

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Breaking Barriers for Beginning Hispanic Farmers and Ranchers</b>		
<b>Sponsoring Agency</b>	NIFA	<b>Project Status</b>	COMPLETE
<b>Funding Source</b>	Non Formula	<b>Reporting Frequency</b>	Annual
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<b>Submitted By</b>	Robert Williams	<b>Date Submitted to NIFA</b>	12/12/2013

**Program Code:** BFRDP

**Program Name:** Beginning Farmer and Rancher

**Project Director**

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**Recipient Organization**

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**Performing Department**

Agricultural Sciences

**Co-Project Directors**

{NO DATA ENTERED}

**Departments**

{NO DATA ENTERED}

**Non-Technical Summary**

The Department of Agricultural Sciences at Texas A&M University-Commerce will join forces with Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Hopkins County Professional Agricultural Workers to provide timely and relevant training to Hispanic farm workers and part-time farmers and ranchers who are interested in expanding their involvement in farm ownership and management. This three-year project will utilize relevant sociological and instructional models for serving rural Hispanics involved in agriculture. Hispanic farm workers, primarily employed in large-scale dairy operations, and part-time farmers and ranchers who seek to transition to full-time farm or ranch owner-operators will be recruited for community-based training held primarily in Sulphur Spring, Texas with additional training being held on farm-based demonstration sites and at the Texas A&M University-Commerce campus and university farm. This project will use novel approaches including training in Spanish, the primary language of participants. Training will be developed and delivered by a team of Hispanic agricultural professionals who are fluent in Spanish and English. Spanish-speaking graduate students and interns with agricultural backgrounds will be recruited to assist with the project with the goal that they will transition into careers as extension agents. A project advisory committee will be established in the early stage of this project to prioritize training topics and assist with ongoing evaluation. The project will be directed by Dr. Robert Williams, Associate Professor of Agricultural Education. Dr. Jose Lopez, Assistant Professor of Agribusiness and Dr. Curtis Jones, Assistant Professor of Plant Science and Extension Agronomist will serve as the project faculty experts guiding the development and delivery of training. Dr. Mario Villarino, Hopkins County AgriLife Extension Agent for Agriculture/Natural Resources will assist with the recruiting and serve as the Hopkins County liaison to the agricultural community and project clientele. Hopkins County Professional Agricultural Workers will provide the facilities for initial planning meetings and training sessions.

**Accomplishments**

**Major goals of the project**

Goals of this project targeted toward limited-resource Hispanic farm workers (primarily/currently associated with dairy production)include: increased utilization of resources available from USDA by beginning Hispanic farmers/ranchers, increase cultural awareness in Hopkins Co. related to the needs of Hispanic farmers/ranchers and their families, expand the number of Hispanic farm owner/operators, and graduate 4+ master's level graduates who are fluent English/Spanish and have agricultural expertise relevant to Hispanic clientele. Specific objectives are: establish advisory committee, conduct needs assessment, recruit participants, examine social and instructional models designed for Hispanic farm families, develop/deliver and evaluate training (farm/agribusiness management, alternative/sustainable production practices, and marketing), and report project results. Phase one will focus on establishing the advisory committee, needs assessment, recruiting participants, and prioritizing topics. Phase two will focus on a continuation of farm/agribusiness training. Phase three will focus on

expansion to neighboring county, sustainable production methods, and project summative evaluation. Potential long-term outcomes expected include at least 60 additional Hispanic farm owner/operators in Hopkins County by the end of the project. This will represent a 78% increase from the number reported in the 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture. We expect at least half of these new Hispanic owner/ operators will be operating on a full-time basis. Clearly, smaller (less than 200 cows) environmentally-friendly, Hispanic family-owned and operated dairy farms represent an intended focus of this program. However, the knowledge, skills, and abilities associated with the project training will be transferable to a variety of enterprises, including some that are not farm-based. We anticipate the integration of Hispanic farm owner/operators and business leaders into the agricultural organizations and activities including membership on farm cooperative, soil and water conservation boards, and Hopkins County Professional Agricultural Workers. We expect 4-H and FFA participation of Hispanic youth in Hopkins County to double by the end of this project. Cultural sensitivity training to key leaders and service providers within the agricultural community will result in a higher number of Hispanic clientele seeking the services of USDA agencies, Extension, and agricultural lenders.

#### What was accomplished under these goals?

This project used a family systems approach to reach prospect Hispanic farmers and ranchers in Hopkins, Hunt, and Wood Counties of Texas through a series of face to face workshops, hands-on demonstrations, and dissemination of new and existing materials translated to Spanish language. Workshops included activities relevant to adult and youth household members with children's enrichment activities being provided for the younger family members. Additionally, outreach to a broader population of Hispanic youth was provided through numerous FFA events at the regional and state level.

