DENTON COUNTY AGRILIFE UPDATE

FEBRUARY RECAP 2022!

FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH

Chandani Kothari, Family and Community Health Agent had an opportunity to present about AgriLife Extension to the Food and Nutrition Club students at Texas Women’s University. She gave an overview of each of the unit, while emphasizing on various programs that the Family and Community Health unit offers to the residents in Denton County. She also talked about available volunteer and internship opportunities that could help students gain first-hand experiences while working in the community.

Chandani assisted 4-H agent during the County contests for Food Show, Duds to Dazzle and Fashion Show. We held our first Program Area Committee meeting for the year 2022. We want to expand our committee to include members from various organizations that have a vested interest in the health and wellness of our community residents.

HORTICULTURE

The Master Gardeners held their annual Volunteer Opportunity Fair showcasing all their projects for their new interns. Agent Laminack presented at the University Landscape Managers Association state meeting in Fredericksburg on “AgriLife: The Best Kept Secret.” This presentation highlighted all the ways AgriLife around the state could assist with landscape information as well as be a resource for university students.

Agent Laminack taught the Earth-Kind section to the Master Gardener intern class in Van Zandt County. Agent Laminack leads two classes of middle school students through a hands-on Horticultural Therapy activity.

Master Naturalists planned their open house event for April and recognized milestones at their February meeting. Master Naturalists worked the DFW Wildlife Coalition hotline answering 36 calls from citizens about wildlife issues. They also worked at Lake Ray Roberts State Park assisting at the visitor center.

The collaboration of Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, and 4-H that conducts outreach to youth taught 117 youth at Lake Dallas Middle School. Also, the Junior Master Gardener Global Gardeners continued meeting weekly with a level 1 and level 2 class serving 18 youth.
4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The major livestock show season carried over into February. We had members compete at San Angelo, Houston, and San Antonio. Stockton James of the Ag Leadership 4-H Club placed 5th in his Market Goat Class at San Antonio and made the sale. Evan Sylvester of the Heart of Denton 4-H team placed 2nd in his Middle-Weight Dorper Class and also made the sale! We had 15 members participate in the archery and shooting sports competitions at San Antonio and Houston. Rachel Talley and Camryn Green of the Ag Leadership 4-H Club placed 5th and 10th in their archery divisions at Houston. We are proud of all our 4-H members for competing!

Commissioner Bobbie Mitchell visited our 4-H outreach program at Lake Dallas Elementary. They showed off their cooking skills to her and learned about local government. Thank you Commissioner for spending time with our youth!

We also held our County Food Show where 4-H members prepare a dish at home and give a presentation about it. This year’s theme was Backyard BBQ! Allie Holt and McKinnley Rupp from the Argyle 4-H Club competed. Allie prepared Oven Chick Kabobs with Tzatziki Sauce and McKinnley made Jalapeno Poppers!

AG & NATURAL RESOURCES

In February AG agent Zach Davis supported 4-H members competing at San Antonio and San Angelo Stock Show. Multiple individuals placed with their projects and made the premium sale! Over 50 4-H members and parents attended these shows to compete.
We met with our planning committees to work on our spring programs. Red River Equine Summit is happening 4.2.22 @Denton County Cowboy Church. We are excited to have guest speaker Sergeant Josue "Tony" De La Cerda from the Texas Department of Public Safety presenting our transporting farm equipment safety class! We will also be putting on a Pesticide applicator training.

BETTER LIVING FOR TEXANS (BLT)

February was another busy month for Better Living for Texan’s Agent Dusty Fife, getting acclimated to her position and enjoying the opportunity to meet various people within the county. As a result of the networking, many programs are in place for the upcoming months!

Dusty Partnered with 4-H to give a hand at Lake Dallas Elementary's ChefTastictics Cooking program.

Agent Fife started her first program called A Fresh Start to a Healthier You at the Pilot Point Library. Participants are learning how to reduce foodborne illnesses by practicing proper handwashing, and food safety techniques. How to increase fruit and vegetable intake, and physical activity, all while saving money at the grocery store! Attendees are also shown how to prepare and cook several new nutritious meals utilizing more fruits and vegetables.
Upcoming Events

- **3/14** Kick off for A Matter Of Balance for Discovery Village Seniors at Lewisville—an 8 lesson series
- **3/16** Virtual Cooking Demonstration with Alzheimer’s association
- **3/23** Medicine Smart presentation at Flower Mound Senior Center
- **3/20-3/26** Denton County Youth Fair
- **4/2** Red River Equine Summit
- **4/4** Record Book Work Night (4-H)
- **4/5** AgriLife Extension presentation at UNT