**DENTON COUNTY AGRILIFE UPDATE**

**JUNE 2021**

**HORTICULTURE**
In June, Colleen Carpenter, Nikki Johnson, Janet Laminack, and Master Gardeners along with local teachers created a teacher training titled “Growing Gardeners.”

This two-day, free training offered 12 hours of credit to 36 Denton County teachers on starting and maintaining school gardens. The many hands-on learning opportunities such as plant propagation and Incredible Water Journey made the class very well-received. The teachers have even asked for additional training in the future. We were fortunate to be able to use the greenhouse and classroom space at Lewisville ISD Technology, Exploration and Career Center for the class.

Our Master Gardener Help Desk answered 146 questions in June, with the most common topic being trees. The annual Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, and Flower Show at Denton Community Market was conducted by Master Gardeners. They had 39 adults and 17 youth enter a total of 127 items. Master Naturalists worked summer camps at Clear Creek and LISDOLA, educating 390 youth.

**FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH**

Howdy! My name is Chandani Kothari and I am your new Family and Community Health Agent here in Denton County! I am off to a great start with onboarding and new agent trainings. I am looking forward to meeting community members, stakeholders, and our current Master Wellness Volunteers in the coming months to chart out an action plan for Family and Community Health program needs in the community. My goal is to improve the health status of our community by educating the public on basic health and nutrition issues that affect our community.

Family and Community Health programming will soon be lined up, with several organizations already reaching out to schedule programs for fall. Stay tuned for updates on events and programs on Denton County Healthy Happenings Facebook page! Also, please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have questions or would like to request a nutrition program for your agency!!
4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Denton County youth members closed out their 4-H year with a bang in June! Multiple contests took place throughout the month and we couldn’t be more proud to recognize and celebrate our exceptional kids and their accomplishments!

The month kicked off with our Texas 4-H Roundup event, which is a qualifying and invitational event for 4-H youth who placed in a district level Roundup or signed up to compete in one of the invitational events. Our county members competed in Livestock Judging, Horse, Healthy Lifestyles, and Educational Presentation. In addition to Roundup, our members also competed at the East Region Horse Show.

Two of our 4H’ers were scholarship recipients this month as well. Special recognition to Kyle Real and Aspyn McCord for each receiving a $20,000 scholarship! Way to go!

On a local event level, Denton County 4-H continued their partnership with Lake Dallas Middle School by creating a new summer enrichment program. The three project areas that were offered to the students were Hydroponics, Cooking, and Archery.

Lastly, steer, heifer and state fair lamb and goat validation was conducted for the youth of Denton County. The validation process is coordinated by the extension office and we received volunteer help from stakeholders and local Ag Science teachers. Approximately 200 animals were validated.

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

We had three Agriculture programs in June. We held the 3rd session of our Landowner 101 series, which is a multiple county program with Collin and Hunt County. Topics for the session included fencing, farm equipment and maintenance, and pond management. Our second program was our Pond Management Workshop and Fish Fry that was held at Rancho De La Roca in Aubrey, Tx. Steven Smith from the Noble Research Institute spoke about pond management practices and we had a pond shocking demonstration by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Sponsors for the program include Pond King, Dennis Farm Store, and Upper Trinity Conservation Trust. Over fifty people attended this workshop. Our third program was a pasture management program for horses. Our speaker was Dr. Dennis Sigler, a retired extension horse specialist. The program was held at one of our committee member’s ranchette in Pilot Point.
Upcoming Events

7/22/21    Private Pesticide Applicator Training

7/23/21    Landowner 101 Series- Class 4

7/28/21    Leadership Advisory Board Meeting

7/29/21    Horticulture Advisory Meeting

8/3/21    Denton County Ag & Equine Committee Meetings

8/5/21    Garden Secrets: Getting Started with Natives

8/14/21    4-H Gold Star Awards Banquet

8/19/21    Garden Secrets: Growing a Sustainable Flower Garden

8/19/21    Greater Aubrey Area Gardening Series: Waterwise Gardening

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