

Practicing collaboration and innovation to advance the unique interests of urban counties in Texas

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Extension in the City

July 2025 Quarterly Newsletter

 EXTENSION

Practicing collaboration and innovation to advance the unique interests of urban counties in Texas



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OUR WORK MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

IN THE LIVES OF TEXANS AND
ON THE ECONOMY.

MISSION STATEMENT:

“Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service works daily to make Texas better by providing innovative solutions at the intersection of agriculture, natural resources, youth, and health, thereby improving the well-being of individuals, families, businesses, and communities through education and service.”

VISION STATEMENT:

“Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be the leader in providing science-based information and solutions in agriculture and health to every Texan.”

SHARED VALUES:

“We value People, Programs, and Partnerships.”

Urban Partnerships Synergy Symposium



Dr. Amy Ressler describes the partnership journey



The stage is set for conversation and connection



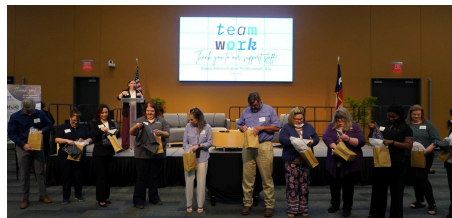
Panelists: Lharissa Jacobs and Janna Roberson



Dr. Carolyn Williams shares Extension's impact



Dr. Manuel Pina provides support and insight



Thank you to our amazing support staff



Insight from successful partnerships



Keynote speaker: Betti Wiggins, Nutrition services officer for HISD



Small group discussion: Community Gardens

The first ever **Urban Partnerships Synergy Symposium** was held in April at the West Houston Institute (WHI) on the Houston Community College (HCC) Alief Campus. **Harris and Fort Bend Counties co-hosted** the two-day event. Tuesday, April 22, focused on **community partnerships** with 113 people in attendance. Wednesday, April 23, was all about **school partnerships** with 55 people attending and included makerspace workshops hosted by WHI. Public school teachers earned up to 9 continuing professional education credits (CPEs). The event included panel discussions as well as small group discussions to help participants make connections and start plans. Keynotes emphasized the power of partnerships.



Brainstorming on partnership requirements



Tour of West Houston Institute Makerspace labs



Networking conversations



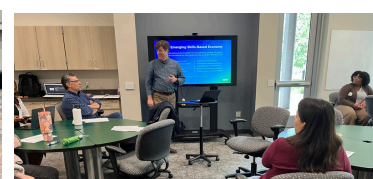
Small group discussion: disaster assessment and recovery



Small group discussion: youth development



Sharing challenges and successes



HCC Integrating Technology



Sponsors: American Youth Works, Baker-Ripley, Council for Healthy Food Systems and others

Awesome AV guy, Rey "Thanks" from all of us!

WELCOME ABOARD!

We are pleased to announce new members of our team. Their experience and expertise will greatly contribute to our success. We look forward to working together.



Andrew Chavez

County Extension Agent
4-H Youth and Development

Andrew has been part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for more than 8 years, serving as an Extension Assistant with the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. His passion and dedication to youth programs earned him the Highest Education Success Award for achieving the highest youth outreach in the state!



Kathleen Cavazos

Health and Wellness Educator

Kathleen graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology with a concentration in Exercise Science from Texas A&M International University. She's worked with seniors and children of all ages while working for the City of Laredo Parks and Recreation Department and Northeast Independent School District in San Antonio. She is excited to contribute and share valuable resources and knowledge with those in need.



Jenna Lopez

Youth Gardens Educator

Jenna attended Texas A&M University, where she received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies. Jenna is passionate about nature, green space, community gardens and food and nutrition. She hopes to share her love of the outdoors and healthy living by providing educational experiences for youth, making a lasting and positive impact in their lives.



