



# WHARTON COUNTY



# FAMILY HANDBOOK

2018-2019



# WELCOME



Dear Families,

**Welcome to the Wharton County 4-H Program.** 4-H is the youth development program of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Our purpose is to ensure that boys and girls receive the opportunity to learn, develop life skills, and form attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society.

The 4-H program has opportunities to offer both rural and urban youth. 4-H education, recreation, recognition, field trips, club as well as community activities help equalize opportunities and personal development of all young people.

4-H IS A FAMILY AFFAIR. A 4-H member selects various 4-H projects with the help of their parents. The parents then advise, counsel, and assist their child with the project.

No matter if you are a new 4-H Member or an “old pro,” this handbook is an essential element to your 4-H success.

If you have any questions, feel free to call the Extension Office, your club manager or project leader. We look forward to your participation in the Wharton County 4-H Program.

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION





# TABLE OF CONTENTS



<a href="#">Welcome</a>	Page 2
<a href="#">Contact</a>	Page 4
<a href="#">Club Contact</a>	Pages 5-8
<a href="#">About 4-H</a>	Pages 9-10
<a href="#">The 4-H Difference</a>	Page 11
<a href="#">Who's Who in 4-H</a>	Pages 12-14
<a href="#">4-H Enrollment</a>	Pages 15-16
<a href="#">Getting the Most Out of 4-H</a>	Page 17
<a href="#">4-H Projects</a>	Pages 18-22
<a href="#">4-H Recordbooks</a>	Page 23
<a href="#">4-H Opportunities</a>	Page 24
<a href="#">4-H Awards</a>	Page 25
<a href="#">4-H Scholarships</a>	Page 26
<a href="#">Major Livestock Shows</a>	Page 27
<a href="#">Quality Counts</a>	Page 28
<a href="#">Texas A&amp;M AgriLife Extension Wharton County</a>	Page 29



# CONTACT INFO



## WHARTON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

315 East Milam Street • Suite 112 • Wharton, TX 77488

Office: 979-532-3310 • Fax: 979-532-8863 • [agrilife.org/wharton4h](http://agrilife.org/wharton4h)

## WHARTON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE STAFF

Laura Reyna

County Extension Agent

4-H and Youth Development

[lereyna@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:lereyna@ag.tamu.edu)

Corrie Bowen

County Extension Agent

Agriculture and Natural Resources

[cbowen@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:cbowen@ag.tamu.edu)

Lori Schindler

County Extension Agent

Family and Consumer Sciences

[lori.schindler@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:lori.schindler@ag.tamu.edu)

Kate Harrell

Extension Agent

Wharton, Jackson, Matagorda

Integrated Pest Management

[kate.harrell@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:kate.harrell@ag.tamu.edu)

Kashara Bell

Extension Agent

Prairie View A&M University

Family and Consumer Sciences

[kashara.bell@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:kashara.bell@ag.tamu.edu)

Stacey Shanks

Administrative Assistant

[stacey.shanks@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:stacey.shanks@ag.tamu.edu)

## STAY CONNECTED

Wharton County is a member of District 11 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

<a href="https://www.facebook.com/whartoncounty4h">facebook.com/whartoncounty4h</a>	<a href="http://agrilife.org/wharton4h">agrilife.org/wharton4h</a>	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/wharton4h">Instagram: wharton4h</a>
Remind: text @wharton4h to 81010	District 11 4-H: <a href="http://d114-h.tamu.edu">d114-h.tamu.edu</a>	Texas 4-H: <a href="http://texas4-h.tamu.edu">texas4-h.tamu.edu</a>
4-H CONNECT: <a href="http://texas.4honline.com">texas.4honline.com</a>	State 4-H Conference Center: <a href="http://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu">texas4hcenter.tamu.edu</a>	

## WHARTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

County Judge.....Judge Phillip Spenrath  
 Commissioner, Precinct 1.....Richard Zahn  
 Commissioner, Precinct 2.....Chris King  
 Commissioner, Precinct 3.....Steven Goetsch  
 Commissioner, Precinct 4.....Doug Mathews



# COUNTY CLUB INFO



Regular Meeting Dates are subject to change.  
Please contact a club manager prior to attending your first club meeting.

## **BOLING COUNTRY 4-H**

Nicole Orsak

Phone: 979-532-8974

Email: [norsak@insurancenetusa.com](mailto:norsak@insurancenetusa.com)

Theresa Wittig

Phone: 979-657-2336

Email: [metalhearts06@gmail.com](mailto:metalhearts06@gmail.com)

Regular Meeting:

2nd Sunday of the month

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: Boling Community Center

## **BOLING KIDS 4-H**

Susan Joyce

Phone: 979-240-3525

Email: [susan.joyce@live.com](mailto:susan.joyce@live.com)

Regular Meeting:

1st Sunday of the month

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: Susan Joyce's House

## **EAST BERNARD 4-H**

Shannon Coldeway

Phone: 210-710-0520

Email: [shannon.coldeway@yahoo.com](mailto:shannon.coldeway@yahoo.com)

Regular Meeting:

2nd Sunday of the month

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Holy Cross Catholic Church

## **EAST BERNARD 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS**

Ryan Cavness

Phone: 281-541-1528

Email: [ryan.cavness@ebisd.org](mailto:ryan.cavness@ebisd.org)

Regular Meeting:

1st Sunday of the month

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: East Bernard Library



# COUNTY CLUB INFO



Regular Meeting Dates are subject to change.  
Please contact a club manager prior to attending your first club meeting.

## EAST BERNARD HELPING HANDS 4-H

Cheryl Failla

Phone: 979-533-0718

Email: [cherylf@wt.net](mailto:cherylf@wt.net)

Regular Meeting:

2nd Sunday of the month

Time: 3:30 p.m.

Location: Vincek's Smokehouse

## EL CAMPO COUNTRY KIDS 4-H

Laura Glaze

Phone: 979-541-6778

Email: [glazebackhoe@gmail.com](mailto:glazebackhoe@gmail.com)

Regular Meeting:

2nd Sunday of the month

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Taiton Community Center

## EL CAMPO JR-SR 4-H

Amanda Muller

Phone: 713-726-4127

Email: [amandamuller39@yahoo.com](mailto:amandamuller39@yahoo.com)

Regular Meeting:

2nd Sunday of the month

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Holy Cross Catholic Church

## EAST BERNARD 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS

Ryan Cavness

Phone: 281-541-1528

Email: [ryan.cavness@ebisd.org](mailto:ryan.cavness@ebisd.org)

Regular Meeting:

1st Monday of the month

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: First Baptist Church



# COUNTY CLUB INFO



Regular Meeting Dates are subject to change.  
Please contact a club manager prior to attending your first club meeting.

## EL CAMPO PRAIRIE SWITCH 4-H

Julia Evanicky

Phone: 979-541-7284

Email: [jaevani\\_62@yahoo.com](mailto:jaevani_62@yahoo.com)

Robert Leopold

Phone: 979-616-7601

Email: [leopold5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leopold5@sbcglobal.net)

Regular Meeting:

1st Sunday of the month

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Fredia Sutton Home

## ELM GROVE 4-H

Holli Mahalitc

Phone: 979-758-1330

Email: [mahalitc@att.net](mailto:mahalitc@att.net)

Regular Meeting:

1st Wednesday of the month

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Location: Mahalitc Barn

## FAITH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Leah Wittig

Phone: 979-453-0896

Email: [leahwittig@gmail.com](mailto:leahwittig@gmail.com)

Regular Meeting:

2nd Tuesday of the month

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Faith Christian Academy

## HILLJE-LOUISE 4-H

Michele Zahn

Phone: 979-332-9325

Email: [mlkzahn@att.net](mailto:mlkzahn@att.net)

Sara Weathers

Phone: 979-332-0710

Email: [sara\\_kasper02@yahoo.com](mailto:sara_kasper02@yahoo.com)

Regular Meeting:

2nd Tuesday of the month

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Wharton County Electric Coop



# COUNTY CLUB INFO



Regular Meeting Dates are subject to change.  
Please contact a club manager prior to attending your first club meeting.

## LISSIE PRAIRIE 4-H

Stephanie Guthman

Phone: 979-732-1479

Email: [Stephanie.guthman@ebisd.org](mailto:Stephanie.guthman@ebisd.org)

Regular Meeting:

2nd Wednesday of the month

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: United Methodist Church

## RIVER ROAD 4-H

Nora Chalue

Phone: 979-533-1856

Email: [nchalue@gmail.com](mailto:nchalue@gmail.com)

Nicole Snow

Phone: 979-253-4921

Email: [nikkisnow@gmail.com](mailto:nikkisnow@gmail.com)

Regular Meeting:

1st Thursday of the month

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: St. Paul Lutheran Church

## TAITON-JONES CREEK 4-H

Valerie Woodruff

Phone: 979-541-7999

Email: [valwoodruff@hotmail.com](mailto:valwoodruff@hotmail.com)

Regular Meeting:

1st Monday of the month

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Woodruff's Home

## WHARTON CANEY CREEK 4-H

Michelle Hancock

Phone: 281-814-1634

Email: [treymichellehancock@gmail.com](mailto:treymichellehancock@gmail.com)

Regular Meeting:

2nd Sunday of the month

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Fallen Leaf Farm

## WHARTON COUNTY OUTDOOR 4-H

Dawn Merta • Phone: 979-578-1241 • [dawnmerta@yahoo.com](mailto:dawnmerta@yahoo.com)

Megan Chisum • Phone: 361-524-0424 • Email: [solis\\_megan@yahoo.com](mailto:solis_megan@yahoo.com)

Regular Meeting: 2nd Monday • 6:30 p.m. • Northside Elementary Cafeteria





## THE 4-H CLOVER

The 4-H club emblem is a four-leaf clover with the letter “H” on each leaf. The four H’s stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health. Leaves of the clover are green and the H’s are white. The white is for purity and the green is nature’s most common color and is symbolic of youth, life and growth.

The four H’s represent the four-square development of:

### HEAD

To help you learn new and better ways of doing things

### HEART

To help you develop ideas and standards for living in society

### HANDS

To give you the opportunity to develop useful skills and to apply them

### HEALTH

To help you develop habits of good health

## THE MISSION OF 4-H

To prepare youth to meet the challenges of childhood, adolescence and adulthood through a coordinated, long-term, progressive series of educational experiences that enhance life skills and develop social, emotional, physical and cognitive competencies.

## OBJECTIVES OF 4-H

Acquire knowledge in agriculture, natural resources, family & consumer science, science and technology

Acquire positive self concepts

Respect and get along with people

Learn and practice leadership skills and fulfill leadership roles

Develop good health practices

Explore career and job opportunities

Plan productive use of leisure time

Plan for personal goals



# ABOUT 4-H



## 4-H CREED

I believe in 4-H for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my **HEAD** for the power it will give me to think, to plan and to reason.

I believe in the training of my **HEART** for the nobleness it will give me to become kind, sympathetic and true.

I believe in the training of my **HANDS** for the dignity it will give me to become useful, helpful and skillful.

I believe in the training of my **HEALTH** for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, resist disease and make for efficiency.

I believe in my country, my state and my community and my responsibility for their development.

In all these things, I believe and I am willing to dedicate my service to their fulfillment.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4-H CLUB OPENING</b></p> <p>At the beginning of club meetings and activities, the 4-H Club Motto and Pledge are recited. Sometimes the club recites the 4-H Club Prayer.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4-H PLEDGE</b></p> <p>I Pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, my HEART to greater loyalty, my HANDS to larger service, and my HEALTH to better living, for my club, my community, my country and my world</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4-H CLUB PRAYER</b></p> <p>Help me, O Lord, to live so that the world may be a little better place because Thou didst make me. Amen.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4-H MOTTO</b></p> <p>To Make the Best Better</p>

## ...MORE THAN JUST A CLUB

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. 4-H is about having fun, learning, exploring and discovering. In 4-H, young people make new friends, develop new skills, become leaders and help shape their communities.

