BLANCO COUNTY 4-H

MEMBER HANDBOOK

2015-2016



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

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*4-H and Youth Development Program*

The purpose of the 4-H program is to provide opportunities for young people to become

productive and contributing members of society through “Learn By Doing” projects. 4-H

is a part of the Texas A&M University System. 4-H partners include the United States

Department of Agriculture and local county governments. The Texas 4-H and Youth

Development program is a non-profit, educational program which is open to all youth

regardless of sici-economic level, race, color, sex, religion, disbility, or national origin.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in

order to participate in meetings are encouraged to contact the AgriLife Extension office

at 830/868-7167 for assistance. As a 4-H member you are a part of one of the largest

youth programs in the world. Through 4-H, you will meet new friends, learn new skills,

travel, and have fun!

*What Is 4-H?*

4-H is an informal, practical, learn-by-doing educational program for youth from rural and urban areas, and from all racial, cultural, economic, and social backgrounds. 4-H helps you set goals, and it can help you learn how to be a good citizen. And you have fun in the process! In 4-H you learn to solve problems facing you and your community. The knowledge and skills you acquire in 4-H can open the door to a lifetime of personal growth. 4-H is the youth program of Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service. Youth may participate in 4-H year from September 1st of grade three through August 31 following completion of grade twelve, with these age restrictions: Minimum age - 8 (in addition to being in the 3rd grade) Maximum age - 18 (as of August 31, 2015).

*What Is The 4-H Emblem?*

The 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover with an "H" on each leaf. The letters in the emblem

stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health -- the foundation of all 4-H programs:

Use your **head** to think, make decisions, understand

"why," and to gain new and valuable knowledge in

many areas. The **heart** involves concern with the welfare of others,

accepting responsibilities of citizenship, determining values and attitudes, and learning how to work and live with others at home, in your community, state, nation, and the world. Use your **hands** to learn new skills, to perfect skills you already know, develop pride and respect for your work, and to explore possible vocations and careers.

**Health** involves practicing healthful living, protecting the well-being of yourself and

others, and making constructive use of leisure time.

*Pledge*

**I pledge:**

My Head to clearer thinking

My Heart to greater loyalty

My Hands to larger service

My Health to better living for my club, my community, my country and my world.

*Motto*

To make the best better

*Slogan*

Learn by Doing

*Colors-Green & White*

Green - Nature's most common color is symbolic of springtime, life, and youth.

White - Symbolizes purity and high ideals.

*4-H Prayer*

Help me, O Lord, to live so that the world may be a little better, because thou did'st

make me.

*Responsibilities Of A 4-H Member*

As a 4-H member, you should:

• Complete your 4-H project.

• Give visual presentations or demonstrations on your 4-H project(s)

• Attend club meetings.

• Take part in club activities.

• Participate in county 4-H workshops and clinics.

• Assist younger members.

• Encourage others to join 4-H.

• Know the 4-H Pledge and 4-H Motto.

• Let parents and friends know about 4-H.

• Keep a record of your 4-H work as you complete your project goals.

*How Do You Become A Part Of 4-H?*

• Join a 4-H club. Members select one or more projects, elect officers, and plan

and implement a program for all or several months of the year. All the members

may enroll in the same project (a project club) or in a variety of projects (general

club). You can find 4-H clubs in communities and schools.

• Take part in a school enrichment project. Members participate in a 4-H program

that enriches or enhances a subject they are studying in school, taught by the

teacher during school time.

*Who Are 4-H Volunteers?*

Adults and youth serve as volunteers in the 4-H program. Some volunteers help youth

Plan and conduct 4-H projects and activities. Others serve as leaders to 4-H clubs. All adult volunteers are screened through a state of Texas screening process. Once a volunteer passes the screening process only then are they eligible to serve 4-H.

*What does a Project cost?*

From August 15 to October 31, 2014, the fee to join 4-H will be $15. After October 31, the fee will increase to $25. Fees are payable upon enrollment through 4-H Connect. Enroll online at: <https://texas.4honline.com> In addition to the participant fee there are fees associated with each project. For example, a member enrolled in the foods and nutrition project might use supplies from around the home to practice the skills being learned. A member who buys and raises a horse can expect to invest thousands of dollars. Keep costs in mind as you select your projects.

*Are 4-Hers expected to do their own project work?*

Yes, with the guidance of an adult. 4-H is a “learn by doing” program. Adults may show the member how, but members are expected to learn how to do things for themselves. 4-H members may conduct some project work in groups. Working in groups can be fun, and the members get the experience of helping each other, but most projects call for some work to be done by the individual member.

*4-H Activities*

What is the difference between a “project” and an “activity”?

*Projects* are learning experiences related to a specific subject. Examples: beef, foods,

photography, goats, lambs, horse.

