

## Outcome Summaries:

- *Improving agriculture profitability by adding current production topics*
- *Improving Health and Wellness thru increased knowledge of nutrition and physical fitness*
- *Youth gaining life skills through hands on experiences*

## Wheeler 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, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

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

### *Agriculture in Wheeler County*

The agriculture committee and county extension agent developed a four part nutrition series for cow/calf producers. Twenty four producers participated in part 1 of the nutrition series on January 20th. Producers gained knowledge on nutrient terminology and definitions, constituents in feedstuffs, forages definitions and interpretation of feed/forage analysis. Thirty seven producers attended the nutrition series, part 2 on February 24th. Cow/calf producers learned about factors influencing forage quality and feeding value, maturity of grasses, species of grass, and cultural practices influencing grasses. Producers also gained knowledge of nutrient requirements of beef cattle and how to use nutrition tables. The nutrition series was taught by Dr. Ted McCollum, Beef Cattle Specialist. County agent wrote ag newsletter in January reaching 280 producers. The newsletter covers emerging issues and educational topics. Agent also writes weekly news columns and does a weekly radio program on timely agriculture, horticulture, and 4-H topics that reach an audience of over 8,000. Agent has provided producers with farm bill updates and made contact with over 150 producers by phone and office visits discussing the farm bill program.

### *Health and Wellness in Wheeler County*

**Take A Stand** is a five lesson series that focuses on conflict management, bullying, communication, etiquette, teamwork and cultural awareness. This program was conducted at Kelton ISD with 3rd grade students and 3rd thru 5th grade students at Ft. Elliott CISD reaching a total of 36 students. Students self reported learning the concepts of using good manners as a way to show respect, walking away to keep your cool, working as a team, and using manners to help with teamwork as positive tools in the series. This program was also taught to 50 PreK - 2nd grade students at Fort Elliott CISD. Teachers reported that students enjoyed the program and that the telling vs tattling lesson had a positive effect in their class.



Students using their Bees to show when good manners are used

In January, the **Welcome to the Real World** was conducted at Shamrock ISD for 13 ninth grade students. The students were assigned careers with specific salaries and students had to make loan payments based on their salaries, and debt they had incurred. The students then made choices on housing, transportation, food, clothing, insurance, and entertainment activities based on their income. Youth learned how to balance wants vs needs and many of the students balanced a check book register for the first time.

**Cooking with Friends** program is designed to help and provide people with ready to cook freezer main dishes that they prepare in advance so that all they have to do is heat up the meal when time is limited. Participants will help their families save money, eat more nutritious foods, and spend more time together. Currently, the Lipscomb County FCS agent, Cassidy Peek and myself are developing this curriculum into an on-line program. We have been filming food demos, narrating power points, and developing the on-line look and feel of the course. The course is scheduled to be piloted in April.

# Wheeler County



Wendy Hazzard and Dale Dunlap

## CRED

Agents completed their Texas Community Futures Forum process where 27 key leaders identified issues affecting agriculture, family/consumer science, youth, and economic development in Wheeler County. Top issues included municipal water system, youth center, communication between cultures, health and well being, water conservation, government regulations, livestock/range issues, invasive species control, bullying, apprenticeship programs and job fairs for youth.

## Youth Development in Wheeler County

In January two youth and one volunteer leader attended the State Refashion Retreat at the State 4-H Center in Brownwood, TX. The youth reviewed their skills with the sewing machine and then created an outfit from clothes that they purchased for \$5.00 or less at a local resale shop in Brownwood, TX. The youth that attended the event learned the upcycling/recycling of old garments. Four youth and 1 leader attended a fashion tour of Amarillo where they learned about different types of fabric at Joann's Fabrics and learned about comparison shopping with activity at the West Gate Shopping Mall. We ended the tour with a presentation by Angela Burkham, (Regional Program Leader) and Shawnte Clawson, (District 1 4-H Specialist) about the buying power over your lifetime if you get a secondary education and about how to pay for your college education. The clothing and textile project started in February and the project meetings will finish up in March. The project reached 12 youth over three meetings. Youth are learning basic sewing techniques, threading a sewing machine, filling the bobbin, and about fibers and fabric. In March, youth will begin to work on their county fashion show project and garments.



This outfit started out as a shorts and a tank top and was converted into a jumper dress

One hundred eight Wheeler County youth participated in the County Livestock Show exhibiting lambs, goats, swine, and cattle. Youth from across the county exhibited sportsmanship, teamwork, and showmanship skills while learning animal evaluation and health and nutrition. Donors contributed \$234,315.00 to the youth in support of their projects. Forty nine 4-H youth exhibited livestock at Fort Worth, San Antonio, San Angelo, and Top O Texas Livestock Shows. Honors include 2nd and 6th barrows, 4th, 5th and 5th place steers at Fort Worth. At San Antonio, 1st place steer, Reserve Division Champion heifer, and 1st and 6th lambs. Youth at San Angelo were 4th and 5th place with their heifers. Fourteen 4-H youth have begun livestock judging where they learn live animal evaluation. Nine youth are participating in the grass identification project where they learn to identify 73 grasses and their characteristics.



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