

Outcome Summaries:

- New study addresses *Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus*
- Ag producers get irrigation relief from June rainfall
- FPM training teaches importance of food safety and sanitation
- 4-H members travel to Texas 4-H Roundup for contests, scholarships and fun!
- FPM training plays a strong role in economic development for food service industries

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.

Study Underway to Reveal WSMV Infection



Deaf Smith County small grain acres will be between 75,000 and 125,000 acres on a yearly basis. One of the problems that have been identified by area wheat producers is being able to readily identify and maintain some control options on *Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus* (WSMV). A survey and study has begun with the assistance of Mr. Jacob Price, Texas Plant Diagnostic Clinic in Amarillo.

The objective of this study is to quantify WSMV infection in the Northern Texas Panhandle. With this data we hope to:

- ◆ Identify areas at high risk for WSMV infection
- ◆ Determine strategies for early detection of wheat viral diseases
- ◆ Develop an early detection system for use in Northern Texas

Identification of infected fields and plants: *Wheat streak mosaic virus* is a viral pathogen that is transmitted by the wheat curl mite. In the Panhandle, wheat typically become infected during the fall, particularly in early-planted wheat. During early infection, symptoms are often identified during the fall and include yellowing, mosaic patterns, streaking and stunting of infected plants that often leads to necrosis and plant death. Many of the difficulties with identification of WSMV and other wheat viral pathogens is that they look very similar to drought or nutrient deficiencies.

Ten area wheat fields were sampled in the early spring. The fields were divided into four quadrants: NW, NE, SW, and SE. Samples were taken from each quadrant for a total of 20 sub-samples per field. Samples were taken to the diagnostic clinic for analysis. Results of these trials will be released to the producers in late summer to assist them in making management decisions before planting begins.

This will be the third year a moth trapping study has been initiated in conjunction with Dr. Ed Bynum, district entomologist, surrounding county agricultural agents. The study is funded by Texas Corn Producer's board to determine moth numbers, flight patterns and how they relate to damage in Bt and non-Bt corn hybrids.

Three moth species are targeted that were determined to have the greatest potential for damage to area corn. These species are Southwestern corn borer, fall armyworm and the western bean cutworm. Traps are inspected weekly to determine moth numbers. Trap count numbers are disseminated to area producers, crop consultants and aerial pesticide applicators on a weekly basis by e-mail, phone texts and newsletters to assist them in making informed and timely insect control decisions.

Cattle watered by much-needed June rains



Deaf Smith County

4-H Group Shines at State Level

Seven Deaf Smith County 4-H members competed at Texas 4-H Roundup on the campus of Texas A&M University in College Station June 9-12.

Representing the local 4-H program were these active members: Darren Schlabs, Cutter Smith, Marco Mata, Thomas Keeling, Emily Turpen, Turner Taylor and Brad Turpen. The youth delegation was chaperoned by Adult Volunteers Karen Keeling, Jean Turpen, Tom and Joyce Schlabs. Also attending were Deaf Smith County Extension Agents Rick Auckerman and Amalia Mata.

The three-man public speaking team of Schlabs, Smith and Mata captured the state title in Family and Consumer Sciences Open Division with an informative and humorous educational presentation, entitled "Buck Dynasty." The original, 12-minute presentation, including slideshow, spoofed the characters from the popular reality series "Duck Dynasty" to teach teenagers about money management. As state finalists, the team has qualified to advance to national competition during the Western National Roundup to be held in January of 2015 in Denver, CO. This is the second state win for this team, who took first place honors last year in the Health category. Their public speaking coach is Kerrie Steiert.

Schlabs was also the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship from the Davidson Family, awarded by the Texas 4-H Foundation during a special awards ceremony at the beginning of State Roundup. The son of Tom and Joyce Schlabs, Darren has earned his Gold Star Award and recognition by the National Youth Foundation. He was recently awarded a \$6,000 scholarship by the local 4-H Parents Association and will be attending Texas Tech University as a freshman in the fall.



Joyce and Tom Schlabs (center) with State Director Dr. Douglas Steele and County Agent Rick Auckerman

As longtime 4-H leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Schlabs were state Salute to Excellence honorees recognized during a reception June 11 in the Bethancourt Ballroom of the TAMU Memorial Student Center. They have been actively involved in the Deaf Smith County 4-H program for 19 years, serving as mentors to countless youth in the show barn and in a wide variety of other 4-H projects.

Another high-point for the Deaf Smith County group was when Marco Mata, a member of the Panhandle District 4-H Council, was the winning "tribute" of The Clover Games. He was recently elected as 2nd vice president of the District Council and will be representing District 1 as a delegate to the Texas 4-H Council during 2014-15. Cutter Smith will be serving as the first vice president for District 1 and

president of the County Council during the coming year.

State contest results for local 4-H competitors were:

Photography Judging Invitational, Intermediates: Brad Turpen, 3rd high-point individual and 6th overall; **Photo Judging Invitational Contest:** Team of Schlabs, Keeling, Smith and Taylor, 6th place; **Healthy Lifestyles Invitational:** Intermediates, Brad Turpen, 4th place team; Seniors, Keeling, participant; **Fashion Storyboard, Non-Wearable:** Emily Turpen, 7th Place; **Share-the-Fun Musical:** Emily Turpen, 8th place; **Consumer Decision-Making:** Senior team of Emily Turpen, Mata and Taylor, participants; **Invitational Livestock Judging:** Taylor, senior participant



Rick Auckerman and Amalia Mata

For more information
contact your local
County Extension Agent:

Rick Auckerman
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Amalia Mata
Family & Consumer Sciences

Contact Information:

P.O. Box 953
903 14th Street
Hereford, TX 79045

☎: 806.364-3573

☎: 806.363.7047

Email:

DeafSmith-TX@tamu.edu

Website:

<http://deafsmith.agrilife.org>

The ServeSafe® program provides food safety training, exams and educational materials to foodservice managers. Students can earn the ServeSafe Food Protection Manager Certification, accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-Conference for Food Protection (CFP). The program blends the latest FDA Food Code, food safety research and years of food sanitation training experience. Managers learn to implement essential food safety practices and create a culture of food safety. Deaf Smith County Extension Service can now offer this course along with ServeSafe Food Handlers.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION