



## Contact Your County Extension Service

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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.

# AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

*Zach Davis, Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent*

Our agent, Zach Davis, has been working hard to prepare for the upcoming spring and summer months, where we offer several events to connect with and educate our community. Below is a look at a few of the events we will be taking part in hosting in the upcoming seasons. For more information on upcoming events, check our website regularly for updates.

## Northeast Texas Small Acreage and New Landowner CONFERENCE



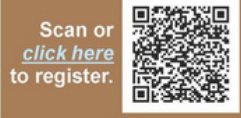
**Friday, May 31**  
**8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Farmersville Campus**  
 501 S. Collin Parkway, Farmersville, TX 75442

Whether you are a new landowner or a small landowner who wants to discover the latest agriculture techniques, you can find what you are looking for at this conference. Enjoy presentation tracks for beginning landowners and in-depth topics on land management, livestock, and specialty crop management. Join us for an industry trade show and learn from experts on topics including:

- Landowner 101/Land Trends
- Ag/Wildlife Valuation
- USDA FSA Funding
- Pest Management
- TAHC Livestock Traceability
- Regenerative Grazing Practices
- Earth Kind Soil Mgmt
- Hydroponics/GH Crops
- Infrastructure
- Cottage Food Law
- Animal Health

Pesticide Applicator License holders who register and attend the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) sessions can earn up to four CEUs.

**Registration deadline: May 17**  
**Cost: \$40 per person**



For more registration information, contact the Denton County Extension Office at 940.349.2882



TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
 EXTENSION

## PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR TRAINING

**April 18th, 2024**

1 PM - 5 PM  
 611 KIMBERLY DR,  
 Suite #151  
 DENTON TX 76201  
 Room 135

Cost of training is **\$60** all materials will be provided



- This three and a half-hour training will give participants the needed information to take the Private Applicator License test, which will be administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

- You are encouraged to participate if you need a Private Pesticide Applicator License. The Private Pesticide Applicator License is for agricultural producers and land owners who apply restricted use pesticides to their property.



**Contact: Lauren Herrera @ 940.349.2894**  
**OR**  
**LAUREN.HERRERA@DENTONCOUNTY.GOV**

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS OF THE TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE ARE OPEN TO ALL PEOPLE WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, DISABILITY, SEX, RELIGION, OR ETHNICITY. THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURTS OF TEXAS COOPERATING. PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES REQUESTING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR COLLECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING SHOULD CONTACT DENTON COUNTY AGRILIFE EXTENSION OFFICE BY LEAST A WEEK IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. SPECIAL MEASURES OR OTHER ASSISTANCE.

# 4-H & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

*Steven Baringer, 4-H and Youth Development Extension Agent*

If I had to pick one word to describe this month, it would be community. Our 4-H program and office staff had the opportunity to visit with a couple of community groups.

Denton County Farm Bureau hosted their annual Food Connection Day and canned food drive. Food Connection Day is an ag awareness event where the cost of your meal is only the farmers share. Meaning a typical breakfast that cost \$8-9, the farmers share or earnings is only \$2. This is a great way to educate the community. Several members of Denton County AgriLife, 4-H members and volunteers attended the breakfast. Our 4-H members also collected can food items that were donated to the Denton Community Food Center. Thanks to all of those who participated!

- Argyle 4-H collected 1,750 items
- Pilot Point 4-H collected 1,083 items
- Ag Leadership 4-H collected 259 items
- Sanger 4-H collected 95 items

The other group we visited with was the Denton Kiwanis Noon Club. They have been great sponsors of one of our annual scholarships. We were happy to speak at their meeting. Hannah Davis, a 4-H member from Lake Dallas, shared about her involvement in the Water Ambassador program. Lara Isbell, 4-H Program Coordinator, shared an update about the outreach programs she is currently supporting. While I updated the group on Denton County 4-H happenings. Thank you for hosting us!



