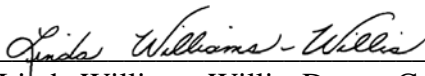

FY 2006 ANNUAL REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS & RESULTS

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY
Prairie View, Texas

Submitted by:



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Date

Prairie View, Texas

FY 2006 ANNUAL REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RESULTS

PLANNED PROGRAMS

GOAL 1: AN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM THAT IS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY.

OVERVIEW/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Program area responded to several issues and concerns of limited resource audiences this year. As a result, educational programs and activities focused on integrated management practices and technologies that would enable these audiences to become more competitive and viable. A broad set of relevant management strategies were taught including risk management, sustainable agriculture, farm safety and other practices designed to improve stability and profitability. Assisting beginning or existing farmers and ranchers in purchasing or leasing a farm or ranch or acquiring additional acreage or resources; farm financial management; whole farm systems; farm pond construction and management; and enhanced business management and marketing skills were other areas where programming took place.

Specifically, educational programs and result demonstrations were developed and delivered in the areas of animal production efficiency, aquaculture, rangeland and pasture management, plant production efficiency, and agricultural profitability. Numerous individuals participated and took advantage of the various programs and activities offered during the year.

Six thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine individuals took part in programs on animal production efficiency. A majority indicated they had acquired at least one or more new skills and plan to implement that newly acquired knowledge into some phase of their operations. At least 271 individuals who took part in farm pond management training indicated they, too, had gained some knowledge on how to enhance production and would test the concepts to determine their usability. Of the individuals in attendance at the various meetings and who were one-on-one contacts, approximately 4300 reported that they had or would use what they had learned. In the area of plant production efficiency, 61 reported an increase in awareness and understanding regarding production and alternative food crop enterprises.

From the 10 counties where 1890 programming in agriculture and natural resources is taking place, 7,136 participated in the workshops and clinics offered in the area of profitability or farm financial management and marketing. Two thousand seven hundred and seventy-two participants reported that they have adopted Extension recommendations in key areas. Twenty-two producers reported the development of a forest management plan.

Based on the rate of adoption of recommended practices by clientele, the goals contained within the plan have been met. Agriculture producers continue to improve their production, management and marketing skills.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY SOURCE OF FUNDING AND FTE's:

FUNDING			FTE's
Federal	State	Total	---
\$571,414	\$225,611	\$797,025	13.27

Key Theme - Animal Production Efficiency

- a. Personnel in the agriculture and natural resources program area implemented several clinics, workshops, farm tours, and seminars in the 10 counties where the program is located. Growth, production, marketing, selling of livestock, particularly beef cattle; systems that improve health, production efficiency, and sustainability were points of emphasis. Cooperating entities included the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Landowners Association of Texas, Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Cooperative Extension, the Texas Small Farmers & Ranchers Community Based Organization and the Texas & Mexico Border Coalition.
- b. Impact - Six thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine individuals participated in educational meetings, clinics, workshops and farm tours. Two hundred and twenty mass media articles, programs, and feature stories were prepared in support of this effort. Approximately 2200 one-on-one contacts were made with producers and others. Four thousand two hundred and ninety-five program participants indicated they acquired new skills or knowledge and were planning changes in at least two areas in their operations. Three hundred and ninety-two indicated the use of balance sheets, grain and livestock marketing information, and a marketing plan in making financial decisions. A survey of participants indicated an average increase of \$2,200 from the sale of livestock as a result of participating in the Extension educational programs.
- c. Source of Funds - Smith-Lever, Section 1444 & State Matching funds
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

Key Theme - Aquaculture (Farm Pond Management)

- a. Many small landowners own or control numerous farm ponds. In order to diversify the use of the farm pond resource beyond traditional uses, specialists and agents conducted tours, workshops, and made one-on-one contacts, primarily in East Texas, to enhance understanding of the role of farm pond utilization in overall farm management approaches

to sustainability. Cooperating agencies and organizations included the Landowners Association of Texas, farm pond owners and operators, the Cooperative Agricultural Research Center, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

- b. Impact - Three hundred and seventy-three individuals tested farm ponds and private lakes for water quality purposes, and 510 received technical information on farm pond management. Three hundred and sixty producers received technical information on farm pond management from farm visits by the specialists, agents, and program aides. Two hundred and ninety-seven attended farm pond construction and management programs and activities. As a result of Extension's personnel efforts in this area, 271 indicated they gained new knowledge on how to enhance farm pond production and use it as an alternative economic enterprise.
- c. Source of Funds - Smith-Lever, Section 1444 & State Matching funds
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

Key Theme - Rangeland/Pasture Management (Pasture and Grazing Systems)

- a. Agents, program aides, and specialists developed and implemented comprehensive programs in their locale to demonstrate how profitability of any system in agriculture is dependent on the control of cost or inputs going into that system. To enhance producers' knowledge of forage/pasture production and grazing practices to increase efficiency of livestock production, and the role of pastures as sanitation tools in creating environmentally and socially acceptable profit-yielding enterprises, many result demonstrations were developed and presented. Farm tours and workshops demonstrating some of the aforementioned included the following: brush management ; alternative lime and fertilizer; winter pasture; winter pasture/alternative fertilizer; alfalfa production on acid soils; fertilizing hay meadows; weed management; pasture renovation; forage and soil analysis; sanitation and disease control and many others. Local producers, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas Small Farmers & Ranchers Community Based Organization, and Landowners Association of Texas cooperated in these efforts.
- b. Impact - Seven hundred and seventy-two producers indicated a gain in knowledge concerning forage species used for hay, season and growth stage at which to harvest, and form in which it is fed, and types of pastures and their uses. Four hundred and forty-one producers were in attendance at educational meetings, field days and workshops; and 115 mass media articles, programs, and features were prepared in support of this initiative. Twenty result demonstrations were implemented, and 39 farm tours and 28 clinics were conducted. Combined, 310 producers indicated new knowledge gained about best management practices and their application to their particular operations. One hundred fifty-eight participants reported adopting at least one practice not formerly used.
- c. Source of Funds - Smith-Lever, Section 1444 & State Matching funds

- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

Key Theme - Plant Production Efficiency (Food Crops)

