

WHARTON COUNTY 4-H



AWARDS HANDBOOK



WHARTON COUNTY 4-H

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Section 1: Objectives, Mission, Membership.....</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Section 2: Wharton County 4-H Awards Banquet.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Section 3: Competitive and Invitational Events</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Section 4: Recordbooks</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Section 5: Awards Overview.....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Section 6: Gold Star/I Dare You Award</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Section 7: Silver Star Award</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Section 8: Bronze Star Award</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Section 9: Leader and Friend of 4-H Recognition</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Section 10: Scholarships.....</u>	<u>18</u>



SECTION 1

Objective of the Wharton County 4-H Awards Program

The Wharton County 4-H Awards Program is designed to recognize the accomplishments of 4-H members for their project work, leadership skills, personal growth and development, and participation in various 4-H sponsored activities. Award and recognition programs inspire and motivate 4-Hers through the learn by doing process.

The Wharton County 4-H Awards Program is coordinated in conjunction with the Texas 4-H Awards Program and the National 4-H Awards Program. All three groups (county, state and national) provide donors or funds for various scholarships, trips, medals and other awards. Wharton County 4-H Parent and Adult Leaders Association oversees the awards and reserve the right to solicit nominations for any award in which there is a lack of nominations on the due date. All of these awards are due in early June of each year.

The following basic skill objectives apply to all of the 4-H Award Programs:

1. Develop leadership skills, build character and assume citizenship responsibilities.
2. Explore career, job and productive leisure opportunities.
3. Develop skills, knowledge and attitudes for life-long use.
4. Learn to use accepted practices for mental, physical and emotional health and to respect yourself and others
5. Share knowledge gained with others.

4-H Mission

To offer participants opportunities to acquire knowledge, to develop life skills and to form attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society.

4-H Membership

The policy of the Texas Cooperative Extension is to extend equal opportunities for membership and participation in 4-H activities to all Texas youth regardless of race, color, sex, religion, disability, age or national origin. This is done according to the provisions stated within any or all federal or state Equal Rights legislation, provided they meet the minimum requirements for membership indicated below:

A youth must enroll in one or more 4-H projects.

A member participates in 4-H by belonging to a 4-H membership unit in the county where he or she resides.

Any youth can become a member of 4-H when he or she has entered the third grade. A youth's last year in 4-H shall be the calendar year in which his or her 18th birthday occurs.

The 4-H age divisions are:

Juniors: 8 years old and in 3rd-5th Grade

Intermediates: 6th-8th Grade

Seniors: 9th-12th Grade

Age is determined as of August 31 of the current 4-H year.



SECTION 2

Wharton County 4-H Awards Banquet

An annual Awards Banquet is held each year to recognize 4-H members for their accomplishments through the year. Please read the *4-H Awards Handbook* carefully to understand who is eligible to receive an award and the application procedures.

Who is recognized at the Awards Banquet?

Only 4-H members who have participated in events listed in the Recognition for Competitive and Invitational Events section of the *4-H Awards* and recipients of Gold Star, I Dare You, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Capital Farm Credit, Outstanding Leaders, Friends of 4-H and 4-H Alumni Awards are eligible to receive awards at the banquet. In order to be recognized at the banquet, award recipients must notify the County Extension Office of their intention to attend the banquet on or before the deadline given in the county calendar. If that deadline is not met, the person's name will not be announced at the banquet. The person's name will appear in the program and the award(s) will be given to the club manager or representative in charge of picking up awards.

Who can attend the banquet?

All 4-H members, families and public are welcome to attend the banquet if they purchase banquet tickets by the registration deadline. 4-H members who have completed the guidelines as specified in the Recognition for Competitive and Invitational Events sections of the *4-H Awards Handbook* and special award winners (Gold Star, etc.) are eligible to receive one complimentary meal ticket for the 4-H Awards Banquet. A date will be set in the county calendar by which 4-H members eligible for the complimentary meal tickets must notify the County Extension Office of their intention to attend the banquet. Meal tickets for all others may be purchased at the County Extension Office on or before the deadline. Anyone who would like to attend as an observer may do so. No ticket is required.

