s on soil compaction and irrigation audit efficiencies.
- Pesticide Applicator Training for 18 individuals preparing for TDA pesticide use license examination
- TMN Trans Mountain Highway Cleanup, 2 mile stretch of Transmountain, a joint program of the Master Gardeners and Master Naturalist chapters.
- Educational Exhibit on natural resources conservation during the Celebration of the Poppies.
- Management of pecan nut casebearer (pnc) workshop for 23 participants. Web-based predictive model to maximize pesticide applications against pnc.
- Start of 13 weeks volunteer training course for Texas Master Naturalist Program.

Horticulture

- Horticulture series of educational programs offered to professionals and landscape maintenance staff of ISD’s, county and city parks and recreation.
- Educational booth at 2010 Poppies Celebration with various educational presentations offered.
- The Good to Grow radio program airs weekly on KTEP radio, the local National Public Radio affiliate station. Various gardening topics that are appropriate to the desert southwest are discussed and Earth Kind principles are recommended.
- “Extension Gardening Hotline.” Available for El Paso County residents and manned by Master Gardeners volunteers weekdays. This is a service providing research based information on gardening/landscape problems from residents.
- Rose pruning techniques training for the public conducted at the Rose garden with more than 100 attendees.
- Earth-Kind recommended rose varieties distribution program for area homeowners.
- Assist in landscape plan and plant selection for the Friendly Nutrition Center and B. Moore Children’s Home facility.

- Soil conservation and erosion management workshop
- Basic gardening classes throughout the month of January to March

Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program

- Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) Nutrition Classes for Economically Disadvantaged Youth and Families with Children. Conducted classes throughout the county with 3,332 adults and 1,699 youth participants for the reporting quarter.
- Educational booth on food labels and safety and disaster preparedness for families at Health Fairs with more than 300 attending.

Family & Consumer Sciences

- Child Care Providers – Obesity prevention classes for 137 participants
- Healthy Relationships, a strengthening families program for 40 participants
- Identity Theft, Debt management and Borrowing Basics, 6 sessions for 112 parents.
- Food Buying Guide & Better Health-Better Choices – 25 sessions for 488 participants
- Parenting Connections curriculum – 8 classes with 72 parents
- Disaster Preparedness classes for 40 families
- Get the Facts on Portions, 3 part series nutrition class for 25 participants

Community Development

- Agriculture (Farm and Ranch) Day, Agricultural Literacy project held in the towns of Fabens, Tornillo and Anthony for 1,357 youth.
- Small Agribusiness Lending Program - for 20 prospective loan applicants

4H & Youth Development

- 2010 Kids, Kows & More - agriculture literacy event for 2827 youths and 204 teachers
- Environmental Education Programs at After-School Program Sites, 26 site coordinators
- Ft. Bliss Community Services Facility 4H program for 85 participants
- El Paso 4-H Roundup photography project for 24 participants
- 4H volunteers participating in Martin Luther King food drive
- 4H Ft. Bliss Pre-Deployment Fair and Teen Work Place Prep Workshop for 221 youth participants
- 4-H consumer decision making Training for 6 adult volunteers
- 4H special projects training for 108 youth participants at Ft. Bliss centers
- 4H 4-H Cluster Leaders 4 Life Sessions for 28 youth participants
- El Paso American dream-Financial Literacy Youth Education program
- El Paso GYSD Youth Team Coordinative Meetings – 28 partners

Quotes from the Public

“Training on pest management issues help me save money and all the information provided in this workshop was excellent.” – *Pesticide Applicators Training participant*

Budget & Financial Status

From the approved FY2010 funding for Texas AgriLife Extension, 37% of the personnel budget and 38% of operating had been used as of March 31, 2010.

Performance Data Training and Professional Development

County faculty conferences were held on the first and third Fridays of each month; A faculty retreat was held on March 27; Regional program review on March 31; Attendance by staff on Centra Training on Urban program evaluation strategies, Staff retreat and Civil Rights Training in March. Individual professional development training by several faculty members included: AgriLife Annual Conference in College Station, Beltwide Cotton Conference, Grant Writing workshop, IPM Annual Agents Retreat, FCS program development in San Angelo; AC Regional Cluster Networking Conference in Dallas, CEP spring conference, Annual performance evaluation conference, Texas Master Gardeners coordinators conference, TTVN training for Better Living for Texans and Expanded Food Nutrition Education Program and -Disaster Preparedness Training, KKnMore volunteers training.

Summary of Educational Methods January - March 2009

Group Educational Programs:

Presented	539
Participants	13,818
Youth contacts.....	6,868

Programs by Volunteers:

Clientele reached	12,260
(group and Individual)	

Individual Educational Methods:

Clientele Reached	9,410
Office	418
Site contacts.....	1,346
Telephone.....	1,478
Mail/e-mail.....	4,877
Newsletters.....	1,291

Total Educational Contacts: 34,815

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