- a. Agents, aides and specialists introduced clientele to new technologies, to new and more adaptable varieties and to new marketing strategies. Extension workers were able to introduce concepts designed to reduce inputs and increase quality and percentage of marketable produce. Some aspects of new and alternative food crop enterprises were also introduced. Cooperating agencies/organizations included the Department of Agriculture and Human Sciences, area food banks, Brookshire's Grocery, Texas Organic Growers, and the Texas Department of Agriculture.
- b. Impact - Three hundred and five producers were in attendance at educational meetings. Extension agents made 221 direct contacts with producers and others on specific plant production practices. One hundred and sixty participants indicated they gained new knowledge concerning more efficient production practices, and 61 indicated increased awareness and understanding regarding the production of new and alternative food crop enterprises. Fifteen result demonstrations on drip irrigation were implemented to demonstrate water-use efficiency.
- c. Source of Funds - Smith-Lever, Section 1444 & State Matching funds
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

Key Theme - Agricultural Profitability (Farm Financial Management and Marketing)

- a. Financial difficulties in the agricultural sector, especially among limited resource producers, caused agricultural personnel with the Extension Program to launch a concerted effort toward helping clientele to examine their operations, looking for alternative or better ways of managing. Many farmers were being displaced. Some of the displacement was attributed to a lack of sound management practices, a failure to adopt new technologies, and not being aware of technical assistance available to them. Extension personnel partnered with the Tyler Area Growers Association; College of Agriculture & Human Sciences; Farm Service Agency; Landowners Association of Texas; Texas Cooperative Extension; and the Texas Department of Agriculture to address the issue of profitability.
- b. Impact - Seven thousand one hundred and thirty-six individuals attended these meetings in a 10 county area. Overall evaluation of the programs, workshops, clinics and tours indicated that 225 now use balance sheets, income statements and cash flow statements in making financial decisions, and 111 use enterprise budgets. Nine hundred and seventy-six participants reported that they now use improved marketing and managing skills such as marketing options, and information in commodity sales and grain livestock marketing. Two thousand seven hundred and seventy-two individuals who participated in Extension programs reported adopting at least one new practice recommended such as using soil test analysis, reduced fertilizer rates, and conservation tillage. Twenty-two producers developed

a forest management plan, and 12 now take multiple bids before selling stand timber. Forty eight participants were assisted through the loan preparation assistance program and saved an estimated \$65,000 in commercial loan preparation fees.

- c. Source of Funds - Smith-Lever, Section 1444 & State Matching funds, 2501 Project Grant Funds
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

GOAL 2 - A SAFE AND SECURE FOOD AND FIBER SYSTEM.

OVERVIEW/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Food-borne diseases in the United States cause an estimated 76 million illnesses, 325,000 hospitalizations, and 5,000 deaths annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Food-borne illness continues to impact Texas families with significant health risks to senior adults and persons with weakened immune systems. To address these issues, the Family and Consumer Sciences staff in ten counties implemented educational workshops, class demonstrations, trainings, information letters and media outreach. Several staff members are certified Food Protection Management Instructors. Classes were also taught to food service personnel upon request. A number of youth were also involved in Food Safety programs especially those who volunteered to work in concession stands and other church functions. New audiences trained included food service staff, camp counselors, and youth attending the H.S. Estelle 4-H and Youth Camp and Food and Nutrition 4-H Project participants. Topics included personal hygiene, sanitizing gel usage, family picnic safety, safe holding temperatures, sanitizing of kitchen counter surfaces and utilizing paper towels vs. cloth towels.

Through the use of small group sessions, workshops, exhibits, information letters, web-sites and media releases, individuals and families adopted principles of food safety to reduce and prevent food-borne illnesses. Approximately 2,700 youth and adults participated in food safety programs which demonstrated personal hygiene. Additionally, 530 individuals attended classes and workshops focusing on sanitizing gel usage, family picnic safety, safe holding temperatures, sanitizing of kitchen counter surfaces and utilizing paper towels vs. cloth towels. Six hundred indicated practicing safe food handling by keeping food at safe holding temperatures for family gatherings and pot luck activities. To protect family members, 450 reported that they no longer leave perishable foods out on the table or kitchen counter for more than two hours, and they practice proper hand cleansing to reduce cross contamination. Bilingual staff translated and presented 60 workshops to 500 Spanish speaking clientele in Bexar, Travis and Webb counties.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY SOURCE OF FUNDING AND FTE's:

FUNDING			FTE's
Federal	State	Total	---
\$258,363	\$102,009	\$360,372	6

Key Theme - Food Safety and Food-borne Illness

- a. Family & Consumer Sciences staff worked with a diverse audience to help them acquire knowledge and skills to effectively prevent the transmission of food-borne illness. Topics taught included quantity cookery, sanitizing work stations using home prepared solutions, appropriate cutting board and proper sanitization, avoiding cross contamination and correct temperatures for food preparation and storage. FCS committees and other county agencies such as churches, schools, food service sites, senior centers, camp and day care facilities assisted in recruiting participants and evaluating food safety program efforts. Information letters distributed to 2,750 households proved to be valuable for family reunions, picnics, pot luck dinners and Easter egg hunts.
- b. Impact: Reports cite that seventy percent of 1,805 clientele made significant changes in food safety practices as a result of attending educational meetings, trainings, workshops, and previewing videos stressing the importance of safe food handling methods. Additionally, 550 youth and adults received in-depth training on basic kitchen and food safety. Most learning was noted with behavior changes among the 550 youth participating in food safety and food handling classes. The hand sanitization activity caused all attendees to wash their hands for 20 seconds using the cleansing gel and/or hot soapy water. Twenty - five percent of adult participants reported that they are also taking more time to sanitize kitchen counter surfaces. The greatest improvement reported by participants included holding times for prepared foods (45% adoption rate). Participants were made aware of the fact that the same food safety rules that apply to food safety in the home also apply to habits during outings; with the primary goal of keeping hot foods hot and cold foods cold.
- c. Source of Funds - United States Department of Agriculture CSREES, (EFSQ-POW), Smith-Lever.
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific.

GOAL 3 - A HEALTHY, WELL-NOURISHED POPULATION.

OVERVIEW/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Obesity has been declared an epidemic in the United States. This problem is escalating and carries with it significant costs, both in terms of dollars and lives. According to the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, in 1999 - 2002, an estimated 65 percent of U.S. adults were overweight or obese, along with 16 percent of children and adolescents. The total annual cost of obesity was an estimated \$117 billion in 2000. These increasing rates raise concern because of their implications for Americans' health. Being overweight or obese increases the risk of many diseases and health conditions including: hypertension, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, gallbladder disease, and some cancers. From 1980 - 2002, the number of people with diabetes in the United States increased to approximately 18 million. Diabetes and illnesses that result from it are among the leading causes of death in the United States and are a major cause of blindness in many adults. Diet is the key source for many illnesses in which individuals die.

In an effort to inform Texans about the risk and warning signs of some diseases, the Family & Consumer Sciences staff have participated in approximately 60 health fairs and reached over 15,500 individuals. During these health screenings, individuals were informed that their blood pressure was elevated and about 10 individuals were told that they needed to see their physician immediately due to their blood pressure being extremely elevated. One event saved participants over \$6,000. Over 300 individuals attended a series of diabetes education classes. At least 10% of the participants were later diagnosed as diabetic. Screenings for diabetes saved participants over \$8,000. Individuals attending health fairs also received health screenings for diabetes, breast cancer, and free immunizations. To address child obesity a joint effort with Family & Consumer Sciences and 4-H Specialists, the OrganWise Guys program reached over 4,000 students through school assemblies and activities.

To educate clientele about diet and health, several teaching methods were implemented including educational displays, fact sheets, on-site cooking demonstrations, workshops, health fairs, newsletters, videos and interactive computer programs.

During these educational activities, there were over 5,000 individuals in attendance. While attending these activities, participants indicated that they began following the food guide pyramid for their daily consumption, they increased their physical activity and they began following their doctor's recommendations on how to take their medication.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY SOURCE OF FUNDING AND FTE's:

FUNDING			FTE's
Federal	State	Total	---

\$338,887	\$133,802	\$472,689	7.87
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Key Theme - The Effects of Health Care, Human Health and Human Nutrition

- a. Family & Consumer Sciences staff utilized different resources including Families First Nutrition and Wellness System (FF-NEWS), American Heart Association Search Your Heart Curriculum, Six Easy Bites, Tickle Your Appetite by the USDA, Team Nutrition - Community Nutrition Action Kit by the USDA and implemented health and nutrition programs for families to give them a better understanding of how diet and exercise plays a direct role in their health and wellness. While participating in these programs, families were taught how to make use of their finances in a more efficient way. Partnerships have been established with over 200 churches and other organizations in 11 counties along with the Owens-Franklin Health Center, the American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, the Latin American Association and Prairie View A&M College of Nursing.

- b. Impact: Due to projects in Families First Nutrition and Wellness System (FF-NEWS), My Pyramid Guide, and Diabetes Education Awareness Program (DEAP), Body and Soul Cancer Awareness and Education Project, and extensive educational outreach efforts targeting chronic illnesses, diet and physical fitness, over 6,900 individuals attended nutrition classes, workshops and received information letters. Approximately 7,500 individuals participated in health fairs, diabetes and hypertension screenings, as well as education classes. Individuals learned the importance of applying knowledge gained to make better life choices. More than 58% showed improvement in sodium reduction in the diet and 61% reported becoming physically active three times a week. Seventy-five adults engaged in a regular walking program and other fitness activities resulted in enhanced health conditions. Two thousand two hundred persons reported changes in meal preparation and reduced sugar consumption and portion control. Approximately ten attendees were referred to a physician for treatment of hypertension during screening at health fairs. As a result of diabetes screening, approximately 425 individuals reported better management of their condition, better doctor reports and money saved on medicine.

The Family & Consumer Sciences Health Coordinator and one of the 4-H Specialist engaged an interdisciplinary approach coordinated to address an aspect of childhood obesity. A partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield, and 5 independent school districts implemented the OrganWise Guys Program in over ten elementary schools. The schools received videos, books, banners and other educational materials after participating in an introductory school assembly and teacher trainings. Funny characters used to represent the organs such as Hardy Heart, Calci.M. Bone, Madame Muscle, Windy the Lungs, Sir Rebrum, Luigi Liver, the Kidney Brothers and others make learning fun and teach the

students to make healthy lifestyle choices. The program emphasizes four main points that are crucial to good health, increase fiber in their diet, decreasing fat, drink more water and plenty of exercise. As of June 2006, 4,221 students in Texas have participated in the OrganWise Program.

- c. Source of Funds - United States Department of Agriculture (CSREES), Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Smith-Lever.
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

GOAL 4: GREATER HARMONY BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

OVERVIEW/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To address public concerns about food safety, water quality, conservation of natural resources, environmental risks, and the intensive use of chemicals in agricultural systems, a concentrated effort was put forth by agents, program aides and specialists. Educational programs and activities were conducted covering concepts of sustainable agriculture, focusing on those systems that are holistic in their approach to achieving a balance between agriculture and the environment. Several local and regional workshops were conducted focusing on sustainable practices. One thousand five hundred and sixteen individuals, including farmers and ranchers, received training. Of significance are the 502 individuals who indicated they had gained new skills to minimize fertilizer and pesticide runoff, and 669 reported having gained knowledge on how to better manage waste and protect their water supply. Thirty-four producers reported using tissue analysis as a tool in making decisions on what and when to implement a certain practice. Overall, 481 small and middle-sized producers demonstrated the ability to recognize specific sustainable agricultural practices.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY SOURCE OF FUNDING AND FTE's:

FUNDING			FTE's
Federal	State	Total	---
\$86,121	\$34,004	\$120,125	2

Key Theme - Sustainable Agriculture

- a. Several result demonstrations, workshops, farm tours and field days were conducted to teach sustainable agricultural practices and concepts. Several agencies and organizations were involved in the process including the Texas Department of Agriculture; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Texas Parks and Wildlife; Texas Sustainable Agriculture Working Group; Texas Cooperative Extension; and Tyler Area Growers

Association.

b. Impact - Of the 1,516 individuals who received training, including one-on-one contacts, through the effort of Cooperative Extension Program personnel, the following was reported:

(1) Number of participants who indicated they gained new knowledge concerning:

- a. Integrated pest management concept - 357
- b. Waste management and water quality - 680
- c. Irrigation efficiency - 301

(2) Number of participants who

- a. Tested their irrigation water - 83
- b. Received information on soil conservation practices - 631
- c. Received information on irrigation - 219
- d. Acquired new skills to minimize fertilizer and pesticide runoff - 502
- e. Indicated new knowledge of wildlife management in forest/non-forest settings - 249

(3) Number of producers who use

- a. An integrated pest management approach for guidance in making pest control decisions - 343
- b. Plant tissue analysis as a decision-making tool - 34

Finally, 481 participants demonstrated the ability to recognize specific sustainable practices.

c. Source of Funds - Smith-Lever, Section 1444 and Smith Lever Act, section 3(d), 7USC 341, as amended and State Matching funds.

d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

GOAL 5: ENHANCED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR AMERICANS.

OVERVIEW/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University addressed several issues to enhance the economic opportunity and quality of life for primarily diverse, limited resource audiences in its Community & Economic Development, 4-H & Youth Development and Family and Consumer Sciences program areas. Programming activities focused on consumer management, passenger safety, parenting, literacy, volunteerism, and agriculture and natural resources for youth. Other programming was geared towards leadership and citizenship development, career development, job preparation and entrepreneurship, community improvement, acquiring and maintaining community facilities, housing, business development, and increasing collaborative efforts with various departments at Prairie View A&M University.

