

Outcome Summaries:

- *Area agri-businesses showcased for Polish farm tour group*
- *Government workers benefit from right-of-way training*
- *Cutting-edge technologies profiled for cotton producers*
- *BLT classes address the impacts of food insecurity on families*
- *4-H members gain skills and recognition through project involvement*

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.

Polish Ag Tour: Agent had the opportunity to provide leadership in planning, organizing, and hosting agricultural producers and business men and women from Poland who toured Deaf Smith County in early March. This trip is sponsored and originated through the TALL program and Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz, Texas A&M University. The purpose of this visit is to showcase Texas agriculture and the oil & gas industry working in tandem to make Texas the 11th largest economy in the world in a safe and healthy environment. Within this delegation was Jan Krzysztof Ardanowski, Vice Chairman of the Sejm (Polish Parliament) Agriculture Committee, and many large land owners with farms ranging from 500-8,000 acres. The average farm is 30 acres and this delegation is largely represented by large land owners and well-connected leaders.



The tour group visited and learned about the following businesses:

- ◆ **Caviness packing plant**— Animal processing and handling; handles 3,600 head of cattle per day.
- ◆ **Hereford Grain Co-op**—Grain handling and processing, has 22 sites within a 40-mile radius of Hereford.
- ◆ **Spinning Spur Wind Farm**—Wind energy development near Vega; tour led by Oldham County Judge Don Allred.
- ◆ **Champion Feedyard**— Beef cattle production and handling capabilities; 35,000-head production feedyard.
- ◆ **Hereford Renewable Energy**—Ethanol production in Deaf Smith County; Group learned where the produced ethanol is used and how it is shipped to the end user.

Pesticide Right-of-Way Training was conducted by Deaf Smith County Extension for area county, school and city employees from the Panhandle region at the district office in Amarillo. Application equipment and implements, weeds and insect issues, vector controls and wild hog issues in the various counties were addressed at the meeting. Laws and regulations as they pertain to right-of-way pesticide application were also addressed. Five CEU's were offered to the applicators in the workshop; 168 individuals attended the one-day event.

Hereford Cotton Conference was presented by Texas A&M AgriLife employees and area seed and chemical companies to update and discuss new, cutting-edge technologies for area cotton producers. Topics covered were: Recent cotton research and results from plot work in the Panhandle for 2013; Generic herbicides, upcoming chemistries, pigweed glyphosate resistance in our area; Irrigation research work and new regulations on chemigating through irrigation systems. Cotton marketing strategies; Research and plot data for 2013. Forty- five area producers attended with five CEU'S offered in both private applicators and Certified Crop Advisors licenses.

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Rick Auckerman and Amalia Mata

Better Living for Texans programs are being offered by Deaf Smith County, Texas A&M Extension AgriLife Extension Service, each Wednesday at 10 a.m. Topics are based on the fact that food insecurity affects the family as a whole. The food dollar is limited and must be stretched to the best use to provide for each family's needs. Recently, the main focus of local programming has been the *My Plate* curriculum with emphasis on vegetables and how healthy eating affects the health of individual family members.



Bank representatives shared family budgeting tips
with BLT clientele



Area Trashion Show comes to town



Hereford Stock Show nets \$188,000



State 4-H Leadership Teen Retreat



Successful Livestock Judging Teams

For more information
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