

**Palo Pinto County
Agriculture and Natural
Resources Newsletter**

**Year End Program
Summaries 2023**

**Palo Pinto County
Extension Office**

221 South 5th Ave.

Palo Pinto, TX 76484

940-659-1228

Jason Westbrook

County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Website:

www.palopinto.agrilife.org

Facebook:

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

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**10/26/23 - North Central Texas
Cattleman's Clinic**

12/4/23 - Multi-County Pecan Show

**1/18/24 - Pesticide Workshop 5 CEU
Program**

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"

RELEVANCE

The focus of all 4-H programs is the development of youth as individuals and as responsible and productive citizens. The 4-H Shooting Sports Programs are part of 4-H in the United States, a youth organization administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the United States Department (USDA), with the mission of "engaging youth to reach their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth development". The national 4-H Shooting Sports Program helps 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. Each year, 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 Archery Goals:

- Responsibility
- Sportsmanship
- Self Discipline
- Ethical Hunting

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 4 trained leaders that lead archery. 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

Wal Mart, NRA and Palo Pinto County Livestock Association

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

VALUE

4-H/Youth

Archery

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. Archery leaders act as role models and must impart the 4-H philosophy and youth development objectives to 4-H members.



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
- State In Door Shoot
- District Contest

A mandatory safety meeting is held each year prior to practices beginning. 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 state indoor shoot is held in Graham, Texas. Each season volunteers are trained to become coaches to keep up with the number of members participating.

Evaluation Strategy

A retrospective post evaluation was utilized at the rifle and pistol safety meeting to measure knowledge gained and adoptions of best practices. A total of 16 of 18 participants (88.8%) completed the retrospective post survey instrument.

RESULTS

Understanding of handling your bow before program 41.7%, after program 95.2 %.

Understanding of archery safety before program 43% after program 92%.

Understanding of hunting ethics before program 19.0 after program 90.5%

Understanding of range safety rules before program 4.8% after program 76.2

Understanding of discipline on the range before program 33.3% after program 74.3

Participants who plan to adopt arrow control techniques was 100% (16 of 16).

Summary

The value of programs provided to youth 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 committee will continue to focus efforts helping the youth of Palo Pinto meet their goals.

Future Programming

As 2024 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.



For More Information :

Jason Westbrook

CEA-AGNR - Palo Pinto County

Phone: 940-659-1228

Email Address:

jason.westbrook@ag.tamu.edu

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RELEVANCE

Texas leads all other states in number of farms and ranches with 248,416 farms and ranches covering 127 million acres. While the primary crops of Texas are cotton, corn, feed grains (sorghum, milo, ect.), rice and wheat, there is an abundance of other crops too. From peanuts to sunflowers to sugarcane and more. In 2017 Texas farms sold \$24.9 billion in agricultural products compared to 25.4 billion in 2012.

For 36% of producers in Texas farming is their primary occupation. The average farm in Texas is 411 acres. Although cattle farms (beef farms specifically) dominated in numbers in Texas, farms with poultry inventory showed the largest increase since 2012. The average age of Texas farmers and ranchers is 59 years old. The average age of a young Texas producer is (age 35 or less) was 29 and accounted for 21,304 farms. The number of female producers (10 years or less on any farm) is 118,999 operating 77,419 farms with an average size of 348 acres. Therefore, the agriculture industry plays an important role in the economic viability in Palo Pinto County. Each year the Agricultural Committee plans and implements programing efforts to support agriculture and natural resources.

Top Commodities in terms of market value in Texas

- Cattle \$12.3 billion
- Cotton \$2.6 billion
- Milk \$2.1 billion
- Broilers \$2.9 billion

RESPONSE

The Agricultural Committee developed several 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 focused on drought and range management and a soil testing program was delivered to the State Soil and Water Conservations annual ag luncheon meeting.

TARGET AUDIENCE

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

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATORS

- Bayer, Alligare, TDA, Texas Agrilife Extension, NRCS, Turner Seed, Johnson League Ranch, Mineral Wells Feed, Helena 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.



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
- Soil Testing Program
- Agricultural Site Visits
- Landowner calls

The Pesticide Workshop was held January 19, 2023 with 54 attending. The Soil Testing program was held on March 8, 2023 with 32 attending. The Multi County Land Symposium was held in Stephenville, Texas on April 28, 2023 with 54 attending. 42 landowner calls and site visit questions were answered.

Evaluation Strategy

A pre/post evaluation was utilized at the Pesticide Workshop and Land Symposium to measure knowledge gained and adoptions of best practices. A total of 89 of 97 participants (85.2%) completed the pre/post survey instrument.