Kalani Villa

Youth Outreach Educator

Kalani graduated from the University of Incarnate Word with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology. He's worked at Fort Sam Houston with the School Age Care Services, where he was first introduced to 4-H and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service through STEM education. Coming from an Air Force military family, Kalani has lived all over the world and has spent the last five years in the United States. In his spare time, he enjoys building Legos, being physical active, playing video games, and conducting science experiments.

STRENGTHENING OUR TEAM, ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITY

The Dallas County Staff continues to grow, and we are elated with all of the new faces that have joined our team! We're excited to welcome four talented professionals to the Dallas County AgriLife Extension team. **Shard'e Jackson** joins us as the new **SNAP-Ed PVAMU Agent**, bringing over a decade of experience in nutrition education and a deep commitment to empowering families through wellness. **Isabel (Anne) LeSenne** steps in as the **Urban Horticulture Extension Agent**, offering extensive expertise in landscaping, arboriculture, and horticulture education. **Metek Eshetu** joins as a **Temporary Buyer**, with more than 10 years of financial experience across nonprofit and corporate sectors, and a strong focus on efficiency and fiscal responsibility. Lastly, we're thrilled to welcome back **Jonathan Meadors** as our **4-H Teens as Teachers Program Assistant**—he returns after a previous internship, bringing fresh energy and a passion for youth mentorship, horticulture, and animal science. We're proud to have them on board as we continue to serve our Dallas County community.



From left to right Shard'e Jackson, Anne LeSenne, Metek Eshetu, and Jonathan Meadors

URBAN COUNTY FARM EXPO BRINGS FRESH FOOD LITERACY TO DALLAS YOUTH

This spring, the RB1 Urban County Farm hosted the inaugural season of the Urban County Farm EXPO, an exciting half-day program designed to increase fresh food-growing literacy, environmental stewardship, and healthy eating habits among 3rd to 5th-grade students from limited-resource areas in Dallas County. The EXPO's mission is to help youth connect agriculture to health by showing them where food comes from, the journey it takes to their plates, and how making better food choices can improve their overall wellness.

Following the Texas A&M Path to Plate and Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! curricula, the program includes engaging demonstrations and hands-on activities presented by AgriLife Extension staff alongside Texas Master Gardeners, Master Wellness, and Master Naturalist Volunteers. Students visited key projects at the farm, including the orchard, vineyard, apiary, vegetable production area, and demonstration garden. They also participated in a kitchen demonstration, where they got to taste fresh produce and learn new recipes. Throughout the season, most students were bussed in from Dallas ISD elementary schools and Dallas Park and Recreation summer programs, targeting neighborhoods identified by the Child Opportunity Index as having low opportunities for children.

The experience was well-received by both students and adult participants. Many shared thoughtful feedback on tasting herbs in the garden and expressed what they learned about nutrition and healthy living. Although the Carrot Crunch recipe wasn't a favorite for some, students appreciated the opportunity to try new ingredients and maintained a positive attitude toward healthy eating.

The Urban County Farm EXPO is an impactful step toward cultivating healthier habits and environmental awareness in Dallas youth, planting the seeds for a stronger, healthier community.



Director Xiomara, Master Gardeners, and students at the Urban Expo held at the RB1 farm

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M EXTENSION SENDS TWO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM DALLAS COUNTY TO ATTEND THE 2025 NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Prairie View A&M Extension continues to provide valuable youth development opportunities, and this year was no exception. On April 11, 2025, two Dallas County 4-H youth, Marco and Matthew Torres, joined over 300 high schoolers at a prestigious event sponsored by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). For four days, they participated in roundtables, collaborating on creative solutions to national challenges and presenting their ideas to leaders from over 20 federal agencies.

Marco Torres shared, "I didn't know what to expect, but the energy and people made it an unforgettable experience. It was one of the best experiences of my life, and I hope to do it again." Matthew Torres reflected, "I was nervous at first, but the supportive environment helped me connect with others. It turned out to be one of the best experiences I've had."

