

DENTON COUNTY AGRILIFE UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2021



FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH



November marked the kick-off of Walk Across Texas! 25th anniversary celebration in Denton County. We have 6 teams and 40 participants that have walked a total of 3900 miles.

Along with Dusty Fife, Better Living for Texans Agent, we hosted a Family Mealtime Event at Ann Windle. Twelve families were in attendance where they learned about the importance of family mealtime, tips to plan for a stress-free mealtime, and prepared a healthy treat as a family.

We also held our Family and Consumer Sciences program area committee meeting to discuss potential collaborators, program opportunities, and recruiting new committee members.



HORTICULTURE

Agent Laminack held her annual Pesticide Applicator CEU class for landscape professionals on November 9th. There were 76 individuals in attendance, earning five CEU credits and learning about managing drift, weed control, identifying common trees insects and diseases, integrated pest management for plant disease, and water and pesticide labels.

Denton ISD School Days at Clear Creek resumed in-person activities this fall! Twenty-two schools took 1,880 fourth graders on a field trip during October or November. They learned about erosion, bees, and wildlife, and took a nature hike led by our volunteers.

Another endeavor to educate youth is the Global Gardeners JMG program at Global Spheres, taught by Master Gardeners. In November, four level one sessions were held, educating 10-12 youth at each session. There were also four level two sessions, which educated 4-6 youth at each session.

The 12th and final session of the 2021 Master Naturalist intern class was held on November 2nd, with 22 people completing the initial 60 hours of training. They must also complete an additional 8 hours of advanced training and 40 hours of volunteer service in their first year to become certified.

4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



In November, one of our new clubs had their first meeting! The Helping Hands Denton County 4-H club is based out of Aubrey. This started with a group of families who homeschooled, but is open for anyone to join. They are looking for volunteers to help the club get off and running. Helping Hands wants to get their members involved in several 4-H projects including food and nutrition, horticulture, shooting sports, and more!

In the spirit of new things for Denton County 4-H, Argyle 4-H Club is starting a new dog training project for all of Denton County 4-H members. Their first meeting will be an information only meeting, leave your dogs at home, on December 5, 2021 at 2:00 PM at the North Texas Fairgrounds. We are excited for this program to get started and see where it takes us. Thank you to Argyle 4-H for sponsoring it!

As November comes to an end, we currently have 252 club members enrolled in 4-H. We have already surpassed our enrollment numbers from last year! We are super proud of all the hard work from our 4-H members, volunteers, and leaders who have contributed to this effort.

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

This November we hosted our Raising Sheep and Goats program for ag producers. Agent Zach Davis presented material focused on different animal husbandry practices including health care, facilities, and nutrition. Twenty-one producers attended the program held on November 4th at the Joseph A Carroll building. Attendees were given door prizes and refreshments during the program. In addition to that, agent Davis attended the Northwest Ag Awareness Day. He presented agriculture information on cotton and corn commodities to over 1300 elementary students.



BETTER LIVING FOR TEXANS



This November, our BLT Agent, Dusty Fife, had the opportunity to share the stage with our Family and Community Health Agent, Chandani Kothari, on two separate occasions. One was at Ann Windle School for Young Children, where they both presented a lesson on Family Mealtime. Afterward, they passed out the recipe and ingredients for a healthy and delicious fruit-filled parfait. It was priceless to walk around the room and witness parents helping their young children prepare these parfaits. It was such a special event to be a part of. Next the agents partnered together to present at the Health and Human Services Office in Denton to a lively group of seniors who are members of the Foster Grandparent Program. They went through a MyPlate lesson that focused on increasing fruit and vegetable intake, as well as their physical activity levels.

To stay up to date with our healthy affordable recipes, nutrition articles, videos and everything AgriLife, follow our Facebook page: Denton County Healthy Happenings. If you have any questions about how to get involved with our programs, please contact Dusty Fife at 940-349-2891.

