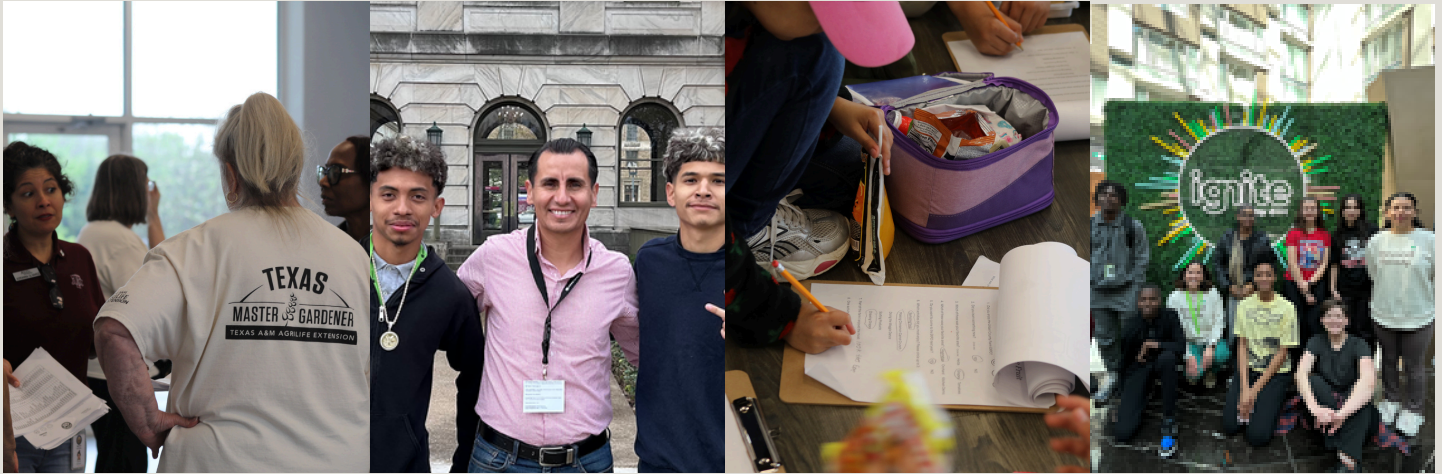


Bi-Monthly Newsletter

DC EXTENSION

◆
April/ May



Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

As spring unfolds and summer approaches, we're excited to bring you the latest updates on all the exciting developments happening in our community.

This April and May, we're sharing inspiring stories of impact within our 4-H programs and highlighting the efforts of our dedicated teams. As the warmer weather draws near, we'll also be providing valuable resources to help you make the most of the season ahead.

In this issue, we're excited to share Adrianna's leadership in the successful Urban Expo at RBI, where she expertly navigated unpredictable weather to ensure the event was a hit. We're also celebrating the inaugural 4-H Roundup at the Dallas County North Government Building, which was a resounding success,

along with the teens who represented our community at the Ignite 4-H event in Washington, D.C.

Looking ahead, we're eager to embrace the opportunities that summer will bring, and we can't wait to continue working together to make a difference. Your involvement—whether by donating your time, resources, or simply sharing our work—makes all the difference. Thank you for being such an essential part of our community.

Enjoy this month's newsletter, and here's to an exciting season as we look forward to summer!

*Dallas County
Extension*

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In this newsletter you can expect:

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New Hire
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Stories of Impact: Prairie View Extension Sends Two High School Students from Dallas County to Attend the 2025 National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C.

Prairie View Extension continues to provide valuable youth development opportunities, and this year was no exception. On April 11th, 2025, two Dallas County 4-H youth, Marco and Matthew Torres, joined over 300 high schoolers at a prestigious event sponsored by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). For four days, they participated in roundtables, collaborating on creative solutions to national challenges and presenting their ideas to leaders from over 20 federal agencies.

Marco Torres shared, "I didn't know what to expect, but the energy and people made it an unforgettable experience. It was one of the best experiences of my life, and I hope to do it again." Matthew Torres reflected, "I was nervous at first, but the supportive environment helped me connect with others. It turned out to be one of the best experiences I've had."

Marco focused on national service with AmeriCorps, while Matthew worked on empowering youth in rural communities with the Smithsonian Institution. Both youth were able to share their insights and make lasting connections at this impactful event. Marco Torres and Matthew Torres were the youth from Dallas County granted to attend this prestigious event sponsor by National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), a subsidiary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). For four full days, Marco and Matthew joined their respective groups to work together to discuss and compile the proposals in a formal presentation to present to leaders from over 20 federal government agencies.