County staff with community and economic development responsibilities developed and conducted 37 programs that promoted community maintenance, improvement and safety. The staff also made a concentrated effort throughout the year to encourage community residents to become involved in improving their surroundings. Approximately 400 community residents participated in organized activities including trimming hedges and trees and cleaning vacant lots. A total of 111 families adopted home beautification and maintenance practices, and three communities established crime watch programs. County staff also provided information to 12 communities to assist them in acquiring and/or improving rural water and sewer systems. County staff also assisted 15 communities to acquire community facilities.

Training leaders, promoting business programs and acquiring standard housing were also emphasized in the Community and Economic Development program area. Approximately 200 leaders were recruited through Extension's Leadership programs. One hundred and forty-two leadership participants became involved in community issues. Extension specialists and county staff also continued to educate first time home buyers on credit worthiness, housing assistance and housing loan applications. One community housing development organization was maintained, and 42 individuals or families acquired satisfactory/standard housing. Extension's rural business project personnel and agents continued to implement programs to establish, maintain and expand businesses. This staff worked in 23 counties where business development activity lags. Six hundred and ninety-four jobs were maintained in the 325 businesses to which staff provided assistance. Twenty-four new businesses were established creating 52 new jobs. The number of jobs created from existing and new businesses totals 202.

The Family & Consumer Sciences staff addressed critical issues in parenting, financial resource management, and aging. Several relevant educational programs were successful due to great collaborative efforts and additional external funding from local sources. New audiences were also reached through budgeting workshops, parenting education classes, child safety seat check-up events and youth financial management activities. A continuation of the outreach effort with the Medicare/Medicaid Prescription program was implemented due to the demand and

challenges with the new guidelines. Local agencies and schools provided audiences and facilities to meet the needs of adult and teen parents.

Although the Medicare/Medicaid Prescription Drug Program ended, county and headquarters staff continued to assist seniors by enrolling approximately 125 in Medicare Part D. Information regarding how the application for Medicare Part D was provided to over 2,500 seniors and persons with disabilities. Headquarters staff continuation with one senior whose medications were \$400 per month, is still able to purchase the same prescriptions for \$8.00 per month. Due to the amount of her monthly income, this individual was able to enroll in the Medicare QMB program as well as receive Food Stamps through the Department of Human Resources.

Family financial management workshops and activities involved approximately 500 families. Sixty two percent reported changes in budget priorities, 40% indicated success in adhering to a shopping list, 60% reported saving an average of \$325 during the holiday season. Financial goal planning was implemented by 200 families with a reported saving of \$100 per month. Assistance was provided to a new business owner in Bell County. His goal was to obtain athletic scholarships for youth. Over 30 at risk youth have received financial assistance valued at \$500,500.

Families living in certain counties were confronted with housing standards that were not in compliance with the Housing Authority. A train-the-trainer curriculum entitled "Housecleaning Made Simple" was developed to help residents meet their cleaning regulations. Seventy-two percent indicated that they were able to maintain residency due to managing clutter, applying sanitation practices and household organization.

Families living in certain counties were not in compliance with housing standards with the Housing Authority. A train-the-trainer curriculum "Housecleaning Made Simple" was developed by Extension staff to assist residents in meet their housing regulations. Eighty-five percent indicated they were able to maintain residency due to managing clutter, applying sanitation practices and organization of household items.

During Child Passenger Seat Check-Up events in Harris, Brazos, and Fort Bend counties, approximately 120 new car seats were installed in vehicles. Parents participating in the check-up events received valuable information, and the free car seats distributed were valued at \$5,400. Twenty-five car seats inappropriate for the child's protection were collected and destroyed. Children arrived unrestrained or inappropriately in lap/shoulder belts and correct installation techniques were demonstrated to parents. They had to properly install the seat before leaving the site.

Approximately 85 workshops were conducted through child care conferences, family conferences, and parenting workshops. Three-hundred fifteen parents attended sessions on bullying, grandparents raising grandchildren, discipline, active listening, building self-esteem, effective communication and dinner time discussions. A training on bullying was presented to 150 Parks and Recreational Counselor in Travis County. Counselors stated that this training was critical, therefore, the training has been planned for the next three years. Reports indicated that

85% of parents improved communication with children, 60% observed positive behavior changes in their children, and 75% of parents and teens practiced controlling their temper.

Similar successes in providing clientele with educational activities and information to enhance their quality of life and improve their economic opportunities were found in the 4-H & Youth Development program area. Youth programs focused on volunteerism, mentoring, agriculture and natural resources for youth, leadership and citizenship training, job preparation, career development and entrepreneurship.

The Cooperative Extension 4-H staff emphasized the importance of volunteering and becoming mentors to youth. Educational programs focused on team building, recruiting volunteers, mentoring others and understanding and working with diverse audiences. 4-H staff collaborated with other agencies and organizations to acquire resource persons to assist in conducting several of the programs. From the efforts of 10 county staff members, 275 volunteers and 4-H specialists who worked with youth, a total of 6,566 youth were reached. A total of 2,186 youth participated in life skills programs. As a result of the youth participating in the county and state level programs focusing on life skills, it was found that 82% of the participants improved skills in communications; 75% of the participants learned skills in managing their anger and negotiating; 80% of the participants learned to make sound decisions; and 75% changed their levels of aggressive and delinquent behaviors. A total of 70% demonstrated ethical, social and moral responsibilities by making sound life choices.

In the area of agriculture and natural sciences, 4-H staff recruited youth to participate in programs which exposed them to horticulture, environmental stewardship, camping, renewable natural resources and water quality. As a result, a total of 1,600 youth participated in the various 4-H programs such as animal care projects, 4-H sports fishing programs, conservation and natural sciences projects and outdoor camping.

The 4-H & Youth Development staff also promoted leadership development and citizenship, career development and expose youth to business/entrepreneurship and workforce preparation. Approximately 1,119 youth in 9 rural and urban counties throughout Texas attended 37 leadership development training sessions and citizenship programs, and 288 youth completed community service projects. A total of 29 volunteers were trained to work with 660 youth in Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Projects to include sessions on business development, business opportunity recognition, marketing, and writing a business plan.

