

### Challenges

- Farmers and ranchers across Texas face ongoing production-related challenges and economic risks.
- The supply of water and other natural resources in Texas is under tremendous stress from population growth and other factors.
- Rising health care costs are a burden to Texans (\$239 billion annually).
- Youth need to develop essential behaviors of character, citizenship and leadership, and valuable life skills to prepare them for college and career opportunities.



### Contact

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### AgriLife Extension Response

AgriLife Extension collaborates with public and private organizations to deliver impactful educational and applied research programs that address critical issues facing Texans.

- Offers wide-ranging educational programs in agriculture, focused on research-based production and management practices, evaluation of technologies, improved decision-making and job training.
- Offers many state- and industry-accredited programs to meet continuing education and certification requirements for thousands of people who provide important community services.
- Delivers researched-based educational resources on water quality and use, soil nutrient management, watershed protection, wildlife and fisheries practices, and ecosystem and parks management.
- More than **450,000 youth** participated in Texas 4-H through program areas in STEM, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Livestock, Leadership and Citizenship, and Family and Community Health.
- Health and wellness programs focus on diabetes education, nutrition, exercise, food safety, child safety seat education and early cancer detection.
- Conducted **112,800** educational events and reached 16.4 million educational and other contacts in 2024.

### Economic Impacts

- Programs focused on agricultural production and management practices and improved decision-making led to economic gains of more than **\$664 million** for agricultural producers in 2024.
- The economic impact of selected diabetes education, physical activity and nutrition education programs was estimated at **\$144.8 million** (in lifetime health care cost savings).
- Water conservation, wildlife and ecosystem management programs led to **\$188 million** in economic benefits by conserving **5.1 billion** gallons of water, reducing wildlife property damage and adopting selected management practices on **28.2 million** managed acres.
- Through its continuing education and certification programs, AgriLife Extension directly supports **155,400 jobs** in Texas, with an estimated annual wage base of **\$4.6 billion**.
- Over the life of the 2018 Farm Bill, use of the Farm Bill Decision Aid to analyze **500,000 farm units** showed an impact of improved decision-making valued at **\$2.6 billion**.
- AgriLife Extension engaged more than **85,700** volunteers who contributed a total of **3.1 million** hours (**1,513 FTEs**) valued at an estimated **\$105.4 million**.