More than 65,000 Texas youth are enrolled members of 4-H community clubs in Texas. Another 850,000 Texas youth get involved in 4-H through special educational opportunities at school, in after school programs, or at neighborhood or youth centers. These youth live in cities, suburbs, small towns and rural communities.

4-H gives them a chance to pursue their own interests—from photography to computers, from building rockets to raising cattle. They go places: to camp, to state and national conferences. They learn to be leaders and active citizens.

In 4-H clubs, they serve as officers and learn to conduct meetings, handle club funds and facilitate group decision making. They give back to their communities. 4-H members get involved in volunteer projects to protect the environment, mentor younger children and help people who are less fortunate.



# THE 4-H DIFFERENCE



## WHAT IS 4-H?

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills. Texas 4-H is like a club for kids and teens ages 5-18, and it's BIG! It's the largest youth development program in Texas with more than 550,000 youth each year. No matter where you live or what you like to do, Texas 4-H has something that lets you be a better you! Texas 4-H is part of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M System. 4-H's partners include the United States Department of Agriculture and local county governments. Founded in 1908, 4-H is the largest youth development program in Texas, reaching more than 550,000 youth each year.

## WHAT DO YOU DO IN 4-H?

The 4-H method is *"Learn by Doing."* Members complete learning experiences called 4-H projects. A project is a subject area of interest that the 4-H member wants to learn more about. There are more than 40 areas that are supported by project materials, but a member may also choose from other areas. Youth participate through local 4-H clubs. Clubs participate in community service projects, tour interesting places and learn interesting things. 4-H'ers learn leadership skills by planning club activities and by being officers in their clubs. Older 4-H members act as teen leaders, assisting adult volunteers with projects and activities for younger members. 4-H members also attend camps, contests and conferences at the county, district, state and national levels.

## WHAT DOES A 4-H CLUB DO?

When you join 4-H, you pick a 4-H club. It elects its own officers and conducts its own business. The club group usually has a president, vice president(s), secretary, treasurer, reporter and may have a historian or parliamentarian. The club has a business meeting on a regular basis and makes plans for activities. In addition, each meeting usually includes some kind of special educational program. The special program can be demonstrations by members, talks by members, parents or resource person(s), or anything else that interests the group. In this member guide is a listing of the Wharton County 4-H clubs, their club managers and assistants, meeting dates, times and places. Refer to this list for a club located near you or for one of the project clubs that might interest you. You are allowed to only be in one community club and as many project clubs as you want.

## 4-H NEWSLETTER

With over 300 4-H'ers, the Wharton County 4-H Chronicle (newsletter) is the number one communication between all 4-H'ers and parents and the County Extension Office. It is the responsibility of the 4-H'er to read the newsletter, which is out quarterly. The newsletter contains important information about upcoming events, 4-H news, and deadlines. The Wharton County 4-H Chronicle is available on our website (<http://agriflife.org/wharton4h>). Newsletters are emailed to all members with the current email on file in 4-H CONNECT.

## 4-H WEEKLY UPDATES

Weekly updates are also emailed to 4-H members with weekly dates from the newsletter and any new dates.



# WHO'S WHO IN 4-H



## COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

County Extension Agents have the responsibility for oversight of the 4-H and Youth Development Program in their assigned counties. This includes the following responsibilities:

- Charter county 4-H membership/organizations (i.e. 4-H Council, volunteer/parent groups, committees, etc.) annually. Chartering includes the permission to use the 4-H name and emblem.
- Provide opportunities for all youth who have reached the appropriate age to be participants and/or members in the 4-H and Youth Development Program.
- Plan and coordinate the county 4-H program.
- Staff the 4-H clubs/units utilizing volunteers with the assistance of the volunteer/parent leadership and youth leadership.
- Assist the volunteer/parent leadership and youth leadership in providing in-service education and resources for all 4-H volunteers in the county.
- Explain 4-H policies and procedures.
- Ensure that a quality 4-H educational program is conducted in the county.
- Inform 4-H volunteers and members about opportunities at county, district, state, national and international levels.
- Expect to conduct themselves as good role models for youth both public and private.

## 4-H VOLUNTEER

4-H is a non-formal educational program delivered by volunteers who are trained and supervised by County Extension Agents. A 4-H Volunteer Leader is a person who is responsible for a group, activity, or event, and the members and/or other volunteers involved. There are two major roles adults may assume in 4-H: 1) Direct Volunteers, or 2) Indirect volunteers.

It is the responsibility of the 4-H volunteer to carry out the assigned position responsibilities that they have accepted. 4-H volunteers are expected to conduct themselves as good examples for youth in both public and private life. This includes appropriate dress code, correct use of language, and moral conduct in accordance with the generally recognized standards of our society. It should be understood by the volunteers that they are expected to participate



# WHO'S WHO IN 4-H



## PARENT AND ADULT LEADERS ASSOCIATION

A committee of 4-H club managers, parents and volunteer leaders. This committee is responsible for reviewing the overall youth situation in the county and making recommendations and developing plans for addressing youth issues through educational programming efforts.

## COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

A group of 4-H members who represent the community clubs, school clubs, or special interest projects on a county basis. County 4-H Council assists with developing and coordinating county projects and events. Presidents of council delegates from each club as well as elected officers make up the council. All members are invited to meetings.

## COUNCIL DELEGATE

A youth elected as a representative for their club on the county level during County Council meetings. Each club is allotted two spots for Council delegates.

## CLUB MANAGER

A 4-H club manager provides guidance in the general art of leadership and management to a 4-H club unit. A 4-H club manager involves 4-H officers, parents, leaders, and members in promoting the goals of 4-H and serves as the contact person between the club and the County Extension Office.

