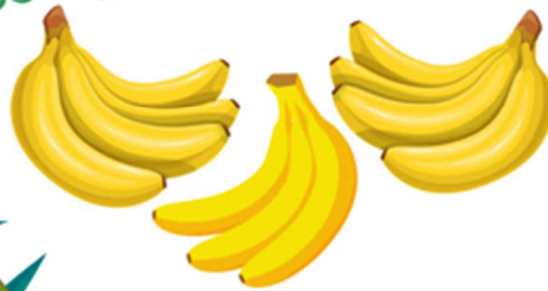




# LEE COUNTY 4-H *Handbook* 2023 – 2024

Going Bananas over 4-H



**DISCLAIMER:** This handbook is intended to assist 4-H Families. Additional information, dates, etc., will be announced as details are confirmed, through e-mails, newsletters and other means. It is strongly recommended that families keep themselves advised regarding any registration events, as details may change after the handbook is printed. The Extension office apologizes for any errors.

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



# Lee County 4-H Club List

## 2023-2024



Club	Meeting Location	Club Manager
<b>Dime Box 4-H Club</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday @ 5:00 pm</b> <i>except October - first Saturday in October, 10 am, Black Bridge Festival, Dime Box 4-H Booth</i>	St. John Lutheran Church 8235 FM 141 Dime Box, TX 77853 	<b>Shanna Dallmeyer</b> and <b>Lori Swonke</b>
<b>Doak Springs 4-H Club</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday @ 6:00 pm</b>	Mt. Olive Baptist Church 1073 FM 3403 Lincoln, TX 78948 	<b>Linda Wallace</b>
<b>Giddings 4-H Club</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday @ 7:00 pm</b>	Lee County Extension Office 310 S Grimes Giddings, TX 78942 	<b>Justin Lyon</b> and <b>Melissa Lyon</b>
<b>Lee 4-H Shooting Sports Club</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday @ 6:30 pm</b>	Lee County Extension Office 310 S Grimes Giddings, TX 78942 	<b>Erica Iselt</b> and <b>Nicole Arldt</b>
Attendance at Shooting Sports Club mtgs <u>DOES NOT</u> count toward LCJLS attendance requirements. LCJLS attendance requirements must be met through another Club.		
<b>Lee 4-H STEM Club</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Thursday @ 5:00 pm</b>	Lee County Extension Office 310 S Grimes Giddings, TX 78942 	<b>Mary Pearl Meuth</b>
Attendance at STEM Club mtgs <u>DOES NOT</u> count toward LCJLS attendance requirements. LCJLS attendance requirements must be met through another Club.		
<b>Lee County TX Stars 4-H Club</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday @ 6:30 pm</b>	Blue Arena 5125 County Road 309 Lexington, TX 78947 	<b>Daura Bayer</b> and <b>Jacelin Colosky</b>
<b>Lincoln 4-H Club</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Monday @ 7:00 pm</b>	Lincoln Community Hall corner of Main/Walnut Streets Lincoln, TX 78948 	<b>Tasha Robbins</b> and <b>Steve Pitts</b>
<b>NW Lee County 4-H Club</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday @ 7:00 pm</b> <i>The Club doesn't meet April - August.</i>	Blue United Methodist Church 4184 W FM 696 Lexington, TX 78947 	<b>Bridgett Ellison</b> and <b>Gwen Stockwell</b>
<b>Serbin 4-H Club</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday @ 6:30 pm</b> <i>Dates for November, December &amp; February meetings will be determined at September meeting.</i>	St. Paul Lutheran, School Gym 1578 CR 211 Giddings, TX 78942 	<b>Rebecca Burgdorf</b> and <b>Janis Lehmann</b>

### Attendance Eligibility requirements of the 2024 LCJLS

*(others eligibility requirements apply, consult LCJLS 2024 Show Rules)*

**Exhibitors must attend four (4) regular meetings of the current enrollment period for their 4-H Club, prior to February 28, 2024.**

To contact a Club Manager, email the Lee County Extension office at:

**Lee.County@AgNet.TAMU.edu**

# Lee County 4-H Family Handbook

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**DISCLAIMER:** This handbook is intended to assist 4-H Families. Additional information, dates, etc., will be announced as details are confirmed, through e-mails, newsletters and other means. It is strongly recommended that families keep themselves advised regarding any registration events, as details may change after the handbook is printed. The Extension office apologizes for any errors.

## 4-H MOTTO

To Make the Best Better

## 4-H PLEDGE



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.

## 4-H CLUB PRAYER

Help me, O Lord, to live so that the  
world may be a little better, because  
Thou has make me. Amen.

The 4-H emblem symbolizes a green four-leaf clover with a white H in each leaf. The letters in the emblem stand for **H**ead, **H**ear, **H**ands and **H**ealth, the foundation of all 4-H programs.

The 4-H Name and Emblem is a federal mark, protected by Public Law 18 U.S.C. 707, and is entrusted by Congress to the Secretary of Agriculture.

## Lee County Extension Office Staff

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**Phone: 979-542-2753 • Fax: 979-542-2362**

**Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm**

**Website: <http://Lee.AgrLife.org>**

**E-mail: [Lee.County@Aagnet.Tamu.edu](mailto:Lee.County@Aagnet.Tamu.edu)**

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# Lee County 4-H Story

The 4-H program in Lee County is an active and growing organization. The birth of 4-H began in 1908 in Jack County, northwest of Fort Worth/Dallas metro, when County Agent Tom Marks organized a corn club with 25 boys participating.

By 1910, Lee County also had a Boys Club and were holding corn shows. In this time frame, County Agents were W. W. Campbell (1907-1909), Robert Elrod (1909 - 1910) or George Banzahf (1910-1911). Geri L. Kline, currently serves Lee County as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent. She has been in this role with Lee County since 2018.

Due to there not being a home economics program in the early 1900's, girls were not able to enroll. In 1933, Loraine Tidwell was appointed the first Home and Economics Agent for Lee County. Loraine was soon followed by Ina Mae Thannish, who served the County until 1935. In the nearly 100 years since, Lee County has only had 11 Home Economics Agents. The name is now Family and Community Health Agent, and Tonya Poncik, has filled the position since 2002.

