



Winter 2015

# The Clover Chronicle

## Harris County

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### From the 4-H Desk

#### Farewell my friends,

I am leaving here today with a wealth of knowledge I will always treasure. Working here has been a great learning experience and I am thankful for the skills I've acquired and for the people who have supported me.

Being part of Harris County/Texas 4-H has taught me skills that I can use in more than just the professional areas of my life. My relationships on a personal level are in a better place than they were, thanks to some of the things I've learned from many of you.

I've come to realize that being a part of Harris County 4-H is a lot more than I've experienced before in my professional career. Team work means you have to learn compromise and that is something we excel at. When you are on a team you have lead, support others, and more often than not, meet in the middle.

Realizing that my marriage is also a team effort is what prompted this bittersweet change for me.

When my husband was offered the opportunity to relocate, it was up to me to compromise and agree to move our family in order for him to fulfill his dreams. If I could stay here forever I would, but this is an opportunity for him that couldn't be passed up. As his partner and teammate, it would be selfish of me to ask him to turn it down.

My wish for everyone here is that you all continue to experience success, to feel fulfilled in all you do, to continue growing in 4-H, and to have nothing but pleasant results with each completed project! While that may be an overly optimistic wish, it is sincere.

It's been a pleasure serving you as your 4-H agent and I will truly miss it. I take with me fond memories, valuable skills, and I hope to one day leave an impression on others similar to the one you have left on me.

Happy Holidays and a magnificent 2016!

- Xiomara Diaz-Vargas :)

### Save the Date!

#### 4-H 2016 Calendar: January-March

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1/9 Robotics Training   | 2/20 Round Up #2: Talent Show & Public Speaking Contests               |
| 1/23 Duds to Dazzle Workshop  | 2/27 Round Up #3: Fashion Review, Storyboard & Duds to Dazzle Contests |
| 1/25 DUE: County Round Up #1<br>Entries   Opportunity Scholarship Application                           | 3/1 DUE: County Photo Entries  |
| 2/6 Round Up #1: Food Challenge/ Show, Consumer Decision Making, Healthy Living & Science Fair Contests | 3/5 Robotics Contest at Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo                 |



Educational programs of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service accommodation in order to participate in any Extension activities, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office for assistance 5 business days (Mon - Fri) prior to activity.

## Visibility

### Family 4-H Represents Harris County at the Jacinto City Christmas Parade

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, our very own Family 4-H Club participated in the Jacinto City Christmas Parade.

The theme of their float was “A Country Christmas”, complete with Santa's Show Barn and lots of Show Animals, all made of wood. There were even real show animals! Lambs were led by Miguel Muro Jr. & Josue Arteaga.

Club members dressed up in Christmas costumes, including snow girls, reindeers, angels, elves and the Grinch. Of course, the getup wouldn't have been complete without the most necessary accessories: cowboy hats and cowboy boots!

The float was definitely a group effort, brought together by the club president, Alayna Matheny and the project leader, Faith Barker.



4-H'ers of all ages contributed to the fun parade float. Clover Kid Jorja Beall, for example, used the float's sound system to encourage children to join 4-H, and graced the crowd with Christmas carols.

In addition, Maritza Muro, Lilly & Victoria Latham, Marisa & Mariah Mercado passed out flyers telling everyone about their Family 4-H Club. Hope Barker, Fabian & Valerie Gonzalez, Brianna Pecina, Shane Sharp and Fabian Morales passed out Candy and spread holiday cheer.

*Harris County 4-H extends its thanks to Family 4-H Club and all the clubs in our county who pledge their hearts to greater loyalty. Continue to GROW the visibility of 4-H in your community! Great job!*



## Entrepreneurship

### 4-H CEO Contest Winners Grow their Business

Houston 4-H CEO Business Plan Contest Winners, Carmen and David Reisdorf were recognized for their work by investor Ed Valicek, VP Sales for Total Equipment and Service. The winners were awarded \$200.00 as an investment toward the production of C&D Bath Products.

Mr. Valicek challenged Carmen and David to invest the money back into their business, get their products out to Craft Shows and Farmers Markets, and make \$2,000 by January 2016!