## CLUB OFFICER

The 4-H club officers are elected by the club each year and have the responsibility of planning, implementing, and evaluating all club meetings and activities. Working with club managers, they form an executive committee to give overall guidance to the club.

## CLOVER KID

4-H Clover Kids are youth in grades K-2. As an affiliated group, youth enrolled as 4-H Clover Kids have activities and programs suitable for their age group. To advance their learning and competitive skills, Clover Kids are able to participate in activities, recognition programs, and competitive events only to receive a *“Participation”* award. Clover Kids are **not eligible** to serve as club and county officers.



# WHO'S WHO IN 4-H



## PROJECT LEADER

The 4-H project leader provides structured learning experiences and personal guidance and counseling in project-related opportunities for the 4-H members enrolled in the project group.

## ACTIVITY LEADER

Activity leaders work closely with club managers. They are responsible for one or more activity areas in the 4-H club. This will be a non-project area. Some examples of activity leaders are: New member/family coordinator, method demonstration leader, recordbook leader, judging leader, field trip coordinator, committee advisor, and community service leader.

## PARENTS

Parents provide support and guidance to members and see that members attend meetings/activities and complete responsibilities. Parents should attend as many activities as possible and assist with one or more 4-H events. Good youth development programs do not just happen. It takes a combined effort of parents and volunteers along with guidance of Extension youth development professionals to establish a good 4-H program. 4-H is a family activity. There is something for everyone. 4-H can provide an extended family, a network of positive adult and older teen role models to help provide a positive environment in which their child can grow and develop.



# JOIN THE CLUB



# 4-H ENROLLMENT



## 4-H ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES

It is the policy of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to extend equal opportunities for membership and participation in 4-H activities to all Texas youth in accordance with the provisions stated within all federal/state Equal Rights legislation provided that the membership requirements listed below are met.

### 4-H AGE GUIDELINES

Members are divided into four age groups. Age is calculated as of August 31, 2018, and identifies the member throughout the year.

<p><b>CLOVER KID</b> Kindergarten (age 5) to 2nd grade</p> <p><b>JUNIOR</b> Grades 3, 4, 5</p> <p><b>INTERMEDIATE</b> Grades 6, 7, 8</p> <p><b>SENIOR</b> Grades 9, 10, 11, 12</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

### 4-H ENROLLMENT

The 4-H year begins each September 1. Enrollments become “Inactive” at the conclusion of each year (August 31) and must be reactivated. ALL 4-H members must be officially enrolled (in an “Active” status on [4-H CONNECT](#)) to be considered an official 4-H member. No excused absences can be requested for any youth who is not enrolled in the official 4-H enrollment system ([4-H CONNECT](#)).

Enrollment can be completed online through the 4-H CONNECT enrollment program at:

<https://texas.4honline.com>

### PARTICIPATION FEE:\*

Members must re-enroll each year and pay the Participation Fee in order to participate in the 4-H program, Wharton County Youth Fair and major livestock shows.

\$20/member, if enrolled before Oct. 31  
\$25/member, if enrolled after Oct. 31

**\*Clover Kids (Kindergarten [age 5] through 2nd grade are not charge the Participation Fee, but still need to enroll through the 4-H CONNECT enrollment program.**

### ADULT VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT

Adult Volunteers help provide transportation to meetings and camps, assist with meetings and project groups, as well as many other duties. Each Club has a Club Manager who work with the Club Officers, Adult Volunteers and Members to make the most of the 4-H experience.

All adults who volunteer in the 4-H program must complete an enrollment through 4-H CONNECT, just as any 4-H Member does. Adult volunteers are assessed an annual \$10 volunteer application fee. This fee pays for the volunteer screening. Screenings are conducted every three years, though the \$10 volunteer application fee will be assessed annually.

Once the volunteer’s profile becomes active, a volunteer certificate will be accessible via download in [4-H CONNECT](#). Enrollment is completed online and processing fees paid through [4-H CONNECT](#) enrollment program at <https://texas.4honline.com>



# 4-H ENROLLMENT



## ENROLLING IN 4-H

To enroll in a Texas 4-H Club, you must register online using the 4-H CONNECT management system. You will need a computer, internet access and Mozilla Firefox web browser.

### NEW MEMBERS

1. Open your Mozilla Firefox internet browser. If you do not have Mozilla, please download it free from [www.mozilla.com](http://www.mozilla.com)
2. Go to <https://texas.4honline.com>
3. Click "I need to setup a profile".
4. Select your county from the drop down menu.
5. Fill in the fields marked Email, Confirm Email, and Last Name and create a password you will remember.
6. Select "Family" on the Role drop down menu.
7. Click "Create Login".
8. Follow the on-screen prompts to register your family and all family members involved in a 4-H club as a member or volunteer (including adults). Fields marked in bold are required.
9. Register each member in all projects or groups they participate in or wish to join in the future.
10. If you are a youth, your registration will be submitted to your county extension office, where an agent will review your application. If you have to make any corrections, they will contact you by email. Once complete and correct, the agent will approve your enrollment.

**TIP: Do not hit your browser's "Back" button while within the 4-H CONNECT system!!**

**Questions about 4-H CONNECT? Contact your club manager, County Extension Office at 979-532-3310 or visit the help page on the State 4-H website.**

### PREVIOUS MEMBERS

1. Click "Login to 4-H CONNECT"
2. Click the "EDIT" button beside each youth/adult profile, review all information for correct data, select projects, activities, and leadership roles and click ENROLL FOR 2018-2019.
3. THEN, you will go through each screen of the person you are enrolling. Please check and be sure the information is complete and click "Continue" on each screen until you get to the last screen.
4. If you have reviewed everything and all is updated and correct, please click SUBMIT ENROLLMENT and then wait on our office to accept your enrollment.