Federal partners played a key role by presenting an issue of importance on which they would like to receive youth perspective. Marco focused on national service with AmeriCorps, while Matthew worked on empowering youth in rural communities with the Smithsonian Institution. Both youth were able to share their insights and make lasting connections at this impactful event. Marco Torres and Matthew Torres were the youth from Dallas County granted to attend this prestigious event sponsored by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), a subsidiary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). For four full days, Marco and Matthew joined their respective groups to work together to discuss and compile the proposals in a formal presentation to present to leaders from over 20 federal government agencies.

Matthew stated, "Before going to the 4-H trip, I was honestly very nervous and hesitant. I didn't know many people, and I wasn't sure what to expect. I kept thinking about how awkward it might be or if I'd even fit in. But once I got there, the program made it so easy to feel comfortable. The activities were well set up to help us connect, and the leaders were super supportive. I started making friends without even realizing it, and soon enough, I was jumping into the tasks with confidence. It ended up being one of the best experiences I've had... something I'm glad I didn't miss out on."



2025 National 4-H Conference Marco and Matthew Torres with agent Elias Espinosa

BUSINESS IN DEVELOPMENT (BID) ACADEMY

The Spring 2025 Business in Development (BID) Academy was a nine-session training series designed to prepare small business owners for success in government contracting. Sessions covered key topics such as HUB certification, business planning, marketing, elevator pitches, bookkeeping, alternative capital, proposal writing, supplier diversity, and effective networking. Twenty-two small businesses participated, representing industries including construction, transportation, food service, aquaponics, real estate, cybersecurity, and insurance.

The BID Academy was delivered in partnership with several organizations, including the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Small Business Administration, Emajj Public Relations, Pioneers21, LiftFund, ESC19, Borderplex Community Capital, Business Network International (BNI), and Balancing Keys Bookkeeping.

The program acts as a springboard for small businesses seeking public sector opportunities. Since its conclusion, five participants have applied for HUB certification, and seven have registered with the Texas Centralized Master Bidders List. Ongoing support continues to help participants strengthen operations and build readiness to compete for contracts.



Left to Right: Elizabeth Sida - Canutillo ISD Purchasing Agent, Ingrid Macias - PVAMU CED Agent, & Becky Hernandez - Allied States Cooperative Procurement Director



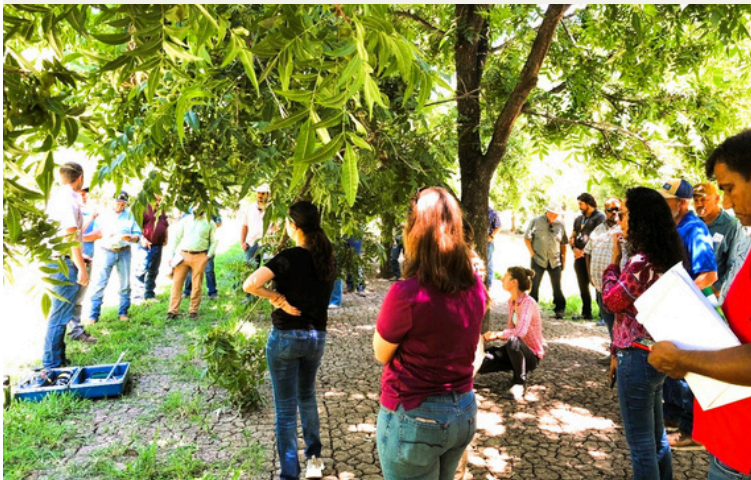
Gracie Cain Viramontes "La Marketera" from Emajj Public Relations & Marketing teaching how to build a Business Marketing Capability Statement

El Paso County Pecan Field Day 2025

El Paso County stands out not only as the largest pecan-producing county in Texas, but also as a hub of regional agricultural cooperation bringing together extension experts, growers and stakeholders across state lines to support and advance pecan production.