A total of 2,566 youth also attended youth conferences, workshops and seminars to help them become proficient in making career choices and which also exposed them to entrepreneurial opportunities. Nine programs were conducted to help prepare youth for summer employment, and they learned how to prepare a resume, improve interviewing techniques and dress for success. Career fairs, career seminars and an annual event conducted at Prairie View A&M University called the Career Awareness and Youth Leadership Laboratory helped young people learn how to write a business plan, run a business and identify career and educational goals.

A total of 219 youth participated in the Teen Leadership Connection (TLC) inner-city project.

Twenty volunteers were trained to be master TLC leaders and conducted programs with youth in the community. A total of 40 rural youth and 84 adults developed partnerships and engaged in addresses community issues. And, a total of 114 youth learn to make healthy decisions about life choices.

The Cooperative Extension Program’s efforts in enhancing the economic opportunity and quality of life for primarily limited resource, diverse audiences have resulted in improved communities, families adopting good health and money management practices, youth receiving education and training in areas of great importance, and businesses being maintained, expanded, and established. Based on these accomplishments, the goals in the Plan of Work are being addressed.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES BY SOURCE OF FUNDING AND FTE’s:

FUNDING			FTE’s
Federal	State	Total	---
\$1,881,746	\$742,969	\$2,624,715	43.70

Key Theme - Promoting Business Programs

- a. Extension field staff and rural business project personnel implemented programs to establish, maintain and expand businesses in 23 counties where business development activity lags in traditionally agricultural and natural resource dependent communities. Owners of agriculture and small, traditional businesses and others with the desire to establish businesses classified as low-income and under represented were provided technical and educational assistance. A general resource teaching packet developed in 2000-2001 as well as other resources (i.e. training materials, agencies, organizations and institutions) were used by the Cooperative Extension Program staff in providing assistance. Several educational programs were conducted on production, management and marketing that were tailored to the agriculture producer. One hundred and twenty people were assisted with developing business plans, while 102 business owners were worked with on implementing business retention practices. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: College of Business - PVAMU; Department of Agriculture; Nutrition and Human Ecology at PVAMU; Cooperative Agricultural Research Center; Texas Cooperative Extension; Small Business Administration; Rural Business - Cooperative Service; Rural Development; local banks; HUD; Lower Colorado River Authority; USDA Rural & Economic Development; and economic development organizations, C.U.R.E.S. Center, and School of Architecture at Prairie View A&M University.
- b. Impact - Six hundred and ninety-four jobs were maintained in the 325 businesses assisted. Over 60 of these businesses expanded, creating an additional 150 jobs. Of the 24 new businesses established, 52 new jobs were created. A total of 202 new jobs were created. Services to businesses by CEP staff resulted in over \$6 million in loans and

grants to small rural businesses and savings to businesses were reported near \$200,000.

- c. Source of Funds - Smith-Lever Section 1444, Rural Business Cooperative Service-USDA & State Matching funds
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

Key Theme - Other – Acquisition and Maintenance of Community Facilities

- a. The program development process and needs assessment surveys conducted by county staff revealed that rural communities were greatly in need of community facilities and services. These needs varied by community and ranged from acquiring facilities and services to maintaining and updating those that already existed in the community. Money to fund these needed facilities and services can only be obtained by establishing 501(c)(3) entities to seek grants. County staff provided the extending link of information connecting resources, grants and funding to the rural communities in which they live and work. Staff responded to 53 communities which revealed a need for basic resources. Information was disseminated to the communities via newsletters, educational meetings and individual visits. A grant proposal writing workshops were conducted. All of the communities were provided technical assistance in acquiring needed services and facilities. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Rural Development; Texas Cooperative Extension; Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at PVAMU; Texas Rural Partners; Area Resource & Conservation Boards; Cooperative Agricultural Research Center; Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; local government; Communities Resources Group, Inc; Community Development Block Grant Program; Texas Department of Human Resources and Health; Lower Colorado River Authority Energy and Office of Rural and Community Affairs.
- b. Impact - As a result of the educational and technical assistance provided by Extension county staff, 12 communities established or required rural water/sewer systems, upgraded and expanded existing ones; 25 organized communities acquired and maintained quality volunteer fire and safety departments; 15 communities acquired facilities to conduct meetings and recreational and educational activities, and 12 facilities were established or acquired by groups and individuals to market their products.
- c. Source of Funds - Smith Lever, Section 1444 & State Matching funds
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

Key Theme - Community Enhancement

- a. Field staff made a concentrated effort in motivating community residents to enhance their communities and places of residence. Fifty educational programs and activities were conducted by staff and community leaders. County staff developed and conducted 37 programs/activities that promoted community maintenance, improvement and safety. Numerous communities were organized to implement community improvement and leadership programs. Community leaders assisted in implementing this effort by encouraging community residents to become involved, providing transportation, leading community projects and involving the media. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; Cooperative Agricultural Research Center; Councils of Governments; Texas Community Improvement Program; county sheriff and police departments; home improvement centers; Texas Cooperative Extension; Main Street local government; Chambers of Commerce; and church leaders.
- b. Impact - As a result of the efforts made to enhance communities and make residents feel better about the places where they reside, the following accomplishments were made. Programs were conducted in various communities organized that provided community enhancement options, education, recreation and ideas for establishing community safety programs. Twenty-two communities improved their appearance. Approximately 400 community residents participated in community clean-up and fix-up activities. These included neighborhood clean-up days, rural trash clean-ups, trimming hedges and trees, planting flowers and shrubs, fence line cleaning, and cleaning vacant lots, church grounds, cemeteries and the home landscape. A total of 111 families and individuals adopted home beautification and maintenance practices which included improving and maintaining the landscape, insulating the home, putting on new siding, repairing and replacing the roof, removing mildew from the roof, painting the exterior and interior of the home, fixing plumbing problems, weather stripping, and installing new doors and screens. Fifteen communities established and conducted programs that provided educational recreation and a safe environment. Among those were neighborhood watch, family recreation, bike safety, park improvement, fishing and fitness. Three communities established crime watch programs.
- c. Source of Funds - Smith Lever, Section 1444 & State Matching funds
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

Key Theme - Promoting Housing Programs

- a. Cooperative Extension specialists and county staff conducted trainings, housing fairs, and developed news articles and newsletters to provide individuals across the state with current information on home ownership funding and First Time Home Buyers Education. One county assisted residents with education classes that led to credit worthiness and home ownership through a credit union that they established. Three counties held housing fairs that were planned by partnership task forces of state and local agencies-

HUD, USDA Rural Housing; local stakeholders; banks, real estate brokers, attorneys, Housing Authorities, FEMA and Independent Mortgage Brokers, etc. Realizing that the two greatest problems for families in obtaining home ownership are credit and ability to deal with the paper work, emphasis is put on helping individuals get ready to apply to funding agencies. Creditable applicants are directed to USDA Rural Housing first because of their low interest rate that helps low income families qualify. A new concept that assists limited income families obtain quality affordable apartments is called Educational Based Housing. The goal of Educational Based Housing is to facilitate the development of families through cooperation with business, industry, government, educational institutions, service organizations and local agencies and to deliver services to families who are at-risk and who are the working poor. Day care centers and computer labs are located at each complex (so far only three in Texas.) One CEP agent has been instrumental in launching this project. Five hundred and four families and individuals were provided technical and educational assistance in housing. Currently, 24 separate partners are part of this collective endeavor. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Rural Development; Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; Texas Cooperative Extension; The Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at PVAMU; Cooperative Agricultural Research Center; local government; local banks; HUD and Cypress Valley Cooperative.

