

Helping Texans Thrive in Randall County

EXTENSION AGENTS

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4-H Youth Development:

- ▶ Randall 4-H had nearly **100 entries** at the Tri-State Fair. Results: Two **Top 5** Livestock Judging teams; **CHAMPION** Vet Science Skillathon; Four **Top 3** Food Challenge Teams; **CHAMPION** Jr. and Sr. Livestock Quiz Bowl teams; Ag Mech **CHAMPION**; **GRAND CHAMPION** Jr. Market Goat; **GRAND CHAMPION** Lamb.
- ▶ Held five Food & Nutrition meetings — Approx. **50** members in attendance.
- ▶ National Qualifying Livestock Quiz Bowl and Skillathon teams demonstrated their contests to Canyon Lions Club—Approx. **130** in attendance.
- ▶ Members constructed float for Canyon 4th of July Parade where they handed out promotional material to **thousands** of attendees.



Agriculture & Natural Resources:

47th Annual Randall County Crops Tour –August 27, 2024

This year's tour hosted **87** Agriculture Producers, Agribusiness representatives and special guest. Key topics included:

- ⇒ Short and Long Term Weather Patterns
- ⇒ FSA Program Funding Packages/ LRP Benefits
- ⇒ Crop Insurance Requirements
- ⇒ LIVE In-Flight Drone Demonstration
- ⇒ Robotic Cattle Cake Feeder Demonstration

Luncheon featured guest speaker, Senator Kevin Sparks of Midland, Texas shared his views regarding key agriculture issues he expects to address during this upcoming legislative session. **Water Issues** will be the highest priority.



IMPACTS

- ▶ Randall County 4-H earned 6 Champion or Grand Champion awards at the Tri-State Fair
- ▶ Water issues will be a the highest priority during the 2025 Legislative session

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Family and Community Health:

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 74 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.

High Plains Food Bank:

- ▶ A food safety seminar was conducted for **66 agencies that directly manage food bank distribution centers** throughout the panhandle. These are nonprofit organizations that seek to ensure people in need are receiving food within their communities by working with the High Plains Food Bank system. The seminar encourages a strong approach to food safety and keeping families nourished.

Food Safety Certification for Retail Establishments:

- ▶ A Food Handlers course was conducted for 12 CISD 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.

Master Gardeners:

- ▶ An educational program for **62 members of the Randall County Master Gardener** group was created that focused on preservation methods for their vegetable harvest, including food safety concerns and retail management of their produce yields.

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 160 children and reinforced learning concepts** through hands on activities and vocational instruction.

Horticulture:

- ▶ The Palo Duro Bee Club hosted a honey bee removal workshop in July of this year.
- ▶ The Barlett Bee Whisperer traveled from Ellendale, Tennessee, to teach lessons on beginning beekeeping, starting a business as a professional bee remover, and much more.
- ▶ 35 Texas Panhandle beekeepers met at the Randall County extension office to learn together.



July — September 2024 County Interpretation

Better Living for Texans:

BLT partnered with Heal the City Free Clinic to provide Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities Garden Course. A task force including the facility director, wellness coach and Randall County Master Gardeners collaborated to cultivate a healthy community through educating on the process of how to build, maintain and harvest a garden.

- ▶ **6 bilingual classes with hands-on instruction provided by 2 Randall County-Master Gardener Volunteers**
- ▶ **2- 3x7 garden beds**
- ▶ **Harvest included tomato, jalapeño and squash**
- ▶ **21 adult participants with 14 program graduates**

BLT partnered with Reeves Hinger Elementary School 2nd grade teacher and Canyon After School Program at Gene-Howe Elementary to provide the 10-week gardening course.

- ▶ **66 youth participants and 5 volunteers**
- ▶ **2 classroom container gardens**
- ▶ **20 hands-on lessons**
- ▶ **18 Fresh Fruit/Vegetable Tastings**
- ▶ **4 Recipe Demonstrations**
- ▶ **20 Family Engagement Weekly News-letters**



Urban Programs:

Annual Canyon ISD 4th Grade Agricultural Science Fair was conducted September 24th—25th, 2024 at the Randall County Happy State Bank Event Center.

- ▶ **943 4th Grade Students** participated
- ▶ **Volunteers: 71 Youth & 44 Adults**
- ▶ **Two 30 minute demos: Dairy and Electricity**
- ▶ **Six 15 minute demos: Beef Cattle, Wheat, Equine, Life Cycle, Planting a Lima Bean**



SPOTLIGHT

- ▶ Canyon High School students Jara Hufnagle and Brenna Ware are participating in the Practicum in Agriculture Internship program at our Extension Office.
- ▶ 943 students attended the Annual Canyon ISD 4th Grade Agricultural Science Fair. Event was held over 3 days at the Randall County Happy State Bank Event Center.



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