Currently, there are nine 4-H Clubs in Lee County for the more than 250 4-H members. Club managers, with the assistance of the County Extension staff, instruct and guide members as they learn by participating in numerous leadership and domestic projects. Lee County offers 4-H members unlimited natural resources to explore and learn. The most valuable resource Lee County 4-H has to offer is its people. The people of Lee County support, guide and shape the 4-H program and the youth involved. Their example and guidance have enabled youth to grow within 4-H, and 4-H to grow from them.



**Lee County Boys Club members pose following a corn show in Lexington in 1910.**

# Meet Our Agents

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Tonya Poncik is the Family and Community Health (FCH) County Extension Agent. She has been with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for 23 years, serving Lee County the past 22 years; the second longest serving County Extension Agent in Lee County, behind Brown Spivey who served for 26 years. Tonya was raised on a family farm from a small town in the Texas Panhandle. Growing up she mainly showed swine through 4-H. She earned a Master of Science degree from Texas Woman's University. She works many hours preparing youth for future contests and events and even though she is a FCH County Extension Agent, you can still find her helping out at the livestock shows.

Tonya states, "Winning is the icing on the cake, but most rewarding is seeing youth transition into a confident leader."

Geri Kline is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent for Lee County. She has been with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service for 8 years, serving in Lee County for going on 6 years. Geri grew up in Bastrop County and 4-H. She earned a Master of Science degree from Tarleton State University. She is an avid hunter and loves teaching youth and adults about agriculture and the outdoors. "Without agriculture you would have nothing to eat and nothing to wear. Agriculture affects everything," stated Geri.

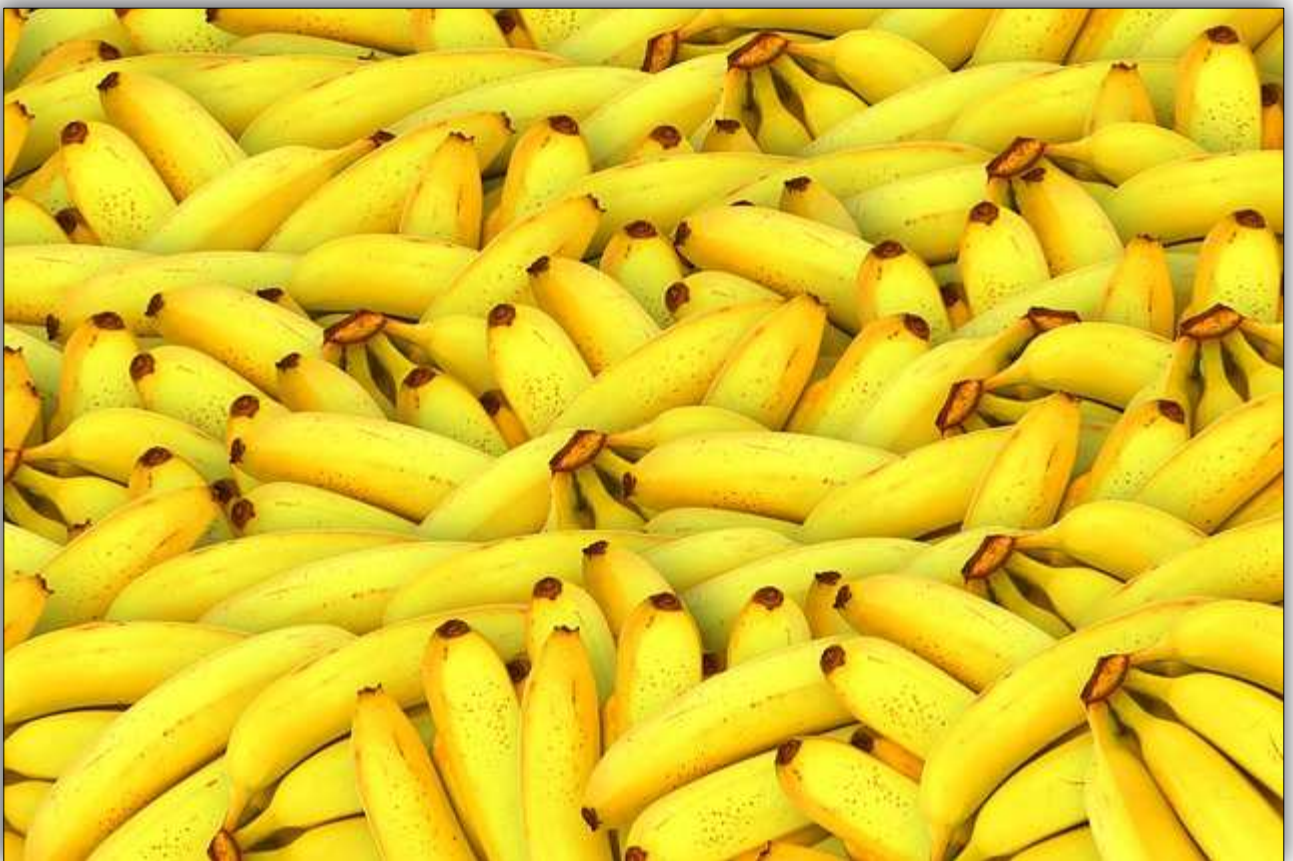
*"The objective is to teach the student to see the land, to understand what he sees, and to enjoy what he understands."* - Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac





# 4-H Information

*Bananas  
about 4-H*



**Bananas have more uses than just being a great food.**

<https://www.rd.com/list/banana-uses/>



Community Service is practiced throughout Lee County 4-H. Members of the Doak Springs 4-H Club have participated in roadside trash pickup for several years.



Lee County's Junior Robotics Team placed Second at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Here are all the competitors from that day, along with Club Manager, Mary Pearl Meuth.



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Families can ask for 4-H NEWS emails to be sent to multiple addresses, so all family members are receiving the news. Contact the Extension office to add additional email addresses to the Mailing List.



Dear Families,

Welcome to the Lee County 4-H Program. The 4-H Program is a youth development program of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Our purpose is to provide members the opportunities to learn, develop life skills and form attitudes, enabling them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society.

Our program provides opportunities and personal development of all the young people involved. Additional project education is available from 4-H Leaders and Extension Agents throughout the 4-H year.

4-H is a FAMILY AFFAIR. A member selects various 4-H projects with the help of their parents. Parents then advise, counsel and assist their member in taking care of, constructing or being involved in the project.

A brief overview of many the opportunities are provided in this handbook, additional information can be found on the Lee County 4-H website.

We look forward to your participation in the Lee County 4-H Program.