### PARENTS COMPLETE ENROLLMENT

SAME AS ABOVE, EXCEPT AS NOTED IN #10

10. If you are an adult volunteer, your registration will be sent to the Youth Protection Standards Office for screening if you have not been screened, or are due for your three year review. Once you are screened and approved, your registration will be returned to your county extension office, where an agent will review and accept your application.

*As a member or leader, you need to get involved in your local club; attend monthly meetings; volunteer for committees, and stay informed of what is going on in your club. Learn what is going on throughout the County, District and State by reading the Wharton County 4-H Newsletters and visit our website at <https://aqrilife.org/wharton4h>.*





## GET INVOLVED

As a 4-H Member or Adult Volunteer, you will be involved in a local 4-H club, attend monthly meetings, volunteer for committees and stay informed of what is going on in your club. Learn what is going on through the County, District and State by reading the 4-H Family Handbook, 4-H Newsletters, 4-H newspaper articles and the Wharton County 4-H website at <https://agrilife.org/wharton4h>

## START A PROJECT

During enrollment, 4-H members are asked to select project of interest. When you start your 4-H experience, you may want to select one or two projects. The more years you are in 4-H, the more projects you can usually handle.

4-H projects can be conducted throughout the 4-H year (Sep 1—Aug 31). Certain projects have special activities or contests, so you need to begin some projects at specific times during the year. After you select your projects, contact your Club Manager or the Wharton County Extension Office for assistance.

Project flyers, giving details on project objectives and resources are available online at:

<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/publications#projects>

## COMPLETE A PROJECT

After you have selected a project, you are ready to start gaining information and having fun learning about your project. In 4-H, you are asked to do a minimum of six learning experiences to complete a project.

**LEARNING EXPERIENCES** vary from project to project, such as: project meetings with other 4-Hers and Adult Volunteers; going on tours; attending workshops; reading publications or surfing the Internet.

Many 4Hers work on the project with their parents, grandparents or other family members, while other

4-Hers work on projects with a group of friends.

Working through a project from start to finish helps a 4-H member gain skills in carrying out responsibilities, as well as setting and completing goals.

## KEEP RECORDS

Whenever you spend time working on a project, record your progress. Take notes on the things you learn as well as track your progress with photographs.

Wharton County 4-Hers have the opportunity to complete a record book for recognition at the Annual Awards Banquet, held in August, and to be considered for the Gold Star, Silver Star, Bronze Star and the I Dare You Awards.

## SHARE INFORMATION

As a 4-H member, you learn to share with others the information you have gained through your project experience. This is called LEADERSHIP.

The more years you are involved in a project, the more you will have to share with others. Also, serving as a club officer or a committee member will help increase your leadership skills.

## HELP OTHERS

The 4-H experience includes helping others. We call our 4-H help, COMMUNITY SERVICE. It is a way to give something back to the community for the continued support of the 4-H program. Community Service is something that you do for a non-4-H audience without pay or compensation.



# 4-H PROJECTS



## WHY PROJECTS

Projects are one of the teaching tools that help youth develop positive life skills and knowledge about a topic. It is essential to recognize that although the focus of a project may appear to be subject-matter knowledge, the development of the individual is the most important purpose of 4-H.

## WHAT IS A PROJECT?

Projects are a series of hands-on experiences where members are actively involved in learning, both subject matter and personal development skills, such as decision making, communication, problem solving, teamwork, etc. And of course, they are designed to be FUN.

4-H members participate in projects where they are asked to accomplish a task, make something, develop a skill, raise and/or train an animal, among others. To complete a project, a 4-H member should have a minimum of six learning experiences. This can include individual study or group activities, such as tours, workshops and project meetings; anywhere that skills and knowledge are gained.

Over 50 project areas provide an array of educational experiences. Most projects have several phases so that a member may advance to more difficult and challenging activities as they develop their knowledge and skills.

## WHAT ARE PROJECTS DESIGNED TO DO?

- Create a sense of ownership
- Give a feeling of achievement
- Strengthen family and community ties
- Provide members the opportunity to:
  - Learn project skills
  - Develop and understand project knowledge
  - Develop good attitudes
  - Assume responsibility

- Participate in healthful competition
- Make meaningful decisions

Provide leisure-time activities

Encourage members to explore career opportunities and discover what educational training they require. Through these experiences, members get a taste for the work and responsibilities involved in a field.

## MAJOR PROJECTS IN WHARTON COUNTY

- Beef
- Clothing and Textiles
- Consumer Decision Making
- Dairy Cattle
- Entomology
- Food and Nutrition
- Goats
- Horse
- Judging (Livestock, Horse, Dairy)
- Leadership
- Photography
- Poultry
- Public Speaking
- Rabbits
- Recordbooks
- Sheep
- Shooting Sports
- Swine



# 4-H PROJECTS



## THINGS TO CONSIDER:

Does the project meet the needs and interests of your child?

Is the project appropriate based on the age and ability (physical and mental) of your child? Will it challenge them educationally?

How much time does your child have and how much time does the project require? During which season of the year will most of the project activities be accomplished?

Is the project acceptable to you as parents and does it fit into your family's needs and situation?

How much will the project cost?

Is adequate space and equipment available at home?

What are the opportunities for youth to learn about owning and managing resources related to the project?

Does your club have a volunteer to help with the project? Are you willing to become a project volunteer if necessary?

## HOW ARE PROJECTS ACCOMPLISHED?

Local club project meetings

Demonstrations/talks at club meetings

Tours

Family activities or work at home

Exhibiting at shows or fairs

Record keeping

## 4-H ACTIVITIES

A 4-H activity is when you participate in an event or contest. Here are some of the major activities:

Ag Product ID

Beef Quiz Bowl

Consumer Decision Making

Duds to Dazzle

Educational Presentation

Entomology ID

Fashion Show

Fashion Storyboard

Food Show

Food Challenge

Horse Show

Judging Contests

Leaders 4 Life

Livestock Show

Performing Arts

Photography Contest

Public Speaking Contests

Quiz Bowls

Share the Fun

Shooting Sports Contests



# 4-H PROJECTS



## ANIMAL PROJECTS

All animal project exhibitors need to review rules for the specific livestock shows they plan to enter. Rules can vary between shows. Extension Agents are available to assist in your project management throughout the year. Contact the Extension Office to schedule a site visit.

