As part of the Fruit Production in North Texas program, local farmers and horticulturists toured Goobert Bub’s Orchard and Bakery located in Justin.

We are pleased to provide you with the information contained in this report. Current educational information is supported by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

Included in this report are monthly updates from our different departments; 4-H & Youth Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Better Living for Texans, Family & Community Health, and Horticulture.

If you are interested in participating in any of the mentioned AgriLife Extension educational programs throughout the year, please feel welcome to do so.

All Extension programs are sponsored by AgriLife program area committees for anyone’s educational benefit. We would like to acknowledge the Extension volunteer base, Extension Specialists, and cooperators who contributed to the planning of all educational information compiled in this educational newsletter.
September kicked off the 2022-2023 4-H year! At the time I write this, Denton County is sitting strong at 202 4-H members and 43 volunteers. Our membership goal for the year is 350! We expect those numbers to rise as we enter contest season. We have eight clubs this year that are a mixture of traditional community clubs and specific interest clubs. The clubs meet once a month to share information with their families.

Our first county contest is in October. Food Challenge is a mixture of Food Network’s Iron Chef and Chopped! A team of 3-4 4-H members are given a secret ingredient with 40 minutes to prepare a dish and plan a presentation to the judges. The first-place team in each age division at the county level will advance to the district competition in November. To prepare for Food Challenge, 4-H & FCH hosted a workshop. In attendance were 20 youth; the vast majority were new to Food Challenge. They learned about knife safety, the basic functions of vitamins, and other helpful tips to include in their presentation. The 4-H members then competed in a mock Food Challenge to see what it would be like on contest day.

October is a busy month with several activities and National 4-H Week! We are looking forward to it.
In September, the Agriculture Committee planned and held the Annual Hay Clinic. ASCO Equipment brought multiple pieces of heavy equipment out to showcase to producers. Landowners received analysis of the forage samples for free. Samples were tested at the Texas A&M lab in College Station. Sponsors for the event included ASCO Equipment, Denton County Farm Bureau, Kelso Oil, West Feed, and Dennis’ Farm Store. In addition to the Hay Clinic, we also held our Deer Food Plots program on September 1st in room 2020 of the new courthouse. Speakers included Dr. Jacob Dykes, Extension Wildlife Specialist and Chris Garcia from MBS Seed.
Dusty Fife, our Better Living for Texans Agent, reported that September was an excellent month. It also marked the end of the fiscal year for BLT programming, which meant she had program wrap-ups and reporting to complete. Fife started two Healthy Carbohydrate series with the Health and Human Services Foster Grandparent program and the Denton Senior Center. She also created two new Walk N Talk program series. One of them resulted from a new partnership with the Lewisville Library and Thrive Recreation Center. The program has had a great turnout. The other Walk N Talk program series is another Denton Parks and Recreation collaboration. Both of the Walk N Talk programs are helping Denton County participants to increase fruit and vegetable consumption and physical activity levels. Lastly, Agent Fife was fortunate to have partnered with Chandani Kothari, our Family and Community Health Agent, to participate in a Health Fair held at the Colony Senior Center.
Family and Community Health agent Chandani Kothari and North Texas Area Agency on Aging started an eight-week fall prevention program, A Matter of Balance, at Denia Recreation center for seniors. A total of 10 participants have been learning to adopt fall prevention practices and participate in exercises to increase strength and flexibility during the weekly 2-hour sessions. Agent Kothari also attended a training to learn the new data reporting system that will be adopted by the agency starting in September. To prepare 4-H Youth for the upcoming county and district food challenge, she hosted a food challenge workshop with 4-H agent Steven Baringer. The kids participated in a mock food challenge and learned about nutrients and their role in our bodies.
During September, the horticulture department collaborated with Tarrant County to host “Fruit Production in North Texas.” Local farmers and horticulture enthusiasts gathered at the Copeland Government Center to learn about growing fruit in north Texas. As part of the Texas Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Grant, Texas A&M agents and professors presented their research on growing peaches and strawberries. Tarrant County’s agent Laura Miller presented two ways to establish a peach orchard. Dr. Russ Wallace and Dr. Thayne Montague reviewed their most recent findings on strawberry production methods. Local strawberry and blackberry grower Tim Sutton discussed lessons he learned from his first year in strawberry production.

After the morning session in Cross Roads, attendees headed to Goober Bub’s Orchard & Bakery located in Justin to tour the farm. Goober Bub’s owner, Tim Sutton, showed his beautiful strawberry and blackberry fields.

Left: Dr. Russ Wallace presented his research on strawberry field preparation, planting, fertilization, and weed control. Right: Goober Bub’s owner, Tim Sutton, showed the group equipment he uses including a rain water harvesting system.
UPCOMING EVENTS

A Matter of Balance: Fall Prevention - Thursdays 9/1 - 10/20

Walk N Talk: Rethink Your Drink - Tuesdays 9/13 - 11/1

Walk N Talk: Fruit & Vegetable - Thursdays 9/15 - 11/3

National 4-H Week - 10/2 - 10/8

One Day 4-H - 10/8

Validation - 10/18, 10/24, & 10/27

Private Pesticide Applicator Training - 11/3

Dinner Tonight! - 11/3

For more information on these programs go to https://denton.agrilife.org/ or call us at 940-349-2882
Don't forget to like and follow us on Facebook and Instagram!