Dress Code

4-H members are asked to dress appropriately for the banquet. Gentlemen should wear a collared shirt with dress slacks or jeans. Ladies should wear a nice shirt or polo, dress pants or jeans, skirt or dress. NO casual shorts or mini-skirts.

Award Errors

Every effort is made to make sure no mistakes are made. However, human error is always a factor. If an error has occurred in awards, please notify the county extension agent immediately following the banquet.



SECTION 3

Recognition for Competitive and Invitational Events

4-H members who seize the opportunity to participate in 4-H activities beyond their club level gain the confidence and skill set to compete for County Level awards. County Level awards recognize work and accomplishments of 4-H members who have challenged themselves by becoming active at the County, District and State level.

The County Extension Office proved the guidelines and oversees the selection for these awards. County Level awards are broken into two categories: Competitive and Invitational. Invitational awards are designed so that every member who completes the requirements may receive the award. Competitive awards are designed so that only a select number of youth who apply will receive the award.

The applications for County Level awards are submitted to the County Extension Office. All County Level awards must be submitted by each 4-H member but the County Awards due date.

County Level Awards

4-H members are able to compete for the awards in the following program areas at the county level:

Food Show	County Roundup	Consumer Decision Making
Food Challenge	County Fair	Judging Teams
Fashion Show	Major Show Exhibitors and Contests	Entomology ID
Duds to Dazzle	Recordbook	Ag Product ID
Fashion Storyboard	Project Completion	Quiz Bowl Teams

1. County Food Show, Fashion Show, Roundup and Recordbook competitions will be judged at the county level and all participants will receive participation ribbons. The 1st place entries will advance to the District competition. At the 4-H Awards Banquet, each individual will receive a certificate that lists all of the events in which he or she participated at the county level. In the Recordbook Division, the member will also receive a separate award.
2. Those members participating in the Wharton County Youth Fair must complete a project record form for the competitive county fair activity to be eligible to receive a certificate at the 4-H Awards Banquet. (The project record form for the county fair activity must be turned in to the County Extension Office by the date indicated in the county calendar.
3. County Roundup consideration will include those members who have participated in any contest offered at Roundup at the county level. Qualifying individuals and teams at the county level will advance to the District level competition. Advancement to the Texas 4-H State Roundup competition will depend upon District and State Roundup guidelines. To avoid scheduling conflicts, please consult the County Extension Office and the State Roundup Guidelines for clarification before you advance to the District competition.
4. Judging teams and quiz bowl teams listed above that are eligible for consideration will include those members listed on a completed judging team form and turned in by the appropriate deadline by the teams coordinator. The highest scoring individual or selected team at the county level will advance to the District level competition. Advancement to the Texas State Roundup competition will depend upon district and state roundup guidelines. To avoid scheduling conflicts, please consult the County Extension Office and the State Roundup guidelines for clarification before you advance to the District competition.
5. If the 4-H budget allows, during the 4-H year an attempt will be made to host a Day of Tours, a non-competitive recreational event to recognize 4-H members who have participated in at least three competitive county events.
6. If a 4-H member completes a 4-H project and fills out a project record form, they shall receive a certificate of recognition at the 4-H awards banquet.



SECTION 3

District Level Awards

Wharton County participants in the District 11 Food Show, Fashion Show, Horse Show, Spring Spectacular, Recordbook and qualifying events will be given an award at the 4-H Awards Banquet. Individuals will be recognized for all the District events in which they participated. To qualify for this award, 4-Hers must participate in a contest that can be registered on 4-H CONNECT.

State Level Awards

Wharton County Senior individuals or teams who represent Wharton County and District 11 during State 4-H Roundup and senior individuals or teams who represent Wharton County and District 11 during State 4-H Horse Show qualifying events will receive an award during the 4-H Awards Banquet. Members will be recognized for all the events in which they participated. To qualify for this award, 4-Hers must participate in a contest that can be registered on 4-H CONNECT.