## **Enrollment for the 2023-2024 year opens on 4-H Online beginning August 15.**

- Youth members are required to pay a \$25.00 participation fee if enrolled by October 31. The fee increases to \$30.00 on November 1.

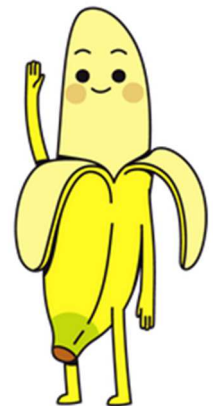
*A youth that is 8 years old and going into the 3rd grade must wait until September 1 to enroll for proper fees to be accessed.  
The Texas 4-H year officially starts on September 1.*

- Clover Kids (Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade) pay just \$10.00.
- Adults pay a \$10.00 volunteer applicant fee.

Use the link or QR Code to register in 4-H today!

*A desktop/laptop computer responds best.*

**<https://v2.4honline.com/>**



Enrollment for the next school year begins **August 15.**

Registering before August 15, will be enrollment to the previous school year, and does NOT carry over. You would then need to enroll again, after August 15, for the current school year.

*A youth that is 8 years old and going into the 3rd grade must wait until September 1 to enroll for proper fees to be accessed.  
The Texas 4-H year officially starts on September 1.*

# 4-H Membership

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## AGE DIVISIONS

Clover Kids: Kindergarten – 2nd Grade

Juniors: 3rd grade\*\* – 5th grade

Intermediates: 6th grade – 8th grade

Seniors: 9th grade – 12th grade

**In some contests, Juniors and Intermediates are combined into one group and referred to as Juniors (example: Major Show Livestock Judging and most horse events).**

Clover Kids do not compete. They are allowed to participate in age appropriate learning experiences, but not competitions. The enrollment fee for Clover Kids is \$10. The six projects that Clover Kids can participate in are: rabbits, food & nutrition, health & personal safety, photography, robotics, horticulture, dog care & training, sport fishing, fashion & interior design and computer science.

**\*\* 3rd Graders should wait until September 1 before registering, so their 4-H age will correctly calculate as an 8 year old.**

## 4-H ONLINE <https://v2.4honline.com>

To be a member in Lee County 4-H, youth and adults must register in 4-H Online and join at least one local 4-H club. Clubs in Lee County are listed on the inside front cover. Any adult should that would like to help the 4-H program in any capacity should register in 4-H Online. Enrollment must be repeated at the beginning of each new 4-H year.

**3rd Graders should wait until September 1 before registering, so their 4-H age will correctly calculate as an 8 year old.**

## 4-H CALENDER

The 4-H year follows the school calendar; beginning September 1 and ending August 31. Enrollment remains open throughout the year. 4-H members must re-enroll each September 1. Member participation fees are \$25 for those enrolling between September 1 and October 31. Clover Kids are \$10. Beginning November 1, and for the continuation of the 4-H year, the participation fee will be \$30. Adult volunteer enrollment is \$10 per year.

## 4-H NEWS & UPDATES

Updates and resources are periodically posted to our social media accounts and sent in emails. Information will also be sent to Club Managers, who then can share the information with their club members.

## ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

4-H members are expected to attend scheduled monthly club meetings. If unable to attend, please let your club manager know. Exhibitors who plan to enter the Lee County Junior Livestock Show must meet the attendance requirement as set out in the Show's Rules. Rules are available through the County's website. <https://Lee.AgrLife.org>

# 4-H Membership

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## PROJECT EXPERIENCES

4-H members participate in planned 4-H project, learning experiences under the guidance of a 4-H certified project leader or trained teacher.

## TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY RULES

4-H has been recognized by the Texas Education Agency as a legitimate school-related extracurricular organization. 4-H members may apply for excused absences in order to participate in 4-H activities. It is the responsibility of the local school district to determine whether or not any student is eligible and may be excused from classes to participate in any extracurricular event or activity. 4-H members are not automatically excused upon request, but are subject to all regulations of the Texas Education Agency and their local school district as they may apply to extracurricular participation. Specifics related to eligibility during Fall/Spring breaks, summer vacation, and holidays can be found on the University Interscholastic League (UIL) website at: <https://www.uil-texas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side>. All 4-H youth, including youth in public, private, or home school must adhere to the guidelines regarding competitive activities.

Consistent with University Interscholastic League (U.I.L.) rules, the Texas 4-H Youth Development Program has adopted a three (3) school-week waiting period upon change in status of school enrollment (i.e. from public to home, public to private, public to public, private to public, private to home, private to private, home to public, or home to private) before the 4-H member is eligible for extracurricular activity.

Schools will be notified (by letter) from the Extension Office as to what members will be participating, as well as dates and times that they are to miss classes.

## EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL

4-H members participating in **an approved 4-H contest/activity**, which is approved by the local school board, under the direction of the Extension Agents, will be considered in attendance and will be reported present at the school's discretion. **Families are responsible for knowing the number of days allowed by their school for excused absences while participating in extracurricular activities.** Schools will be notified (by letter) from the Extension Office as to what members will be participating, as well as dates and times that they are to miss classes.





# The 4-H Project

The project is the heart of the 4-H program. A wide variety of projects are available for members. Project opportunities vary depending upon the county and club. A member or group can also select an area of interest that is not officially listed as a 4-H project, and plan and conduct a self-directed project in that area of interest.

Through carefully selected projects, members learn to manage their resources, assume responsibility and acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for everyday living.

A project may extend over a short period of time or for several years. "Learn-by-doing" is the most important aspect of a project, not time. Making, growing, caring for, observing and participating are all active learning processes involved in 4-H projects.

From a member's viewpoint, projects may be fun, help develop skills, offer an opportunity to assume responsibility, to make a profit, save money or explore interests and careers. Projects also offer a chance to do things with friends.

Leaders and parents may see the project as a means to create more interest in daily tasks, strengthen family and community ties, develop knowledge and skills of members, explore possible career opportunities, enhance positive self-concept, develop the ability to organize, plan and make decisions.

Visit the **Curriculum and Resources** page on the Texas 4-H website for a list of projects.

