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Extension Office**

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Better Living for Texans

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For the past few months AgriLife Extension has been involved in partnership with Texas Department of Emergency Management and Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service in conducting Personal Protective Equipment distribution. Child Care Providers in Nueces County, and across the state, who registered for assistance were provided PPE in order to help maintain a safe environment. Locally three rounds of PPE were distributed, with providers receiving an assortment of gloves, hand sanitizer, masks, face shields, disinfectant wipes, disinfectant and contact less thermometers. In an effort to support the safety and well-being of polling place workers the State of Texas provided face masks, face shields and hand sanitizer for all County Elections Department. Nueces County Agents delivered PPE to the Nueces County District Clerk's office for polling place distribution. Lastly, PPE was provided from the State to Nueces County for distribution to non-profit organizations. Nueces County AgriLife Extension donated cloth face masks, face shields, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes and liquid disinfectant to several schools and non-profit agencies. Cumulatively over 12,000 N95/KN95 masks, 3,800 face shields, 1,250 cloth masks, 162 gallons of liquid disinfectant, 124 gallons of hand sanitizer, 128 boxes of gloves and 250 packs of disinfectant wipes were distributed.

**Agriculture and Natural Resources** - In early August our two on-farm replicated cotton variety trials were harvested. During the Young Business Professionals of the Coastal Bend's 2020 Ideas Week, I was asked to present on Texas Hemp Production via Facebook Live. Since the August 24 presentation, 413 viewers have watched the recording. September 25 through October 12, I was deployed to Butte Co., CA through a Emergency Management Assistance Compact between our two states. Along with the Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team, we provided assistance for the sheltering effort for over 500 animals displaced by wildfire. On October 15 our Fall CEU Conference had 86 on-line and in-person attendees. Collectively they manage over 98 thousand acres of land and placed the total economic value of the program to their operations at \$964,500. Participants also indicated that 86.4% of them would adopt at least one of the recommended practices highlighted during this program. On October 22, we conducted a Soil Fertility Webinar for 31 viewers to kickoff this year's Soil Testing Campaign. To date 12,111 acres worth of soil samples have been submitted from Nueces County through this year's campaign. On October 26, our first session of a four-part Beef Cattle Webinar Series was offered to 27 registered participants. Since then it has been viewed 22 additional times on YouTube.

**Family and Community Health** - This quarter we started programming through various methods including virtual and live. A Fresh Start to a Healthier You program was delivered live and reached 169 participants. Food demos are restricted to virtual one shots. Although some locations are not open to the public, we are still able to accommodate our audience through alternative methods that allow them to interact within our programs. The Better Living for Texans Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities- Community Garden Program continues to serve the community with 4 garden sites promoting the classes. A total of 54 participants are actively participating. Adults participate by attending a 6-lesson series where they learn how to build, plant, maintain and harvest produce grown. In addition, participants learn how to use and cook the fruits and vegetables grown in nutritional and delicious dishes.

**Healthy South Texas** - Contact tracing has continued in response to COVID-19 through the partnership with the Corpus Christi Nueces County Public Health District. Agents Mutz and Muñoz along with county support staff continue to support this local effort daily. Agent duties with the COVID-19 Task Force are currently the major responsibility. Agents and staff are committed to assist with this effort through Spring 2021. The Healthy South Texas Coalition and the Healthy Texas Youth ambassadors continue to meet, provide guidance, and serve the county. State-wide training for the Healthy Texas Youth Ambassadors is offered virtually on a monthly basis. Healthy South Texas programming has moved to a virtual format. Programs are offered through our online platform: <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/>. There are free codes for many of our featured programs. D11 Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences continues to provide educational messages through Focus Friday segments. Dr. Elaine Fries, Healthy South Texas Associate Director joined Agent Muñoz in a discussion of Healthy South Texas programs and how to participate in them. Follow Focus Friday on the D11 EAFCS Facebook page for health and wellness segments.

**Horticulture** - August and September saw us knee-deep in the COVID-19 pandemic. We continued virtual horticulture education including the Gulf Coast Gardening Series, Aggie Horticulture Facebook Live Events, and the Port Aransas Lecture Series. Topics covered included "Beneficial Insects in the Garden" "Gardening with Gingers", "Understanding Soils along the Texas Gulf Coast" "Turf Maintenance", "Growing Herbs on the Texas Coast", and "Citrus Varieties". Similar programming continued in the month of October. Master Gardeners successfully held their annual plant sale on October 10th at the Jewish Community Center on Everhart. Following COVID-19 protocols almost 200 attendees were able to browse and purchase plants grown locally by Nueces Master Gardeners. Nueces Master Gardeners and South Texas Master Naturalists continued to meet via zoom to hold committee and monthly meetings.

**4-H and Youth Development**

Nueces County 4-H had its annual banquet in August. This year's banquet was hosted "virtually" as a premier video where over 450 people participated in the recognition of youth and adults for their achievements. Nueces County 4-H council is back with its 2020-2021 newly elected officers. Nueces County 4-H was honored to have Reese Richardson elected as the District 4-H President and was also elected as 2nd Vice President on Texas 4-H State Council. In early October Nueces County 4-H hosted the 4th annual Boot, Scoot, and Shoot fundraiser. This year the event was an online auction, a total of \$14,000 was raised to support the 4-H program. Fall season is upon us and the Nueces Archery 4-H Club has been very active in various tournaments in September and October. There are 40 active members in the archery club. Lastly, Nueces 4-H hosted the annual Cotton Country Classic jackpot show where over 140 head of cattle and 200 head of sheep/goats were exhibited over 2 days. This event gives our local youth the opportunity to gain skills needed for the Nueces County Junior Livestock Show in January.

**Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program**

This quarter the Nueces County EFNEP Staff taught 72 adults and 2,442 youth participants. The adult educators taught 22 virtual zoom classes and the youth educators taught 134 online classes. We also hosted 4 Texas A&M University-Kingsville Dietetic Interns this quarter. Our unit also participated in 1 Health and Resource Fair "Trunk or Treat" Event with CCISD's Los Encinos Elementary School.