Livestock projects involve raising and caring for live animals while learning about animal health, nutrition, breeding, selection and marketing. The livestock project offers outstanding opportunities for individuals to gain experience in decision making, record keeping, responsibility, sportsmanship and leadership.

## CLOTHING AND TEXTILES

For those participating in Clothing and Textiles, the 4-H member will complete six learning experiences with the assistance of club leaders and/or parents. These experiences can be completed in project group meetings or individual study.

You do not have to sew to complete the project. 4-Hers can select experiences to fit their needs, such as buying ready-to-wear, wardrobe planning, clothing construction, wardrobe care, modeling, grooming, fibers and much more. They can also choose to sew in addition to other experiences. The experiences prepare 4-Hers for project activities.

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES: FASHION SHOW

In the spring, the fashion show allows members to show off their skills. The 4-H member can either

Construct a garment or select a ready-to-wear outfit to model. Participants submit information about their selection prior to the show. During the show, the judges ask questions related to the project experiences.

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES: FASHION STORYBOARD

The 4-H Fashion Storyboard is an industry-inspired method of displaying original designs. The best storyboards create vivid visual images that are interesting and appealing to viewers. The storyboard “tells the story” of the designer’s idea. The storyboard includes original illustrations and flats, as well as additional materials (such as photos from the Internet or magazines, paper, fabric swatches, patterns, etc.) that have influenced the unique design.

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES: DUDS TO DAZZLE

Duds to Dazzle Contest is a unique opportunity for agents, parents, volunteers and youth to participate in and voice their opinion in the development of a new contest. The 4-H Duds to Dazzle contest brings fun, learning, application of knowledge and skills, and group competition together at one event. The Texas 4-H Duds to Dazzle Clothing & Textiles Competition utilizes the knowledge and skills learned in the project, while increasing awareness of the impact of the clothing & textiles industry on the environment, specifically the waste stream. In the competition, teams of 4-H members will re-design and repurpose discarded garments.



# 4-H PROJECTS



## CONSUMER EDUCATION

Everyone is a consumer. We all must make purchases to satisfy basic needs like food, clothing and shelter. The Consumer Education project helps youth learn to make the right choices when shopping and managing money.

This project teaches decision making and buying skills needed to become an informed consumer. Youth learn valuable skills for analyzing, advertising, developing personal budgets and investing money. Every choice makes a difference in a person's financial future.

The Consumer Education project helps youth gain the knowledge and skills to become successful and satisfied consumers.

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

#### CONSUMER DECISION MAKING CONTEST

The Consumer Decision Making (CDM) Contest is a competitive judging event which enables 4-Hers to practice making shopping decisions. Participants learn to identify and utilize relevant information.

## EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Educational Presentation and Public Speaking project develops and promotes the skills needed to research, organize and present a speech on a given topic. In addition, participants will acquire knowledge to be pleasing in manner and appearance, while gaining the ability to speak convincingly in public.

A 4-H member will have many opportunities to make speeches. These challenging occasions will help 4-Hers to develop communication skills they will use throughout their life. Effective speakers are not necessarily polished or perfect. Instead, they are energetic, direct and warm human beings who are knowledgeable about their subject matter and area involved with their audiences. Good speakers are not born, they are developed. Each presentation should be a learning experience.

Educational presentations and Public Speaking can be done in many different areas. Categories are updated from year-to-year. The best way to see all the categories, along with detailed rules related to each is to refer to the current Texas 4-H Roundup Guide

<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/roundup>



# 4-H PROJECTS



## HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

In the Food and Nutrition Project, 4-Hers complete six learning experiences pertaining to food and nutrition, learning about nutrition, food choices, menu planning, food preparation, buying, food safety, careers, cultural influences and much more.

These experiences can be completed in Project Group meetings or in individual study with parents and leaders. The experiences prepare the 4-Hers for project activities.

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES: FOOD CHALLENGE

The 4-H Food Challenge is a contest that allows the 4-H members to demonstrate their culinary knowledge and skills. From a set of predetermined ingredients provided, teams of 3 to 5 4-H members must develop a recipe and prepare the dish within 40 minutes. Teams then make a presentation to a judging panel, explaining the preparation steps, serving size, food safety concerns, nutrition value and cost of the dish.

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES: FOOD SHOW

The Food Show offers 4-H members an opportunity to show off skills and knowledge gained in the Food and Nutrition Project. 4-Hers submit their recipe and project information sheet prior to the Show.

For the Show, each participant prepares a dish at home and brings it to the contest. During the judging, 4-Hers are asked questions on nutrition, food preparation and meal planning.

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES: FOOD & NUTRITION QUIZ BOWL

The Food & Nutrition Quiz Bowl involves teams of 3 to 4 4-H members which compete against other District teams by answering questions on Food and Nutrition project topics. All team members must be in the same age group.

## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The Texas 4-H Photography contest encourages self-expression and allows youth to demonstrate skills learned in the area of photography, including the use of photographic equipment and process of photographs. Members have an opportunity to show off their talents in County, District and State 4-H Photography contests. Entries for District and State are submitted online through 4-H CONNECT.

Contest rules allow each County to enter one picture per category. Categories can change from year to year. Details are available online at:

[https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/photography\\_contest](https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/photography_contest)

## SHARE THE FUN CONTEST

Individuals or groups, through the use of their talents and creativity, have the opportunity to develop a spirit of cooperation through working together or develop self-confidence through public appearance. Share the Fun will stimulate interest and encourage a broad-based recreation program at both the Club and County level, while encouraging 4-H members to discover and develop their talents. Categories include: Celebrate 4-H, Choreographed Routines, Dramedy, Musical/Instrumental, Poetry/Prose, Vocal, Band/Solo



# 4-H RECORDBOOKS



Record keeping is a very valuable skill taught to members of the 4-H program. Members are encourage to keep project records and have these records reviewed annually by submitting a Texas 4-H Recordbook.

