

# Helping Texans Thrive in Randall County

## EXTENSION AGENTS

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4-H Youth Development



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Horticulture



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Urban Programs Coordinator



## 4-H Youth Development:

- ▶ **28** youth competed at **Texas 4-H Roundup** with the following highlights: **STATE CHAMPION** Livestock Skill-a-thon team; **STATE CHAMPION** in Public Speaking; **RES. STATE CHAMPION** Livestock Quiz Bowl team; **RES. CHAMPION** in Fashion Show; **BEST OF SHOW** in Photography; and **3rd Place** in Meat Judging.
- ▶ **4-H Opportunity Scholarships** were awarded to Kade Lawrence (**\$20,000** HLSR); Gracie Cox (**\$10,000**); and Hadley Dear (**\$8,000** FWSSR).
- ▶ **76** Randall County 4-H members competed in the Spring Big Fun in D-1 contests, where **10 teams** qualified to compete at the Texas 4-H Roundup.
- ▶ Two members were selected to serve as **State 4-H Ambassadors** in the areas of Water and Fashion & Interior Design.



## Agriculture & Natural Resources:

As Randall County demographics continue to change with increased housing developments, so does the educational needs for our clientele. The Container *Gardening Seminar* held on April 22, 2024, was a huge success with **66 participants** in attendance. Our partners at Panhandle Greenhouse hosted the event after store hours at their store patio area. Topics taught were:

- ▶ Preparing Your Container
- ▶ Plant & Flower Selection
- ▶ Watering Schedule
- ▶ Plant Fertilizers
- ▶ Xeriscape Plants for Containers

Of **34** response **79%** indicated they **Definitely Will** adopted to the container gardening practices taught at this AgriLife Extension Seminar.



## IMPACTS

- ▶ \$38,000 in 4-H Opportunity Scholarships awarded
- ▶ Customized Agriculture Education for changing demographics

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## Family and Community Health:

### The Homefront Conference:

- ▶ The Homefront Conference was held April 27, 2024. This event **reached over 40 individuals** and served clientele interests by educating and exploring the growing field of home sustainability and fostering a connection between agriculture, health and families. The Homefront Conference featured **7 hours of education** for the community highlighting the current trends and best practices of homesteading topics such as growing a garden and managing a greenhouse, bee keeping, backyard poultry, utilizing herbs, home remedies, freshly milled wheat, canning, creating a business and more!

### Preserving the Harvest Workshop(s):

- ▶ Three *Preserving the Harvest* workshops were held that focused on water bath canning, pressure canning, dehydrating and vacuum sealing. The workshops reached **a total of 85 participants** and included several local entrepreneurs who were utilizing the class as an accredited training. Participants were able to enjoy learning about preservation methods through hands on activities that covered food safety, economics and more related to the science of canning.

### Food Safety Certification for Retail Establishments:

- ▶ A Food Handlers course was conducted for 6 HPRC employees. This certification program allows establishments to maintain positive health code inspections. **92% of participants showed an increase in knowledge** of food borne illness risks and preventative behaviors.

### Canyon Farmers Market:

- ▶ An educational booth at the Canyon Farmers Market showcases local commodities and helps reinforce food safety and helping youth understand food systems. This educational method **reached 210 children and reinforced learning concepts** through hands on activities and vocational instruction.

### Youth Camp Sessions:

- ▶ **Reached a total of 197 youth** at 4-H summer camps through educational workshops focused on leadership principles and STEM education that encouraged students to engage their critical thinking skills, collaborate with diverse personalities, practice resilience methodology and active cooperation through building workshops and presentations.

## Horticulture:

- ▶ Determining the point in a honey bee hive's development when the bees are most efficient at pollinating can help producers best utilize the honey bee's pollination power.
- ▶ Horticulture agent, Erin Jones, has been conducting pollination studies in collaboration with researchers in College Station and New Zealand.
- ▶ She was invited to speak at the New Zealand Honey Bee Research conference where she won 2<sup>nd</sup> place with her research project.



# April — June 2024

## County Interpretation

### Better Living for Texans:

This spring, the BLT program in Randall County has expanded partnerships with local Canyon Independent District schools by consistently providing high-quality programming and resources. The collaboration enabled both parties to focus on empowering youth to make healthy lifestyle choices through combining research and evidenced based nutrition, physical activity and gardening knowledge, with fun and interactive activities.

- ▶ **Walk N Talk** 8-week physical activity program at Lakeview Elementary School with *45 youth participants*.
- ▶ **Learn, Grow, Eat & Go** 10-week gardening program at Gene Howe Elementary School with *45 youth participants*
- ▶ **Learn Grow Eat & Go** 10-week gardening program at Reeves-Hinger Elementary School with *20 youth participants*
- ▶ **I Can Eat a Rainbow** single education nutrition program at Reeves Hinger Elementary School with *106 youth participants*
- ▶ Delivered **13 food tastings and recipe demos** and **16 fresh vegetables and fruit samples**
- ▶ “I didn’t think I would like snap peas! I’m going to tell my mom to buy some!”  
– *3<sup>rd</sup> grade student at Gene Howe Elementary School*



### Urban Programs:

Poverty Simulation for Leadership Amarillo and Canyon

- ▶ 55 participants along with 20 volunteers participated in the annual event
- ▶ Four 15 minute weeks navigating a simulated month with work, bills, life events, government programs, family issues, and unexpected events
- ▶ 20 volunteers man various business and agencies such as school, workplace, Social Security Office, pawn shop, Police Dept, religious organizations, banks, and mortgage lenders



### SPOTLIGHT

- ▶ 75 participants and volunteers experienced the Poverty Simulation
- ▶ 106 students learned nutrition during “I Can Eat a Rainbow” at Reeves Elementary
- ▶ Intern, Abby Sherrod, from Wheat Ridge, CO joined our team this summer



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