- b. Impact - More than 404 individuals attended educational programs or fairs on housing acquisition sponsored by CEP and supported by TCE, HUD, United Way, USDA Rural Development, funding agencies and small business enterprises. Approximately 80 persons were assisted with housing loan applications, and 36 were approved. Over 50 persons utilized government housing assistance programs and acquired improved housing. Forty-two individuals or families acquired single family housing. The Community Credit Union based on required home ownership and credit classes is prospering in its ninth year.
- c. Source of Funds-Smith-Lever, Section 1444 & State Matching funds
- d. Scope of Impact- State Specific

Key Theme - Leadership Training and Development

- a. Adhering to the belief that, “in union there is strength”, the Cooperative Extension Program continues to recruit and train facilitators for the Community Voices Leadership and Texans in Leadership curriculum programs. The experience of 17 years with these programs have shown that, not only are communities brought together and projects accomplished, but individuals are developed to their fullest potential. Community Voices organizations continue to meet in two communities providing a catalyst to community clean-up, improved child care, parks, safer neighborhoods and water and sewer needs. Over 40 recruited leaders provided new ideas and vision to neighborhoods. One hundred and fifty-four existing leaders continued to work to solve community

problems. Leaders see the need to connect, partner and share resources with other key community organizations. Leadership programs are the number one program area that involve the Hispanic population, seeking to develop and integrate their leaders into the community decision making process. Nearly 200 programs were conducted in community and leadership development. Cooperating Institutions/Organizations: Prairie View A&M University; Texas Cooperative Extension; Texas Rural Leadership Program, Inc; Texas Department of Health & Human Services; The Department of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Human Ecology at Prairie View A&M University; Cooperative Agricultural Research Center; Texas Municipal League; Texas Rural Partners; Area Chamber of Commerce; utility companies and cooperatives; Lower Colorado River Authority; LULAC and other Hispanic coalitions; and community associations.

- b. Impact - Of the approximately 200 leadership participants, 142 became involved in community issues, with 98 working specifically on a community project or a policy issue. Fifty became involved in county or city government, school boards or non-profit organizations. Several leadership graduates were elected to public office. Thirty communities worked on clean-ups, fix-ups, building renovations, parks, after school tutorial programs and enhanced transportation for rural residents.
- c. Source of Funds-Smith-Lever, Section 1444 & State Matching funds
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

Key Theme - Children, Youth and Families at Risk, Consumer Management, Family Resource Management, Jobs/Employment, Leadership Training and Development, Literacy and Parenting

- a. The Family & Consumer Sciences staff partnered with numerous community leaders to address family resource management, parenting and senior issues. A continuation of the Medicare Discount Card program was implemented due to the demand and changes in the Medicare Prescription Drug Program. Many of these seniors were paying at least \$100.00 or more for their medication, and through the Medicare Drug Discount Card program, that same medication only cost them about \$8.00, about a 92% savings. Some of the seniors indicated that because of the cost, they were not taking all of the prescribed medication, but because of the savings they received, they can afford to eat and take their medicine. A variety of teaching methods and activities were conducted to meet the requests of parenting, including teen parents. A collaborative effort with Texas Cooperative Extension continued efforts to demonstrate proper installation in Child Safety Seat Check-Up events. Other educational classes and workshops were conducted throughout the counties included financial management and housing maintenance.
- b. Impact: Families living in certain counties were confronted with housing standards that were not in compliance with the Housing Authority. A train-the-trainer curriculum entitled "Housecleaning Made Simple" was developed to help residents meet their

cleaning regulations. Seventy-two percent indicated that their attitude towards house cleaning has positively changed as a result of this training. Residents attending the training reported that they were able to maintain residency due to their adoption of managing clutter, applying sanitation practices and household organization.

Family & Consumer Sciences staff have effectively collaborated with The Office of Institutional Relations and Public Service and enrolled 685 Medicare/Medicaid recipients in the Prescription Drug Program in six counties that participated in this grant. For individuals enrolled, they saved approximately \$875,600 through receiving the \$1,200 credit. One individual reported that her medications were costing an average of \$400 per month and after she received the prescription discount card, her monthly assessment is only \$8.00.

The Family and Consumer Sciences agent began working with a new business owner in Bell County. This business consisted of consulting and marketing for at risk student athletes to obtain college athletic scholarships. Through this collaborative effort, support was provided from small business start-up classes, assistance was received on writing a business plan and a technical training on creating attractive marketing materials was held. Since the formation of this collaborative effort, approximately 25 at risk students have received financial assistance. Over \$500,000 in scholarships have been awarded to high school athletes. One athlete stated that the “Family & Consumer Sciences agent provided him with the education and assistance to help him effectively reach clientele.”

To address child safety seat check up demands, Family & Consumer Sciences staff served as technicians during Child Passenger Seat Check-Up events in Harris, Brazos, and Fort Bend counties. Approximately 110 car seats were installed in vehicles. Parents participating in the check-up events received valuable information, and the free car seats distributed were valued at \$4,950.00. Seventeen car seats inappropriate for the child’s protection were collected and destroyed. Nineteen children arrived unrestrained or inappropriately in lap/shoulder belts. One hundred percent of parents attending these events indicated that they appreciated the information and assistance given to help protect their children in the event of a car crash.

Family financial management workshops and activities were held to engage individuals in strategies to prioritize and budget for long and short term goals. Families across the nation are suffering from the effects of unemployment, low wages, increase cost of consumer products as well as gasoline. Approximately 450 families attended workshops on Financial Resource Management. Sixty percent reported changes in budget priorities, 29% indicated success in adhering to a shopping list, 56% reported saving an average of \$300 during the holiday season. Financial goal planning was implemented by 128 families which netted in savings approximately \$100 per month.

