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<https://lavaca.agrilife.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/LavacaCounty4H>

Lavaca County 4-H News

Friday, November 7, 2025



The office will be closed on Tuesday, November 11 for Veteran's Day.

Thank You to all of our Adult Volunteers who have Served!!

Congratulations to our Food Show and Food Challenge Participants!

Food Show

Clover Kid

Main Dish – Dillon Collins, Half Moon

Junior

Main Dish 1st Place – Tristan Collins, Half Moon

2nd Place – Ainsley Guelker, Half Moon

Side Dish 1st Place – Ryan Guelker, Half Moon

2nd Place – Tate Gonzales, Moulton

Appetizer 1st Place – Olivia Gonzales

Intermediate

Main Dish – 1st Place – Jake Good, Half Moon

Senior

Main Dish – 1st Place – Sophia Etzler, Town Rounders

2nd Place – Nathan Henke, Town Rounders

Food Challenge

Juniors:

1st Place – The Cooksters: Kolet Olsvosky, Claire Janak, Emery Haas

2nd Place - Sprinkle Bombs: Kaylee Jansky, Caroline Duty, Whitley Mikes, and Blakely Hanslik

3rd Place – Stir It Up Sisters: Kinlee Sobotik, Jayde Hartman, Suthern Pekar, Slayde Wimberly

4th Place – Chef's Kiss: Bridgette Woods, Karsyn Castello, Gabrielle Woods, Avery Knesek

5th Place – G Force Cookers: Olivia Gonzales, Ainsley Guelker, Tate Gonzales, and Ryan Guelker

Intermediates:

1st Place – The 3 Muskateers: Chloe Jansky, Sawyer Wimberly, Macyn Wimberly

Seniors:

1st Place – Saucy Sirens – August Dodson, Madison Coburn, Raleigh Moore, Celestial Filip

Flickr Account

In an effort to share event pictures with our members, Natalie has created a Flickr Account to store albums. As albums are created, the links to the specific albums will be shared either here in this newsletter or sent directly to participants. **The links are not to be shared with others outside of our organization and the photos are only for your personal download for use in record books and personal photo albums.** Social media does a great job of telling the 4-H story but **DO NOT post** the pictures from these albums **unless you have permission from all of the people in the photos.** We have many 4-H families who for various and valid reasons have declined the media release. Please respect their wishes.

The Flickr account is a trial run to see if it could possibly be used for our county photography contest.

Links to albums:

PSA's and National 4-H Week Proclamation: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/195841551@N06/KD035w3287>

Food and Nutrition Project Workshop: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/195841551@N06/k4m5680DV7>

BBQ: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/195841551@N06/bdrE260ftR>

Big thanks to Sarah Collins for the BBQ photos!

Fun Fair: thank you to Sheila Henke and Sarah Collins for photographing the day!

<https://www.flickr.com/gp/195841551@N06/N2p60cg230>

Food Show and Food Challenge: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/195841551@N06/2pB7Wp2440>



2025-2026 Member Handbook (New QR Code)

We now have a Member Handbook that has lots of information for all members. We are not printing copies of these at the office. Instead, we hope you will use the QR code to scan it and save it somewhere that is useful to you. It displays well on a phone and can be saved to any digital device. If you picked up the QR Code that was handed out at Fun Fair, that code is no longer working. Please use the code above.

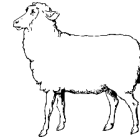
Livestock Validations and Orders

Shiner Junior Livestock Show

November 22, 2025

Kaspar Pavillion

Green Dickson Park



All Entries for Houston, Austin, San Antonio, San Angelo, and Elite are due here November 17.

This includes all contests **(even non-animal)** that take place at these shows.

Major show and HJLS Swine validation

November 11, 2025

Expo Center 4-6 pm and

November 13, 2025

Expo Center 4-5:30 pm



**HJLS halter heifers can be validated at any HJLS validation:
November 11, or November 13**

HJLS Entries Due December 1

Including \$10 entry fee and project record form



HJLS broiler distribution

December 12

Lavaca Expo Center

\$10 validation fee will be collected from each exhibitor at distribution

HJLS rabbit validation

December 16

Expo Center

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.



Quality Counts reminder:

All 4-H members **planning to show in a major show** must also have a current Quality Counts certificate. The test must be completed once in each age group Junior (3rd-5th grade), Intermediate (6th-8th grade) and Senior (9th -12th grade). Your Quality Counts number must be provided with your entry. Go to: <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/s/product/quality-counts/01t4x000008HBZdAAO>

County Council
Monday, January 5
6:00 p.m.

Extension Office Conference Room

There will be a separate adult volunteer meeting at the same time to discuss.
All clubs should have both adult and youth representation at this meeting.

Opportunities You Don't Want to Miss !



Grit & Tide
Girls for the Texas Coast
December 11-12, 2025
Galveston, TX

Join us on the coast! Grit & Tide lets girls dive into marine science, explore careers, and connect with inspiring women through fun, hands-on activities.

Registration via 4-H Online closes
November 13, 2025 | Cost: \$25

Registration is limited to the first 15 total girls from
District 11 4-H in grades 6-12

Sponsored By:



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.

Invitational Quiz Bowl
Family/Community Health,
Horse, and Livestock

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Friday, January 9, 2026

Walker County Storm Shelter
455 State Highway 75N
Huntsville, TX 77320

10:30 a.m. to End

Registrants will be emailed
week of event with exact
order of game time slots



- **Team competition** for Junior (3rd - 8th grades) and Senior (9th - 12th grades) Divisions
- **4-person teams only, no exceptions**
- Questions taken from the Texas 4-H Reference List (<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/quiz>)
- 4-H members enter individually through their 4-H Online profile (<https://v2.4honline.com>)
- FFA members enter team by completing form (<https://forms.office.com/r/drc1LVZCex>) and mailing a Chapter Check (Texas A&M AgriLife -D-9 4-H at 1470 William D. Fitch Parkway, College Station, TX 77845)
- **Registration Deadlines & Fees**
 - **December 3 - December 17**, \$10/4-H member and \$40/FFA Team
 - **December 18 - January 5**, \$15/4-H member and \$60/FFA Team
 - **NO on-site registrations accepted**

Prizes will be awarded

Questions? Contact Kristy Titzman at 936-435-2426 or kkcorley@ag.tamu.edu

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Texas 4-H Center

TEEN RETREAT

CAMP INTO THE NEW YEAR!

Jan. 2nd-4th \$175 Per Camper

FRESHMAN TO SENIORS IN HIGH SCHOOL

New year, new memories, and a whole lot of fun! Discover team building, leadership, and outdoor adventure through archery, kayaking, high ropes, and a color run!

REGISTRATION OPENS OCTOBER 9TH, 2025

Contact (325) 784-5482 makayla.waisereag.tamu.edu

SCAN TO REGISTER!

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.

Natalie hopes to take a group and other adult chaperones are welcome. The County Reimbursement policy allows for ½ the participant fee and 100% adult chaperone fee to be reimbursed. This is an opportunity to get STATE LEVEL leadership project learning experience.

Let her know if you want to attend!

Texas 4-H Natural Resources Photography Contest

2025-2026

REGISTRATION
\$ 10/photo

Open to:
Any enrolled 4-H Member (Jr./Int./Sr.) or CEA/Program Assistant/Volunteer

Rules to be posted on Texas 4-H Natural Resources webpages
Contestant does not need to be active in a Natural Resources project area

Registration through 4HOnline:
Entries Open: December 1, 2025
Entries Close: December 15, 2025

****IMPORTANT****
Participants will upload photos in a separate system called Submittable. Instructions and a direct link will be provided during the 4HOnline registration process.

Purpose:
to encourage observation within specific 4-H Natural Resources project areas and allow youth to demonstrate skills learned in the area of photography.

Categories:
Aquatic Science / Entomology
Shooting Sports / Forestry
Sportfishing / Range Science
Hunting / Outdoor Education
Wildlife & Fisheries
Water Conservation & Education

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. <http://agrilifeas.tamu.edu/hr/diversity/equal-opportunity-educational-programs/>

Notice this is open to all three age groups and also has an adult division! You must be enrolled to enter.

Student Government in Action Youth Tour

San Bernard Electric Cooperative (SBEC) is excited to announce that we will once again sponsor high school students for the Government-in-Action Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. this summer!

This nationwide program, supported by electric cooperatives, gives Texas high school students an unforgettable educational experience in our nation's capital. Since 1965, more than 4,400 Texas students have participated in this life-changing trip.

SBEC will award three high school students an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where winners will:

- Meet congressional representatives
- Build lifelong friendships
- Develop leadership skills
- Explore historic landmarks and U.S. government institutions

Eligibility Rules and Winner Requirements:

- The winner must be able to participate in the Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. on June 14 - 21, 2026
- You must have completed your sophomore, junior or senior year of high school by June 2026.
- **Live in the home of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) who is a current San Bernard member and whose primary residence is in San Bernard's Service Territory.**
- Submit a completed application form, written and video essay, resume, and one original letter of recommendation to SBEC no later than midnight on January 19, 2026.
- Past winners are not eligible.
- Attend orientation and interview on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6pm at the SBEC Bellville Office; 309 West Main, Bellville, Texas 77418.

