

RELEVANCE

The focus of all 4-H programs is the development of youth as individuals and as responsible and productive citizens. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Program stands out as an example. Youth learn marksmanship, the safe and responsible use of firearms, the principles of hunting and archery, and much more. The activities of the program and the support of caring adult leaders provide young people with opportunities to develop life skills, self-worth, and conservation ethics.

Members

Local 4-H Shooting Sports clubs are open to all youth ages 8 to 18. 4-H teaches a shooting sport to about 500,000 boys and girls each year. Shooting sports can be gratifying for youngsters, especially those who aren't athletes. The program provides a supportive environment in which young people can experience hands-on, fun learning experiences.

Palo Pinto County 4-H Shooting Sports disciplines

- Rifle
- Pistol
- Archery
- Shotgun
- Hunting and Wildlife

RESPONSE

The Palo Pinto County 4-H Youth Advisory Board has been instrumental in recruiting volunteers to be trained and certified to teach each of the disciplines. Palo Pinto County has 8 trained leaders that are leading each discipline. Fall and spring practice sessions are utilized to train 4-H members with a county shoot held each year to set teams for the district match.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- The program targeted approximately 100 4-H members in Palo Pinto County.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATORS

- Walmart, NRA, Brazos River Gun Club, and Palo Pinto County Livestock Association

VALUE

4-H/Youth

Shooting Sports

All instructors are trained by state instructors certified to teach courses. Adult volunteers receive training in shooting sports at state and regional workshops to become qualified instructors. 4-H teen leaders may wish to assist with instruction. Shooting sports leaders act as role models and must impart the 4-H philosophy and youth development objectives to 4-H members.



Palo Pinto County Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter

Year End Program Summaries 2022

**Palo Pinto County
Extension Office**

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**Palo Pinto County 4-H and Texas
A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Palo Pinto County**

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Pesticide Workshop 5 CEU Program January 19, 2023

Palo Pinto County Extension Office
221 South 5th Ave., Palo Pinto
Please RSVP to 940-659-1228

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity."

"The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating"

RESPONSE

Program announcements to club managers and members were advertised by direct mail, email and Facebook. Newsletter and press releases were also used to promote events and programs. Quarterly news articles were used to support programs.

- Safety Meeting
- Fall Practices
- Fall Fun Shoot
- Spring Practices
- Spring Fun Shoot
- County Shoot
- District Contest

A mandatory safety meeting is held each year prior to the beginning of practices. The practices are held weekly through the fall and spring with a fun shoot for parents and members at the end of each season. A county wide match is then held 2 weeks prior to the district match which decides teams for the district match. Each season, if needed, volunteers are trained to become coaches to keep up with the number of members participating.

Evaluation Strategy

A pre/post evaluation was utilized at the rifle and pistol safety meeting to measure knowledge gained and adoptions of best practices. A total of 21 of 21 participants (100%) completed the pre/post survey instrument.

RESULTS

- Understanding of a cease fire command before program 14.3.0%, after program 95.2 %.
- Understanding of how to handle a firearm before program 19.0% after program 95.2%.
- Understanding of how to score a target before program 19.0 after program 90.5%
- Understanding of range safety rules before program 4.8% after program 76.2
- Understanding of an ECI before program 9.5% after program 81.0%
- Participants who plan to adopt the use of a ECI was 100% (21 of 21).
- Participants who plan to adopt muzzle control was 100% (21 of 21).

Summary

The value of programs provided to stakeholders is relevant as seen by the results of the programming efforts of the coaches. Many life skills have been gained by the youth involved in these programs. The Youth Advisory Board will continue to focus their efforts to help the youth of Palo Pinto meet their goals.

Future Programming

As 2023 arrives the Youth Advisory Board will plan and implement new programs to address the needs of Palo Pinto County youth. New programs will be added and trained adult volunteers will lead the projects.