*36 target audience participants*

*80 total participants*

#### What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?

During the three-year project training, professional development, and outreach was provided in the following formats:

Training Seminars/Workshops (24 total sessions of 3-4 hours each)

Presentations to local civic and agricultural clubs (6)

Presentations to secondary agricultural science teachers (4 sessions at two state conferences)

Farm-Based Field Days (3)

Hands-on Demonstration/Workdays (8)

#### How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?

Results have been disseminated to the following communities of interests:

American Association for Agricultural Education (Poster presentations at 3 national meetings and 4 regional meetings)

Southern Rural Sociological Association (Paper presented at 1 meeting; poster at 1 meeting)

Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas Professional Development Conference (2 workshops, 2 exhibit/information booths)

Texas FFA State Convention (1 exhibit/information booth)

#### What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?

{Nothing to report}

#### Participants

##### Actual FTEs for this Reporting Period

Role	Faculty and Non-Students	Students within Staffing Roles			Computed Total by Role
		Undergraduate	Graduate	Post-Doctorate	
Scientist	0	0	0	0	0
Professional	0.5	0	0	0	0.5
Technical	1	0.5	3	0	4.5
Administrative	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Computed Total	1.5	0.5	3	0	5.0

#### Target Audience

This project used a family systems approach to reach prospect Hispanic farmers and ranchers in Hopkins, Hunt, and Wood Counties of Texas through a series of face to face workshops, hands-on demonstrations, and dissemination of new and existing materials translated to Spanish language. Workshops included activities relevant to adult and youth household members with children's enrichment activities being provided for the younger family members. Additionally, outreach to a broader population of Hispanic youth was provided through numerous FFA events at the regional and state level.

### Products

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Theses/Dissertations	Submitted	2013	YES

### Citation

Brenes, Baleshka R. (2013). Needs Assessment for Prospective Hispanic Farmers and Ranchers.

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Theses/Dissertations	Submitted	2013	YES

### Citation

Ortez, Mirian (2013). EFFECT OF LATE-SEASON FERTILIZER AND HERBICIDE APPLICATION ON THE RECOVERY OF A BERMUDAGRASS (*Cynodon dactylon* L.) PASTURE

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Theses/Dissertations	Submitted	2013	NO

### Citation

Rojas, Kandy (2013). AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF FOLIAR FUNGICIDES USED IN NORTHEAST TEXAS WHEAT PRODUCTION

Type	Status	Year Published	NIFA Support Acknowledged
Websites	Published	2013	YES

### Citation

Spanish translation of popular vegetable and fruit production fact sheets as well as USDA resources in Spanish.  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/scienceEngineeringAgriculture/departments/agriculturalSciences/BreakingBarriers/resources.aspx>

### Other Products

#### Product Type

Educational Aids or Curricula

#### Description

A series of vegetable production fact sheets were translated into Spanish and made available through our project website.

#### Product Type

Data and Research Material

#### Description

Focus group results related to future training and interests for Hispanic farmers and ranchers.

**Product Type**

Other

**Description**

Latino Agriculture Student Speakers Outreach (LASSO) is a newly formed student organization on the Texas A&M University-Commerce campus. This organization includes university students majoring in ag-related fields who wish to promote Agriculture (including farming and ranching) as a career option to secondary students and their parents. They also work cooperatively with secondary agriculture teachers, counselors, and administrators to reach Hispanic audiences by serving as translators.

**Product Type**

Other

**Description**

Two undergraduate student internships were supported through this initiative. An additional student intern (and program participant) secured a paid internship through Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

**Changes/Problems**

In the beginning, we had hoped to focus on transitioning Hispanic farm workers to farm owners and operators. Due to the economic uncertainties of the dairy industry in the targeted counties, a shift was made to planning establishing and maintaining vegetable, small fruits, and livestock on a small-scale basis. Recruiting participants was much more difficult than originally anticipated, so a family systems approach to workshops and field days that provided something for all family members was adopted.

It was also determined that partnerships with public schools to provide evening training was more practical than the original training plans. Inclusion of public school teachers, especially the secondary agriculture teachers, strengthened family support and increased overall participation and interest by younger family members. Secondary agriculture teachers have the most direct contact with the next generation of potential Hispanic farmers and ranchers and should therefore be encouraged through professional development and incentives to encourage that portion of the target population to pursue farming, ranching, and professional employment in agriculture as a career goal.