What makes the El Paso County Pecan Field Day unique is its regional approach with Texans referring to it as the Upper Valley and New Mexicans referring to it as the Mesilla Valley- yet it's the same geographic region. Many farmers, including this year's host, Isaiah Ulmer, operate farms on both sides of the state line. The need for collaborative efforts in research, education and resource management is essential to the success of the region.

Program Speakers consist of Pecan Specialists from New Mexico State University, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – El Paso County. Over 45 participants attended the program and received either TDA or NMDA continuing educational units. Educational topics included pecan orchard management, water balance in flood irrigated pecans, and updates to pecan pest and disease issues.



EVOLUTIONS

EVOLVING LIKE BUTTERFLIES



Gabrielle Butler, Community and School Garden Coordinator, served as a Monarch Ambassador



Activities for the entire family: youth show off their coffee filter butterfly creations



Volunteers on hand to greet participants and answer questions



Information & education available for participants to learn more from PV Agent Dr. Abdul Hakeem & others

On May 3, the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners hosted a community-wide Butterfly Celebration and Earth Kind Landscape Demonstration with 432 community members attending. There were 100 volunteers who contributed 500 volunteer hours collectively to make the event a success with 39 interactive activities, self-guided tours of our demonstration gardens, and conversations with Master Gardeners. Visitors learned about pollinator plants, butterflies, and other insects that live in our gardens.

EVOLVING LIKE INTERNS



Key learning points: Working for Extension is like a yogurt parfait... lots of layers, transparency matters, and many possible combinations



Key learning points: County Commissioners Court are integral to Extension work. Interns attended a court meeting on June 24; FBC Com. Pct. 4 Dexter McCoy shared insight on June 25 during a quarterly meeting with the County Extension Director



Key learning points: Success in any job... Be adaptable, keep trying, and work toward smooth transitions

Fort Bend County Extension hit the jackpot this summer with four outstanding interns. From the Fort Bend County Youth Employment Program, interns are Derrick Pittman, an urban forestry major at Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., and Alyssa Hernandez, a criminal justice major at Sam Houston State University. Texas State University has a federally funded project that supports student workforce development by placing student interns in various career fields. Ava Gonzales, a horticulture major, and Jasmine Cruz, an animal science major joined us for their intern programs. All four are Fort Bend County natives and are happy to be working near home this summer. Each of them has a project they complete by the end of their internship. They've worked together great as a team and as individuals.

EVOLUTIONS

EVOLVING LIKE SUMMERTIME



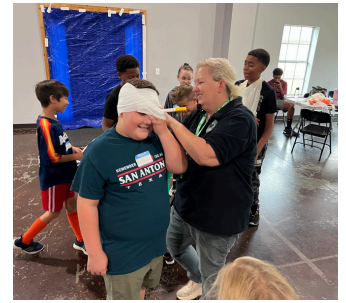
District Horse Judging



Wildlife Habitat Education Project



Texas 4-H Scholarship Awards



Fort Bend County 4-H Day Camp

Summertime is always a great time for 4-H and Youth Development and Fort Bend County has been busy. District 9 4-H Roundup a.k.a.: "Big Time in D9" was held at Lone Star College April 24 - 26. Fort Bend 4-H had 25 registrations. FBC was represented in 15 categories in the Texas 4-H Photography Contest. In the Texas Wildlife Habitat Education Project (WHEP) Contest on April 24, Fort Bend had the 1st Place Senior Team & high point individuals. Horse Judging teams placed 1st at District. FBC 4-H members received \$30,000 in 4-H Foundation scholarships. Camps and contests are plenty.



