

Jamie Osbourn
Grass Roots Award
Extension Agent

Jamie Osbourn has been the County Extension Agent in Llano County for 4 years. During that time he has had a major impact on range management in the area. Every year, he hosts an annual beef and range field day that covers a variety of topics designed to assist beef cattle producers and range managers protect and improve rangelands. Topics over the past few years have included mesquite, cedar, and prickly pear control, pond and ground water management, grazing effects of native grasses, improved pasture management, grazeable units, wildlife management, herbicide safety, water harvesting, well water conservation and protection, and erosion control. Ranchers, agency personnel, and the general public learn from experts in the field on the impacts of animal agriculture on rangelands and how to better utilize our precious natural resources.

As far as research in the range field goes, Jamie has several demonstration plots to test different herbicides and the rate at which they are applied to determine the most economical and effective rate at which herbicides work in the Hill Country for invasive species such as mesquite, prickly pear, persimmon, white brush, and turkey pear. These demonstration plots are an ongoing project that can be incorporated into any field day, publication, or public outreach program.

Jamie's responsibilities also include working with various judging teams and assisting youth in Llano County with leadership camps, show projects, and demonstration projects. He is heavily involved in the local grass identification contest and range judging contest. Through Llano County 4-H, Jamie has assisted in sponsoring 4-Hers for Bobwhite Brigades, Range Camp, and Bass Brigades. He also hosts an annual Ag Safety Day where kids from Llano ISD 5th grade come to learn about safety and conservation around agriculture. Jamie plays an integral role in the planning and implementation of the Farm Bureau Ag Day where they present programs to Llano ISD 4th graders concerning different agriculture resources and conservation.

A good extension agent seeks the opportunity to work with various other agencies, and get involved with professional organizations. Jamie is no different; he works with Natural Resources Conservation Service, local Soil and Water Conservation District Board, Lower Colorado River Authority, Texas Forest Service, and Texas Wildlife Services to promote range management and conservation in the Hill Country. His professional memberships include: Texas County Agricultural Agents Association (TCAAA), District 7 TCAAA, and the Hill Country Livestock Raisers Association.

Based on his experience in the field, his involvement in range and conservation stewardship through various organizations, demonstrations, and field days, and his willingness to promote the field of range management to the youth of tomorrow, I feel Jamie Osbourn is a worthy candidate of this award. He has demonstrated willingness to provide knowledge and skills in the field of range management and provides an avenue for 4-Her's, ranchers, and the general public to learn the importance of rangeland conservation. He exemplifies the type of grass roots extension agents that help develop our leaders of tomorrow.