Horticulture

Agent Laminack was joined by Colleen Carpenter, Dawn Cobb, Nikki Johnson and Derrick Bruton for a tour of the Texas Green Star facility on July 23rd. The tour was led by Curtis Blagburn, showcasing the beginning stages of production of this commercial hydroponics facility in Sanger.

Agents Laminack and Baringer, along with 4-H program coordinator Colleen Carpenter, met with 8 members of the Leadership Advisory Board on July 28th to discuss past and upcoming programs. This committee helps guide AgriLife in programming efforts by identifying areas of need and connecting our office to resources throughout the county.

The Horticulture Advisory Group met on July 29th with 10 members and Agent Laminack present. They discussed previous programs and began planning 3 different classes for landscape professionals.

Agent Laminack and Agent Brad Voss of Collin County met with leaders of Shiloh Field Community Garden on July 30th to answer questions and give advice on issues and best practices.

Our Master Gardener Help Desk answered 116 questions in July. The most common topic was once again trees, followed by questions on fertilizer and insects.

Master Naturalists gave two Skins and Skulls presentations for 27 youth and 15 adults at Pilot Point Community Library and Sanger Public Library. They also staffed the Ray Roberts Nature Center, educating 113 individuals and answered 90 questions through the DFW Wildlife Coalition Hotline.

Family & Community Health

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service was represented by Steven Baringer, Michelle Ellis and myself at the Congressman Burgess’ Energy Summit & Fair! Our Blender Bikes were a hit with the summit participants and visitors and emphasized the importance of exercise along with energizing our mornings with a nutritious breakfast. The highlight of the event was when Mayor Gerard Hudspeth pedaled the bikes to blend and later taste the strawberry-banana and spinach-tropical fruit smoothies.

As an FCH agent, I had the opportunity to participate in a three-day TEAFCS conference held in Tyler for professional development. I also got to meet other FCH and BLT agents from all over Texas and learned about their programming efforts that make an impact on the health of Texans!

Lastly, a great big thank you to those who attended the meet and greet event held on July 7th. It was a pleasure to meet you all!!
As summer comes to an end, we would like to highlight a few of our Denton County 4-H members. A big part of 4-H and a historic tradition is submitting a record book. A record book is simply a collection of the 4-H members’ accomplishments and involvement through their project work, citizenship, and leadership activities. During July, several of our member’s record books were judged at the district level. One of our junior members, Cal Kervin placed first place in the Shooting Sports category. Two of our senior members placed first place for their project work. Erik Dieterich won the Entomology category and Zachary Griffeth won the Beef category. We are proud of these two and know their books will represent us well at the state level.

We also have another 4-H member representing Denton County. Grace Real will be serving as the District Secretary for District IV of Texas 4-H. She attended the district’s ULTRA Leadership Camp this summer and officially started her term at the conclusion of camp. We know she will do great things! Things will soon start to pick up and we are looking forward to the start of the 4-H year!

This July we completed the 4th session in our Landowner 101 program. During this educational program, we discussed pasture management, crop selection, and soil health.

We had our regularly scheduled Ag and Equine committee meetings at the beginning of the month where we planned educational programs. We are currently preparing for a hay clinic and a carbon farming class in September as well as some saddle workshops for equine enthusiasts.

This month we also held our quarterly pesticide applicator training to correctly educate applicators on how to safely and responsibly use pesticides.

At the end of July, we had our statewide Texas County Agricultural Agents Association conference in San Antonio. Each year, volunteers with a longstanding relationship with the extension service are recognized for their outstanding contributions. This year, Denton County resident Dennis Smith received the Man of the Year award. Dennis has been volunteering and serving on the Denton County Ag committee for over 40 years. He has been active on the committee since 1973. His assistance is invaluable for Denton County AgriLife. He is always happy to sponsor educational programs, fund 4-H projects and in-school programs. We will recognize him locally at our August meeting.
Upcoming Events

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 Gardending

8/25/21   FCS Committee meeting

9/2/21    Garden Secrets: Caring for Holiday Cactus

9/8/21    Carbon Farming Class

9/16/21   Greater Aubrey Area Gardening Series: Texas Native Plants

9/23/21   Denton County Hay Clinic

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