Senior individuals or teams who place first, second or third at a State 4-H sponsored event will receive special recognition at the 4-H Awards Banquet.

National Level Awards

Senior individuals or teams who win at state and advance to national competition will receive a donation for the Wharton County 4-H Program to help with expenses as specified by the Wharton County Parent and Adult Leaders Association, if the donation is available. INDIVIDUALS WHO ELECT NOT TO COMPETE AT THE NATIONAL EVENT WILL FORFEIT THIS MONETARY DONATION.

Invitational Competition

Individuals who participate in any Invitational Events in which you must enter through 4-H CONNECT will receive an award based on the level of competition (i.e. County, District, State).

Recognition for Non-Competitive Projects

Recognition will be given at the 4-H Awards Banquet for 4-H members participating in this category. In order to recognize 4-H members who are participating in a project or activity in which there is no competitive event at the District and State levels, participants must complete the project recognition form at the end of the year and turn it in to the County Extension Office by the scheduled deadline.

Additional tickets for family and friends may be purchased at the County Extension Office on or before the deadline in the county calendar. No dinner tickets will be sold at the door.



SECTION 4

Recordbook Guidelines

The county will present awards in the Recordbook Division at the 4-H Awards Banquet. Each person that turns in a completed recordbook for judging will receive a separate award.

Judging Criteria

Judging will be based upon the National 4-H Awards Program objectives for the project area under which the recordbook is submitted. The objectives are used in setting goals for project experiences, leadership, community service and awards. A 4-H member who has participated in any project may submit a recordbook for judging. The 4-H member must designate the awards program area in which the recordbook is to be judged. Please check the Texas 4-H Projects list.

All recordbooks are due in the County Extension Office on or before the deadline listed in the county calendar. NO LATE RECORDBOOKS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Recordbooks will be judged by qualified persons from outside the county on the basis outlined by the Texas 4-H Recordbook Score Card. Books will be classified as Blue, Red or White based on the current score card in use by the Texas 4-H Family Guide for Recordbooks.

The Senior, Intermediate and Junior recordbook in each Awards Program area will be judged at the county level with the first place recordbook advancing to the District competition. The first place Senior recordbook at the District level will then advance to state.





SECTION 5

Gold Star, Silver Star, Bronze Star and I Dare You

These are considered to be the highest achievement awards that 4-H members can receive in their respective age divisions. Only the most deserving 4-H members will receive these awards.

Who can apply?

All 4-H members who have met the minimum criteria, listed on the following pages, are encouraged to apply in their respective age categories.

How do I apply?

Simply complete an application form, paper clip it to the inside cover of your recordbook and submit it to the County Extension Office on or before the deadline. No late applications will be accepted under any circumstances. Then schedule an interview.

Interviews

A Wharton County Extension Agent will arrange for qualified judges to interview the applicants and select award winners. Live interviews will take place only one day. Taped interviews will be allowed if an applicant has a situation which prohibits them from attending on the interview date. These taped interviews must take place prior to the day of the awards judging. To tape an interview, the applicant must notify the County Extension Office as soon as possible. An appointment will then be scheduled to record an interview at the County Extension Agent with the agent in charge of the awards. NO MAKE UP INTERVIEWS WILL BE GIVEN.

When will the winner be announced?

The recipients will be announced the night of the 4-H Awards Banquet.

Judges Decisions

The decisions of the judges shall be final in all cases except where error, fraud, misrepresentation or collusion, not discovered at the time of judging, is proven.



SECTION 6

Gold Star Award

The Gold Star Award is the highest achievement award given by the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program through the county 4-H Program. The Texas 4-H Gold Star Award can only be awarded once in a member's 4-H career.

The presentation of the Gold Star Pin begun in 1933, the first year Mr. E.C. Martin was Boys 4-H Club Specialist. Mr. Martin tells us the pin was prompted by an effort to recognize the people who did the work rather than the agents. Previous to this time, the agents submitting the largest number of 4-H records received the recognition.

