

Sutton County Extension Program Review- 2010

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Extension Programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Efforts this year ranged from wind energy and lease agreements to rangeland enhancement. One of the biggest concerns was the proposed electric transmission lines connecting west Texas to central Texas and the impact on landowners. Other issues included cap and trade legislation, but also more perennial concerns such as brush control and wildlife management. Educational efforts focused on these issues.

Educational Programs

- *Obvious benefits of adopting brush management plans are improving wildlife and livestock habitat as well as enhancing watersheds. Other benefits include reduction of hazardous fuels, improving access, and altering vegetative communities. Educational efforts included:*
- *Pesticide Applicator Training- March 29 & April 12*
- *Ranchers RoundUp- May 25*
- *Beef Cattle Workshop- August 10*
- *Deer & Habitat Management Workshop- September 28*
- *Hunter Education Course- October 1 & 2*
- *Rangeland Field Day- October 5*
- *Livestock, Range, & Wildlife Mgt. Workshop- October 26*
- *West Texas Rangeland Clinic- November 18*

Also:

- *Annual Result Demonstrations*
- *Weekly Newspaper Articles*
- *Weekly "Extension Radio RoundUp"*
- *Monthly Newsletters*

Pesticide Applicator Training



- Annually this training is offered to provide training and certification for those needing pesticide applicator licenses in order to purchase and apply restricted-use pesticides. These include city or county staff and land managers.

Ranchers RoundUp



- This annual workshop takes place in May. This year the program revolved around proposed legislation and its potential impact on ranch planning for landowners and producers. **Topics included:** *Carbon Markets/Cap & Trade Update, Wind Energy & Lease Agreements, Landowner's Lease Perspective, Energy Crops & Biofuels, and Ranch Resource Planning.*

Beef Cattle Workshop- August 10



Topics included:

- *Beef Herd Health Management*
- *Grazing Distribution and Optimizing Pasture Utilization*
- *Cattle Marketing Outlook*

Deer & Habitat Management Workshop- September 28



Speakers offered:

Hunting Season Outlook
Deer Habitat Evaluation
Meeting Deer Nutritional Needs
Brush Control for Livestock & Wildlife Ranches
Aging Deer On The Hoof
Deer Lease Considerations

Rangeland Field Day- October 5



Each October a “Ranching In The 21st Century” workshop is offered to provide current topics of interest to new and established landowners. This year, a field day was held in its place in cooperation with Sonora Experiment Station and NRCS. Topics included:

- Economics of Brush Management
- Harvesting deer for herd improvement
- Texas Fire Law and Liability Concerns
- Fire line preparation and maintenance
- Herbicide treatment following fire & mechanical treatment
- Improving nutrition through burning

Livestock, Range, & Wildlife Mgt. Workshop- October 26



This was a multi-county program offered by Sutton, Crockett, and Schleicher counties.

Discussion related to:

- Recognizing and Managing Common Livestock Health Problems
- Least Cost, Most Effective Methods for Controlling Pricklypear, Juniper, Mesquite and Regional Perennial Weeds
- Interpreting Evidence of Predation, Predator Biology, and Trapping Techniques and the Role of Predator Control in Predator Management

Hunter Education



Annual training provides 12 hours of instruction and testing for those seeking hunter certification (required of all hunters born after September 1, 1972)



The workshop offered discussion of:

- Africanized Bee Preparedness for Brush Operators
- Results of Extension Herbicide Demonstration Trials
- Pesticide Laws and Regulations
- Oilfield Site Reclamation
- Herbicide Application Techniques & Calibration
- Designing Feral Swine Traps, Baits and Control Options



Applied Research Trials and result demonstrations are conducted annually with county cooperators. These projects provide useful data for rangeland, livestock and wildlife managers.

Horticulture

Home owners can get help with weed & pest control, fertilization, landscaping, plant disease treatment, gardening tips, and much more.

Home visits are made to help diagnose disease, deficiency, pest, etc.



- Home Visits
- Result Demonstrations
- Newsletters
- Newspaper Articles

4-H & Youth Development

Youth are provided learning opportunities through club work, project activities, and community service. The following projects are active:

- Range Evaluation
- Food & Nutrition
- Educational Presentations
- Citizenship
- Veterinary Science
- Wool & Mohair Judging
- Clothing & Textiles
- Illustrated Talks
- Curriculum Enrichment
- Livestock



There is also curriculum enrichment (such as the 4th Grade Water Fair pictured above) in partnership with local schools.



Project work

- Involvement helps to develop skills and provides new knowledge. Traditional projects such as sheep/goats are offered in addition to annual programs such as range science, but other activities involve community involvement (such as Sutton County Days).





Recycle
RoundUp

Food Drive

City Clean-
up



Community Service Projects