Application: [download online here](#)

More info: <https://www.sbec.org/youth-tour> or <https://texasyouthtour.com/about-youth-tour>

Follow SBEC on [Facebook](#) or on [Instagram](#) for updates!

Summer 2026

AT THE TEXAS 4-H CENTER!

Get Ready for a summer full of friends, fun, and unforgettable adventures!

MINI CAMP

July 1-3 | \$325
Ages 8-14

A perfect introduction to 4-H camping! Enjoy swimming, crafts, games, and campfires while making new friends and lasting memories.

SPECIALTY CAMP WEEK

July 6-10 | \$500
Ages 8-14

- 4-H Hunting Camp (Extra \$5 fee for Hunting Certification)
- Food Challenge Camp
- Ropes and Team Building
- Arts & Crafts Camp
- Sports & Games
- Fishing Camp
- Aperture Academy (Ages: 10-14)

COUNTY CAMPS

July 12-16
July 26-30
August 2-6 | \$500
Ages 8-14

County Camp gives youth the chance to dive deeper into their favorite activities by choosing three focus areas—plus enjoy all the classic 4-H camp fun, from games and swimming to campfires and new friends!

TEEN ADVENTURE CAMP

July 19-24 | \$600
Ages 13-18

Teen Adventure Camp is packed with excitement and challenge—teens will build leadership skills, tackle outdoor adventures, and make lasting memories with friends!

Holiday Special

\$50 Dollars off each camp until January 7th, 2026

Location: Texas 4-H Center

Register today at:
<https://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu/>
Email: makayla.waiser@ag.tamu.edu
Call: (325) 784-5482

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.



Third Thursday of the month
Kick off is Thursday, October 16th
@ 6:30 p.m.

Are you looking for opportunities to enhance the experiences of your public speaking project? Join this virtual 4-H group to meet with other youth to focus on learning more about public speaking.

IF YOU NEED ANY TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM OR HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PHYSICAL ACCESS PROVIDED, PLEASE CONTACT CORY HUNDL AT 979-321-5262 BY OCTOBER 10TH

CONTACT US

Email:

Cory.hundl@ag.tamu.edu

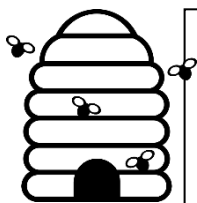


There were over 40 youth from all age groups who participated in the first statewide public speaking session on the 16th. This is the second year for this project group.

Use the QR code if you are interested in attending any of the future sessions. You do not have to participate in all but each month will be a little different.

Natalie will be on the call most months. The next session is on November 20.

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New Project Opportunities!

We have volunteer leaders who are interested in starting beekeeping and dog projects. If you are interested in either of these projects and would like to be included in future plans, please call the office to be put on the contact list for either of these new opportunities.



Club Meeting Information

- Hallettsville Town Rounders 4-H Club Meets 3rd Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m. Lillie Johnson Appelt Youth Center – Hallettsville CONTACT: Sheila Henke – 979-578-1585 Chris Henke – 979-578-1760
- Hope 4-H Club Meets 2nd Sunday of each month at 4:00 p.m. Hope Community Center CONTACT: Amy Jalufka – 361-772-0142 Lacy Mata – 361-648-5992 Erin Marshall – 830-857-5881
- Green Leaves 4-H Club Meets 3rd Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Lillie Johnson Appelt Youth Center – Hallettsville CONTACT: Karen Janak – 361-798-6898
- Lavaca River Oaks 4-H Club Meets 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Lillie Johnson Appelt Youth Center – Hallettsville CONTACT: Clayton Wimberly – 361-293-8417
- Lucky H 4-H Club Meets 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Hall of Fame Room at the K.C. Hall – Hallettsville CONTACT: Brooke Meinkowsky – 361-772-4206
- Moulton 4-H Club Meets 3rd Wednesday of each month at 3:45 p.m. Zion Lutheran Church CONTACT: Claudia Gonzales – 979-777-5740 Robin Stewart – 618-340-5821
- Shiner 4-H club Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Fire Station Meeting Room CONTACT: Lauren Bowman – 361-246-8015
- Half Moon 4-H Club Meets 2nd Sunday of each month at 6:00 p.m. United Lutheran Church of Shiner CONTACT: Stacy Miller – 512-413-8370 Jennifer Garcia – 512-878-7274
- Vysehrad 4-H Club Meets 3rd Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m. St. Mary's Catholic Church Pavilion CONTACT: Sara Lynn Opela – 361-772-0722
- Sweet Home 4-H Club Meets 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Sweet Home Hall CONTACT: Christy Brosch – 361-772-7166
- Shooting Sports Project Group Meeting times vary Appelt's Hill Gun Club CONTACT: Phil Guenther – 979-562-2124

