

# Making a Difference in Lubbock County

June 2024

## **EXTENSION**

# **STAFF**

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Educational programs for 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.

#### **Agriculture & Natural Resources**

- CEA Baugh held the Small Grains Conference, giving 5 CEU's with 42 producers attending. He also attended the NRCS working group meeting to prioritize funds for producers and ranchers. He has planted a Lubbock County Variety Trial with the Vardemon Farm at Buffalo Lake.
- CEA Scott held a prospective Grape Growers Workshop to teach 22 interested individuals about site selection and testing, vineyard management, disease and pest management and vineyard economics. He also coordinated the Vector Management Workshop which reached 25 municipal workers, providing them with information to control and monitor mosquitos.
- CEA Reid held a three part gardening series: "Starting a Spring Garden" with 9 adults attend at the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum Community Garden. She also assisted the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum and Keep Lubbock Beautiful in project development and grant writing for the Texas Forestry Service Community Grant. The Lubbock County Community Tree Planting Program was fully funded by the Texas Forest Service and is set to launch in June.
- The Lubbock Master Gardener Association's intern program has accepted 14 new interns and is set to begin June 15 online.

## Family & Community Health

- The TEEA Lubbock Lunch bunch attended the annual District Spring Conference held in Tulia in March. Participants learned about a program called "Car Fit," designed to help older adults get "fit" to their cars to continue operating their vehicle in the safest way possible.
- CEA Edwards conducted a "Cooking Up a Cottage Food Business" class in April to educate 6 participants about the Cottage Food Law; it also included a food handlers certification training. She also presented the "Preserving Your Harvest" program at the Mo's downtown farmers market and the South Plains Food Bank teaching 22 participants about food preservation and safety.
- CEA Edwards, Reid, Bozeman, and Walser are working with Texas Tech's REEU Nutrition Best grant program to host part-time summer intern Brenna Estrada. The group is working together to implement "Learn, Grow, Eat and GO!" at the South Plains Food Bank Farm with about 40 youth from GRUB, Guadalupe/Parkway Community Cetner and the YWCA. Participants are learning how to grow their own food, create recipes with fruits and vegetables and make healthy choices.

#### 4-H & Youth Development

- Two Lubbock County 4-H'ers applied for and were awarded Texas 4-H Foundation Scholarships at Texas 4-H Roundup. Scholarships were awarded to: Aaron Chaloupka \$20,000 Houston Livestock Show and Tyler Racca \$10,000 Texas Farm Bureau. Thirty-six 4-H'ers, 4 County Extension Agents and 14 parents attended State 4-H Roundup in College Station.
- CEA Bozeman conducted an "Ag in the Bag" series with Idalou Elementary and Carmona Harrison Elementary with 17 classrooms, reaching 290 students with hands-on activities that included learning about seeds, gardening, and having their own container garden to take home. She has also started "THE HUB" which will be a monthly gathering of youth in Lubbock County that focuses on a different community service activity each month. Their first project will be a hygiene products drive. Donations can be brought to the Lubbock County Extension Office. In April, she conducted resume writing sessions for 23 South Plains Food Bank GRUB youth participants.
- CEA Alexander conducted the annual "Hatching in the Classroom" project with 18 schools in 37 classrooms, reaching 1,358 Pre-K to 5th graders. They learned about the Life Cycle and saw chicks hatch in their classroom. Fertilized eggs were provided by the Baldridge Family.
- CEA Scott conducted the 4-H livestock judging project for 39 4-H'ers, with 35 competing at the District Contest. Youth learned about carcass evaluation, oral reasons and industry standards.
- CEA Baugh conducted weekly practices for 4-H Entomology ID in April and May; 4-H'ers competed at District and State 4-H contests, utilizing their knowledge of insect and non-insect orders and common insects in Texas.

#### **Staff Involvement**

- Lubbock County staff continue to present week day radio programs on 105.7 reaching about 24,200 listeners, providing them with the latest information about the Lubbock County Extension program and opportunities available.
- Lubbock County Staff conducted the Texas Community Futures Forum on April 9 with Lubbock County residents to identify issues currently facing Lubbock County. During the next 3-5 years, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service staff will work to address issues identified.