Texas 4-H Roundup



Texas 4-H Junior Entomology



Youth CPR training



4-H Robotics Contest



Archery Shoot Out Fundraiser

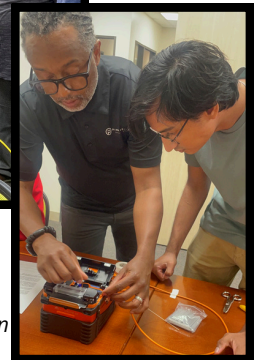
EVOLVING LIKE TECHNOLOGY

Prairie View Extension Community and Economic Development programs are helping Texas to meet the demand for skilled technicians. Earning a Low-Voltage and Fiber Optics Certificate of Completion is a highly valuable entry point into the tech sector, paving the way for careers in IT, electrical work, utilities, and smart technology services. The Rural Workforce Academy at Prairie View A&M University Extension, in collaboration with TECHSIS and 2nd Nature Safety, provided a tuition-free Low-Voltage Workforce Program where participants could earn in-demand industry certifications with the skills needed to succeed. Fort Bend County hosted an inaugural course for the program.



High-tech-low-voltage systems require trained professionals to install and maintain them.

The need for skilled low-voltage technicians is on the rise



ForUsTrees Town Hall Event

On April 3, 2025, Stephanie Gray, County Extension Agent for Horticulture (Commercial/Green Industry), played a pivotal role in advancing environmental education and community engagement through the successful coordination of the ForUsTrees Town Hall Event at 6400 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX. This event was a key milestone in the ForUsTrees Grant Project, which aims to expand equitable access to green spaces and enhance the urban tree canopy in under-resourced neighborhoods across Houston and Harris County. Stephanie worked with partners from Houston Area Research Center, the USDA Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife, Texas Conservation Corps, Student Conservation Association, and American YouthWorks. The event welcomed 45 attendees and additional volunteers.

The Town Hall featured presentations on:

- The ForUsTrees project overview
- Urban Heat Mapping Campaign findings
- The importance of urban forestry
- Tree planting and maintenance techniques
- Benefits of green spaces
- Climate resilience through urban forestry

The ForUsTrees initiative has already made a significant impact:

- 54,310 trees planted
- 2,040 hazardous trees removed
- 23 Community Engagement Environmental Education interns hired and trained
- Numerous public education events hosted



This project not only fosters environmental stewardship but also promotes economic development through green job creation and increased property values. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service's commitment to community-focused horticulture continues to make a lasting difference in the region's environmental resilience.

Summer Gardening Success in Small Spaces

Only 1 in 10 Americans consume the recommended amount of fruits and vegetables per day. To encourage people to increase their daily intake of fruits and vegetables, we teach Growing & Nourishing Healthier Communities (GNHC) for participants to learn the basics of growing their own vegetables at home. GNHC is a series with 6 weekly sessions.

In June, BLT agent, Jasmine Carey, taught two GNHC series at Harris County Public Library (HCPL), Jacinto City Branch and Twelve620 apartments. For session #3 of GNHC, the participants at the HCPL planted okra transplants in 5-gallon buckets. Each week, about 15 people attend the class, which is the largest group that the Jacinto City branch has ever had for any adult class. The 7 participants at Twelve620 apartments planted okra and melon transplants in 2 raised beds. Participants were excited to learn how to grow vegetables so they could use the produce harvested to supplement their food distributions at the complex.

The 5-gallon buckets for planting were donated by Blue Bell Creamery in Brenham. The raised beds were built and donated by the Houston Tool Bank.



Harris County 4-H Hosts Outdoor Skills Camp

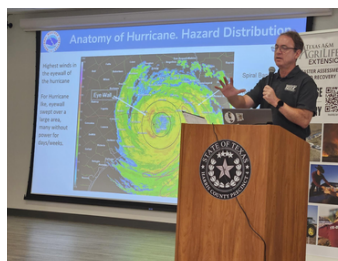
This summer, Harris County 4-H Agent Savannah Payne, in collaboration with colleagues Dr. Sonja Davis, Sydney Sharp-Taylor, Angela Camarillo, and Zachary Giblin, organized an exciting 4-H Outdoor Skills Camp. The event was made possible through the incredible support of the team at Jesse Jones Park and Nature Center in Humble, Texas. The camp was open to all Harris County youth—whether official 4-H members or not—and offered hands-on exposure to a wide range of 4-H project areas through engaging outdoor activities. Each activity was thoughtfully designed to teach valuable life skills in a fun and natural setting.