The primary purpose of completing a recordbook is for a young person to develop the skills necessary to set goals, work toward achieving those goals, reflect on their experiences, and set new and higher goals for themselves.

The secondary benefit is to prepare young people for the process of completing quality academic scholarship applications.

The completed 4-H Recordbook must be submitted to the Wharton County Extension Office in early June. Each 4-Her submitting a Recordbook at the County level are recognized at the Annual Awards Banquet in August.

First place books in each age division will advance to District level competition. Senior 4-Hers who place first in District will advance to the State Recordbook competition.

Guidelines for the Recordbook, plus all the required forms, are available online at the State 4-H website:

<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/recordbooks>

Also, remember to take pictures from start to finish on your projects so you will have a picture story for your books.

## RECORDBOOK CATEGORIES

---

Agricultural Sciences	Goat	Rabbit
Beef	Health & Personal Safety	Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics
Citizenship & Civic Education	Horse	Sheep
Dog Care & Training	Leadership	Shooting Sports
Consumer Education	Natural Resources	Swine
Entomology	Photography	Theatre & Performance Arts
Fashion & Interior Design	Plant & Soil Science	Veterinary Science
Food & Nutrition	Poultry	
Gardening & Horticulture	Public Speaking	



## STATE 4-H OPPORTUNITIES

### TEXAS 4-H ROUNDUP

For members 11 and older (Intermediates and Seniors). Roundup provides developmental experiences, which build on knowledge, skills and attitudes gained through local 4-H activities. Most contests are only open for senior age levels and 4-Hers must qualify at a District 4-H contest. Contests for Intermediates are invitational contests and does not require qualification at District level. State contests are held in June at Texas A&M University in College Station.

### TEXAS 4-H CONGRESS

This mock legislative educational event is held in Austin in even-numbered years. During the week-long program, Senior 4-H youth experience the legislative process first hand. By role-playing senators, representatives, lobbyists and press corps members, youth are exposed to the full political scene. Activities range from debating bills in the actual Texas Legislature chambers to socializing with advocates and opponents at evening receptions. Youth return to their communities with a better understanding of how our state government works. Information is sent to County Extension Offices in the fall preceding the event year. Congress happens on even years.

---

## NATIONAL 4-H OPPORTUNITIES

### NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS

This educational program for senior 4-H members is designed to teach participants the citizen's political approach to community action for youth. In addition, youth delegates participate in programs that focus on citizenship, leadership and communication. Youth between the ages of 14 and 18 on August 31 of the year attending are eligible to apply for Congress. Also, delegates must be participating in youth development programs in which Extension is a partner (4-H clubs, special interest groups, school curriculum enrichment). Information and application forms are sent to each county office in March. Applications are due in May and finalists are interviewed in late May or early June. Opportunities for senior 4-Hers to interact with members from across the nation in learning experiences. Texas' National 4-H Congress website is <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/natcongress>

### NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE

This week-long event held at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland, involves youth, volunteers and staff in determining 4-H program directions at all levels. Participants are involved in an array of operations committees, consulting groups, pre/post conference commitments and obligations. Participants are representatives of their county, district and state constituency and are expected to add to discussion in an effort to gain input from all levels of involvement.





# 4-H AWARDS



The Wharton County 4-H Council and Parent and Adult Leaders Association host the Annual 4-H Awards Banquet. 4-Hers are recognized for their 4-H participation during the previous year. It is also a way to promote the variety of opportunities in 4-H and to recognize more 4-H members.

## I DARE YOU AWARD

The *I Dare You Award* is offered in recognition of excellence in character and well-balanced personal development, as well as demonstrated leadership of Senior 4-Hers. In August of each year, Senior 4-Hers who have timely completed recordbooks will receive applications for the award.

## GOLD STAR AWARD

The *Gold Star Award* is the highest County achievement award and is intended to be received only once in a member's 4-H career. Counties receive an award quota based on the number of Senior 4-H members.

## SILVER STAR AWARD

The *Silver Star Award* is the highest County achievement award given to a member in the Intermediate Division and is intended to be received only once in a member's 4-H career. Counties receive an award quota based on the number of Intermediate 4-H members

## BRONZE STAR AWARD

The *Bronze Star Award* is the highest County achievement award given to a Junior Division 4-H member and is intended to be received only once in a member's 4-H career. Counties receive an award quota based on the number of Junior 4-H members.

For more information about the Star Awards, visit our website at [agriflife.org/wharton4h](http://agriflife.org/wharton4h)

## DISTINGUISHED 4-H ADULT LEADER AWARD

Nominees are judged on their leadership contribution to the 4-H program as a whole, as well as to the success of the club in which he/she is a leader. Leadership participation in non-4-H activities such as civic, youth, public, church and school activities will also be taken into consideration. One leader will be selected each year and will receive recognition at the 4-H Awards Banquet.

## 4-H ALUMNI AWARD

The Alumni Award is given to individuals who have completed a highly successful 4-H career, who have distinguished themselves in service to others and have continued to help with the 4-H program and have specified the amount of years as a former 4-Her. A maximum of one alumnus will be selected.

## FRIEND OF 4-H AWARD

The Wharton County Friend of 4-H Award is presented to an individual or organization that has contributed time, money and effort to 4-H club work in Wharton County. This award is not for adult leaders or employees of the County Extension Office. The number of recipients of this award varies each year depending on the applications.