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RELEVANCE

Agriculture existed in Texas long before European settlers arrived. Caddo tribes in the eastern part of the state grew corn, beans and squash, as detailed by the. Pueblo tribes in the west not only cultivated food crops but also grew cotton and developed irrigation techniques. Early Spanish settlers introduced hogs, goats, sheep and cattle. As other settlers arrived, they established a variety of farming and ranching operations, ranging from small family farms to large cotton plantations and cattle ranches.

Since those early days, Texas agriculture has changed significantly. Advanced cultivation practices, improved seed varieties, mechanization and the introduction of electricity and paved farm roads have contributed to the modernization and expansion of the state's agricultural industry, which produced 24.9 billion in cash receipts in 2021 — about 5.7 percent of the U.S. total and the fourth highest among all states. Therefore, the agriculture industry plays an important role in the economic viability in Palo Pinto County. Each year the Agricultural Committee plans and implements programming efforts to support agriculture and natural resources.

Texas Agricultural Exports

- Cotton (\$1.7 billion; ranked No. 1 among all states).
- Beef and veal (\$1.0 billion; ranked No. 2).
- Dairy products (\$437.8 million; ranked No. 4).
- Feeds (corn, sorghum, barley and oats) and other feed grains (such as hay and alfalfa) (\$320.1 million; ranked No. 9).

RESPONSE

The Agricultural Committee developed a series of programs to address various topics. These included a 5 CEU Pesticide Workshop for those with a TDA private applicator license, a multi county Land Symposium, multi county Carbon Credit program, Water Stewards Program, and the North Texas Cattle Clinic which discussed herd health, predator management and drought management.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- The program targeted approximately 100 farms and ranches in Palo Pinto County.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATORS

- Bayer, Alligare, TDA, Texas AgriLife Extension, NRCS, Johnson League Ranch, and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Service contributed to the success of the program outcome.

VALUE

Ag & Natural Resources

Agricultural Production

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension programs targeted to large- and small-scale livestock producers help generate safer food and fiber products with maximum efficiency. The result is quality, consistent, affordable products and industries that support the state's rural economies.



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RESPONSE

Program announcements to producers and landowners were advertised by direct mail, email, and Facebook. Newsletter and press releases were also used to promote events and programs. Quarterly news articles were used to support programs.

- Pesticide Workshop
- Multi County Land Symposium
- Multi County Carbon Credit Program
- Water Stewards Program
- North Texas Cattle Clinic
- Cedar Elm Demonstration

The Pesticide Workshop was held January 20, 2022 with 44 attending. The Multi County Land Symposium was held in Stephenville, Texas on April 8, 2022 with 31 attending. The Multi County Carbon Credit Program was held May 26, 2022 with 16 participating. A Water Stewards Program was held at Possum Kingdom Lake with 25 attending, and the North Texas Cattle Clinic was held in Young County on October 27, 2022 with 19 attending.

Evaluation Strategy

A pre/post evaluation was utilized at the Land Symposium and North Texas Cattle Clinic to measure knowledge gained and adoptions of best practices. A total of 46 of 50 participants (87.1%) completed the pre/post survey instrument.

- Understanding of root management before program 37.0%, after program 81.5 %.
- Understanding of N-P-K management before program 25.9% after program 77.8%.
- Understanding of making reproductive management changes to your herd before program 47.4 after program 89.5%
- Total anticipated economic benefit of program per head \$5.96
- Total anticipated economic benefit per acre \$5.49
- Participants who plan to adopt predator control methods was 82.4% (14 of 17).
- Participants who plan to adopt breeding soundness exams of herd bulls was 81.8% (9 of 11).

Summary

The value of programs provided to stakeholders is relevant as seen by the results of the programming efforts. Many topics were addressed as well as landowner calls that were received by the Extension office. The committee will continue to focus efforts on having an economic impact to all stakeholders.

Future Programming

As 2023 arrives the Agricultural committee will plan and implement new programs to address the needs of Palo Pinto County. Applied research and demonstrations will be discussed and planned as needed.