Participants explored topics such as archery, fishing, outdoor grilling, plant identification, water conservation and safety, structural engineering basics, drone technology for environmental monitoring, entomology, and wildlife studies. Beyond skill-building, campers were encouraged to collaborate, problem-solve, and lead, fostering both confidence and teamwork.

The camp provided a safe and welcoming space for young people to connect with nature, gain practical knowledge, and build lasting friendships—an unforgettable experience that embodies the spirit of 4-H.



Disaster Preparedness Summit



On Saturday, May 17, 2025, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Harris County held a Disaster Preparedness Summit at the Steve Radack Community Center. The goal of the Summit was to help individuals obtain information to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. Rodney Reed, Executive Assistant Chief Harris County Fire Marshal, opened with "What to Do in Life-Threatening Situations." A major point was to have a plan.

Concurrent sessions offered during the summit were home & food preparation & safety, tree/landscape care, generator use & safety, outdoor cooking, & understanding your homeowner's insurance disaster coverage. The day concluded with projections for the 2025 Hurricane Season by Dan Riley, Meteorologist, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), and door prizes.

Special thanks to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Disaster Assessment and Recovery Unit, Dr. Debra Zoran- Texas A&M Director of VET, Robert King & Jordan Draper of Greenway Insurance, and Matt Weaver of Texas Forest Service for excellent presentations; Harris Co. Precinct 4- Steve Radack Community Center for use of the facility; and the Harris County Program Area Committees for sponsoring lunch and refreshments. All attendees left hoping this becomes a yearly event.

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Sanci Hall, BLT Extension Agent, informs us that at the heart of every thriving community are the individuals who give their time, energy, and compassion to make a difference. Volunteering not only strengthens our neighborhoods - it also strengthens the volunteers themselves. From improved mental and emotional well-being to physical health benefits, the act of giving back is truly a win-win.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteers who embody this spirit of service. I want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the amazing individuals I have the privilege of working with.

Among them are Theresa P. and Kathy B., both Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Master Wellness Volunteers (MWV), whose commitment to wellness education is inspiring. We are also grateful for the many teachers across our community who bring our curriculum into their classrooms, helping to shape healthier futures for their students.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the educators at:

- **Everman ISD** - Dan Powell Early Learning Center and Bishop Elementary
- **Arlington ISD** - Kookan Educational Center, McNutt Elementary, Rankin Elementary, Goodman Elementary, Short Elementary, and Key Elementary
- **Keller ISD** - Heritage Elementary
- **Fort Worth ISD** - Rufino Mendoza Elementary, George C. Clarke Elementary, Kirkpatrick Elementary, Riverside Applied Learning Center, and Sagamore Hill Elementary



Your dedication to teaching and wellness is making a lasting impact.

I also want to extend my deepest appreciation to our Program Area Committee, whose guidance and support are invaluable. Thank you to Camille E., Sharon B., Pierre G., Mamie H., Dana H., Blanca M., Steven N., Gail P., and Stephanie R. for your thoughtful leadership and commitment to our mission.

Even though National Volunteer Week in the United States is observed annually during the third week of April, we are always grateful and appreciative of our volunteers-every single day of the year.