*Activities* refer to contests and events planned through the club or Extension office for 4-

H members. Examples: stock shows, food shows, Exhibit Hall.

*4-H Contests*

4-H members compete in 4-H contests against other members in their age group. Age

groups are as follows:

Juniors:  Grades 3, 4, and 5

Intermediates:  Grades 6, 7, and 8

Seniors:  Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

*4-H Round-Up*

During 4-H Round-Up, members combine the knowledge they have gained in their projects and their skills in public speaking. Presentations are an integral part of the 4-H program. They are an effective tool for teaching young people how to organize their thoughts and present their ideas and themselves. There are several categories of competition:

**Educational Presentation**: a 5 to 12 minute speech where members demonstrate how to make or do something or talk about a subject using slides, posters or photographs.

**Share-the-fun**: A third category allows 4-H members to demonstrated their creativity and showcase their talents while having fun. Share-the-fun is a 4-H talent show of sorts which provides a chance to develop talent, leadership and confidence, as well as wholesome recreation. 4-H members can compete as a group or as an individual in a variety of categories.

**Judging Teams**: 4-Hers use knowledge gained to place a class according to certain

criteria. Senior members must give a set of “reasons” to a judge explaining why they

placed a class the way they did. There are several judging contests to compete in

including: livestock, horse, wool, hay, land, soil and consumer judging.

**Horse Bowl**: Contest of knowledge similar to “Jeopardy,” but all the question categories

are about horses. Youth compete in teams of four.

*4-H Food Show & Nutrition Quiz Bowl Contests &*

*4-H Food Challenge*

A chance for members of the Foods & Nutrition project to demonstrate their culinary skills and knowledge. Participants prepare dishes in one of four categories: Main Dish, Fruits and Vegetables, Breads and Cereals, and Snacks & Desserts. Teams can compete in a Quiz Bowl Contest to test their knowledge of foods and nutrition.

*4-H Fashion Show/Fashion Storyboard*

The fashion show allows those with skills in clothing construction and design to show off

their skills by modeling an outfit they have made or purchased. The Fashion Design

contests offers youth an opportunity to showcase their art and design skills.

*County Awards*

\* GOLD STAR \* SILVER STAR \* BRONZE STAR

\* PARTICIPATION PINS

*Scholarships*

The Texas 4-H Foundation oversees a scholarship program that awards over

$1,000,000. annually in college scholarships. Blanco County 4-H members can also apply for scholarships provided by the Blanco County Youth Council, Soaring Eagles 4-H Club, Johnson City 4-H Club, Blanco County 4-H Council, Blanco Extension Education Association and the Blanco County Youth Council.

*4-H Policies*

Membership: 4-H members must be enrolled in a 4-H club and complete one 4-H project per year. 4-H membership cannot be held in more than one county or state. 4-H members must be members in the county in which they live. Exceptions can be made if a 4-H member lives near a county line and it is easier to participate in the neighboring county or if a neighboring county offers a project that is not offered in Blanco County (written permission is necessary). Academic Eligibility: 4-H is recognized by the Texas Education Agency as a legitimate extracurricular organization. Therefore, 4-H members enrolled in public school must abide by the provisions of SB1, “No Pass-No Play” rule when participating in official 4-H competitive events, when representing 4-H in competitive events (such as livestock shows, judging contests, etc.) and/or when being absent from school to participate in a 4-H event or activity. These provisions include:

• The requirement that 4-H members be academically eligible to compete in

any competitive event that is held during the school year.

• The requirement that 4-H members be academically eligible to receive an

excused absence to participate in any 4-H event or activity that causes them

to be absent from school.

• To maintain academic eligibility a student must be passing all subjects during

the grading period just prior to the competitive event. If a student fails a

subject, he/she is academically ineligible until he/she passes all subjects in

a subsequent grading period.

The County Extension Office will submit names of participants to the schools and contact parents if the 4-H member is ineligible. 4-H members enrolled in private school or home school are not under the jurisdiction of the Texas Education Agency.

4-H Terminology

*CLUB MANAGER*: Selected annually by the club and approved by the county Extension

office, gives leadership to the overall organization and management of the 4-H club. A club manager serves as both a key person to your club and to the county 4-H program.

*COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT*: An activity conducted by a 4-H member or group for the benefit of the community. Examples: planting flowers, collecting canned foods.

*COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT*: An employee of Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Service who specializes in either agriculture, family and consumer sciences, horticulture, youth development, or natural resources. All agents have some responsibility for the 4-H program.

*COUNTY 4-H AWARDS BANQUET*: An annual event held in the fall of the year to honor 4-H members, leaders, and supporters. A meal is served and an awards program is held.

*COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL*: A council composed of three elected delegates from each

organized 4-H club in the county. Its purpose is to plan and coordinate activities and events on a county-wide basis. Three delegates from this group represent Blanco County on the District 10 4-H Council.

*DISTRICT LEADERSHIP LAB*: A three day retreat. Designed for older 4–H members to

practice and learn leadership skills. The election of District 4-H Council officers is held at leadership lab.

*DISTRICT 10 (SOUTHWEST):* 21 counties make up District 10 including Blanco County. The district headquarters is located in Uvalde at the Texas A&M University System Research & Extension Center.

*4-H CONNECT*: Online registration system for all 4-H contests at district and state levels. Instruction and system at: http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/

*4-H NEWSLETTER*: A monthly newsletter sent to every 4-H family. A source of information on upcoming events, activities and contests. Intended to be read by both 4-H members and parents. Also appears on the web at: http://blanco.agrilife.org/newsletters The newsletter is e-mailed each month. If you would like a hard copy mailed to you, please notify Jerod Breakiron.

*4-H YEAR*: September 1 - August 31.

*NATIONAL 4-H CENTER*: Located in Chevy Chase, Maryland, just outside Washington,

D.C. Operated by National 4-H Council, the center is an education facility that can

provide lodging for over 700 people.

*NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL*: Chartered as a non-profit organization withe the sole

purpose of supporting and complementing the 4-H program and activities of the

Cooperative Extension Service. National 4-H Council web site-www.fourhcouncil.edu

*NATIONAL 4-H SUPPLY SERVICE*: A service of National 4-H Council that offers 4-H

clubs and members with 4-H shirts, cups, note pads, and many other 4-H items for

purchase. These items can be ordered from a catalog available from the Extension

Office or online at: http://www.4hbookstore.org/

*NATIONAL 4-H WEEK*: Held in October. Provides the opportunity to increase public

awareness and understanding of 4-H.

*PRIME TIME CAMP*: A summer camp held at the Texas 4-H Center for 4-H members ages 9-13.

*PROJECT*: A subject of specific topic in which 4-H members complete learning activities

throughout the year. Written materials are available in many areas. Project meetings are

usually held at times other than when 4-H club business meetings are held.

*PROJECT GROUP MEETING*: Meetings where 4-H members learn about their specific

project area. Coordinated by an adult project leader or teen leader.

*SCHOOL CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT*: A cooperative effort between a school and

Extension. It is an educational program designed to complement school enrichment.

*SPECTRA CAMP*: A summer camp held at the Texas 4-H Center for 4-H members ages 9-13.

*TEXAS 4-H CENTER*: A facility owned and operated by the Texas 4-H Foundation on Lake Brownwood, 12 miles north of Brownwood, Texas. The center includes a conference center with 22 motel style rooms, 10 dormitories that can accommodate 300 people, meeting facilities, a cafeteria, a swimming pool, recreation facilities, and a lake side pavilion. 4-H programs are conducted year round. Web site: http://texas4h-ctr.tamu.edu

*TEXAS 4-H COUNCIL*: Consists of two 4-H delegates from each of the 12 Extension

districts. They help plan and conduct state-wide 4-H events and represent the Texas 4-H program.

*TEXAS 4-H OPPORTUNITIES HANDBOOK*: A handbook outlining state-wide 4-H contests, educational workshops and the 4-H recognition program. Includes all information on scholarships. Updated annually.

*TEXAS 4-H VOLUNTEER LEADERS ASSOCIATION*: A state wide organization consisting of delegates from each of the 12 district leaders associations.

*Helpful Websites*

4-H Connect - https://texas.4honline.com

Blanco County 4-H Newsletters - http://blanco-co.tamu.edu/Newsletters.cfm

National 4-H Supply - http://www.4-hmall.org/Home.aspx

Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service- http://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/

Texas 4-H - texas4-h.tamu.edu

Texas 4-H Conference Center - http://texas4hcenter.tamu.edu/

*4-H in Blanco County*

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| Club | Club Manager | Meeting Date & Time | Meeting Site |
| Hill County Spurs | Diane Burke | 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 pm | Fairgrounds  Exhibit Hall  Johnson City |
| Early Bird | Debby Sultemeier | 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm | Pleasant Hill School |
| Johnson City | Cari Turner | 2nd Wednesday, 5:30 pm | County Annex  Hoppe Room  Johnson City |
| Lucky Leaf | Sheila Mercer | 2nd Sunday,  3 pm | Bowling Alley  Blanco |
| Soaring Eagles | Bubba Moeller | 3rd Wednesday, 5:30 pm | County Annex  Hoppe Room  Johnson City |
| Shooting Sports | Gordon Dowdy | Tuesdays, Weekly, January-April | Fairgrounds  Showbarn  Johnson City |