Having a club meeting, project group, or activity? Please designate one person, adult or youth over the age of 13, to complete the survey using the QR code each time you have a meeting. This is quick and can be done before you ever leave the meeting. **This helps us tell our story to those who help fund 4-H.**



Project Help and the People in the Office

Please help us in welcoming Lauren Loos to the County Extension Office. Lauren is training to be the office manager when Jennifer Steffek retires at the end of the year.

Jennifer Steffek has been the office manager for 25 years. She knows the ins and outs of everything. Do not hesitate to ask her your questions.

Natalie Knesek is the County Extension Agent-Family and Community Health and 4-H Coordinator for Lavaca County. She oversees the family and consumer sciences related activities, approves 4-H enrollments and registrations, oversees management of clubs and volunteers, and shares project responsibilities for STEM and Leadership/Citizenship with Shannon DeForest.

Shannon DeForest is the County Extension Agent -Ag and Natural Resources and oversees the projects related to both agriculture and natural resources including Shooting Sports.

Please do not hesitate to ask for help with your projects. If you go somewhere or do something 4-H related that does not require registration through 4-H online we often do not hear about it. Please be sure to tell us where you are going and what you are doing and let us know how we can support you.

Some Basic Information for our New Members

Lavaca County 4-H is part of District 11 4-H.

There are 12 districts in Texas 4-H. District 11 4-H includes:

Austin, Washington, Fayette, Wharton, Jackson, Lavaca, DeWitt, Karnes, Bee, Refugio, Goliad, San Patricio, Nueces, Aransas, Colorado, Victoria, Calhoun, and Matagorda Counties.

In 4-H we have three age divisions: Junior 3rd-5th grade (and at least 8 years of age)

Intermediate 6th-8th grade

High School 9th-12th grade (until 19 years of age)

We have educational opportunities for Clover Kids as well. Clover Kids are in K-2.

Natalie and Shannon have adjunct faculty agreements with all of the schools in Lavaca County enabling our youth to participate in events in accordance with UIL as extracurricular activities. In order to receive an excused absence, you must have pre-approval and must meet your school's guidelines and have their approval. This process begins with your request in our office.

Record Book Corner

This space is set aside to help you begin planning for your record book. The 4-H Record Book is not the same thing as what you turn in to a stock show. The 4-H Record Book contains all of the wonderful things you are doing and learning in 4-H and is an opportunity to demonstrate an understanding of record keeping while telling your 4-H story. In order to apply for awards on the county level, you must submit a record book. In Natalie's opinion, all 4-H members should complete a record book each year.

This section of the newsletter will feature record book information and will change from week to week until the entire book has been introduced.

We will begin this week by pointing you to the resources:

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

Reminder About Fundraising

Clubs and 4-H project groups are required to submit the appropriate fundraising request form in advance of doing any fundraising on behalf of their local or county group. This helps us coordinate efforts and not conflict with others. We have many, many wonderful supporters of the 4-H program in Lavaca County and we want to make sure that we do not ask the same groups/businesses/etc. over and over. Please request the fundraising form from your club manager or Natalie.knesek@ag.tamu.edu. This needs to be approved prior to any fundraising efforts.

There are LOTS of opportunities that do not get included in this newsletter. Make sure you are **also reading the weekly email from Texas 4-H and following Texas 4-H on social media so you do not miss out. There is just more than we can possibly keep** up with and share. If you participate in something, please send us a picture or two and let us know what you learned and what you did so we can spotlight you in this newsletter or on our Facebook.

How to say the 4-H Motto and Pledge

Always begin with the motto by saying
"In support of the 4-H club motto, 'To make the best better'
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."



The 4-H Prayer

"Help Me, O' Lord, to live so that the world may be a little
better because thou didst make me. Amen."

Reimbursement Policy

Our county council has funds designated to reimburse youth and adult chaperones who participate in events representing Lavaca County in District and State 4-H contests and leadership workshops. The policy and form to submit for reimbursement requests is available on our county website:

<https://lavaca.agrilife.org/files/2024/01/Lavaca-County-4-H-Reimbursement-Policy-and-Forms.pdf>