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



## TEXAS 4-H PROJECT LIST



### AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Dog Care & Training
- Goats (Dairy & Mohair)
- Goats (Meat)
- Horse
- Horticulture
- Junior Master Gardener
- Livestock Judging
- Meat Science
- Poultry (Chickens & Turkeys)
- Rabbits
- Sheep
- Soil & Crop Science
- Swine
- Veterinary Science



### FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH

- Consumer Education
- Fashion & Interior Design
- Foods & Nutrition
- Health & Personal Safety



### NATURAL RESOURCES

- Aquatic Science
- Entomology
- Forestry
- Outdoor Education & Living Skills
- Range Science
- Shooting Sports
- Sportfishing
- Water Conservation & Education
- Wildlife & Fisheries



### LEADERSHIP & CITIZENSHIP

- Citizenship
- Community Service
- Global Citizenship
- Leadership
- Public Speaking
- Theater & Performance Arts
- Workforce Preparation
- Youth Entrepreneurship



### SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATH

- Energy
- Photography/Videography
- Robotics
- Rocketry
- Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM)
- Computer Science

#### SELF DIRECTED PROJECTS:

Individualized areas of interest where members can explore appropriate subject matter when no Texas approved 4-H curriculum or named project exists.



PRAIRIE VIEW  
A&M UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

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 4-H Project

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## The Project Group

Members have the opportunity to participate in group learning and peer teaching, since sharing skills and experiences often provides them with greater learning opportunities. Group participation can also motivate members to follow through with commitments. Members are usually involved in group learning through their participation in a project group.

Project group meetings are designed so members acquire subject-matter knowledge and skills, as well as general life skills.

## How are projects conducted?

Projects are conducted through various activities and events such as:

1. 4-H community club meetings.
2. Project group workshops.
3. Field trips to tour local businesses, various agencies, as well as other member's projects.
4. Family activity at home.
5. Individual work toward project goals.
6. Online learning.
7. Community Service.
8. Competition

Project learning experiences should be 20-30 minutes in length and have a minimum of six learning experiences.

## How are projects selected?

Each member selects a project that fulfills their interest, home situation and ability. All projects provide useful experiences.

It is suggested that first year 4-H members select one project their first year, additional projects should be added each year of the 4-H career to show growth. For example, broilers or rabbits make a great project for beginning a livestock project. After a couple of years, the member can advance to a larger animal such as a goat or lamb.

If members talk with their parents about projects, their choices will have meaning and importance to the entire family. Factors to consider when selecting a project include:

### The Member

- What are the member's interests?  
**Many times, a member doesn't know if they would like a project without first researching and inquiring about a project from other members.**
- Is the member exploring projects that will offer new areas of interest?

# The 4-H Project

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- What are the members' ages and abilities (physical and mental)?
- What new abilities can the member develop by choosing a specific project?
- How much time does the member have? How much time does the project require?
- What season of the year does most of the activity occur?
- If the member chooses an animal project, is the space required and equipment needed adequately available?
- Approximately how much will the project cost?

## The Family

- Does the project fit into the home situation?
- Does the family have an interest in the project selected?

## The Club or Group

- How many members of the group wish to try similar projects?
- Is Leadership available for each member to have a successful experience?

## The Neighborhood or Community

- Does the project fulfill a community interest or need?
- Can the neighborhood, community or county provide additional support or resources on this project?

Members are more likely to have success with a project(s) suited to their needs, abilities, interest, and family situations. A positive experience can help members develop their sense of self-worth, a willingness to share their experiences with others, and their willingness to try more things.

## Success Builds Success

Good youth development programs do not just happen. It takes a team with the combined effort of parents and volunteers along with the guidance of Extension youth development professionals to establish a good 4-H program which contributes to the ultimate development of our youth. If this team is to be successful, then the parents must become **"regular players"** not **"bench riders"**.





# The 4-H Project

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## Why parent participation?

Through research and experience, a number of positive efforts on 4-H, 4-H clubs and 4-H members can be attributed to active parent participation.

- Active parent participation can strengthen and broaden the 4-H program in local unit or in any county.
- 4-H work would be totally impossible without the active support of interested parents.
- It has been found that youth do better club work when parents show interest, not only by work but also by deeds.
- Extending a helping or encouraging hand to you is one of the finest ways you can express affection to your child and other youth.
- 4-H is a family affair offering parents many opportunities to participate in a program with their child and build family unity.
- When parental support is positive, the chances are good for the club to become stronger, larger and more active.
- In clubs where parental support is strong, individual club members receive more personal attention and guidance from leaders and parents.
- Club activities and events will develop and expand with the added support of parents.
- 4-H has a positive influence on the lives of thousands of boys and girls. This happens only when parents care enough to share their time, efforts and talents.

## 4-H Brings the Family Together

Family unity increases from planning, sharing and working together. When a family works together as a team, it strengthens the talents, skills, and worth of each family member so they can be developed and be appreciated. With love and understanding, patience and counsel, a parent can offer their child a solid start in a pleasant and beneficial experience; the family then becomes a team.

## What can parents do to support and/or help in the 4-H program?

- Learn what 4-H is all about (purposes, objective, etc.).
- Exhibit a genuine interest and enthusiasm in 4-H and in your child.
- Encourage participation in 4-H activities; participation stimulates interest and enthusiasm.
- Assist your child in selecting a project they will enjoy, a project they have the ability to accomplish, and one for which you can help furnish facilities, financing, needed materials, and guidance.
- Provide encouragement. Help in project work with recordkeeping, demonstrations, judging, and completion of attempted work and leadership responsibilities.

# The 4-H Project

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- Provide transportation for members to local club meetings, county events and various activities.
- Attend club meetings with your child.
- Get informed about “what’s going on” and continue to keep informed.
- Provide a meeting place for the project group. When possible, assist leaders and club by providing refreshments or other help.
- Volunteer to be a project leader. All adults have abilities that would greatly assist the 4-H program.
- Serve on a committee to help plan and conduct special club activities and events.



# Events & Contests

Listed below are the Events and Contests held in District 9.

*listed by contest dates*

Contact the Extension Agents if you would like to participate in any of the contests so teams can be formed (*if applicable*) and practices scheduled.



Use QR code to review the most current D9 Events & Contest information.

## August 2023

### Lee County Awards Program

The Lee County 4-H Council and Parent Volunteer Association (PVA) host the Annual 4-H Awards Program. 4-H'ers are recognized for their 4-H participation during the previous year.

*Event Date: August 20, 2023*

### Enroll in 4-H

all 4-H members and adult volunteers enroll, or re-enroll, beginning August 15; discounted enrollment fees extend through October 31. Fees increase November 1.

*Enrollment Site: <https://v2.4honline.com>*



I'm bananas over 4-H.



