Youth members have been very active the past few weeks with their different district contests. On April 16th and 17th, eighteen members traveled to Farmersville, TX to compete at District 4 Roundup. Roundup consists of multiple competitive events including Food Show, Public Speaking, Duds to Dazzle, Educational Presentations, and Share the Fun. Denton County had a junior team that placed second, and an intermediate team that placed third in Duds to Dazzle. Team members on the junior team were Miranda Mayfield, Riley McBride, and Grace McGraw. Team members on the intermediate team were Allie Holt, Madeline Holland, and Tylee Wright. Angel Stewart placed first in Public Speaking and will advance to state. Allie Holt won 1st place in the Fashion Show. Award ceremonies were not held due to COVID restrictions. Awards will be distributed to winners via mail.

All AgriLife extension activities must include a Preparedness Plan. Typically, volunteers and judges help evaluate the contestants, and parents are on site to wait for the results of each contest. This year, only participants were allowed in the contest area at Roundup.

This past week, ten Denton County 4-H members and their families traveled to College Station, TX to compete in the district livestock judging contest. The event is typically held on the Texas A&M University campus, but this year it was held at the Brazos Valley Expo Center. The contest consisted of 8 classes of livestock, evaluated for market and breeding. The contest was sponsored by local businesses, including Texas Farm Bureau, Dennis’ Farm Store, United Bank of Krum, and American National-Shane Howland. Denton County had two senior teams place first and second to qualify for the state contest that will be held in June. First place team members were Kyle Real, Grace Real, Kayce Lopez, and Kenedy Devoe. The second-place team consisted of Zachary Griffeth, Stockton James, Brittlee Brock, and Bryce Borchadt. Kyle Real was the high point individual in the senior age division and Campbell Real was the high point in the intermediate division.
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

On April 23rd we held our first Landowner 101 session for the summer in McKinney. We had 30 participants that attended the program. This educational series specifically targets new agricultural landowners. This is a multi-county event with Hunt and Collin County. This was a hybrid event, with the public having the option to attend in person or via the online platform. The series will continue with an educational activity taking place once per month until August.

Planning of future events accelerated this month as things began to open up in regards to Covid-19. Our Wheat Field Day in May and our Pond Management Program in June are events we are urgently preparing for and promoting. Both events will be held outside to ease pandemic safety concerns.

In addition to these educational activities, the agriculture agent spent a week during the month delivering vaccines as part of the State-Wide initiative for TDEM.

HORTICULTURE

Agent Laminack taught Master Gardener interns about herbs through a virtual tour of her yard on April 20th.

The Denton County Leadership Advisory Board met virtually on April 21st with 19 people in attendance. Program updates were provided to the board and outreach opportunities for AgriLife were discussed.

The Denton County Horticulture Advisory Group met virtually on April 22nd with 10 people in attendance. Ideas for programs were discussed, as we transition back to in-person events.

Our Master Gardener Help Desk continues to see an increase in horticulture questions submitted, answering 127 questions in April. Master Gardeners taught “Getting Started with Native Plants” on April 7th to 42 people during the Upper Trinity Regional Water District’s virtual Spring into Spring series.

They also taught Tree Pruning to 30 people for a virtual Keep Lewisville Beautiful program.

Our SWAt team taught 119 youth at Leadership Prep School. They taught both in-person and virtual students about plants’ needs and did a paper towel gardening activity.

The Master Naturalists staffed the Ray Roberts Nature Center, educating 73 adults and 57 youth. They also answered 136 questions for the DFW Wildlife Coalition Hotline and educated 85 adults and 50 youth at the FW Nature Center.

BETTER LIVING FOR TEXANS

In April, our Better Living for Texans Agent, Jessica Small, stayed productive promoting nutrition programs. Jessica also had the opportunity to conduct a virtual presentation for the UNT Retirement Association. The topic that was presented was MyPlate, which focuses on daily requirements of the food groups: fruits, vegetables, dairy, protein and grains. There were 10 participants and each person was able to takeaway great information that can be useful in their lives. Our agent is also currently serving on the state-wide Walk Across Texas planning committee, where she will be marketing and promoting physical activity and the importance of walking, for the state of Texas. To keep up to date with our Better Living for Texans program, be sure to follow our Facebook Page at Denton County Healthy Happenings. There is so much more to come with summer approaching. Stay tuned!
Upcoming Events

5/17/21  4-H PLA & Council Meeting
5/28/21  Landowner 101 Series- Class 2
6/1/21   Denton County Ag Committee Meeting
6/1/21   Denton County Equine Committee Meeting
6/2-3/21  Growing Gardeners Teacher Training
6/17/21  Livestock Validation
6/19/21  Master Gardener Veggie Show
6/22/21  OLLI Presentation: The crazy weather in your backyard.
6/23/21  Livestock Validation
6/24/21  Pond Management Workshop & Fish Fry
6/25/21  Landowner 101 Series- Class 3

For more information on our events and programs, visit Denton.Agrilife.org or call 940-349-2882