"Before going to the 4-H trip, I was honestly very nervous and hesitant. I didn't know many people, and I wasn't sure what to expect. I kept thinking about how awkward it might be or if I'd even fit in. But once I got there, the program made it so easy to feel comfortable." Matthew, stated. "The activities were well set up to help us connect, and the leaders were super supportive. I started making friends without even realizing it, and soon enough, I was jumping into the tasks with confidence. It ended up being one of the best experiences I've had... something I'm glad I didn't miss out on." Matthew concluded.

Marco joined the group focused on the National Service from agency AmeriCorps, while Matthew joined the group with emphasis on Empowering Youth in Rural Communities from agency Smithsonian Institution Office Under the Secretary of Education (OUSE).



Community Updates

Adrianna's leadership at the Urban Expo at RB1 was a standout moment, showcasing her ability to adapt and keep the event on track despite unpredictable weather. Even when the conditions weren't ideal, Adrianna and her team made quick adjustments, ensuring the event remained successful and engaging for all attendees. Another highlight this year was the very first 4-H Roundup hosted at the Dallas County North Government building. This inaugural event was a big success, bringing together youth and families to celebrate the 4-H

program and its impact on the community. Additionally, a group of teens had the opportunity to attend the Ignite 4-H event in Washington, D.C., where they engaged in learning, networking, and sharing ideas that will help shape the future of the program. These milestones reflect the growth and vibrancy of local youth programs and the ongoing dedication to providing educational opportunities that inspire and empower the next generation.



Esmeralda Rodriguez

Office Manager

We're excited to announce that Esmeralda has joined our team as our new Office Manager!

Before joining us, Esmeralda was a Senior Library Technician at the Frisco Public Library, where she was recognized for her strong communication, multitasking, and problem-solving skills. Her expertise in managing documentation, streamlining office operations, and ensuring accuracy makes her an excellent fit for our team. Proficient in Microsoft Office, Google Suite, and various data management tools, Esmeralda is a self-starter, quick learner, and reliable team player ready to make a positive impact. She is also pursuing a Basic Principles of Accounting Certification, demonstrating her commitment to ongoing professional growth.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Esmeralda!



Isabel Anne LeSenne

Urban Horticulture Ext. Agent

Isabel Anne LeSenne (Anne) has joined us as the new Urban Horticulture Extension Agent for Dallas County. Anne holds a Master's Degree in Horticulture from Texas Tech University and brings an impressive depth of expertise, including credentials as a Master Beekeeper and Board-Certified Master Arborist.

Her diverse background spans roles such as Landscape Designer, Irrigation Designer, Arborist, Landscape Maintenance Manager, and Wholesale Nursery Salesperson. Anne is passionate about teaching and empowering others to achieve their landscaping goals. As she shares, "There is nothing more fulfilling to me than to see a student learn a new skill that builds their self-confidence."

Please join us in welcoming Anne!



Stories of Impact: Urban County Farm EXPO Brings Fresh Food Literacy to Dallas Youth

This spring, the RB1 Urban County Farm hosted the inaugural season of the Urban County Farm EXPO, an exciting half-day program designed to increase fresh food-growing literacy, environmental stewardship, and healthy eating habits among 3rd to 5th-grade students from limited-resource areas in Dallas County.

The EXPO's mission is to help youth connect agriculture to health by showing them where food comes from, the journey it takes to their plates, and how making better food choices can improve their overall wellness. Following the Texas A&M Path to Plate and Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! curricula, the program includes engaging demonstrations and hands-on activities presented by AgriLife Extension staff alongside Texas Master Gardeners, Master Wellness, and Master Naturalists.

Students visited key projects at the farm, including the orchard, vineyard, apiary, vegetable production area, and demonstration garden. They also participated in a kitchen demonstration, where they got to taste fresh produce and learn new recipes. Throughout the season, most students were bussed in from Dallas ISD elementary schools and Dallas Park and Recreation summer programs, targeting neighborhoods identified by the Child Opportunity Index as having low opportunities for children.

The experience was well-received by both students and adult participants. Many shared thoughtful feedback on tasting herbs in the garden and expressed what they learned about nutrition and healthy living. Although the Carrot Crunch recipe wasn't a favorite for some, students appreciated the opportunity to try new ingredients and maintained a positive attitude toward healthy eating.

The Urban County Farm EXPO is an impactful step toward cultivating healthier habits and environmental awareness in Dallas youth, planting the seeds for a stronger, healthier community.

Thank you for reading!



visit our
webpage!

DALLAS COUNTY	TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
214-904-3050	6820 LBJ FWY Suite 3200 Dallas, Tx 75240