## September 2023

### 4-H Annual Fried Chicken Dinner

The success of the Lee County 4-H program is mainly due to the exceptional fund raising the 4-H members and their families conduct. The largest income of fund raising comes from the Lee County 4-H Annual Fried Chicken Dinner, held the third Sunday in September. This year, the Dinner will be hosted at the **Lincoln Community Hall Grounds, by the BBQ Pits**. It will be a drive through only service.

Participants pick up tickets to be sold at the annual 4-H Awards Program or at the Extension office, following the program. Money for sold tickets is turned in to the Extension office the Wednesday before the Dinner.

*Event Date: September 17, 2023*

*Location: Lincoln VFD Station*

## October 2023

### National 4-H Week

a week all Lee County 4-H clubs are encouraged to promote the 4-H program; in years past, clubs prepared posters and exhibits. There are several types of fliers available through the Extension office which can be used for your promotional activities, and the Extension office has plenty of 4-H and related computer graphics that might be useful for your displays.

*Event Dates: October 1 - 7, 2023*

### One Day 4-H Community Service

Lend a hand to your community on One Day 4-H! This event allows 4-H members, parents and volunteers to help their communities through service projects. This event is flexible and can be as straightforward or intricate as you like.

*Event Date: October 7, 2023*



# Events & Contests

## October 2023 *continued*

### **4-H Annual Pecan & Poinsettia Sale**

Another successful fund raising event is the Pecan & Poinsettia Sale. Current 4-H members will receive email notifications of sale and delivery dates.

*Event Dates:* **October – November**

## November 2023

### **Junior Leadership Lab**

prepares Intermediates (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grades) for leadership roles at both the Club and County level; the hope is that participants will take information back from Lab and share it with the 4-H members in Lee County.

The Lab is set up to be enjoyable and fun, but there is work too. Sessions require participant involvement and concentration. Play time is set up with activities that build team work skills and camaraderie in the district.

*Registration Deadline:* **October 11**

*Event Dates:* **November 10 & 11**

**Crossroads Retreat Center, Caldwell**

## December 2023

### **Southern Classic**

this Friday to Sunday event is for families participating in livestock projects to teach the basic principles of livestock management.

The Southern Classic Beef, Lamb, Goat and Swine Clinic and Prospect Show is designed to provide an educational opportunity for families needing experience in the Show Ring.

Youth must be in grades 3-12 to participate.

*Registration Deadline:* **mid to late-November**

*Event Dates:* **December 7 - 9, Bryan**

## January 2024

### **Invitational Quiz Bowl Contests**

***Family & Community Health, Horse and, Livestock***

Four-Person Team competition for youth to demonstrate their knowledge on specific subject matter in a competitive setting. Quiz bowls teach such life skills as self-discipline, observation, listening and making and defending decisions.

*Registration Deadline:* **to be announced**

*Event Dates:* **January 12, Huntsville**

### **Archery Contest**

archery teaches safe and responsible use of archery, including sound decision making, self-discipline and concentration. Must participate in County Archery match to be qualify for District.

***Shooting Sports, participants must attend an annual safety meeting and Shooting Sports practices.***

*Registration Deadline:* **January 2**

*Event Dates:* **January 19 - 20, Bryan**

## March 2024

### **Lee County Jr. Livestock Show**

refer to LCJLS Rules (included in this Handbook) for validation dates and entry deadline

*Validation Dates:* differs between animal species

*Entry Deadline:* **December 7, 2023**

*Event Dates:* **February 28 - March 2, 2024**

## April 2024

### **Horse Judging Contest**

Demonstrate knowledge of Equine evaluation and selection techniques, employ decision making skills, create a sense of team work.

*Registration Deadline:* **March 20**

*Event Dates:* **April 6, Bryan**



# Events & Contests

## April 2024 *continued*

### Rifle, Air Rifle & Air Pistol Contests

Participants demonstrate safe and responsible use of firearms, including sound decision making, self-discipline and concentration. Must participate in County shooting match to be qualify for District.

**Shooting Sports, participants must attend an annual safety meeting and Shooting Sports practices.**

*Registration Deadline: March 19*

*Event Dates: April 6, Rosenberg*

### Judging Contests

Three separate contests which improve decision making skills; making individual decisions and supporting them with oral statements or written reasons, while:

- **LIVESTOCK:** increase knowledge of livestock evaluation and selection techniques; increase understanding of breeding concepts and use of analytical tools
- **MEAT:** learn to identify/evaluate meat cuts of beef, swine and sheep; critically evaluate meat cuts
- **SOIL:** identify different soil types and understand their characteristics, learn about the value of soil and it's conservation

*Registration Deadline: April 3*

*Event Dates: April 20, Bryan/College Station*

### Photography Contest

Demonstrate skills in composition, light, storyline, posing and awareness; encourages other 4-H members to use photography as a meaningful tool of communications in their own lives.

This will be remote judging. Participant is not required to attend Big Time in D9.

*Registration Deadline: March 20*

*Displayed at Big Time D9: last week in April*

### Big Time in D9

Contests for Big Time in D9 are included in the shaded boxes that are outlined.

*Registration Deadline for Big Time in D9: April 2*

*Event Dates: April 25 - 27, The Woodlands*

#### 4-H Science Fair

Provides youth the opportunity to showcase their 4-H project work through the application of scientific research, engineering, technology and/or experimentation. Participants will 1) construct a poster, 2) deliver a short oral presentation and 3) respond to judges' interview questions.

Science projects may focus on any of the Big Five 4-H Project areas:

- Agriculture & Livestock
- Family and Community Health
- Leadership & Citizenship
- Natural Resources
- STEM Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

#### 4-H Talent Showcase *formerly Share-the-Fun*

Individual or team performances in one of the listed categories:

- 4-H Skit
- Choreographed Routine
- Musical/Instrumental
- Poetry/Prose
- Solo/Band Performance
- Variety Show
- Vocal

#### Agriculture Product ID

Contestants identify different Texas agricultural products, each with a multiple choice question pertaining to that product.

#### Consumer Decision Making

Apply knowledge and experience in consumer education by analyzing consumer situations, organizing thoughts and presenting oral reasons.

#### Duds to Dazzle

Using recycled textiles, teams of 3 to 5 members exhibit knowledge and skills gained through the 4-H Fashion and Interior Design project by designing, constructing and presenting a finished product.

# Events & Contests

## April

### **Big Time in D9** *continued*

#### **Educational Presentations and Public Speaking**

Educational Presentations — demonstrate your knowledge and skills in a certain project area that will teach others about a project or activity

Public Speaking — presentations of 5-8 minutes that persuade others regarding a particular issue or concern.

#### **Fashion Show**

Exhibit skills of wardrobe selection, clothing construction or comparison shopping, fashion interpretation; style, good grooming and poise in front of others; and, modeling and presentation.

#### **Fashion Storyboard**

An opportunity to create a digital storyboard of your original design, demonstrating the knowledge of the career responsibilities of a fashion designer and illustrator.

#### **Food Challenge**

Teams of 3 to 4 members demonstrate of culinary knowledge and skill in preparing and presenting a nutritious and safe dish

#### **Food Show**

showcase culinary skills of preparing nutritious and safe meals, while improving presentation and interview skills

#### **Healthy Lifestyles**

competitive event utilizing knowledge/skills gained through participation in 4-H Healthy Lifestyles programs

#### **Leaders 4 Life Skill-a-thon**

A competitive event to challenge teams in their leadership skills, knowledge of parliamentary procedure and service learning activities.

#### **Livestock Skill-a-thon**

Demonstrate knowledge/comprehension of animal science and livestock management practices.

#### **Photography Judging Contest**

contestants demonstrate skills in evaluating, selecting and placing of photographs based on industry standards and expectations

#### **Quiz Bowls**

**Family & Community Health \ Horse \ Livestock**

As part of a multiple-member team, participants demonstrate reasoning and critical-thinking abilities in a timed contest.

#### **Robotics Challenge**

teams of 3 - 5 members, using their own challenge equipment, have 3 hours to design, build, program and test their robot in preparation for competition

#### **Vet Science Skill-a-thon**

A competitive event designed to test the knowledge and skills gained through involvement in a veterinary science project; components include written, ID and skills.

#### **Wildlife Challenge**

Encompassing all five projects of 4-H Natural Resources (wildlife & fisheries, hunting & wildlife, entomology, forestry and sport-fishing), contestants compete as individuals three different contest activities: Identification, Knowledge Assessment and Skills Assessment.

## May 2024

#### **Record Books**

a self-maintained record of the 4-H member's learning experiences, teaching the youth to set goals and monitor progress toward those goals; documents the value of 4-H participation.

***(See Page 15 for additional information.)***

*Record Books are required for certain 4-H Award nominations at the end of the 4-H year.*

County Deadline: **May 3, 2024**

District Judging Date: **early-July**

# Events & Contests

## May 2024 *continued*

### Award Nominations

4-H members are eligible to be nominated for their outstanding achievements in the current 4-H year.

Nomination forms are completed by the 4-H member's family. Forms will be available after January 2024, via e-mails and on-line at:

<https://lee.agrilife.org/4-h-awards/>

*County Deadline:* **May 3, 2024**

## June 2024 *continued*

### District Horse Show

Provides 4-H riders the means to acquire horsemanship and horse-training skills; gain knowledge concerning horse management, production and training.

*Validation begins: March 1 - May 1* (price increases April 15)  
**MUST VALIDATE in order to register.**

*Registration Deadline: May 22*  
*Event Dates: June 17 - 18, Bryan*

## June 2024

### Texas 4-H Roundup

Texas 4-H Roundup is a qualifying and invitational event for Senior 4-H youth (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades) who placed in a District-level Roundup event or signed up to compete in one of the invitational events.

The Texas 4-H Roundup has around 50 diverse competitions that tie in with the many projects that 4-H has to offer.

*Registration Deadline: following District 9 Roundup*  
*Event Dates: June 3 - 7, 2024*

### 4-H Camps & Retreats

The Texas 4-H Conference Center, located in Brownwood, offers many summer camp options. 4-H camps focus on positive, hands-on, youth development with the goal to create life-long skills for youth, ages 8-18. There truly is something for everyone! Visit the Conference Center website for specific dates and information.

<https://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu/>

*Registration Deadline: mid-May*  
*Event Dates: camp dates run from mid-June to July*

### Leadership Lab

Leadership Lab is a 3-day/2-night leadership training for 4-H youth, designed to prepare D9 4-H members for various leadership roles at the County, District and State level. Designed for 4-H members, Grades 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, participants gain valuable knowledge and skills.

*Registration Deadline: May 15*  
*Event Dates: June 11 - 13, Tomball*

## July 2024

### State Dog Show

Offers classes in agility, rally, obedience, costume, tricks, drill, showmanship and conformation. You can also enter photos you have taken of your dog in the Dog Photography Contest. Check website for exact validation dates. Free to validate.

*Validation deadline: opens in December*  
**MUST VALIDATE in order to register**

*Registration Deadline: mid-May 22* (check website)  
*Event Dates: July 11-13, 2024*

### Texas 4-H Congress

*occurs only in even numbered years*

A four-day mock legislative experience for 4-H members, Grades 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, where they assume roles of legislators, lobbyists and press corps to gain a first-hand understanding of how the legislative process works.

Bills are written and sponsored by 4-H members that focus on issues concerning Texas and Texas youth. Bills are assigned to the appropriate committee, debated in committee meetings and then on the floor of the House or Senate.

*Registration Information: mid-May*  
*Event Dates: July 14 - 17, 2024*



# Events & Contests

**July 2024** *continued*

## Shooting Sports State Games

Participants must be currently enrolled 4-H members within a County 4-H shooting sports project, with one 4-H certified coach enrolled on 4-H Connect, and a current, active member in a 4-H shooting sports project. Disciplines for these games include: archery, hunting, muzzleloading, pistol, rifle and shotgun.

Participants are to demonstrate safe and responsible use of firearms, including sound decision making, self-discipline and concentration.

**Shooting Sports, participants must attend an annual safety meeting and Shooting Sports practices.**

*Registration Deadline: mid-May*

*Event Dates: early to mid-July*

## State Horse Show

Both invitational and qualifying contests. Riders in Qualifying events must qualify at the District Horse Show

*Validation begins: March 1 - May 1* (price increases April 15)  
**MUST VALIDATE in order to register.**

*Registration Deadline: mid to late-June, following the District Horse Show*

*Event Dates: late-July*

## August 2024

### Lee County Awards Program

The Lee County 4-H Council and Parent Volunteer Association (PVA) host the Annual 4-H Awards Program. Nomination forms are usually available in January/February.

Nomination forms are completed by the 4-H family. Forms will be available after January 2023, via e-mails and on-line at:

<https://lee.agrilife.org/4-h-awards/>

*Nomination Deadline to County office: **May 3, 2024***

*Event Date: **August 18, 2024***

Lee County 4-H  
Volunteers  
make a positive  
difference in  
the program.

T\*H\*A\*N\*K  
Y\*O\*U



# Record Books

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

Why is it important you keep a record of your 4-H activities? Because, by recording your activities you can remember all the fun you've had so far and set future goals!

Keeping records of 4-H projects could help you when you apply for college scholarships too! 4-H Record Books are books you make to record your annual projects.

The primary purpose of completing a Record Book are 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.

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

The completed 4-H Record Book must be submitted to the Lee County Extension office by **May 3, 2024.**

Each 4-H'er submitting a Record Book at the County level are recognized at the Annual Awards Program in August.

First place books in each age division will advance to District level competition. Senior 4-H'ers who place first in District advance to the State Record Book competition.

Guidelines for the Record Book, plus all the required forms, are available on-line 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 book.

## Record Book Categories

### 2023 Categories

Confirm any changes to the list before preparing your record book for 2024 competition.

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



Lukas I. placed 2nd at District 9 Record Book Competition. Intermediate STEM.

The **QUALITY COUNTS** verification is required for all youth exhibiting livestock (market and/or breeding) at major livestock shows in Texas, including:

- Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo — Fort Worth
- Heart O' Texas Fair — Waco
- Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo — Houston
- Rodeo Austin — Austin
- Sandhills Stock Show & Rodeo — Odessa
- San Angelo Stock Show & Rodeo — San Angelo
- State Fair of Texas — Dallas

**QUALITY COUNTS** is designed to teach young people the importance of good character in carrying out livestock projects, and in every aspect of their lives.

**QUALITY COUNTS** helps youth exhibitors learn the importance of using proper livestock management practices so that food quality and safety are preserved.

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 on-line test before the major livestock show's entry deadline. A passing score has been determined to be 80%.

Exhibitors will need an individual email addresses. Emails can't be shared within the same family.

Exhibitors must be verified once as a Junior (grades 3-5), once as an Intermediate (grades 6-8) and once again as a Senior (grades 9-12).

Answers to "*Frequently Asked Questions*" are included on the website. To learn more about **QUALITY COUNTS** including the verification process, please visit:

<https://texasyouthlivestock.com/quality-counts/>



# Major Livestock Shows

Major Livestock Show projects of steers, market lambs, meat 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 September and October 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 and order forms.**

## 4-H Major Show Entry Day

**October 24, 2023 — 9 am - 6 pm \*\***

Major Show Entry Day, 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.

\*\* During **Major Show Entry Day**, Agent and staff will be on hand to answer questions and assist as needed.

Major Show entries may be brought to the Extension office during regular business.

Each exhibitor must have:

- current 4-H enrollment
- Quality Counts Verification Number
- access to the exhibitor's Social Security #

Prepare to bring a separate check for each Show's entry fee. Multiple family members may be included on the same Show's entry fee check.

Sept 29 - Oct 22, 2023	<b><u>State Fair of Texas</u></b> — Dallas	<a href="https://bigtex.com/">https://bigtex.com/</a>
Oct 5 - 15, 2023	<b><u>Heart of Texas</u></b> — Waco	<a href="https://www.hotfair.com/">https://www.hotfair.com/</a>
Jan 3 - 6, 2024	<b><u>Sand Hills</u></b> — Odessa	<a href="http://sandhillsssr.com/">http://sandhillsssr.com/</a>
Jan 12 - Feb 3, 2024	<b><u>Fort Worth Stock Show</u></b>	<a href="http://fwssr.com/">http://fwssr.com/</a>
Feb 1 - 18, 2024	<b><u>San Angelo Stock Show</u></b>	<a href="https://www.sanangelorodeo.com">https://www.sanangelorodeo.com</a>
Feb 8 - 25, 2024	<b><u>San Antonio Stock Show</u></b>	<a href="https://www.sarodeo.com/">https://www.sarodeo.com/</a>
Feb 27 - March 17, 2024	<b><u>Houston Livestock Show</u></b>	<a href="https://www.rodeohouston.com/">https://www.rodeohouston.com/</a>
March 8 - 23, 2024	<b><u>Rodeo Austin</u></b>	<a href="https://rodeoaustin.com/">https://rodeoaustin.com/</a>

Review the website for each Livestock Show for current rules, requirements and schedule for the 2023-2024 show year.

The 4-H member is responsible for qualifying under the Show Rules.



# Fundraising

Lee County 4-H holds fundraisers each year. These fundraisers provide the funding of the 4-H program. These funds provide the registration fees for members attending:

- Leadership Lab
- Junior Leadership Lab
- District Roundup
- State Roundup
- Team contests at Major Livestock Shows,
- Team contests at District Contests and Roundups
- the Awards Program and awards
- Workshops & Trainings
- Scholarships
- Equipment and maintenance
- and much more

Members and families are asked to participate in these fundraisers, because it helps give even more opportunities to the Lee County 4-H youth.

## **Fried Chicken Dinner Fund Raiser** **September 17, 2023**

**Lincoln Community  
Hall Grounds  
1066 Main Avenue, Lincoln TX 78948**

**NEW LOCATION for 2023 . . . .** The Fried Chicken Dinner Fund Raiser is the most successful effort for Lee County 4-H. The Dinner is held on the third Sunday in September.

Tickets are made available at the Awards Program in August, and remain available at the Extension, while supplies last. Pre-sold tickets are guaranteed through 12:30 pm. Pick-up is “drive-thru” only, so it’s moves very quickly.

Families are asked to turn in money and/or unsold tickets by Wednesday September 13.

A limited amount of tickets are sold the day of the Dinner.

Please assure your customers know that Homemade Noodles from the Wendish Museum are part of the menu !!

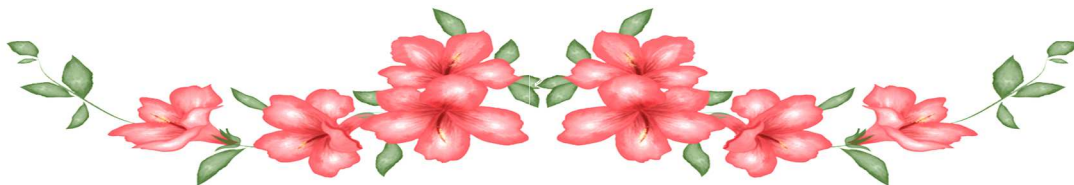
## **Poinsettias & Pecans Fund Raiser**

Poinsettias and Pecans are sold simultaneously in early October. Order forms are typically delivered via email to enrolled 4-H families, who print the forms for themselves. Order forms will also be available in the Extension office.

Order forms and money must be turned in at the Extension office on Thursday, October 26, 2023.

Delivery for Pecans is the Thursday before Thanksgiving, so bakers will have ingredients for desserts.

Poinsettia delivery is typically the last week of November/first week of December, depending on when the supplier can coordinate a shipment to Lee County.



# County Leadership

## Leadership Meetings

Meetings for Lee County 4-H Council and the Lee County 4-H Parent Volunteer Association are held in the Extension office.

Dates for the 2023-2024 meetings are:

September 25

October 23

November 27

December 11

January 22

February 14

March 25

April 22 *elections will be held*

Club Officers and 4-H members are all welcome to attend the 4-H Council meetings.

### Council meets at 6 pm

Club Managers, 4-H Leaders and Parents are all invited to attend the PVA meetings.

### PVA meets at 7 pm



Paizley W. placed 2nd High Point Individual (NASP Bow, Junior Division) at the State Fair of Texas.

## County 4-H Council

All Club Presidents and Council Delegates from each Club should attend the County 4-H Council meetings; though, everyone is welcome to attend!! The voting membership of the Council includes the current club officers from each 4-H Club in Lee County.

It is at these meetings that upcoming county events are discussed and planned. It's important to have the local clubs' input and help.

### County 4-H Council officers for 2023-2024 are:

President: Emme D.

Vice-President: Emma L.

Secretary: Caitlyn G.

Treasurer: Keely D.

Reporter/Historian: Brandon B.

Parliamentarian: Boone B.

District Council Delegates: Paizley W.  
Teal B.

## Lee County 4-H Parent Volunteer Association

The Lee County 4-H Parent Volunteer Association (PVA) is open to all 4-H Leaders and Parents. Club Managers are asked to attend to keep their club updated on activities and opportunities, as well as help plan activities and events.

Serving as PVA officers for 2023-2024 are:

Chairman: Shanna Dallmeyer

Vice-Chairman: Mandy Wise

Secretary: Justin Lyon

Treasurer: Erica Iselt

# Leadership

## County Ambassadors

The County Ambassador program, like the Texas 4-H Ambassadors, strives to provide high school aged 4-H members the opportunity to develop and practice advanced leadership skills related to mentoring other youth, and to become advocates in specialized industry in Texas.

Lee and Bastrop Counties have joined efforts in supporting a variety of Ambassadors.

Currently serving as County Ambassadors are:

- Emme D., Livestock Ambassador
- Keely D., Livestock Ambassador
- Emma L., Natural Resources Ambassador
- Lukas I., Natural Resources Ambassador

## District 9 Council

The District 9 Council provides educational and challenging experiences that will enable young people to become knowledgeable and skilled in their selected project area.

Lee County is one of the 18 counties that make up District 9.

Council helps plan and assists with running 4-H contests. Members learn even more valuable leadership skills and have the opportunity to run for State 4-H Council.

Serving as an officer of the 2023-2024 D9 Council is:

- Emme D., Chairman

## Texas 4-H Ambassadors

There are a large variety of ambassadorships within Texas 4-H. Requirements and application links, along with a variety of other information, can be found at:

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

Areas included in Texas 4-H Ambassadors, are:

- Equine
- Fashion and Interior Design
- Healthy Texas
- Livestock
- Poultry
- Photography
- Shooting Sports
- STEM
- Texas 4-H Council
- Water Ambassadors

Currently serving as State Ambassador is:

- Emme D., Livestock Ambassador



Emme D. was Champion in the Youth Agricultural Public Speaking Contest (Senior Livestock Show Ethics) at the State Fair of Texas.

# Other Opportunities

## Available Resources

The Lee County 4-H office has a few items, available for loan on a short-term basis:

- Only 4-H Leaders, 4-H Families and 4-H Members are eligible to borrow equipment. A current 4-H membership is required in order to be eligible for loan.
- Use of equipment is limited to 4-H functions, project meetings and/or training sessions.
- Other restrictions and/or requirements may be listed below each item.
- Borrower is financially responsible for all replacement/repair cost of equipment and accompanying accessories should the equipment become lost, damaged or stolen during the loan.
- Failure to return equipment, within the agreed return date/time and in the manner stated, will result in suspension of loan-out privilege.
- To reserve these items, contact the Lee County Extension office at 979-542-2753

## Large and Small Livestock Clippers

- user must own the required type of blades
- reserve in advance
- must return clippers free of all hair, fur, oil, feces and other debris
- screws, bolts and all parts must remain intact

## Small Stock Scale (goats, lambs, swine)

- check-out time, limited to 24-hours; or as arranged at check-out
- reserve in advance
- must return scale cleaned of any animal hair and feces
- must have vehicle equipped with hitch
- must be able to hitch trailer by yourself or have a helper accompany you

## Trim Chutes (large and small livestock)

- check-out time is limited to 24-hours; or as arranged at check-out
- must return chute free of all hair, fur, feces and other debris

## Speaker System

(Club meeting use only; no exceptions)

- small system, good for groups of 50 and under
- system may be checked out only for Club Meetings
- system must be returned the day after Club Meeting



Some days, it helps pass the time at competition if you bring some entertainment with you.





# Other Opportunities

## 4-H Participation in Community Service

Throughout the year, the Lee County 4-H Council Officers lead Community Service projects, learning leadership skills while helping the community. If your youth is interested in more community service projects, 4-H Council meetings are open to all enrolled 4-H members. Current projects for the 2023-2024 4-H year include:

- Annual County 4-H Clubs Canned Food Drive
- Soda Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

- Items for Bec's Blessings \*\*
- Color a Smile \*\*
- Meals on Wheels \*\*
- Gobble Kits \ Thanksgiving - November\*\*
- Thank You Notes \ Volunteer Recognition Month – April \*\*
- Snacks for Students \*\*

\*\* Information forthcoming. Watch 4-H NEWS emails for details.



Lee County 4-H Clubs have donated food to the Giddings Food Pantry for several years.