

#### Program Impacts:

- *A total of 368 area 5th graders were educated about the safety and accident prevention at Progressive Agriculture Safety Day*
- *Ninety government employees were trained on on issues related to Pesticide Right-of-Way*
- *Twenty youth, adult volunteers and Extension staff participated in contests, workshops and assemblies at Texas 4-H Roundup*
- *Nutrition education exposed ten families to the dangers of childhood obesity*

## Deaf Smith County

#### Mission Statement

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

Educational programs of 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.

**Progressive Agriculture Farm Safety Day** – Farm Safety Day camp was presented on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May to 368 area 5<sup>th</sup> grade students with the assistance of approximately 50 area volunteers. Youth were exposed to many aspects of agriculture that could expose them to harm if not handled properly. Electrical issues and fire safety were presented by the Hereford Volunteer Fire Department. Alcohol's effects on the body was presented by the sheriff's department. Weather issues, tornados, severe storms, blizzards and first aid skills were taught by local EMTs. ATV safety, summertime sun issues and how harmful bacteria can enter your body were explained by Extension Agents. It was an enriching learning opportunity for all youth and presenters.

**Pesticide Right-of-Way Training** – This was conducted by Deaf Smith County Extension for area county, school and city employees from the Panhandle region. This meeting was held at Texas AgriLife Extension district office in Amarillo. Weed resistance issues in *Palmer amaranth*, which has become a very important factor in recent years, was addressed with options to assist in control. Weeds and insect issues, vector controls, wild hog and prairie dog issues were addressed at the meeting. Laws and regulations and recertification issues as they pertain to right-of-way pesticide application were also addressed. Five CEU's were offered to the applicators in the workshop. Ninety individuals attended the one-day event. Cost recovery was used for this conference.

**Regional Sorghum Meeting** – A regional in-depth sorghum meeting was planned by county agents from eight surrounding counties and presented at the Castro County Expo Building in Dimmitt on March 26. An intensive meeting centering on grain and forage sorghum practices for area producers was presented by Dr. Jourdan Bell and Dr. Calvin Trostle. Topics of interest were; water utilization, crop water requirements for sorghums, irrigation decisions based on soil types, soil water holding capacities for area soils, plant available soil water to produce a sorghum crop and the agronomic relationships to water use, fertility issues, seeding rates and upcoming hybrids. Other areas of interest covered by Dr. Ed Bynum were the new sorghum pest, the sugarcane aphid, its biology and the effects on area sorghum. A lively discussion on resistant weed management by Kerry Siders focused on problem weeds, their biology and how the producer can best control them.

There was also a concurrent session on use of forage sorghums and the nutritional values of sorghums for beef and dairy cattle presented by Dr. Ted McCollum, beef specialist, and Dr. Ellen Jordan, dairy specialist. Topics covered were sorghum feed value as a grain, forage sorghums feed values, sorghum's place in a nutrition management program and sorghum values for grazing and haying. This was an intensive workshop based on sorghum production practices and the requirements to produce high-yielding grain and/or forage outputs for the producers. Forty-eight individuals participated in this one day event with CEU's available.

**Deaf Smith County Wheat Tour** – Area producers and consultants were invited to participate in the area wheat tour and observation of the county's dryland wheat plots on the Chris Grotegut farm. Dr. Jourdan Bell and Rick Auckerman, Deaf Smith County agent, discussed and highlighted the replicated wheat plot varieties and the AgriLife Extension "wheat picks" that will be presented after all the area wheat locations are harvested and evaluated. New and upcoming varieties, the many disease and weather related issues affecting the area wheat crop and potential damage were discussed.



# Deaf Smith County



**4-H Youth Activities** – Spring-time youth activities started off with a “cluck.” Livestock volunteer Cody Chandler presented a low-cost, short-term project for the livestock youth to participate in a poultry show! The purpose of this project was to introduce new youth to 4-H animal projects that would be manageable on a

short-term basis. The chicks were delivered to 15 youth on April 6<sup>th</sup> and the first time “Deaf Smith Poultry Show” was on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 225 chickens averaging 5-7 pounds were shown to poultry judge Greg Booth, a retired FFA advisor from Lubbock County. Mr. Booth conducted a workshop and show for the youth that lasted most of Saturday. This was a great learning experience for the youth, parents and grandparents.



Twenty 4-H members, adult volunteers and AgriLife Extension staff represented Deaf Smith County at Texas 4-H Roundup June 8-11 at Texas A&M University in College Station.

Local senior-level 4-H members who competed were: Brenden James, Cutter Smith, Carson Blair, Marco Mata, Thomas Keeling, Emily Turpen, Turner Taylor and Nicole House. Alejandro and Veronica Mata, Intermediate 4-H members, attended workshops and assemblies. The youth delegation was chaperoned by Adult Volunteers Cookie Taylor, Karen Keeling, Kevin and Crystal Smith, Jean Turpen, D’Ann Blair and Carla House. Also attending were Deaf Smith County Extension Agents Rick Auckerman and Amalia Mata with public speaking coaches Jim and Kerrie Steiert.



Cutter Smith received an \$18,000 academic scholarship from Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo during a banquet on June 11 in the Texas AgriLife Center. On Wednesday night, his first place Share-the-Fun performance of two patriotic poems received a standing ovation from the appreciative crowd of 4,000 4-H members and adults in Reed Arena on the Texas A&M campus.

In addition to competing, Marco Mata was active throughout the week of State Roundup as Public Relations Officer for the 2014-15 State 4-H Council, which fills a direct leadership role during Roundup.

Complete contest results were:

- Open Educational Presentations - Emily Turpen and Nicole House, 2nd out of 19 teams
- Open Family & Consumer Educational Presentations - Marco Mata, 5th out of 13 teams
- Health Educational Presentations - Tom Keeling and Brenden James (24 teams)
- Invitational Livestock Judging - Turner Taylor and Carson Blair
- Consumer Decision Making - Marco Mata, Brenden James, Turner Taylor, Carson Blair (11th of 24 teams)

**Nutrition Education:** A class of ten parents learned that healthy adults do not just happen; they need the help and support of parents and caregivers. Obese children unfortunately face a 70% chance of becoming overweight adults. Learning the *My Plate* with portions for toddlers was the main focus of a class given to Head Start parents. Understanding that sugar-sweetened beverages, in combination with the lack of physical activity, can really affect a child. Eating meals at home as a family can give time to connect and enable children to learn food prep. With 9 parents stating they understood why it was important to offer 2% or skim milk to their toddlers, we will say it’s baby steps in the right direction. A healthy start for a family’s lifestyle change is to always start with a healthy breakfast, using food for nutrition and not as a reward.



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