In May, we had our first in-person Parent Leader Association meeting and County Council social. We used this opportunity to recognize statewide 4-H award winners from Denton County. Anne Kimmey, a long-time volunteer and 4-H alumna, was presented with the Salute to Excellence Award. This award recognizes outstanding 4-H volunteers for their service to 4-H programs and the impact that they have had on the lives of young people. Our Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent, Zach Davis, was presented with the Meritorious Service Award, which recognizes two outstanding Extension professionals in the state for their role in making 4-H volunteers more effective.

Also in May, Senior 4-H'er Erik Dieterich gave a bee presentation at the Lewisville Noon Rotary Club on May 12th. In attendance were Commissioner Bobby Mitchell, Mayor TJ Gilmore of Lewisville, and Mayor Von Beougher of Double Oak. Erik’s presentation covered a range of topics related to beekeeping and honey production.

Agent Laminack taught plant identification to 7 Parks and Recreation employees at Doubletree Ranch in Highland Village.

Our Master Gardeners completed their 2021 intern class on May 4th. Thirty-two interns will each complete a minimum of 70 hours of volunteer service this year in order to graduate from the Master Gardener program.

The Master Gardener Help Desk answered 120 questions in May. Questions regarding trees were the most common topic for the month.

One Master Gardener taught “Beginning Gardening” virtually to 234 people with the Metroplex Tamil Sangam Gardening group.

Master Naturalists led virtual field trips for 528 DISD students at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center. They also staffed the Ray Roberts Nature Center, educating 232 people.

Our Science With Attitude team taught 110 students at Harmony School of Innovation about water pollution, turtles, and other critters of North Texas.
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

In May we continued our multi-county program with the second installment of the Landowner 101 Workshop Series. This educational program targets new agriculture producers and seeks to educate them on different agricultural options and steps to take to begin their own production. May's session focused on financial management, business planning, and funding options.

May was also a great time to get out in the field. On May 10th we held our Wheat Field Day workshop. This is another multi-county event. It is hosted by Denton, Wise, and Montague Counties. The first part of the this class took attendees out into the field to look at different wheat variety trials. After that, attendees listened to presentations on the market outlook for wheat, wheat fungicides, and pest management for wheat fields.

Both the Denton County Ag Committee and the Denton County Equine Committee met this month and have started planning their summer programs.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Denton County AgriLife Extension office is very pleased to announce the hiring of Chandani Kothari as the new Family and Community Health Agent. Chandani moved to Texas from India by way of Illinois.

She recently graduated from a Master in Public Health program with a health promotion concentration from Northern Illinois University. In the past, she has worked with the University of Illinois Extension’s SNAP-ED program, where she promoted healthy lifestyle choices and provided technical assistance to community agencies. She most recently worked as a COVID-19 Case Investigator.

She looks forward to bringing her passion for nutrition and health education to her new role as a Family and Community Health Extension Agent in Denton County.

BETTER LIVING FOR TEXANS

This May, our Better Living for Texans program kicked off a fun physical activity program called, Walk-N-Talk. This program is currently being hosted for all active senior citizens and older adults at the Denton Senior Center. This is an 8-week program where participants track their steps and miles for walking or doing any type of exercise. Each week, our BLT Agent and the group walk at various parks and trails in the Denton area. In addition to that, participants learn about the importance of staying hydrated.

Our BLT Agent has also been keeping busy with planning for future Walk Across Texas programs and serves on the Walk Across Texas Statewide committee campaign. Be on the lookout for more programs this summer. Stay up to date with us by following our Facebook page: Denton County Healthy Happenings.
Upcoming Events

6/23/21  Livestock Validation

6/24/21  Pond Management Workshop & Fish Fry

6/25/21  Landowner 101 Series - Class 3

6/27/21  Lonestar Challenge Mustang Event

6/29/21  Pasture Management for Horses

7/7/21  New Agent Meet & Greet, YOU'RE INVITED!

7/22/21  Private Pesticide Applicator Training

7/23/21  Landowner 101 Series - Class 4

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