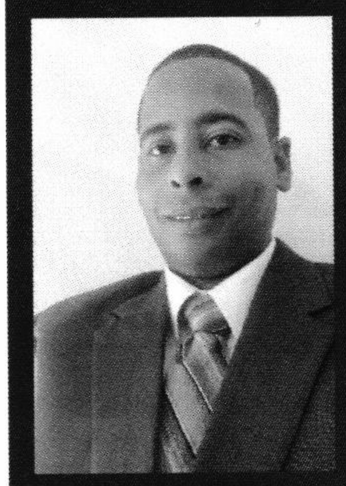
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN
FREESTONE COUNTY
2026 Annual Report

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

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Fairfield, TX 75840
903-389-3436
https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/counties/freestone-county/



Erin Davis
CEA – Ag and Natural Resources



Omari Muhammad
CEP – Ag and Natural Resources

PVAMU EXTENSION

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

AgriLife Extension educates agricultural producers to adopt best management practices based on the latest scientific research. These efforts help increase production, enhance sustainability, and conserve natural resources. By educating the public about agriculture and food production, AgriLife Extension builds partnerships with Texans to improve food safety and security, reduce food insecurity, and promote better nutrition statewide. Safeguarding natural resources and maintaining a clean, healthy environment remain top priorities. AgriLife Extension promotes sustainable production practices and technologies, conducts conservation programs that reduce drought impacts, improve and preserve water quality, minimize wildfire risks, and maximize water supplies through efficient irrigation and conservation. The program also supports the safe and reduced use of pesticides through pesticide-use training and integrated pest management programs.

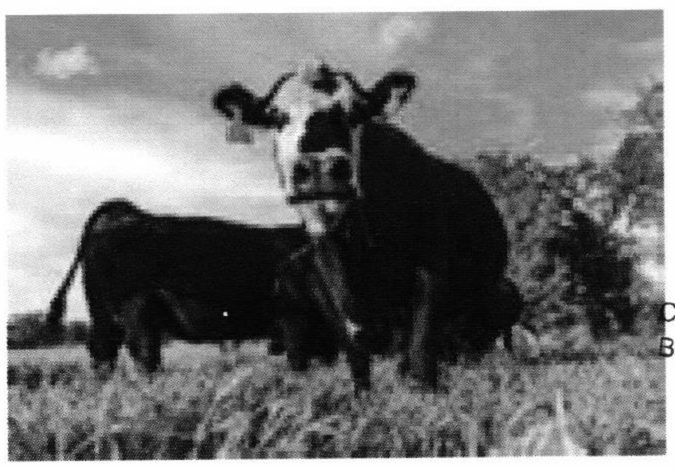
HORTICULTURE AND PUBLIC / AG INTERFACE

Horticulture services remain in strong demand among District 8 clientele. Extension maintains a robust response through multiple efforts, including 15 Master Gardener chapters with 700+ members who contributed 50,000+ volunteer hours to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Total horticulture contacts in 2025 reached 23,577.

Agricultural literacy was identified as a major priority. Extension provided outreach in partnership with various commodity and health-related groups, delivering unbiased, research-based information highlighting the vital role agriculture plays in daily life. These efforts reached 48,000 youth and adults.

Although District 8 does not include major metropolitan areas, the region continues to see an influx of new residents seeking a rural lifestyle. Extension addressed this need through 62 New Landowner Series events, reaching 1,149 contacts.

District 8 continues to demonstrate strong agricultural impact in Texas. Beef cattle production leads the way, with other commodities contributing to an estimated $21 million annual economic impact.



FILED FOR RECORD
At 9 o'clock A M
MAY 06 2026
RENEE GREGORY
Clerk, County Court, Freestone County, Texas
By



Program Accomplishments

Beef Cattle & Ranching

- 33,374 total contacts with livestock producers
- 105 educational programs conducted across 21 counties
- Wildlife education remains a significant Extension effort
- Wild pigs continue to be a major pest in District 8
- District response included 101 events reaching 13,697 contacts

District 8

Top Ranked Commodities by Economic Impact of Agricultural Production and Related items, 2024

