



## Contact Your County Extension Service

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### Phone

(940) 349-2882



### Email

[denton-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:denton-tx@tamu.edu)



### Facebook

[DentonAgriLife](#)



### Instagram

[dentoncountyagrillife](#)

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We are pleased to provide you with the information contained in this report. Current educational information is supported by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

Included in this report are monthly updates from our different departments; 4-H & Youth Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Better Living for Texans, Family & Community Health, and Horticulture.

If you are interested in participating in any of the mentioned AgriLife Extension educational programs throughout the year, please feel welcome to do so.

All Extension programs are sponsored by AgriLife program area committees for anyone's educational benefit. We would like to acknowledge the Extension volunteer base, Extension Specialists, and cooperators who contributed to the planning of all educational information compiled in this educational newsletter.



# 4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

*Steven Baringer, 4-H and Youth Development Extension Agent*



This summer, Denton County 4-H volunteers are gearing up to provide local youth with a variety of enriching opportunities. Key to fostering leadership and life skills, the 4-H program includes activities ranging from agricultural projects to STEM initiatives. Volunteers are organizing a dynamic 4-H camp with sessions on horticulture, leadership, and outdoor education, promoting hands-on learning and teamwork. Additionally, state events and competitions will give youth the chance to showcase their skills and gain recognition. The dedication of Denton County 4-H volunteers ensures a supportive environment for skill development and community engagement. We couldn't do it without them!

# AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

*Zach A. Davis, Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent*

In May, the Denton County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension partnered with Collin, Grayson, and Rockwall Counties for a multicounty event, the Northeast Texas Small Acreage and New Landowner Conference. New landowners along with small acreage landowners attended the event to learn about the latest agriculture techniques.



Presentation tracks were available for beginning landowners as well as in-depth topics on land management, livestock, and specialty crop management for the more seasoned clientele. Experts addressed a variety of topics including Landowner 101, specialty food crops and livestock health, land usage ideas, USDA funding, soil management, agriculture and wildlife valuation, local resources, regenerative grazing practices, and cottage food law. Pesticide applicator license holders who attended the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) sessions earned up to five CEU hours toward their recertification.



# BETTER LIVING FOR TEXANS

*Dusty Fife, Better Living for Texans Extension Agent*

Our amazing BLT Agent, Dusty Fife, had an incredibly successful May! She completed the Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities Garden (GNHC) program at the Little Elm Senior Center, where over twenty participants graduated from the six-week course. Additionally, she led two Walk N Talk programs in Pilot Point and Lewisville that wrapped up this month, with twenty-five proud graduates. Dusty also joined her colleagues for a two-day program planning session in Dallas, which is so important for helping agents prepare impactful plans for the upcoming year.

Dusty continues to secure sponsorships for seeds, vegetable and fruit transplants, soil, fertilizers, and containers from amazing organizations like Home Depot in Prosper, Bonnie Plants in Whitesboro, and Dennis' Farm Supply in Denton. These generous donations will benefit her most recent GNHC program series, which kicked off in late May at the Emily Fowler Library in Denton. The next class is all about raised bed and container gardening, and each participant will receive a five-gallon grow bag and several vegetable and fruit transplants to take home. This location is one of two new sites that Dusty was able to secure for future programming. The second location secured was at The Colony Senior Center, where Dusty initiated the Be Well, Live Well five-week program series with fifteen enthusiastic senior participants.

Overall, Dusty is making amazing progress in promoting healthy living and nutrition education in her community. Her dedication and hard work continue to have a positive impact on the lives of those she serves, and we are truly proud to have her on our team!





# FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH

*Chandani Kothari, Family and Community Health Extension Agent*



The Family and Community Health department kicked off May by promoting the Walk Across Texas program for all Denton County employees during the B.E.E. employee appreciation event. We have 20 teams with 150 participants who have started their 832-mile journey across Texas. More importantly, they have taken the most important step - investing in their health! We are thankful for the gifts sponsored by Commissioner Williams, Commissioner Mitchell, and the Denton County Human Resources department. The Band-Aid Brigade team from Denton County Public Health was the winner in our second week of walking the most miles. We are giving more prizes to teams and individuals throughout the eight weeks, so don't forget to count your steps!

I was also honored to represent AgriLife Extension, network with other professionals, and lead a physical activity workgroup at the Denton County Community Health Summit hosted by Texas Health Resources, United Way of Denton County, and Denton County Public Health. I also demonstrated a healthy recipe for pregnant and lactating moms at the Women To Women Pregnancy Center. Twelve ladies learned to make a delicious minestrone pasta salad loaded with protein, fiber, vitamins, and minerals.



# HORTICULTURE

From Girl Scout Troops, to the Great American Cleanup, to elementary and middle schools throughout Denton County, our volunteers have been busy educating and inspiring the next generation about clean waterways, succulents, solar eclipses, insects, pollinators, worms, rainfall, and more! From January through May the Science with Attitude (SWAt) volunteers served 4,781 people in our community! SWAt is a collaboration between Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and the 4-H department. We send out a huge thank you to our amazing volunteers!

Additionally, our Master Naturalists volunteers hosted field trips at Clear Creek again this spring with visits by 2,174 Denton ISD students and 711 adults for a total of 2,885 people. Thanks to our volunteers for teaching us all to love nature more!



## TOP GARDENING TIPS

### June

Continue planting warm season annuals & perennials.  
Mulch bare soil to suppress weeds & retain moisture.

Mow more frequently & at a higher height.

Leave grass clippings to recycle lawn nutrients.

Remove aphids & spider mites with water blasts.

**#DCMGA #GROWWITHUS**

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



# BATTLE OF THE BOARDS

a charcuterie challenge  
proceeds support Denton County 4-H

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11TH  
6 - 8 PM

DENTON COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATIVE COURTHOUSE  
ROOM 2020

1 Courthouse Dr., Denton, TX 76208

\$25 IN ADVANCED  
\$30 AT THE DOOR

Includes grazing from the boards, non-alcoholic drinks, and a vote for your favorite charcuterie display

\$5 FOR EXTRA VOTING TICKETS

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE  
AT [bit.ly/dcbattletix](https://bit.ly/dcbattletix)  
OR AT THE DOOR



**INTERESTED IN HAVING YOUR OWN TABLE?**  
BECOME A COMPETITOR AND SHOW OFF YOUR  
CHARCUTERIE SKILLS!

VISIT [BIT.LY/DC4HBATTLE](https://bit.ly/dc4hbattle) FOR RULES AND REGISTRATION  
REGISTER BY JULY 19TH 5:00 PM

FREE ENTRY FOR COMPETITORS  
SPACE IS LIMITED

QUESTIONS? [REGINA.STEINER@DENTONCOUNTY.GOV](mailto:REGINA.STEINER@DENTONCOUNTY.GOV)