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RELEVANCE

A wildfire is an unplanned fire that burns in a natural area such as a forest, grassland, or prairie. Wildfires are often caused by human activity or a natural phenomenon such as lightning, and they can happen at any time or anywhere. In 50% of wildfires recorded, it is not known how they started. The risk of wildfires increases in extremely dry conditions, such as drought, and during high winds. Wildfires can disrupt transportation, communications, power and gas services, and water supply. They also lead to a deterioration of the air quality, and loss of property, crops, resources, animals and people. Wildfire activities affected 6.2 million people between 1998-2017 with 2400 attributable deaths worldwide from suffocation, injuries, and burns, but the size and frequency of wildfires are growing due to climate change. Hotter and drier conditions are drying out ecosystems and increasing the risk of wildfires. Wildfires also simultaneously impact weather and the climate by releasing large quantities of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and fine particulate matter into the atmosphere. Resulting air pollution can cause a range of health issues, including respiratory and cardiovascular problems. Another significant health effect of wildfires is on mental health and psychosocial well-being. Several programs were planned and implemented to educate landowners and the public on pre and post wildfires.

Wildfire facts

- Humans cause nearly 85% of all wildfires
- Dry conditions increase the risk for wildfires
- Wildfires can travel up to 14.27 miles per hour

RESPONSE

The Agricultural Committee and The Texas A&M Forest Service developed a series of programs to address wildfires. These included a wildfire prevention program and a post fire workshop. Attendees were educated on wildfires and post wildfire response along with support for those that had been involved in wildfires. Palo Pinto County VFD was also involved in planning programs.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- The program targeted approximately 100 farms and ranches in Palo Pinto County.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATORS

- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, The Texas A&M Forest Service, and local fire departments contributed to the success of the program outcome.

VALUE

Wildfire

Wildfire Causes

Naturally occurring wildfires are most frequently caused by lightning. There are also meteor, and coal-seam fires, depending on the circumstances. Human caused wildfires can be accidental, intentional (arson), or from an act of negligence.



RESPONSE

Program announcements to producers and landowners were advertised by direct mail, email, and Facebook. Newsletters and press releases were also used to promote events and programs. Quarterly news articles were used to support programs.

- Firewise Program
- Wildfire Prevention Grant Program
- County Emergency Management Meeting
- Post Fire Program-Stephenville

The Firewise Program was held on February 17, 2022 with 14 attending. The wildfire grant program was sent out by quarterly newsletter to approximately 200 landowners. The county emergency management meeting was held on June 17, 2022. The post fire workshop was held in Stephenville on May 18, 2022 with 50 attending. Several fires broke out in Palo Pinto County during the summer of 2022. The post fire program was focused on getting landowners the needed support and educational information to move forward. The program topics included financial assistance, run-off, reseeding, and recovery of the landscape.



Evaluation Strategy

A pre/post evaluation was utilized at the Firewise Program to measure knowledge gained and adoptions of best practices. A total of 13 of 13 participants (100%) completed the pre/post survey

RESULTS

- Understanding of why fire numbers are increasing in our area before program 30.8%, after program 92.3 %.
- Understanding of how wildfires work through a landscape before program 38.5% after program 90%.
- Understanding of what defensible space is before program 8.3 after program 75.0%
- Understanding of why fire is important in our area before program 15.4% after program 76.9
- Participants who plan to adopt constructing defensible space around home 100% (13 of 13).
- Participants who plan to adopt removing cedars and junipers was 88.9% (11 of 13).

Summary

The value of programs provided to stakeholders is relevant as seen by the results of the programming efforts. Many topics were addressed as well as post fire recovery. The committee will continue to focus efforts on educating Palo Pinto County of the impact of fire on the landscape

Future Programming

As 2023 arrives the Agricultural committee will plan and implement new programs to address the needs of Palo Pinto County. Applied research and demonstrations will be discussed and planned as needed.

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