

## SRPLN FCS State Report 2010

### Reporting Institution:

Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
Texas A&M University System

### Program Highlights of Current Year:

- *Walk Across Texas* continues to be a tremendous success as teams of 8 work together through the course to improve their health and wellness. This year, AgriLife collaborated with the Texas Education Association to offer the curriculum statewide to school districts. The district staff, school faculty and classes participated in the challenge. This will be an annual event. The youth who participate receive 10 newsletters with helpful tips that they can take home to their family.
- The Cornell "*Navigating for Success*" educational approach to teaching is being modeled to county/state faculty to implement with clientele to assist and better engage their audiences. Activities and exercises are key to the presentation instead of power points and handouts. This approach should keep agents/specialist grounded in basic sound educational process.
- *Do Well Be Well with Diabetes* has been translated into Spanish language and is being piloted in several counties. This should meet a real need for the agents in implementing the program to a broader clientele.
- *Food Handlers Certification* is now both on-line and available in Spanish.
- *Dinner Tonight* is a weekly video available through e-mail, iPod to reach busy families with suggestions on healthy, low cost meals. County FCS agents do one demonstration recipe a week.
- The Department of Defense through NIFA has awarded Texas AgriLife Extension a grant to train those who work with *Wounded Warriors* at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio and Fort Hood in Killeen through a "train the trainers" approach.
- Through the Texas Department of Health, 30 additional on-line courses have been developed and added to existing online courses for child care providers. Certification is available through the courses.

### Personnel Update:

- Through grants and special projects, we are able to continue hiring Ph.D. level staff to give appropriate leadership to targeted programs. Personnel is built into each grant since current staffing cannot sustain program growth without additional assistance.
- Through a continuing grant with the Texas Cancer Council, four regional staff were hired to oversee implementation of programs dealing with dangers of smoking, and use of drugs, and a large focus on breast cancer prevention.
- Retired Executive Associate Director Margaret Hale has been hired back part time on indirect funds to work with administrative heads of state agencies to inform them of our agencies programs and identify potential collaborations. She has been able to secure additional funds, enhance awareness of Extension, and build new partnerships statewide.

**Budget:**

- Texas operates on a bi-annual budget cycle. FY09 - FY10 saw a small increase from state funds. A 3% merit was available to staff.
- Currently, it appears that the state may have a deficit at the end of the year. An exercise plan to reduce the budget by 5% is being developed, effective March, 2010.

**New or Unique Collaborations and/or Funding Sources:**

- Texas Department of Agriculture has contracted with AgriLife Extension to present 126 trainings for child care providers who prepare food for children in their centers.
- Ag and FCS agents will be working together in 5 East Texas counties to start farmers markets. This initiative was funded by the Texas Diabetes Council to help reduce the incidence of type 2 diabetes with increased vegetable consumption. FCS agents will be doing food preparation and preservation demonstrations at the markets.
- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has contracted with Extension to provide Mini-PRIDE pre-service training to relative caregivers who are interested in becoming foster parents for the purpose of taking permanent conservatorship of their relative children and becoming their permanent home.

**Contact for Additional Information:**

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