Records in the Extension Fiscal office indicates that the first Gold Star Pins were purchased in 1933. For the first several years the Gold Star Pins were presented at a dinner during Short Course at College Station. In the beginning each county made a nomination of their outstanding 4-H member and 100 members were selected to receive the award. After several years, the awards were presented to the outstanding 4-H boy and 4-H girl in each county.

Danforth "I Dare You" Award

The Danforth "I Dare You" Award is the second highest award given on the county level. The award guidelines are the same as those for the Texas 4-H Gold Star Award. There will be a maximum of two Danforth "I Dare You" Awards given each year in Wharton County 4-H. The actual number of Danforth awards given will be decided by the selection committee, based on the merits of the applicants. This award may be received only once.

Mr. William H. Danforth's book, "I Dare You," was first published in 1931. It is still considered one of the most influential books in the area of personal motivation. The book is published and distributed by the American Youth Foundation through its I Dare You Committee. The award is offered as recognition of excellence in character and well-balanced development, as well as demonstrated leadership.





SECTION 6

Judging Criteria for Gold Star and I Dare You Awards

1. The Senior 4-H member must be actively enrolled in 4-H during the current year.
2. The member must be at least fifteen (15) years of age as of August 31 of the current year and must have completed at least three (3) years in 4-H including the current year.
3. A 4-H member may receive the Gold Star and I Dare You Award only one time each in their 4-H career.
4. The 4-H member must submit a recordbook for county competition in the year the 4-H member is to be considered for the award.
5. The 4-H member must have completed projects in at least three different project areas, including submission of appropriate record forms, and participated in one or more activities in at least three (3) of the following activities, during the current 4-H year starting August 15:

Food Show	Share the Fun	Attending and participating in Leadership Labs, Texas 4-H Congress or National Leadership Events such as National 4-H Congress/Conference.
Food Challenge	Quiz Bowl	Camps at County, District or State level
Fashion Show	Discover Scientific Method Poster	4-H Promotion (speeches, poster displays, radio, TV, newspapers)
Duds to Dazzle	Ag Product ID	Other (Exchange Program, Fundraising)
Fashion Storyboard	Entomology ID	
Photography	Consumer Decision Making	
Public Speaking	Judging Teams	
Educational Presentation	*County Fair (only one project is counted)	

NOTE: It is expected that the above requirements for projects and activities all be completed in the current 4-H year.

6. Leadership: During his or her years in 4-H, a member must have exhibited leadership skills such as serving as a 4-H officer or committee chairman or serving as a junior or teen leader in an activity or project with or under the supervision of an adult volunteer leader.

7. Community Service: The 4-H member must have participated in one or more community service activities:

Working or counseling with junior 4-H members

Providing leadership to a One Day 4-H project

Participating in community service projects (individual, group or club-type)

Motivating other 4-H members through participation in demonstrations, projects and/or exhibits.



SECTION 6

Selection Procedure

1. A 4-H member must meet the minimum criteria in order to receive the Gold Star Award and the I Dare You Award.
2. An application for the award must be completed. This form is available in the County Extension Office. It is due the same date as the recordbooks.
3. All qualified applicants will be considered. A non-biased panel of judges will review the form and recordbook, and conduct a personal interview with the applicant. Wharton County Extension Agents, leaders, parents and other relatives will not be eligible to judge. The interviews will be conducted on a date and in a place to be announced by the County Extension Office. NO MAKEUP INTERVIEWS WILL BE GIVEN. A taped interview can be scheduled prior to the date of interviews.
4. The recipients of the award will be announced at the 4-H Awards Banquet. The same person may not receive both the Gold Star Award and the I Dare You Award in the same year.
5. Once a member has received the Gold Star Award, he or she is no longer eligible to receive the Danforth "I Dare You" Award. Thus, if a member wishes to receive both awards, they must be achieved in the order of I Dare You first, followed by the Gold Star Award.
6. The Danforth "I Dare You" Award will be presented to two (2) 4-H members who apply or specify on the awards application that they wish to be considered for the I Dare You Award.



