DENTON COUNTY AGRILIFE UPDATE

APRIL Recap 2022

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

The ag and natural resources program had a busy April hosting multiple educational programs for local clientele. On April 2nd we hosted our Red River Equine summit with 70 people in attendance. We partnered with the Denton County Cowboy Church to host the event which was highlighted by outdoor demonstrations and classroom sessions. Sponsors for the program were Denton County Farm Bureau, ASCO, and NRS.

We also held our Transporting Farm Equipment program with DPS officer Jose de la Certa. 27 local farmers attended the program for education on transporting farm equipment on busy public roads. Lastly, We kicked off our summer series Landowner 101, which is targeted towards new landowners in the north Texas area. The first session focused on government agencies and their role in agriculture.
April was busy with District 4-H Contests! Once again, Denton County 4-H members did not disappoint. We are super proud for all of our members for competing. Especially of the ones who this was your first year or for those who tried something new. We had 10 members compete in various contests at the District IV 4-H Roundup in Farmersville. Just to highlight a few of them, the following brought home blue ribbons and first place: Madie Holland (Fashion Show – Buying), TyLee Wright (Fashion Show – Construction), Briar Bannahan & Campbell Real (Educational Presentation – Animal Science), and TyLee Wright, McKinnley Rupp, & Allie Holt (Duds to Dazzle).

Members of the Ag Leadership Club traveled to College Station for the District Livestock Judging contest as well. They brought home the top honors with the 1st team overall in the intermediate and senior division. Campbell Real and Brittlee Brock were the top individuals overall in their age divisions. They have spent countless hours getting ready for this event and all of their hard work paid off!

From a 4-H Project Outreach standpoint, our 4-H Program Coordinator Colleen Carpenter has been rocking and rolling! She leads our Egg to Chick – Hatching in the Classroom project has been coordinating with teachers throughout Denton County. They all had very successful projects with some great looking chicks and ducks in one class! This is a great project to bring AgriLife Extension right to their classroom. Thank you to Ms. Hernandez at Wellington Elementary School for the pictures.

To wrap up April, our 4-H members traveled to Texarkana for the District Shooting Sports Competition. We would like to give Judson Price a special shout out for placing first place in the pistol discipline! Looking forward to May, several clubs will be having officer elections and preparing for the summer. We are planning a full summer of workshops and summer camps that are filling up fast. If you would like to volunteer, please reach out.
FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH

FCH Agent Chandani Kothari kicked off three series session on Cooking Well with Hypertension at Pilot Point Public library. Participants learned about the DASH eating pattern, went on a virtual grocery tour to identify foods that are low in sodium, and learned to read the nutrition facts panel. They also prepared recipes with less sodium, sugar, and fat while incorporating herbs and spices. We will soon be wrapping up the session with providing tools and recipes to enable participants to continue to prepare healthy meals for their families.

Agent Kothari presented to a group of students from Human Development & Family Consumer Sciences department at UNT. They learned about the role of the Extension in Denton County, volunteer and internship opportunities, as well as career prospects with AgriLife Extension. Besides doing presentations, FCH agent has been busy with the planning for Walk Across Texas at Flower Mound Senior Center, the Denton Care Giver Conference with Alzheimer’s Association, and District IV TEAFCS Conference.

BETTER LIVING FOR TEXANS

April was another great month in the books for BLT Agent Dusty Fife. She is working with several Walk N Talk initiatives at various stages, and they are all going well! Participating organizations include: Pilot Point Library, Aubrey Library, Gonzalez Preschool for the Young, and the Denton Department of Parks and Recreation. Participants have shared that they love the friendships they are making and the valuable information being taught.

Agent Fife has also partnered with the Texas Health and Human Services’ Foster Grandparent program to implement A Fresh Start to a Healthier You with their senior participants. They are learning how to increase fruit and vegetable intake and physical activity. Food safety and food resource management are also key topics covered.

Dusty attended the week long Navigating for Success onboarding training in College Station where she learned how to deliver youth and adult nutrition education programs. A few of the topics covered include culturally responsive teaching, learner-centered program facilitation, and working effectively with adult and youth audiences. On a final note, Agent Fife was selected to speak on a panel to share her strategies with other new agents attending Navigating for Success. She spoke about best practices that have helped her be successful, how she is establishing herself, and how she partners with other agents in Denton County.
The Elm Fork Chapter Master Naturalists held an open house on April 21st, inviting the public to explore the organization. Posters of 29 TMN-EFC service projects were represented. The project leads were available for questions. Chapter members welcomed 55 visitors throughout the day. Local community officials were invited, and we were happy to see several city and county representatives in attendance!

Master Gardeners had an amazing time at the Plant Sale Saturday, April 23rd! The Plant Sale is DCMGA's largest fundraiser, and it helps to extend outreach and education opportunities to the community.

In addition to the Plant Sale, Master Gardeners worked diligently to prepare for the Garden Tour scheduled for Saturday, May 7th. The Garden Tour offers self-guided tours of four unique Denton County properties. A few of the many educational opportunities included are an ergonomic tools demo, ask a Master Gardener booth, drip irrigation assembly demos, and raised vegetable gardening in an urban space.

Volunteers also participated in the ongoing Denton ISD School Days at Clear Creek. Spring DISD Days provides educational experiences to complement the Denton ISD field trips for 2nd graders.
UPCOMING DATES!

- Garden Tour Saturday, 5.7
- Master of Memory* 5.10 / 5.24 / 5.31 / 6.7
- Landowner 101 Workshops 5.20 / 6.17 / 8.19
- Cooking Well With Diabetes* 6.3 / 6.10 / 6.17 / 6.24
- Backyard Chickens* 6.7
- Pond Management & Fish fry* 6.9
- Farm heritage day* 6.11
- Farm to Table Camp 6.13 - 6.17
- Swat camp 6.20-6.24
- Leaders are Readers 6.20 / 7.11 / 7.19 / 7.22 / 7.25
- Summer Validation 6.23 & 6.27
- fruit, veg., Herb, & Flower Show* 6.28.22
- OLLI - Robson Ranch* 6.28
- OLLI - Flower Mound* 6.29
- Clover Kids Camp (Full) 7.12 - 7.14
- 4-H Expo* 7.27
- FCH/4-H Bootcamp Day 8.4

*Free event