The Family & Consumer Sciences staff realize that effective parenting is an intricate part of having a healthy family. Approximately 78 workshops were conducted through child

care conferences, family conferences, and parenting workshops. Two-hundred twenty nine parents attended sessions on bullying, grandparents raising grandchildren, discipline, active listening, building self-esteem, effective communication and dinner time discussions. Reports indicated that 87% of parents improved communication with children, 56% observed positive behavior changes in their children, and 70% of parents and teens practiced controlling their temper.

- c. Source of Funds - United States Department of Agriculture (CSREES), Smith-Lever, Department of Health and Human Services.
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

Key Theme - Workforce Preparation-Youth

- a. The Cooperative Extension 4-H Program conducted educational programs and addressed career education (career awareness and exploration, career development, and career decision making), job readiness and preparation and entrepreneurship. These programs are unique in reaching elementary, middle, and high school students to assist them in preparing for the future. Programs such as the Youth Entrepreneurship Project, Teen Leadership Connection (TLC), Career Awareness and Youth Leadership Laboratory (CAYLL), and career fairs provided youth with an opportunity to identify positive methods to be productive, empowered, and contributing members of their communities. Workshops, seminars, and educational business and college tours were conducted for youth by trained Extension agents and adult volunteer leaders. Youth had the opportunity to participate in hands-on learning experiences, where they gained new skills and became motivated to pursue career, employment and business goals. These programs served as a focal point for 25 communities striving to provide the necessary tools to assist young people in identifying and achieving economic stability. Cooperating institutions included the College of Business at Prairie View A&M University, local school districts, Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas Education Agency, local churches, USDA agencies and the Texas Workforce Commission.
- b. Impact- A total of 660 youth were engaged in business workshops, seminars, and youth entrepreneurs conferences. Twenty-nine (29) trained volunteers and 8 Extension staff members conducted a business workshops with youth in schools and 4-H clubs. Youth learned entrepreneur strategies, recognize a business opportunity and how to develop a business plans. Approximately 89% of the participants improved their interviewing skills, resume writing, telephone etiquette, and proper dress for success via entrepreneur education. At the state level, a total of 167 youth and adults were involved in the CAYLL. This program gave youth an opportunity to gain knowledge about campus life, careers in agriculture and natural resources and related areas. Youth were also exposed to entrepreneurship concepts, identified their business interests, learned how to write business plans and began using skills learned in operating their own businesses. As a result of youth participating in these activities, 95% were exposed to college life for the

first time, 80% identified an educational and career goal, and 85% changed their attitude concerning careers in agriculture. All of these activities increased the likelihood that these youth would further their education, acquire a successful career and become business owners.

- c. Source of Funds- Smith-Lever, Section 1444, Marion Kauffman Foundation, and State Matching funds.
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

Key Theme - Other – 4-H Volunteerism and Mentoring

- a. To ensure strong educational programs for youth it is imperative that volunteerism and mentoring among adults are implemented. The 4-H & Youth development staff conducts educational programs to encourage adults to become volunteers and mentors. Programs are conducted regularly with public school teachers, community leaders and parents. These programs focus on team building, forming supportive relationships, understanding roles of volunteers, mentoring others, recruiting volunteers, and understanding and working with diverse audiences.
- b. Impact - A total of 275 adult volunteers and staff worked with approximately 6,566 youth. Eighty percent of the volunteers who worked with youth gained an appreciation for making a difference in the lives of young people. Over 60 percent of the volunteers developed strong interests in teaching youth. Forty-five percent of the enrolled youth formed a mentoring relationship with an adult.
- c. Source of Funds - Smith-Lever, Section 1444 & State Matching funds
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

Key Theme - Other – 4-H Life Skills Development

- a. The Cooperative Extension Program's professional 4-H staff is committed to conducting educational programs that enhance life skills development for Texas youth. Through a number of educational programs conducted at the county and state levels, youth were given opportunities to develop effective interpersonal and communication skills. Youth also learned to build positive relationships with adults and peers, changed attitudes and behaviors, and demonstrated ethical, social and moral responsibilities, while developing strong character. Texas teens learned to manage and handle conflicts through participating in after school projects such as Teen Leadership Connection. Youth also learned to accept cultural differences while understanding their own. Workshops, seminars, teen retreats, lock-ins and school enrichment programs were conducted that

incorporated life skills development. Cooperating agencies, institutions and organizations included Prairie View A&M University, local division of social work, College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, Independent School Districts, Communities in Schools, and city, local, community and social agencies.

- b. Impact - A total of 2,186 youth participated in life skill programs. A total of 275 adults were trained to implement programs in churches, community centers and neighborhood schools. As a result of the youth participating in the county and state level programs focusing on life skills, it was found that 82% of the participants improved skills in communication, and 75% of the participants learned skills in managing their anger and negotiating. Eighty percent of the participants learned to make sound decisions, and 75% changed their levels of aggressive and delinquent behaviors. A total of 70% demonstrated ethical, social and moral responsibilities by making sound life choices.

A total of 132 youth participated in the Bexar County TLC inner-city project. Fifty-five trained TLC master volunteers conducted the program in churches, community centers, and neighboring schools. As a result of the youth participating in this project, it was found that 82% of the participants improved skills in communication and learned skills in managing their anger and negotiating and understanding others. Eighty-two percent learned to get along with others and learn to make sound decisions. Teachers and parents also observed students who changed their attitudes.

- c. Source of Funds - Smith Lever, Section 1444, and State Matching funds
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

Key Theme - Other – 4-H & Youth Agriculture and Natural Sciences

- a. Educational programs in agriculture, horticulture, natural resources, environmental stewardship and camping focused on animals and management, renewable natural resources, gardening, nature trails, water quality, lawn maintenance, food production, farm safety, wildlife and camping. Activities included hiking, method demonstrations, illustrated talks, hands-on learning experiences and educational tours that complemented natural science projects. The process of conducting these programs required collaboration with many entities outside of the CEP including the Prairie View College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas Department of Agriculture, Department of Parks and Wildlife, United States Forest Service, and many local and private groups.
- b. Impact - As a result of participating in these programs, a total of 1,812 youth and 120 adult volunteers from 11 rural and urban counties enrolled in animal care, horticulture and/or gardening projects and camping program. These participants showed improved management and marketing practices. Because of participation in a statewide Goat Kid Giveaway program, a total of 160 youth exhibited evidence of improved animal and health

care practices. Twenty trained volunteer leaders and staff developed programs and workshops that taught both youth and adults how to manage their horticulture / gardening resources. Eighty-two percent of the enrolled 4-Hers acquired knowledge about food safety, preservation and preparation, pest management, conservation and ecology. A total of 644 youth increased their appreciation for natural resources and environmental management. Four hundred ninety-seven youth participated in a residential and outdoor camping program that promoted wildlife and natural resources, 89% of the youth gained an appreciation for outdoor programs that included natural sciences, forestry and aquatic sciences, and the youth also participated in programs that taught leadership, communication skills, social skills, computer technology, and personal safety. Four hundred youth participated in 4-H Sports Fishing programs conducted through summer programming at the H. S. Estelle 4-H and Youth Camp.