RESULTS

- Understanding of what plants are toxic before program 34.8%, after program 93.5%.
- Understanding of Corteva Range and Pasture herbicides 30.4% before program 87.0% after program.
- Understanding of landscape scale wildlife management before program 26.8% after program 85.4%
- Total anticipated economic benefit of program per head \$6-\$10
- Total anticipated economic benefit per acre \$11-\$15
- Participants who plan to adopt management of native grasses 82.1% (36 of 43)
- Participants who plan to adopt herbicides to control broadleaf weeds 80.6% (47 of 54)

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 2024 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.

For More Information :

Jason Westbrook

Extension Agent - AGNR

Palo Pinto County

940-659-1228

jason.westbrook@ag.tamu.edu

RELEVANCE

Home Gardening continues to grow in popularity. One of every three families does some type of home gardening, according to conservative estimates, with most gardens located in urban areas. Texas gardeners can produce tasty, nutritious vegetables year-round.

Horticultural sciences includes various areas such as plant cultivation, garden center management, floral design and fruit and nut production. Horticulture is a growing industry, with local jobs growth projected at 30% over the next five years. In Texas, horticulture sciences is the second largest industry and offers various career opportunities. Consumers spend over \$38 billion yearly on professional landscaping and lawn and tree services. There will be 173,000 new job openings for landscapers in 2023 and 67% of adults are currently growing edible plants or planning to.

Palo Pinto County has a Master Gardener program that serves as the Garden/ Horticulture Committee. Many programs are developed to support these industries. These programs also address issues that might arise within the county.

Fun Facts about Plants

- Some plants are carnivorous
- Some plants have adapted to defend themselves from animals
- 80% of flowering plants are adapted for pollination by animals (mostly insects)
- Honeybees account for 80% of all insect pollination

RESPONSE

The Garden/Horticulture Committee developed numerous programs to address Various topics. These included a Bamberger Ranch Preserve Tour, Granbury Garden Tour, planting irises program, seed starting program, Backyard fruit and pecan tree program, composting program and Backyard grapes program. The committee also manages several gardens in the county. Specialist from Texas A&M Agrilife Extension and certified Master Gardeners were utilized to deliver the programs.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- The program targeted homeowners, gardens, landscape professionals and landowners within Palo Pinto County.

PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATORS

- The Palo Pinto Master Gardeners, NRCS, Granbury Master Gardeners, Bamberger Ranch and Texas Agrilife Extension contributed to the success of the program outcome.

VALUE

Garden/Hort

Earth-Kind Landscaping

The Earth-Kind program teaches participants how to care for gardens and landscapes with environmentally friendly, research-proven techniques. Instructional topics include water conservation, responsible fertilizer application, and non-chemical options for controlling pest. Use Earth-Kind practices benefits Texas by saving water and protecting surface and groundwater resources from potential contaminants.



RESPONSE

Program announcements to homeowners and landscapers 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.

- Bamberger Ranch Tour
- Granbury Garden Tour
- Planting Irises
- Seed Starting Program
- Backyard Fruit and Pecan Program
- Composting Program
- Backyard Grapes Program

The Bamberger Ranch Tour was held on February 13, 2023 with 8 attending. The Granbury Garden Tour was held on March 13, 2023 with 10 attending. The planting irises program was held on April 10, 2023 with 8 attending. The Backyard fruit and pecan program was held on May 2, 2023 with 18 attending. A composting program was held on June 12, 2023 with 9 attending and the Backyard Grapes program was held July 14, 2023 with 14 attending.



Evaluation Strategy

A pre/post evaluation was utilized at the Backyard Fruit and Pecan Tree program to measure knowledge gained and adoptions of best practices. A total of 15 of 18 participants (83.3%) completed the pre/post survey instrument.

RESULTS

- Understanding of selection factors like chilling and disease susceptibility for variety choice before program 13.3%, after program 93.3%.
- Understanding importance of site selection for successful fruit/pecan production before program 20.0% after program 93.3%.
- Understanding importance for weed control for tree establishment before program 40.0% after program 80.0%
- 73% anticipated benefitting economically from the program
- Total anticipated economic benefit per acre \$5.49
- Participants who plan to adopt doing research before choosing a fruit or nut variety was 93.3% (14 of 15).
- Participants who plan to adopt assessing soil conditions before planting was 73.4% (11 of 15).

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 homeowner 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 2024 arrives the Garden/Hort 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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CEA AG - Palo Pinto

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