SECTION 7

Silver Star Award

The Silver Star Award is considered to be the highest achievement award that Intermediate 4-H members can receive. The award will be presented to two (2) of the most deserving 4-H members.

Judging Criteria

The Silver Star Award was created in order to honor Intermediate 4-H members for their outstanding achievements in 4-H. Applicants must meet the following minimum criteria so the quality of the award can be maintained. The following criteria are recommended as minimum only. The selection committee may choose not to award the Silver Star if 4-H members in the county do not meet the minimum criteria.

1. For the Silver Star Award, the 4-H member must be in 6th-8th grades as of August 31 of the current 4-H year.
2. The 4-H member must have completed at least two (2) years in 4-H including the current year.
3. The Silver Star Award will be presented to the most deserving 4-H members. The number given will be in accordance to the Gold Star quota. The member may receive the Silver Star Award only one time.
4. The 4-H member must submit a recordbook for county competition in the year the 4-H member is to be considered for the Silver Star Award.
5. The 4-H member must have completed projects in at least two (2) different project areas, including submission of appropriate record forms, and participated in one or more activities in at least two (2) of the following activities:

Food Show	Share the Fun	Attending and participating in Leadership Labs, Texas 4-H Congress, or National Leadership Events such as National 4-H Congress/Conference
Food Challenge	Quiz Bowl	
Fashion Show	Discover Scientific Method Poster	
Duds to Dazzle	Ag Product ID	Camps at County, District or State level
Fashion Storyboard	Entomology ID	4-H Promotion (speeches, poster displays, radio, TV, newspapers)
Photography	Consumer Decision Making	
Public Speaking	Judging Teams	Other (Exchange Programs, fundraising)
Educational Presentation	County Fair (only one project is counted)	

6. Leadership: During his or her years in 4-H, members must have exhibited leadership skills such as serving as a 4-H officer or committee chairman (club, county, district, state) or serving as a junior or teen leader in an activity or project with or under the supervision of an adult volunteer leader.

7. Community Service: The 4-H member must have participated in one or more community service activities:

- Working or counseling with junior 4-H members
- Providing leadership to a One Day 4-H Project
- Participating in community service projects (individual, group or club-type)
- Motivating other 4-H members through participation in demonstrations, projects and/or exhibits



SECTION 7

Selection Procedure

1. The 4-H member must meet the minimum criteria to be eligible to receive the Silver Star Award.
2. An application for the award must be completed. This form is available in the County Extension Office.
3. All applicants will be interviewed by a panel of two or more out-of-county judges. Wharton County Extension Agents, leaders, parents and other relatives will not be eligible to judge. The interviews will be conducted on a date and in a place to be announced in the 4-H newsletter. NO MAKEUP INTERVIEWS WILL BE GIVEN. A taped interview can be scheduled prior to the date of the interviews.
4. Recipients will receive an award at the 4-H Awards Banquet.





SECTION 8

Bronze Star Award

The Bronze Star Award is considered to be the highest achievement award that Junior 4-H members can receive. The award will be presented to two (2) of the most deserving 4-H members.

Judging Criteria

The Bronze Star Award was created in order to honor Junior 4-H members for their outstanding achievements in 4-H. Applicants must meet the following minimum criteria so the quality of the award can be maintained. The following criteria are recommended as minimum only. The selection committee may choose not to award the Bronze Star if 4-H members in the county do not meet the minimum criteria.