References:

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Theresa P. teaching Growing and Nourishing Healthy Community Gardens



MWV Kathy B. teaching Healthy Carbohydrates

Why Volunteering Matters - For You and Your Health:

Volunteering is more than just a generous act - it's a powerful tool for personal well-being. Here are just a few of the many benefits:

Physical Health

- Lowers blood pressure and improves heart health
- Strengthens the immune system
- Encourages physical activity
- Contributes to a longer, healthier life

Mental & Emotional Health

- Reduces stress and anxiety
- Boosts happiness and life satisfaction
- Enhances self-esteem and resilience
- Promotes better sleep and mindfulness
- Fosters a sense of belonging and purpose

Community & Social Benefits

- Builds meaningful social connections
- Fosters empathy and cultural awareness
- Strengthens community bonds
- Encourages civic responsibility and leadership

If you're inspired to join this incredible community of changemakers, consider becoming a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Master Wellness Volunteer. Learn more at agrilife.org/mwv or contact our County Extension Agent, Alaina Woolsey, at alaina.woolsey@ag.tamu.edu or 817.884.1945.

Together, we're building healthier lives and stronger communities - one volunteer at a time.

TARRANT COUNTY 4-H SUMMER ACTIVITIES

County Extension Agent-4-H, Kate Marshall, reports that even though our clubs don't traditionally meet in the summertime, our 4-H'ers have been busy!

- Gavin Slough received a \$10,000 4-H Foundation Scholarship at State Roundup.
- Jack Stoffels attended the Tier I 4-H Water Ambassador Leadership Academy.
- Leilah Burnside attended the 4-H Equine Ambassador short course in Stephenville.
- Kaden Gordillo, Sammie Duncan, Emma Harvey & Finley Montana attended District 4 Leadership Lab camp in Point, TX.
- Kaden Gordillo & Sammie Duncan were installed as District IV 4-H Council Officers.
- Kaden Gordillo placed 9th at State Roundup in the Ag & Natural Resources Ed. Presentation.
- Evelyn Cook placed 9th at State Roundup in the Sheep & Goat Ed. Presentation.
- Elizabeth Hall placed 4th at State Roundup in the Invitational Vet Skillathon Contest.
- Kaden Gordillo will be representing Tarrant County and District IV on the State 4-H Council.
- Drew Parker placed 1st in the TFAA Outdoor competition and 1st in the Fort Bend County Contest!
- Saginaw 4-H volunteered at the Windy Ryon Memorial Roping event.
- Lanelee Walden participated in the District IV Horse Camp in Gainesville.



BANQUET

The 2025 Travis County 4-H Banquet was held June 11th at the Pflugerville Lions Club with around 80 members and guests in attendance to celebrate the achievements of the Travis County 4-H members and volunteers! New members, returning members, club managers, and outstanding volunteers were recognized at "A Night Under the Sea". To cap off the night, our 2025-2026 Travis County Council Officer team was presented.



SEWING SUMER CAMP

Sewing Camp was a huge hit this year! Youth members of Travis County got to learn and practice sewing techniques in June. Attendees got to test out their skills and teamwork. Each group received scraps of fabric and had 15 minutes to create, sew, and complete a final product.



TOASTMASTERS SUMMER CAMP

Travis County hosts their annual toastmasters summer camp. A fun, confidence boosting 3-day camp designed to help youth ages 12+ develop and strengthen their public speaking skills. Throughout camp the kids participated in various activities, such as table topics which tested the campers quick thinking in a spontaneous setting. The camp also presented the kids with fun communication games such as taboo cards. While at toastmasters, campers wrote and presented three speeches. The camp ended with a graduation ceremony. Where they were presented with their certificates and presented their final motivational speech to their family members. There were even a few tears in the crowd from proud parents who had seen the progress their children had made!



VALIDATIONS

June 23rd & 24th were Travis County validation days, with Monday being steer and heifer validation. Over 30 head of cattle were ear tagged, tattooed, and had hair pulled. The following day was swine validation. With not as many pigs compared to cattle, all were successfully ear tagged and had hair pulled. These steers and swine are ready for the 2025-2026 show season!



LEADERSHIP LAB



Travis County 4-H agent, Morgan Newton, mentored and supported Travis County 4-H'ers as they expanded and learned new leadership skills at the 2 day Leadership Lab Camp in Leaky, Tx.

AGRICULTURE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WORKSHOP

On April 4th, 2025 Travis County Extension Agent, Kayli Higerd, hosted an Agriculture Financial Assistance Workshop. Industry leaders including the FSA, NRCS, and Climate Smart Initiative educated landowners, farmers, ranchers, etc. about financial programs such as grants/technical assistance.

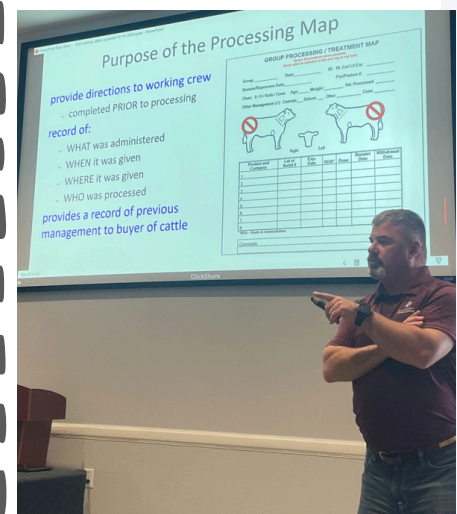
BACKYARD CHICKENS 101

April 5th, 2025 Travis County partnered with a local feed store, Callahan's General Store, to host Backyard Chickens 101. Nathan Fuchs from Ideal Poultry educated over 20 attendees on how to get started with backyard poultry, nutritional insight, supplies, and coop management.



BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE TRAINING

On May 29th, 2025 Travis and Bastrop County partnered to host a Beef Quality Assurance Training. Over 14 people attended this training to learn more about the best management practices to help strengthen consumer confidence in the beef industry. This training allowed those who attended to walk away with a free BQA certification! Thank you Dr. Karl Harborth for educating local cattlemen.



BEEKEEPING 101

On May 16th, Travis County hosted a Beekeeping 101 seminar. With 37 attendees, Tara Chapman and Garrett Slater helped educate on topics such as hive set ups, equipment, colony inspection, as well as how to support pollinators. Thank you Two Hives Honey for the hands on learning and opportunity. Those who attended had the opportunity to light smokers, suit up, and participate in a reading frames activity!

BEXAR COUNTY

County Judge Peter Sakai
Commissioner Rebeca Clay-Flores
Commissioner Justin Rodriguez
Commissioner Grant Moody
Commissioner Tommy Calvert



DALLAS COUNTY

County Judge Clay Jenkins
Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia
Commissioner John Wiley Price
Commissioner
Andrew Sommerman
Commissioner Dr. Theresa Daniel



EL PASO COUNTY

County Judge
Ricardo A. Samaniego
Commissioner Jackie Butler
Commissioner David Stout
Commissioner Iliana Holguin
Commissioner Sergio Coronado



FORT BEND COUNTY

County Judge KP George
Commissioner Vincent Morales, Jr.
Commissioner Grady Prestage
Commissioner Andy Meyers
Commissioner Dexter L. McCoy



HARRIS COUNTY

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Commissioner Rodney Ellis
Commissioner Adrian Garcia
Commissioner Tom S. Ramsey
Commissioner Lesley Briones



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County Judge Tim O'Hare
Commissioner Roderick Miles Jr.
Commissioner Alisa Simmons
Commissioner Matt Krause
Commissioner Manny Ramirez



TRAVIS COUNTY

County Judge Andy Brown
Commissioner Jeff Travillion
Commissioner Brigid Shea
Commissioner Ann Howard
Commissioner Margaret Gómez



With the support of the County Judge and County Commissioners, each Texas A&M AgriLife Extension County Office offers the knowledge resources of the Texas A&M University System to local citizens for self-improvement, individual action, and community problem-solving.

Thank You.