- c. Source of Funds- Smith-Lever, Section 1444, and State Matching funds
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

Key Theme - Leadership Training and Development

- a. The 4-H & Youth Development Program staff planned and conducted educational leadership training sessions for youth and adults. These sessions provided youth and adults with the necessary skills to become effective community leaders, 4-H club leaders, mentors and 4-H teen leaders in their communities. These training sessions also promoted leadership and citizenship skills through innovative techniques that enhanced social responsibilities, processes and structure for democracy. By youth and adults participating in these training sessions, they were empowered to become 4-H club leaders, conduct school enrichment programs, lead special interest groups, assist in the conduct of the annual Career Awareness and Youth Leadership Laboratory (CAYLL), Annual 4-H Kid-Goat Giveaway Project, State 4-H Goat Judging Contest, 4-H Teen Leadership Connection (TLC) and Community Bike Project and Texas Teens Exploring Entrepreneurial Minds (T-TEEM) Project, CHOICES, Rural Youth Project, Engaging Youth in Community Service thru Youth and Adult Partnerships. Volunteering and mentoring were the key elements in building resilient, productive, and self directed individuals.
- b. Impact - The leadership training and development sessions reached a total of 2,180 4-H youth in 11 rural and urban counties throughout Texas. Two thousand five hundred 4-H'ers participated in leadership retreats, leadership laboratories, and local, state and national 4-H events. Approximately 288 4-H'ers completed community service projects that enhanced their ability to become productive and responsible citizens. Seventy percent of youth involved in school enrichment programs improved relationships with their families and communities. Forty-eight percent improved workforce skills. Eighty-five percent of the enrolled 4-H youth reported enhanced academic skills in leadership.

- c. Source of Funds - Smith-Lever, Section 1444, Kronkosky Foundation, National 4-H Council Grant USDA-CSREES and State Matching funds
- d. Scope of Impact - State Specific

SCIENCE AND EDUCATION IMPACT

The Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University participates in the Science and Education Impact writing process. The 2004 impacts can be found on the USDA/CSREES website at <https://impact.csrees.usda.gov/impact/2004>.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT PROCESS

The program development process in Texas is designed to obtain collective stakeholder input from a broad spectrum including people who are not serving on Extension committees. This extensive process is conducted every four or five years and serves as the basis for the development of long range county and state plans. At the county level, Extension agents draw from the long range plan and establish program committees to plan, implement and evaluate Extension educational programs and activities which fall in the realm of their responsibility. Each program committee meets a minimum of two times per year to assess the programs and activities that have been conducted to address the issues and problems identified through the program development process and plan future programs. The committees also discuss emerging issues and advise on how they should be addressed. Committee members identify programs and activities to be included in the Extension agents plan of work.

Each county conducts an annual meeting which includes all of the program committees that make up the Extension program council. This meeting also includes the executive board (i.e., president, vice president, etc.). The chairperson of each program committee gives a report on the accomplishments for the past year and discusses goal attainment and future directions.

The program development process is continuous in Texas. It is a requirement that the process be executed at the county, district and state levels.

PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS

The merit review process was conducted as outlined in the 5-Year Plan of Work. There were no significant changes made to the plan of work.

EVALUATION OF THE SUCCESS OF MULTI AND JOINT ACTIVITIES

The planned programs that were developed resulted from the program development process explained under the “Stakeholder Input” process. These programs were developed based on the critical issues and problems within those issues that were identified as priority and needing to be addressed.

Each program addressed issues and problems that ranked high among stakeholders and clientele in the program development process. The Extension Program Council in each county, which is composed of program committees and task forces, directed county staff in developing annual performance plans or plans of work. These plans supported or, in most instances, coincided with many of the State programs as well as addressed other local issues and problems. The planned programs did address the critical issues of strategic importance.

The planned programs of the Cooperative Extension Program at Prairie View A&M University are targeted at reaching under served and under represented populations of the State, and results are based on the needs of these populations. Evidence shows that significant impacts were made in addressing many of the priority needs of clientele in these groups. In addressing the needs, clientele in these groups have shown many desired changes and are improving their quality of life. Clientele have shown positive changes in behavior and attitude; adopted recommended practices; increased household and farm incomes; improved their living conditions; improved their health status; enhanced their neighborhoods and communities; and their overall situation which is shown through many other impact indicators as well as by their participation in the planned programs of the Cooperative Extension Program.

Improved program effectiveness and efficiency were accomplished. Program leaders planned and conducted trainings on the planned programs to acquaint staff with their content and resources available to assist them. This approach created a unified understanding and proved to be very helpful to staff in conducting work related to the planned programs.

The planned programs of the Cooperative Extension Program were developed with the intention of involving other institutions, agencies and organizations in implementing many of the planned activities. Texas Cooperative Extension; various teaching, research and outreach units at Prairie View A&M University; and other state, local agencies and organizations such as: Texas Department of Agriculture, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Texas Landowners Association, Marion Kauffman Foundation, and Housing and Urban Development assisted in the conduct of programs led by the Cooperative Extension Program. The clientele were better served using this approach.

MULTI STATE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Families First: Nutrition Education and Wellness System Consortium with Alabama A&M University, Alcorn State University, Delaware State University, Florida A&M University, Langston University, South Carolina St. College, Southern University and A&M College, Tennessee State University, Tuskegee University and University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

Regional Goat Training Program with Kentucky State University, Tennessee State University, Florida A&M University, Fort Valley State University, Langston University and University of Kentucky.

Small Farmer Agricultural Leadership Training Program with Southern University and A&M College, North Carolina A&T State University, Alcorn State University and Tuskegee University

Business Assessed Risk Management Program with Kentucky State University, North Carolina A&T State University and Texas A&M University

Southern Region Water Quality - Animal Waste Team with Tennessee State University, Florida State University, University of Georgia and Texas A&M University

INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo - February 28- 19, 2006

College of Agriculture Field Day - May 20, 2006

State 4-H Judging Contest - August 5, 2006

Beef and Forage Workshop - October 6, 2006

Jointly appointed Research Scientists/Extension Specialists

Jointly appointed Research Specialist/Extension Specialist in 4-H & Youth Development - Goats (one in 4-H Goat Program currently on staff)

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