August 22 Centra Training Scheduled:

Centra trainings are planned to help communicate about topics that are of interest to all the urban county agents and on August 22, 2007 there will be a Centra training on “Urban Volunteer Management.” Volunteers are a critical part of the success of urban outreach efforts and help us deliver our programs to a larger group of individuals. Plan to participate in the Centra with check-in at 9:45 a.m. Our resource speaker and panelist have a variety of experiences in working with volunteers and will be sharing their “secrets of success” from their unique perspective. Our lead presenter, Dr. Anthony Camerino, Harris County CEA-Horticulture has managed volunteers in Florida in Citrus County and with the University of Florida, Florida Museum of Natural History prior to his work with the Harris County Master Gardeners. Sharing successful examples of managing urban volunteers include: Dana Tarter, CEA-FCS Tarrant County; Lillianne Goedders, Urban Youth Development CEA - Travis County; and Dr. William Johnson, CEA-Horticulture – Galveston County. Sign up for this training at the TCE Centra listing:

Urban Volunteer Management
Resource Speaker: Anthony Camerino, CEA-Horticulture, Harris County
August 22, 2007 at 9:45 a.m.

Save these dates!

November 7, 2007: Urban External Funding
February 5, 2008: Use of Technology in Urban Programs
June 11, 2008: Collaboration/Partnerships in Urban Counties

TCE Urban Advisory Committee Named:

Each of the urban counties are represented on the state TCE Urban Advisory Committee.

Members include: Jackie Van DeWalle, Bexar County; Liza Montelongo, El Paso; Stephen Williams, Harris; Wil Galloway, Travis; Carol Marsh, Dallas; Don Brehm, Fort Bend; Glenn Lewis, Tarrant; Courtney Trolinger, At-Large; Scott Swanson, TCARET. The committee had its first meeting and looked at the demographics of the state and the projections for urban growth in the near future. Their first effort will be to work with us on developing a strategy to best communicate programming in the urban setting, while advising us on appropriate contacts. We are fortunate to have this quality committee and look forward to their guidance as we position Extension strongly in the urban counties.
NAE4-HA Urban Programming Task Force
Survey for Directory of Successful Urban 4-H Programs

Information on how to submit your successful 4-H Program for potential inclusion in the NAE4-HA directory is in the attachment to this newsletter. The survey response deadline is **August 15, 2007**. The top ten selected will be recognized at the 2007 NAE4-HA annual meeting in October, 2007. Take advantage of this opportunity to share nationally, examples of the exciting programming taking place in Texas!

Spotlight on successful programs:

A two hour workshop was developed to assist families in managing income during stressful times. *Bouncing Back When Your Income Drops* focuses on developing a spending plan, stretching dollars, setting priorities, and identifying ways to save money when money is scarce. Included are discussion groups and playing the “Bean Game” – a budgeting game in which the participants use beans rather than money to determine spending categories and amounts needed for each, and how to make adjustments when the family economic situation changes.

*Contact: Maggie Jover, CEA-FCS, Denton County*

It may surprise you to know that the yard is the first line of defense for the health of the Galveston Bay water system. In fact, the health of estuaries, rivers, lakes and aquifers in Texas depends in part on how homeowners maintain their landscapes, yards and gardens. And a homeowner does not even have to live on a waterfront to make a difference.

One of the objectives of the *Gulf Coast Gardening – Saturday Seminar Series* is to inform homeowners of their impacts on Galveston Bay and other water systems and provide meaningful approaches to reducing environmental risks associated with fertilizers and pesticide use. Homeowners are encouraged to water efficiently, mulch, recycle, select the least toxic insect pest and disease control measures, put the right plant in the right spot, and fertilize and spray only when necessary. Seminar topics are based on ongoing feedback provided through written evaluations from program participants.

*Contact: William M. Johnson, CEA-Horticulture, Galveston County*