1. For the Bronze Star Award, the 4-H member must be in 3rd-5th grades as of August 31 of the current 4-H year.
2. The 4-H member must have completed at least one (1) year in 4-H including the current year.
3. The Bronze Star Award will be presented to the most deserving 4-H members. The number given will be in accordance to the Gold Star quota. The member may receive the Bronze Star Award only one time.
4. The 4-H member must submit a recordbook for county competition in the year the 4-H member is to be considered for the Bronze Star Award.
5. The 4-H member must have completed projects in at least one (1) different project area, including submission of appropriate record forms, and participated in one or more activities in at least two (2) of the following activities:

Food Show	Share the Fun	Attending and participating in Leadership Labs, Texas 4-H Congress, or National Leadership Events such as National 4-H Congress/Conference
Food Challenge	Quiz Bowl	
Fashion Show	Discover Scientific Method Poster	
Duds to Dazzle	Ag Product ID	Camps at County, District or State level
Fashion Storyboard	Entomology ID	4-H Promotion (speeches, poster displays, radio, TV, newspapers)
Photography	Consumer Decision Making	
Public Speaking	Judging Teams	Other (Exchange Programs, fundraising)
Educational Presentation	County Fair (only one project is counted)	

6. Leadership: During his or her years in 4-H, members must have exhibited leadership skills such as serving as a 4-H officer or committee chairman (club, county, district, state) or serving as a junior or teen leader in an activity or project with or under the supervision of an adult volunteer leader.

7. Community Service: The 4-H member must have participated in one or more community service activities:

Working or counseling with junior 4-H members

Providing leadership to a One Day 4-H Project

Participating in community service projects (individual, group or club-type)

Motivating other 4-H members through participation in demonstrations, projects and/or exhibits



SECTION 8

Selection Procedure

1. The 4-H member must meet the minimum criteria to be eligible to receive the Bronze Star Award.
2. An application for the award must be completed. This form is available in the County Extension Office.
3. All applicants will be interviewed by a panel of two or more out-of-county judges. Wharton County Extension Agents, leaders, parents and other relatives will not be eligible to judge. The interviews will be conducted on a date and in a place to be announced in the 4-H newsletter. NO MAKEUP INTERVIEWS WILL BE GIVEN. A taped interview can be scheduled prior to the date of the interviews.
4. Recipients will receive an award at the 4-H Awards Banquet.





SECTION 9

VOLUNTEER LEADER AND FRIENDS OF 4-H RECOGNITION

Distinguished 4-H Adult Leader Award

Any 4-H member, leader or club may nominate a leader for this award. An application may be picked up at the County Extension Office to be filled out with information about the nominee. These applications will be judged by a panel of out-of-county judges. They 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. The application must be turned in by the date specified in the county calendar. One leader will be selected each year and will receive recognition at the 4-H Awards Banquet.

4-H Alumni Award

Any 4-H member, leader or club may nominate a former 4-H member for this 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. These applications will be judged by out-of-county judges. The winner will be announced and receive a plaque at the 4-H Awards Banquet. This application must be turned in by the date specified in the county calendar and have specified the amount of years as a former 4-H'er. A maximum of one (1) alumnus will be selected.

Wharton County Friend of 4-H Award

Any 4-H club, member or leader may nominate a person or organization to receive this award in recognition of the contribution of time, money and effort to the 4-H program in Wharton County. This award is not for adult leaders or employees of the County Extension Service. The number of recipients of this award varies each year depending on the applications. The application must be turned in to the County Extension Office by the date specified on the county calendar.



SECTION 10

SCHOLARSHIPS

Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarships

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 Program 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.

Applications can be found at <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/scholarships/>

Please refer to the county calendar for scholarship deadlines.

Wharton County EEA/TEEA Scholarships

The Wharton County Extension Education Association 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 percent of their graduating class at the beginning of the second semester of their senior year.

An additional scholarship was added in 1997 for non-4-H members whose mothers or grandmothers are active members of a Wharton County Extension Education club. Applicants must be high school seniors, registered and attending one of the five Wharton County high schools or home schools in Wharton County. They must have been in the top 50 percent of their graduating class at the beginning of the second semester of their senior year.

Please contact the Wharton County Extension Office for more information.

Wharton County 4-H Scholarship

The Wharton County 4-H Scholarship is awarded to graduating seniors only. Applicants must meet the same requirements and turn in a Texas 4-H Opportunity Scholarship application. Applications will be available in the spring. Please contact the Wharton County Extension Office for more information.



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