# 4-H SCHOLARSHIPS



## TEXAS 4-H OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

Texas 4-H Youth Development Program Opportunity Scholarships are academic scholarships awarded each year to applicants based on their academic record, 4-H experience, and financial need (for scholarships for which it is a required criterion). The Texas 4-H Youth Development Opportunity Scholarship Program is conducted by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation. All applications must be submitted through the applicant's county Extension office and meet all criteria to be considered. For more information visit the Texas 4-H Website:

<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/scholarships>

## TEXAS EXTENSION EDUCATION ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is for high school seniors who have been involved in 4-H for at least 4 years, have shown leadership and personal development, plan to get a college or vocational degree, and have not passed their 19th birthday by January 1 of the current application year. Applications are submitted to your County AgriLife Extension Office. For more information visit:

<https://teea.tamu.edu/teea-forms/>

## WHARTON COUNTY EXTENSION EDUCATION ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Wharton County EEA decided in 1985 to show its support of the Wharton County 4-H Program by presenting a \$400 scholarship to an outstanding 4-H member. Applicants are judged on their 4-H participation, academic achievement, citizenship, leadership and experiences in school, church and community. They must be seniors in one of five county high schools or home schooled in Wharton County. They must have been active members of 4-H for at least four years and must be in the top 50% of their graduating class at the beginning of the second semester of their senior year. Applications are due to the county Extension office in March. For more information, visit the county 4-H website at <https://agrilife.org/wharton4h>

**FOR MORE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION AND  
OPPORTUNITIES, VISIT**

[HTTPS://TEXAS4-H.TAMU.EDU/SCHOLARSHIPS](https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/scholarships)



# MAJOR LIVESTOCK SHOWS



Major livestock show projects of steers, heifers, market lambs, market goats and swine must be validated and ear-tagged in the months of June, October and November. Ear tags for the major shows must be ordered prior to tagging dates. Market poultry orders are due in August for major livestock shows.

Watch the 4-H newsletter and 4-H newspaper articles for information and updates regarding tag order dates and validation dates.

### Major Show Entry Night

Major Show Entry Night, held at the Extension Office, is an opportunity for 4-H families to complete entry forms for major livestock shows. Changes to show rules and schedules will be discussed. A Notary Public will be on hand.

**NOVEMBER 5, 2018—4:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

### Each exhibitor must have:

- Current 4-H Enrollment
- Quality Counts Verification Number

Review the website for each livestock show for possible changes in rules, requirements and schedule for the 2018-2019 show year.

The 4-H member is responsible for qualifying under the show rules.

At Major Show Entry Night, entry forms, summary sheets and fee schedules will be available for the following livestock show:

- Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo
- Rodeo Austin
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
- San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo
- San Angelo Livestock Show and Rodeo
- Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show



**Quality Counts** verification will be required for all youth exhibiting livestock (market and/or breeding) at major livestock shows in Texas , including:

- Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo
- Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
- San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo
- San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo
- Rodeo Austin
- State Fair of Texas
- Heart O'Texas Fair and Rodeo
- Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show



# MAJOR LIVESTOCK SHOWS



The **Quality Counts** verification process requires junior exhibitors to pass an online test that measures their knowledge on quality assurance and character education content items.

The **Quality Counts** program has now been in existence statewide for several years. Over this time, it has reached an average of 30,000 youth per year through the 4-H and FFA programs. The program outcomes clearly demonstrate youth being more knowledgeable of best management practices associated with livestock projects. More importantly, the program's impact has demonstrated positive changes in personal character attributes as well as adoption of livestock best management practices.

Over these many years, **Quality Counts** has been supported and endorsed by every major livestock show in Texas. These livestock shows have been instrumental in helping market the program statewide and have also been a strong partner regarding the educational content

developed for the **Quality Counts** program. In addition, these livestock shows have fully endorsed this verification process.

Youth are able to go online to take the test and become verified. A verification number will need to be provided at the time of making an official entry into a Texas major livestock show. Thus, youth will need to have completed and passed the test before the major livestock show's entry deadline. A passing score has been determined to be 80%.

Youth educators and the major livestock shows in Texas believe strongly in **Quality Counts**. Collectively, they are confident that this significant step of requiring youth to be "Quality Counts Verified" will strengthen and enhance the youth livestock program in Texas.

For more information, please contact the Extension Office. To learn more about **Quality Counts** please visit: <http://agrillife.org/qualitycounts>.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### ***How often must I be "verified"?***

Exhibitors need to be verified once as a junior, once as an intermediate, and once again as a senior.

### ***How do I become verified?***

Pass the online test with 80% correct answers (8 out of 10)

### ***How many times can I take the test?***

As many times as necessary to achieve an 80% score

### ***What happens when I pass the test?***

You are given a Quality Counts verification number.

### ***How do I learn the material needed to pass the test?***

You will be required to watch a training video prior to taking the test.

### ***Will Quality Counts Verification be needed for Breeding Entries?***

Yes. Quality Counts Verification will be needed for all Junior Livestock Show entries at Major shows.

### ***Can someone else use my number?***

No. The number is tied back to your name in the database available to stock shows and County Extension Agents. When the number is entered into the system, only your name appears.

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

## WHARTON COUNTY

315 E. Milam St. • Suite 112

Wharton, TX 77488

Office: 979-532-3310 • Fax: 979-532-8863

[wharton.agrilife.org](http://wharton.agrilife.org)

## LAURA REYNA

County Extension Agent  
4-H and Youth Development

## CORRIE BOWEN

County Extension Agent  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

## LORI SCHINDLER

County Extension Agent  
Family & Consumer Sciences

## KASHARA BELL

Cooperative Extension Agent  
Prairie View A&M University  
Family & Consumer Sciences

## KATE HARRELL

Extension Agent  
Jackson, Matagorda & Wharton Counties  
Integrated Pest Management



## Our Vision

Help Texans better their lives

## Our Mission

Through the application of science-based knowledge, we create high-quality, relevant continuing education that encourages lasting and effective change

## What We Do

We provide programs, tools and resources—local and statewide—that teach people how to improve agriculture and food production, advance health practices, protect the environment, strengthen our communities, and enrich youth.

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating