

NOV 25 2019

Presented

REQUEST FOR AGENDA PLACEMENT FORM

Submission Deadline - Tuesday, 12:00 PM before Court Dates

SUBMITTED BY: Kristen Clark **TODAY'S DATE: 10/29/19**

DEPARTMENT: Extension / 665 **COUNTY JUDGE**

SIGNATURE OF DEPARTMENT HEAD: X *Kristen Clark*

REQUESTED AGENDA DATE: 11/25/19

SPECIFIC AGENDA WORDING: Annual Texas A&M Agrilife Extension update.

PERSON(S) TO PRESENT ITEM: Donald Kelm, District 8 Extension Administrator

SUPPORT MATERIAL: (Must enclose supporting documentation)

TIME: 5 minutes **ACTION ITEM: X**

WORKSHOP: _____

(Anticipated number of minutes needed to discuss item) **CONSENT:** _____

EXECUTIVE: _____

STAFF NOTICE:

COUNTY ATTORNEY: _____ **IT DEPARTMENT:** _____

AUDITOR: _____ **PURCHASING DEPARTMENT:** _____

PERSONNEL: _____ **PUBLIC WORKS:** _____

BUDGET COORDINATOR: _____ **OTHER:** _____

*****This Section to be Completed by County Judge's Office*****

ASSIGNED AGENDA DATE: _____

REQUEST RECEIVED BY COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE _____

COURT MEMBER APPROVAL _____ Date _____

November 2019

Extension Newsletter for County Commissioners Court

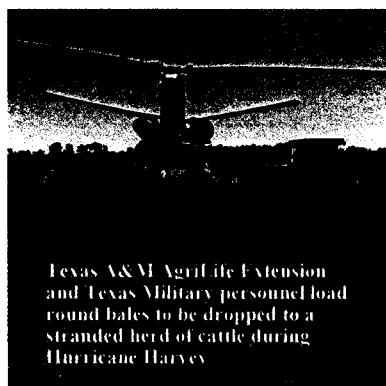
Leading in Times of Need

To address accidental, man-made or natural disasters, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and our County Extension Agents and specialists work to prepare families, businesses, and communities to be resilient during times of crisis and work with other State and Federal Agencies to aid in the pending response and recovery.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension serves as a state agency member to the Texas Emergency Management Council led by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). In this role, AgriLife Extension staff serve as communicators and educators related to emergency preparedness, mitigation, and recovery. In addition, AgriLife Extension personnel serve on District Disaster Committees across the State and in the State Operations Center to support the initial response efforts of Texas related to agricultural production damage assessments, stabilization of the livestock infrastructure, and security of Texas' food supply.

Regarding stabilization of livestock infrastructure and securing of the Texas' food supply, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension maintains strike teams of County Extension Agents, supervisors, and specialists from across Texas that stand ready to deploy to an impact zone in support of recovery efforts coordinated by TDEM and supported by our state agricultural partners. During deployments, Extension personnel will establish animal supply points (ASPs) to coordinate the receiving and distribution of hay, feed and water to impacted livestock owners. Donated hay and feed are provided to livestock owners via direct pickup at an ASP and, in some cases, air dropped or ferried in by boat to stranded livestock. This provides needed resources to enhance the survivability of displaced or stranded livestock until they can be recovered and the local agricultural infrastructure can stand back up. The efforts of Extension through an ASP not only save livestock, but it aids in stabilizing the finances of families that produce livestock for a living and the communities that rely on production agriculture as one of its economic engines. Through the efforts of Extension, some 13 ASPs were established across the Harvey impact zone and 5,100 tons of hay, 530 tons of cattle cubes, 432 tons of horse feed and 451 tons of all-stock feed were distributed. In addition, 2,200 miles were surveyed by air by Texas A&M AgriLife Wildlife Services and USDA personnel to locate stranded livestock and 117 tons of hay and cubes were airlifted by Texas Military Forces to these stranded animals.

In addition to carrying out traditional roles related to disasters, the sheer magnitude of Hurricane Harvey led to an expanded role for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and our County Extension Agents in those counties impacted by Harvey.



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Texas Military personnel load round bales to be dropped to a stranded herd of cattle during Hurricane Harvey

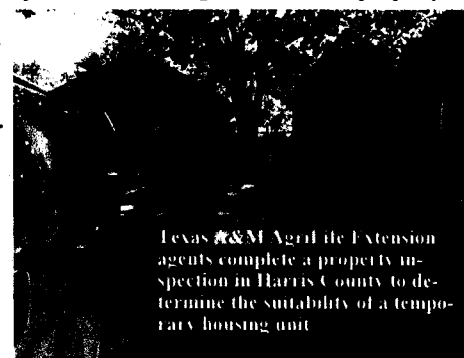


Justin Hale, CEA - AG and Natural Resources
Keely McCrady, CEA- Family Community Health
Kristen Clark, CEA- 4-H Youth Development

With the formation of the Governor's Commission to Rebuild Texas (GCRT) and the assignment of Texas A&M University System Chancellor, John Sharp, as the Commissioner of GCRT, local county Extension Agents were tasked to serve as a liaison between county, municipal and school district officials and State and Federal Agencies working in Harvey recovery in the counties they serve. These Extension liaisons made daily contact with local jurisdictions to determine if they had any recovery related issues associated with damaged public property and equipment. Any identified issue was forwarded to the Assistance Center on the Texas A&M campus or the FEMA Joint Field Office in Austin to be reviewed and a resolution outlined. Resolutions were then shared with the Extension liaison who, in turn, then shared it with the appropriate elected official. Over 6,500 such field reports were documented by Extension liaisons during Harvey with some 747 resolutions provided back to local elected officials. Such daily communications aided in identifying and clearing roadblocks associated with the Hurricane Harvey response with the hope to make recovery efforts more efficient.

Other roles assumed by some local county Extension agents and some Extension specialists included serving on financial technical assistance teams and conducting inspections of damaged homes and property.

To help jurisdictions more efficiently organize and file reimbursement requests for such things as debris removal, providing emergency protective services, and repair to damaged facilities or equipment through the FEMA Public Assistance Grants portal associated with the recovery efforts from Harvey, Extension personnel received special training and deployed to assist jurisdictions as requested. Finally, several County Extension Agents completed inspection of damaged homes and property for the General Land Office to expedite the placement of mobile homes or recreational vehicles as temporary housing units for families repairing or rebuilding storm damaged homes.



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension agents complete a property inspection in Harris County to determine the suitability of a temporary housing unit

This use of local County Extension agents as a force multiplier in times of disaster was also tested during the recent October flooding the many parts of Texas experienced. County Extension agents helped TDEM in completing preliminary damage assessments across many counties impacted by heavy rainfall. Such coordination could lead to a process of making such assessments more efficient and timely, thus aiding in speeding the recovery for impacted communities.

Agriculture and Natural Resources:

Applied Research Demonstration Plots: Sand Burr Replicated Research, Viticulture, Small Grains, Dormant Season Chemical Control of Green Briar, and House Fly Control research plots are established throughout the Johnson County area. Research data from these plots have provided local information on best management practices for local consumers and producers.

Landowner and Producer Education: Programs target stewardship and conservation of natural resources for land owners. Topics included: Recognizing Resources Available, Forage Production, Pond Management, Tree Disease, Invasive Plants, and Grazing Management Strategies. **167 landowners and producers** were able to benefit from programming or outreach such as 1 on 1 consultations. Programming in 2019 showed to have a **\$57,000 benefit** from landowners alone.

Horticulture and Natural Resources Education: Programming from both the Agent and **60 Master Gardeners** providing **1,986 volunteer hours** in horticulture related areas for both youth and adults. Along with overseeing nearly **300 volunteers for an additional 1800 hours**. Continued relationships with local municipalities have allowed Extension and Master gardeners to remain as a key resource for horticulture reference.

Family & Community Health:

Johnson County Youth Fair: **651 entries** with participation from over **280 youth**. Youth learn and develop new skills related to cooking and various crafts of art. Youth Fair success is due to over **50 volunteers**.

Dinner Tonight! Healthy Cooking School: The multi-county program served **120 attendees**. The program included live recipe demonstrations and food samples while learning new ways to include healthier foods on the dinner table.

Senior Citizen Health Education: **22 residents** at a senior living center learned about stroke prevention and healthy stress management through **Health Talk Express**. Recipe demos at Keene and Cleburne **Senior Share** locations gave **480 seniors** tools to efficiently utilize food received at share sites to create healthy, cost effective meals.

Child Care Conference: **146 attendees** attended this multi-county event that provided education credits to child care providers in the areas of child development and health.

Learn, Grow, Eat, Go: **30 elementary students** will graduate from the school garden program that teaches gardening, nutrient-dense food experiences, physical activity.

4-H and Youth Development:

The Johnson County 4-H Program included **366 members of 9 organized community clubs** and **252 members in school enrichment programs**.

Tri-County Ag Tour:

32 youth from Johnson, Ellis and Hill Counties toured ag businesses across the food supply chain over 3 days. Youth learned about Ag Financing, Risk Management, Diversification and Ag Careers.

4-H Livestock Projects:

- **184 youth** participated in the 4-H livestock projects with representation at Texas major shows and Johnson County.
- Horse Judging – 6 youth—6 contests; State Qualifying
- Dairy Judging – 4 youth—5 contests; 3rd at Nationals
- Meat Judging—4 youth—8 contests; 3rd at State
- Livestock Judging—9 youth—5 contests
- 1 Livestock Ambassadors; 2 Equine Ambassadors

4-H Leadership & Personal Development:

- 24 youth participated in State Shooting Sports Games
- 6 youth participated in Plant ID and/or Wildlife ID
- 50 youth participated in Food Challenge
- 14 youth participated in Food Show
- 5 youth participated in Consumer Decision Making
- 12 youth participated in Nutrition Quiz Bowl
- 51 youth participated in public speaking or Share the Fun
- 9 youth participated in Leaders 4 Life (parli-pro)
- 30 youth participated in Texas 4-H Roundup
- 26 youth participated in District 8 Surge Leadership Camp
- 58 youth participated in County 4-H Camp
- 39 youth completed Recordbooks—1 State Winner
- District Council President & Texas 4-H Council Member
- \$37,500 in Scholarships won by 4-H Youth

Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to update you on the Extension educational programming in Johnson County and the efforts being made by your county Extension agents Justin, Keely and Kristen. They continue to provide programming which is in tune with our mission which is to provide quality, relevant outreach and continuing educational programs and services to the people of Texas. If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 254-968-4144 ext.204 or e-mail at d-kelm@tamu.edu.



Donald W. Kelm, Ed.D.
District Extension Administrator