Commodity	Estimated Value* ($1000's)	Percent of District Value	Economic Impact** ($1000's)
Other Beef	$1,075,341.44	40.02%	$2,171,530.52
Milk	$457,502.04	17.03%	$824,916.44
Feed Corn	$247,132.21	9.20%	$469,499.80
Hay	$163,577.68	4.00%	$226,606.94
Broilers	$107,408.50	6.09%	$205,134.77
Total	**$2,050,961.87**	**76.33%**	**$3,897,688.47**

Crops, Forages, Water & Applicator Training

- 532 field-crop educational programs conducted
- 21,235 total participants reached
- Water quality and conservation remain major issues
- 21 counties conducted home, landscape, and production agriculture events involving more than 1,173 individuals
- 10,638 licensed applicators maintained certification, representing an estimated $95,987,728 wage base

COMMISSIONERS COURT FREESTONE COUNTY, TEXAS

4-H and Youth Development:

The Freestone County 4-H Program includes 120 members of 4 organized community clubs, and 2 shooting sports clubs.

Texas 4-H Salute To Excellence Volunteer Award Winner: Shawn Ovalle

4-H Livestock Projects:

- 3 youth exhibited at HOT Fair
- 1 youth exhibited at East TX State Fair
- 8 youth exhibited at State Fair of Texas
- 1 youth exhibited at Fort Worth Stock Show
- 4 youth exhibited at San Angelo Stock Show
- 6 youth exhibited 4-H livestock projects at San Antonio Stock Show
- 7 youth exhibited 4-H livestock projects at Houston Livestock Show
- 2 youth participated at HOT Fair Shotgun Shoot & YG Clay shoot at Houston Livestock Show
- 8 youth exhibited 4-H livestock projects at Rodeo Austin

Freestone County Fair:

91 4-H livestock projects and 8 Ag mechanics projects entered the 2026 Freestone County Fair

4-H Leadership & Personal Development:

- 11 Freestone County 4-H Leadership Team *(Monthly sessions to learn real world skills (changing a tire/vehicle maintenance, community service, budgeting, career exploration, leadership skills, team building)*
- 1 certified Shotgun Coach, 4 certified Archery Coaches
- 10 youth participating in Archery contests around
- the state.
- 4 youth participating in Shotgun contests
- around the state
- 5 youth participated in District Food Show
- 8 youth participated in District Livestock judging
- 12 youth participated in Livestock Quiz bowl, State Qualifying Senior Team, 2 junior/intermediate teams
- 1 youth participated in District Horse judging
- 1 youth participated in District Photography
- 1 youth participated in District Meat Judging
- 1 youth participated at District Roundup
- 4th Annual Freestone County 4-H Adult Leaders Fundraising Banquet
- Adult Leaders awarded $11,000 in scholarships
- to 5 graduating Seniors

Curriculum Enrichment: Mindful SELF at Teague Junior High, Farm Bureau Ag Day-4th Graders from Teague Elementary, Fairfield Intermediate School and Dew ISD.

Agriculture and Natural Resources:

- Strait Ranches Field Day & Quad County Hay Show Results Bull Selection, Ranch overview and Tour, Forage Management. 1 CEU October 1, 2025 21 participants

- Beef Cattle and Forage Management Program, Franklin 7 CEUs offered. 122 in attendance October 2025

- Private Applicator Training This training is designed for those farm and ranch operators who do not have a Private Applicators License to purchase "restricted use" pesticides, 3 attendees, November 2025.

- District 8 Farm and Ranch Seminar– 8 Hour CEU program hosted in multiple county locations; 22 in attendance in Freestone County. December 2025

- Last Chance CEUs Sessions offered for last chance CEUs for private pesticide applicator licenses. 4 in attendance. Multiple sessions offered January 2026

- Landowner Prescribed Fire Workshop Sellmark Ranch Why prescribed fire is a valuable management tool, burn planning, burn procedure, liability and local resources, equipment demonstration. 1 CEU offered. January 23, 2026. 26 in attendance

- Wildlife Landowner Workshop- Gus Engeling Wildlife Management Area, May 8 estimated 25 participants

- Summer Beef Cattle Program Herbicide & Weed Identification, Cattle Herd Health & Parasite Control, , New World Screwworm information & update July 21, 2026

Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to update you on the Extension educational programming in Erath County and the efforts being made by your county Extension agents Lonnie, Andrea, and Thomas. They continue to provide programming which is in tune with our mission which is to provide quality, relevant outreach and continuing educational programs and ser-vices 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 or e-mail at jay.kingston@ag.tamu.edu

