

TEXAS FARM BUREAU 2023 COUNTY ACTIVITIES OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

The CAE awards recognize counties that have created unique, volunteer-driven programs at the local level.

The CAE program categorizes county activities into the following areas: education and ag promotion, member services, public relations and information, leadership development and policy implementation.

This marks the tenth year of a statewide CAE program to highlight county activities and outreach efforts.

Brazoria-Galveston County Farm Bureau

Brazoria-Galveston County Farm Bureau fostered agricultural education successfully through the Farmers Corral at the Brazoria and Galveston county fairs.

The Farmers Corral, an agricultural learning center, invited community members of all ages to learn about agriculture.

“Both of our counties are becoming more urban, and we wanted to host an educational event to help local consumers learn more about agriculture,” Deana Fuchs, Brazoria-Galveston County Farm Bureau Ag Programs coordinator, said. “We saw over 15,000 people between the two county fairs. The Farmers Corral is a great way to show people of all ages a little bit more about production agriculture and where their food, fiber and fuel come from.”

Fairgoers could visit different stations in the Farmers Corral to see how cotton is harvested, learn about products made from crops, watch a milking demonstration and more. Live animals also attracted young children to the exhibit.

Brazoria-Galveston County Farm Bureau had packets with agricultural information available for families to take home.

“We wanted visitors to read about topics and hear from actual farmers and ranchers, but we also wanted to include hands-on activities, live animals and ways for visitors to take information home to continue to learn about agriculture,” Fuchs said.

The agricultural learning center also allowed fair attendees to make a connection with Farm Bureau members and learn about membership benefits, programs and scholarships.



Johnson County Farm Bureau

Johnson County Farm Bureau hosted the Harvest Fest at the ballpark with the Cleburne Railroaders. The baseball game highlighted local agriculture and cultivated relationships within the county.

The event was started two years ago to encourage younger people to get involved in Farm Bureau and to promote agriculture to people in the community.

Johnson County Farm Bureau leaders felt combining agriculture and baseball in the community was a home run.

Baseball fans could participate in activities that allowed them to learn about agriculture while having a good time.

The night included a corn pit, combine simulator, agricultural commodity stations and a special menu with corn and beef items. Kids could dig for toys in the corn pit, while their parents engaged with farmers to learn more about the crops grown in the county.

Johnson County Farm Bureau leaders said the combine simulator gave attendees the chance to step into the shoes of farmers and see how they harvest crops.

The commodity stations showcased various stages of food production and highlighted the farming practices and technologies used by farmers today.

Johnson County Farm Bureau also utilized Doorways to Agriculture, Texas Farm Bureau's interactive exhibit that is displayed at fairs and events across the state. Baseball fans could play games, test their knowledge on agricultural topics and learn more about Texas farmers and ranchers.

They also held a corn-on-the-cob eating contest, which leaders noted was a crowd favorite.



Montgomery County Farm Bureau

Montgomery County Farm Bureau hosted the first Youth Discussion Meet and Public Speaking Contest at the Montgomery County Fair.

The events were inspired by Texas Farm Bureau's Discussion Meet that is held annually for young farmers and ranchers.

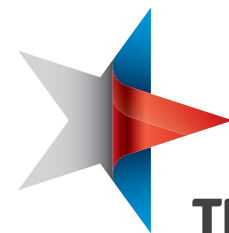
Students ages nine to 18 learned more about agriculture and problem solving through the contests.

There were 63 students representing various organizations—including FFA, 4-H, Debate, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts—who participated and received personalized feedback.

The students practiced written and oral communication, critical thinking and research—all vital skills to help prepare the next generation.

"We wanted to create an activity to support Farm Bureau's mission of being a 'unified voice of agriculture,' so we decided to design the Youth Discussion Meet and Public Speaking Contests to prepare the next generation of agricultural ambassadors in the county," said Shannon Parish, a Montgomery CFB member who played a large role in the events.

The contests not only provided a learning environment for participants, but fair attendees, too. Shannon noted over 75,000 people attended the Montgomery County Fair, and the contests helped build awareness for Farm Bureau and agriculture in the county.



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