*(Above) Donations to Food Connection Day.  
(Right) Agent Steven Baringer & 4-H  
Program Coordinator Lara Isbell at Kiwanis  
Noon Club with 4-H member Hannah Davis.*

# BETTER LIVING FOR TEXANS

*Dusty Fife, Better Living for Texans Extension Agent*

In a vibrant month of activity, Dusty Fife, the dedicated Better Living for Texans Agent, flourished in engaging Denton County residents with a diverse range of enriching programs. As the warmth of February beckoned, participation soared in Dusty's enlightening sessions, from educational series to hands-on gardening endeavors.

Concluding the Get the Facts series at the Little Elm Senior Center marked a successful milestone for Dusty, while the debut of the innovative program, Get a Taste for Reducing Food Waste, captivated audiences at Lewisville and Pilot Point Libraries. Participants delved into the intricacies of food waste, understanding its multifaceted impacts and discovering practical solutions such as composting to nurture their gardens and lawns. With a staggering 40% of edible food going to waste, the significance of this class in fostering a more sustainable community was unmistakable.

Meanwhile, Dusty embarked on a spirited Walk Across Texas initiative with Ann Windle School for the Young, where 300 enthusiastic students united in an eight-week journey towards fitness, exploring various forms of exercise under Dusty's guidance. Witnessing the joy and energy radiating from the young participants was truly gratifying for Dusty.

Adding to the momentum, the launch of the Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities Garden course at Little Elm Library drew an expanding crowd eager to cultivate their green thumbs. From site selection to harvest, participants delved into a wealth of gardening wisdom, embracing topics ranging from soil management to pest control with enthusiasm and anticipation.

Amidst these endeavors, Dusty Fife continues to be a beacon of community empowerment, inspiring residents of Denton County to embrace healthier lifestyles and sustainable practices for the betterment of all.



# FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH

*Chandani Kothari, Family and Community Health Extension Agent*

Agent Chandani Kothari attended a 3-day Health Summit held in Waco. It was a great professional development and networking opportunity with fellow Family and Community Health Agents from the central and east regions of Texas. As we enter March, we are mid-way through our fall prevention program for seniors at THRIVE. This program is serving 16 participants. Agent Kothari also attended the District 4-H Food Show this past month, which was held in Gainesville and helped judge juniors that prepared some of their old-time family recipes.

Join Agent Kothari  
& AgriLife staff  
at these upcoming events

March 21  
Cross Oaks Elementary  
Career Fair

March 22  
Resource booth  
at Public Library Administrators  
of North Texas



# HORTICULTURE

**Free Little Library**  
by Clay Thurmond and Katherine Vargas

If you have been to Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center lately, you may have noticed a new addition: a Little Free Library courtesy of the Denton chapter of Barefoot University Forest School, a non-profit organization for homeschool nature-based education for K-12 children and their families. Barefoot University was founded in 2019 by Madeleine Braden, class of 2023. Katherine Vargas, Class of 2022, shepherded this service project from conception to initial stocking of the library with materials appropriate for various ages as they learn about and engage with nature. While children are the focus, adults are included as well, not just from a homeschooling perspective, but by virtue that a child's interest and engagement will draw in the adults in their lives. As future stewards of the environment children's participation and learning will rub off on their caregivers. It is a double investment in the future and the present.

This nature oriented Little Free Library is a great step toward that vision and complements the mission of Texas Master Naturalists. Please join in and donate to this worthy project.



The Free Little Library created by the Texas Master Naturalist Elm Fork Chapter members located at Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**Walk N Talk at Thrive Recreation Center in Lewisville**

**2/15-4/11 11 a.m.-12 p.m.**

**Growing and Nourishing Healthy Communities Garden Course**

**at Little Elm Library**

**2/13-3/19 11 a.m. -12 p.m.**

**March 21**

**Cross Oaks Elementary Career Fair**

**March 22**

**Resource booth at Public Library Administrators of North Texas**

**DCMGA Plant Sale**

**May 4**



For more information on these programs go to  
<https://denton.agrilife.org/>