Carmen and David stepped up to the challenge and have been working diligently toward their goal. Since December 5<sup>th</sup>, C&D

Bath Products has taken orders for 400 units of their all-natural bath products.



*Harris County 4-H thanks Ed Valicek and Kroger for investing in our Houston 4-H CEO program. We hope to GROW some new 4-H CEOs next year!*

# 4-H GROWS HERE



## Innovation

### Harris County 4-H Launches New Website

Need to know when we're having livestock validations? Want more information about Recordbooks and Awards? Do you want to stay up-to-date with all our great events and opportunities?

To answer these questions and more, Harris County 4-H is proud to announce its brand new website, <http://agrillife.org/harris4h/>. We have endeavored to make the website simple, visually oriented and understandable to the novice 4-H family.

Based on our most frequently asked questions, we have focused especially on creating a [Club Map](#) and [Club Listing](#) in the [Join Us](#) section. Here you will find a Google map containing all the school and community clubs in our county, with meeting times, locations and club manager contact information. All clubs have a dedicated page, too! Clubs can add pictures, logos, and event information—just let us know and we'll gladly do it for you.

4-H livestock aficionados can also explore the [Validations & Shows](#) page to learn when validations will be held, order tags, and submit entries for Harris County Fair and Major Shows.

In addition, 4-H families in general can stay tuned to our [Events](#) page, where they will find county, district, state and national events, trainings and competitions. We have even included deadline reminders for





### Harris County 4-H

**Explore our new website!**  
[agrillife.org/harris4h](http://agrillife.org/harris4h)

- Find clubs & enroll
- Recordbooks, Awards & Scholarships
- View events & trainings
- Get project support

**And so much more...**

entries, scholarship applications, and event RSVPs! In many cases, online forms are being used to help streamline the registration process.

Also, check out our newest effort to celebrate the amazing things you do in 4-H, our [Recognition](#) portal. Get help with [Recordbooks](#), apply for [Awards](#) from the County and beyond, take advantage of [Scholarships](#), and [Highlight](#) a club or 4-H member for the work they are doing!

Finally, get access to [Forms](#), learn how to [Manage a Club](#), and find all kinds of other useful documents and web links in our [Resources](#) hub.

*Harris County 4-H hopes that through innovation we can help make 4-H more fun for the whole family. We welcome any constructive feedback you may have on the website and any other innovative ideas—feel free to email us through the [Contact Us](#) form in the [About Us](#) section!*

## Service

### Youth Give Back Through One Day 4-H

4-Hers pledge their Hands to larger service everyday, but on One Day 4-H they make sure to fulfill that promise.

“One Day 4-H is a special day set aside each year for 4-H members, parents, leaders and volunteers to step out and provide service to their communities and counties as a means to say thank you for their support of the 4-H program,” notes Dr. Chris Boleman, director for Texas 4-H ([Schattenberg, 2015](#)).

This year, on Saturday, October 10, 2015, clubs throughout Harris County gave back by gifting goodie baskets in appreciation

of local Sheriffs (West Houston 4-H), cleaning up Galveston beach (Transition Houston 4-H), sorting pantry items at the Houston Food Bank (Cypress Bend 4-H) and helping an elderly neighbor clean his much overgrown yard (Cedar Bayou 4-H).

As you can tell, clubs have plenty of flexibility to choose how they will serve and represent 4-H in their communities. But for the first time in it’s seven-year history, a featured One Day 4-H project was offered to counties in Texas. In honor of the centennial of the Texas A&M Forest Service, one bur oak tree per county

West Houston 4-H prepared and gifted goodie baskets filled with yummy treats for our local Sheriffs.



Transition Houston 4-H made sure its crab friend had a clean home at Sands of Kahala Beach in Galveston.



Cypress Bend 4-H had fun while organizing canned goods for the Houston Food Bank.



# 4-H GROWS HERE



## Service

### Youth Give Back Through One Day 4-H (cont.)

and 25 bur oak seedlings were planted.

In Harris County, 4-H families and the general public were invited to plant the tree on Extension office grounds with the help of Michael Merritt, Regional Urban Forester for the Forest Service. Families enjoyed various science and forestry activities, enjoyed a delicious lunch and in general learned about 4-H in their county.

*Harris County 4-H encourages you to serve throughout the year and take part in One Day 4-H in 2016. Tell us about your endeavors by submitting a Highlight on the website or by emailing your agent!*

Schattenberg, P. (2015, Sep. 8). One Day 4-H project to celebrate Texas A&M Forest Service Centennial. *AgriLife TODAY*. Retrieved from <http://today.agrilife.org/2015/09/08/one-day-4-h-forest-service/>



Lake Houston 4-H Outdoor Explorers, Katy 4-H and Two Hearts 4-H were some of the clubs represented at the commemorative tree planting, in addition to families new to 4-H. Youth measured and dug the hole, backfilled it with soil and learned about proper mulching technique.



Cedar Bayou 4-H learns the power of TEAMWORK through their service project. Together they tackled the challenge of Mr. Humphrey yard, which hadn't been touched in a few years!



## Opportunities

### Harris County 4-H Vet Science Program



## Veterinary Science

Harris County 4-H is offering an opportunity for parents to work together and support their children in completing the 4-H Veterinary Assistant Certification Program, open to youth 12-16 years old. Mrs. Keri Campbell, Tomball 4-H Club Manager, has accepted to serve as the Veterinary Science Program Coordinator; her leadership, knowledge and resources will help support 4-H families during this long-term program.

#### Program Options

1. Homeschool/independent study
  - Requires the same work as the 4-H program. The participant will complete the required 100 lesson plans and 500 work-hours independently.
2. Join the Harris County 4-H Veterinary Science Group

#### Harris County 4-H Veterinary Science Group

##### *Program details:*

- \$50 each semester per 4-H member
- Classes on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays, hosted by Vet Tech or Mrs. Campbell. Classes begin January 2016.
- Vet tech will provide portion of required 500 work-hours and host relevant topics to Vet Science Program
- If vet tech is not available to conduct class on a specific day, time will be spent working on specific skills or going to TGR Exotics to work with animals and gain experience on skills from the checklist

- Access to videos/lessons online, provided by Harris County 4-H to registered participants in vet science programs, at no cost to 4-H members .
- Forum for vet science students to help each other complete textbook work weekly. Each participant must use their personal email address and NOT use a family or parent account.
- After completion of 100 lessons from textbook and 500 practice hours (expected to take 2-5 years, based on student's pace), schedule certification at [www.tvma.org.com](http://www.tvma.org.com). Current cost is \$125/exam.

#### Relevant Links

- Book: "Vet Science: Preparatory training for the Vet assistant" by Floron C. Faries. Purchase at: [www.agrilifebookstore.org](http://www.agrilifebookstore.org)
- Certified Veterinary Assistant Check List. Access at [www.tvma.org/certifications/cva](http://www.tvma.org/certifications/cva) under "For 4-H Programs"
- Volunteer for Experience: Opportunity at TGR Exotics. Located at 22115 Sherrod Ln, Spring, TX 77389. More information at [www.TGRexotics.com](http://www.TGRexotics.com)

If you are interested in participating, contact Mrs. Keri Campbell for additional information at [campbellclan6@gmail.com](mailto:campbellclan6@gmail.com) or [Tomball4H@gmail.com](mailto:Tomball4H@gmail.com)

## Communication

### Do You Have Important Information to Share with Members and Club Managers?

Harris County 4-H will publish a newsletter two times a year.

Deadlines for submission of content are below:

- **Spring issue: Mar. 31**
- **Summer issue: May 31**
- **Fall issue: Aug. 31**
- **Winter issue: Nov. 30**

If you have content that applies to everyone in the county, send it to Susan Caraway at [scaraway@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:scaraway@ag.tamu.edu) or Sheryl Nolen at [snolen@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:snolen@ag.tamu.edu)

## Opportunities

### Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Scholarship

Since 1957 the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (HLSR) has awarded \$150 million in scholarships to 15,500 students. Currently there are approximately 2,200 students on scholarships from HLSR.

We want **YOU** to apply if you are an eligible senior! This is an \$18,000 scholarship awarded over 4 years, and as a 4-H member you have multiple opportunities to apply for it. See below for the list of scholarships you are eligible for. [The DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 8, 2016!!!](#)

#### General Qualifications:

To be eligible for a Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship, an applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the United States and be a Texas resident
- Graduate from high school during the 2015-2016 school year
- Have made a formal application to enroll with intent to attend a Texas college or university and participate in a curriculum leading to a bachelor's degree.
- Have a score of 950 on SAT or 19 on ACT and be in top ¼ of graduating class.

Texas college must be Accredited by The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges. Scholarship is not able to be used at for-profit schools such as University of Phoenix, Culinary Institute of Houston, Art Institute, etc.



#### Scholarship Types:

- Metropolitan: Each accredited public senior high school is reserved a scholarship if applicants meet minimum score
- Hildebrand: Participated in Jr. Market Lamb Show
- Opportunity: Focuses on financial need, 900 on SAT or 18 on ACT, top ½ of graduating class
- Exhibitor: Must be exhibitor in current (2016) and one of three prior years.
- Technical: Awarded to student's pursuing an Associate's Degree or Certificate program in an approved technical field. Applicant must have participated in the HLSR Agricultural Mechanics Show and/or Tractor Technician Competition, scholarship is worth \$9,000. No SAT or ACT scored needed, school still must be non-profit (Houston Community College, LoneStar Community College and San Jacinto Community College) and accredited by SACS.
- Texas 4-H Scholarship: Students are required to submit applications directly to the program and must meet the qualifications set by the program and the Show.

If you have any questions about applying, please contact Marcus Glenn at [mglenn@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:mglenn@ag.tamu.edu).

*Harris County 4-H also invites you to visit our [Scholarship](#) page to learn more about how Texas 4-H Foundation also supports 4-Hers in their college journey. Find it in our general [Recognition portal](#).*

## Partnerships

### Cristo Rey High School Student Recounts Radio Internship Made Possible By 4-H

*(original youth article, edited for length and clarity)*



My name is Taylor Roberson and I am a senior at Cristo Rey Jesuit College Preparatory High School. This summer I was offered the opportunity through my school to participate in the

4-H Leadership Camp hosted by Texas AgriLife Extension Service. The leadership camp helped to broaden high school students' knowledge of the environmental sciences and career opportunities in the field. I learned about the importance of water conservation and various aspects of farming.

During the two day program, I met Mr. Mahaley, one of the Prairie View, Cooperative Extension 4-H agents; during our conversation I expressed my desire to pursue a career in media, journalism, radio, and lastly television, which is my passion. Who would have thought that I would actually have the opportunity to live out my dream before graduating from High School?

Unexpectedly, I received a call from Mr. Mahaley indicating he had arranged for me to be interviewed by Mr. Ralph Cooper on KCOH Radio 1230 AM, a show that is broadcasted to 20,000 listeners. I could hardly contain my excitement. I was "live" on air for the interview; what an exhilarating experience!

I was ecstatic when Mr. Cooper asked me to return the following week. Being "on air" feels like a second home - I know without a shadow of a doubt that I am destined for this career path. I believe this career path has chosen me and I would like to thank both Mr. Mahaley and Mr. Cooper, my mentors, for their dedication and support in helping me to hone my skills and talents.

***Harris County 4-H is currently working with Cristo Rey H.S. on a sustainable communities project focused on STEM education, food & nutrition and career prep. We look forward to continuing this partnership in support of our youth.***

*"Who would have thought that I would actually have the opportunity to live out my dream before graduating from High*

## Volunteers

### Hangout with Harris Co. 4-H at Our Google Hangout Trainings



## Google Hangouts

As part of an agency-wide attempt to utilize more technology to reach our county, and to cut down on the time you spend in a car coming to some of our trainings, Harris County 4-H is pleased to announce that we will now host many trainings through Google Hangouts.

These trainings will be accessible to all, even if you don't have a Google account, and will range in topics from financial review to leadership, and pretty much any other area that doesn't require you to physically attend a meeting.

So watch your email, Facebook, Twitter or Instagram to see when our Hangouts will be! The great thing about it is even if you can't Hangout with us, you don't have to miss anything - we'll archive those Hangouts for you to view at your leisure.

***Harris County 4-H invites you to get started by visiting <https://hangouts.google.com/>***